



Into the Garden

Newsletter of The
Gardeners' Club,
Santa Cruz County, CA
October 2017
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Plant Sale & Swap

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get free bargain-priced plants and other goodies for your garden. Our members have been industriously dividing their perennials, potting up seedlings and extra plants, collecting seeds, bagging bulbs, gleaning surplus harvest, thinning tool and décor collections, pruning their libraries— all to make our trade and sale event a rich and rewarding experience. Come choose from a limitless variety of plants, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, seeds, small trees, tools, pots, vases, planters, books, magazines, knick-knacks and anything/everything garden. If you don't have plants to trade, you can buy stuff at ridiculously low prices. You are sure to discover something new to try. More details on Page 7. Don't miss out— see you there!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 7 p.m.
Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.



**2017 Fall Plant Sale
Saturday, October 14
from 10am-noon Members Only, Noon-4pm Open to the Public.**

Ever wonder where gardeners and landscapers in-the-know purchase their plants? They flock to the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden Fall Plant Sale. Hundreds of varieties are carefully chosen to conserve California native plants and to introduce Australian, New Zealand, African and other beauties bred for water tolerance and pest control.

In partnership with the California Native Plant Society, the sale offers high quality, regionally-friendly plants from both groups at great prices. Not a member of the Arboretum or California Native Plant Society and want to get in on the early bird selections from 10 am until noon? Memberships for both organizations will be available at the gate on the day of the sale. Plant sales and memberships benefit conservation and education programs.

These plant sales are wonderful opportunities to take home some of the dazzling color of the Arboretum. Select non-invasive, drought tolerant plants that are California natives or native to Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa. They happily grow side-by-side in our Mediterranean climate. Knowledgeable Arboretum staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.. A list of all of the types of Arboretum plants available at the sale will be posted at <https://arboretum.ucsc.edu> about a week before the sale. The CNPS sale list is now available at www.cruzcnp.org.

				
	NATIVE <i>Saturday, October 14, 2017</i>			Members: 10AM - 12PM Everyone: 12PM - 4PM CNPS Native Plant sale list is now available at cruzcnp.org California Native Plant Society & UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden
	PLANT SALE			
				

Are you considering having chickens of your own? Bill Patterson shares his optimism for this idea.

My Chicken . . .



...Offers big-hearted love while patiently teaching me about the ways of birds. A social creature, she is the major attraction, a vaudeville act, clown, dancer, singer, impersonator endlessly entertaining me, neighbors, guests and family. She is into permaculture, working with nature, offering a balanced, natural, more comprehensive use of my garden. She maximizes my garden and home relationship, miraculously recycling left over table/ refrigerator food scraps into eggs. I don't use a garbage disposal. She sees to my diet: I eat fresh, local, organic, great-tasting & nutritious food.



She provides chemical-free bug and weed control. If it moves, she eats it, especially loving my precious snails. I don't buy fertilizer as she wants that job. My neighbors sing my praises: she sends them free organic, fresh, golden eggs. She provides bragging rights; reducing my carbon footprint.

She connects me with my home's Live Oak -poultry farms history. She offers a prideful sense of personal self-sufficiency. In the hardest of times, she promises good food. She is so easy and inexpensive to maintain, compared to other pets, somewhere between a gold fish and a cat. And no need to walk her twice a day. She puts me in touch with my past, a nostalgia for a way of life gone by.

She's a great topic of social conversation at any party. Leads to deep philosophical thought on Why? Chicken Crossing The Street Riddle.

DID YOU KNOW? – The average egg purchased from your local supermarket or convenience store, whether it be from a barn raised or free range chicken, is generally more than 45 days old before it ends up on your table? Try eating an egg that's less than 24 hours old – you'll soon taste the difference.



Club T-Shirts Have Arrived!!!

The Gardeners' Club T-shirts are here. They are a rich grey color, with white lettering. The artwork is from a painting done by Lise Bixler's late mother, Lillian Molmud. We have a lot of Ladies Medium, Large and XL, a few Men's Large and a couple XL's. The price is \$16, including tax. Get yours at the Plant Sale and Swap this month.

Thank you, thank you, Allan Neymark, for your hard work and persistence getting these T-shirts produced. The quality is excellent, and the colors would inspire any gardener. Some members are already buying some for holiday gifts.

The Travelling Gardener



By Lise Bixler

Last month, I joined an 18-day birding tour in Madagascar. It was a unique and powerful experience; I am still trying to sort through my impressions and experiences, weeks after our return. I

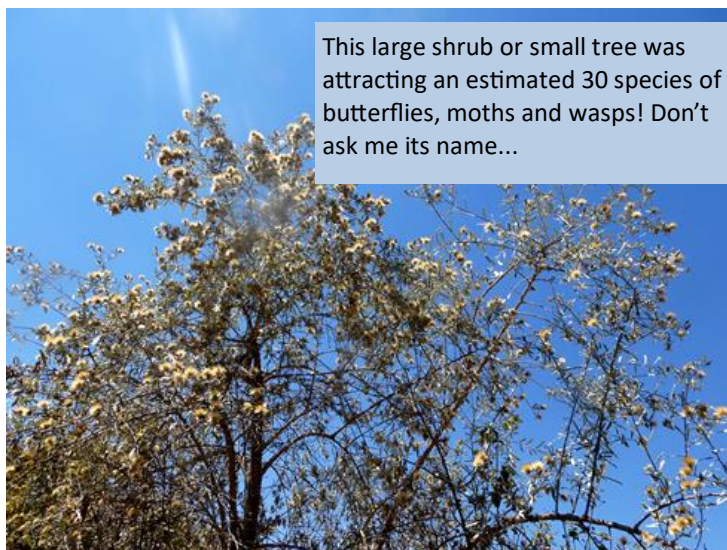
have enough stories and photos to fill newsletters for a year, but I promise not to do that. Maybe just a page a month for a while.

One of the incredible things about this tour, for me as a plant lover, were my tour companions. One woman had a doctorate in plant biology; a British woman had her doctorate in plant taxonomy. Her companion was as interested in butterflies as I was, and much more knowledgeable. Our tour leader, Kenyan Brian Finch, besides being an author/ bird expert extraordinaire and discoverer of new species (birds, reptiles and butterflies) knows no boundaries in natural history fields. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and interest in flora, particularly the unusual and unique. The good news is that everyone was excited about plants; the difficulty was that if someone said, "Look! There's an amazing stick insect perched on a branch of that....", the "that" was usually called out by its Latin name, and my taxonomic knowledge is not that keen. But usually I'd be able to join in the others in trying to photograph both the critter and the plant.

Madagascar has more than 10,000 plant species, most of which are endemic, only found on the island, including five unique plant families. Typically, I'd look at something and think "that looks like a euphorbia" and I'd be right, but it would be unlike any euphorbia I'd ever seen. We explored dry forests and grasslands, tropical rainforest, unique spiny forests, preserves, cultivated hotel gardens and an arboretum. We drove through many miles of rice paddies, Malagasy people working fields and food gardens, and, sadly, deforested areas and areas being burned for agricultural repurposing.

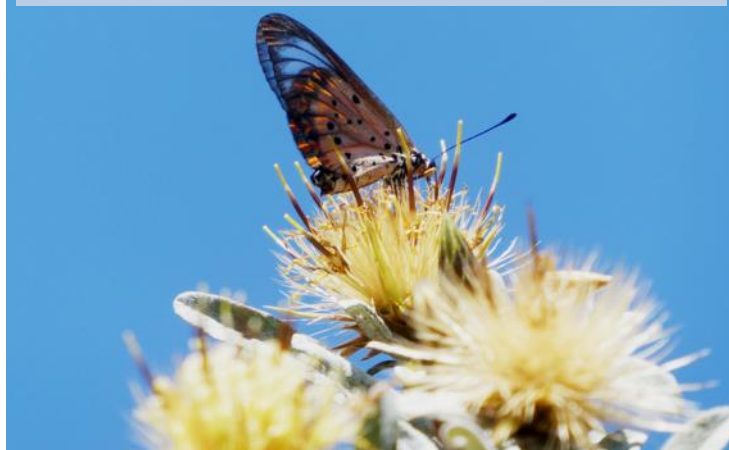


After her mother told her to finish her task, this child watered the family food garden while her friend waited to resume play.



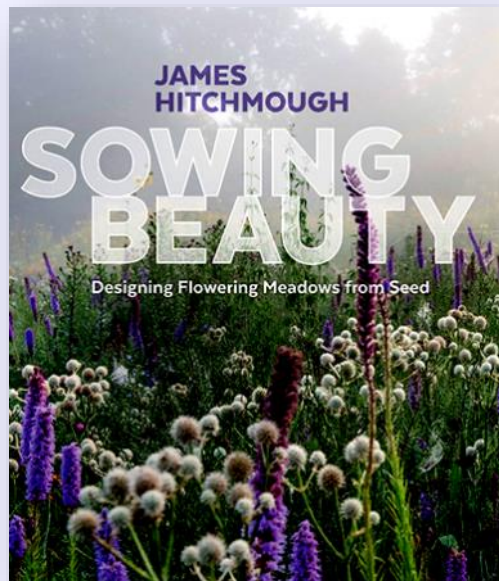
This large shrub or small tree was attracting an estimated 30 species of butterflies, moths and wasps! Don't ask me its name...

...but here's one of the butterflies perched on its blossoms. It is a clearwing, in the genus *Acreae*. Few of the Madagascar butterflies have common names.



We went to a piece of land owned by a farmer who realized that preserving his rich bird habitat there would attract tourists, increasing his income. His sons and extended family find the birds and help visitors see them, sometimes scrambling through the scrub and communicating with each other with much urgent shouting AND cell phones! This young man's T-shirt inspired me.

More next month!



James Hitchmough is well-regarded in the design world for his exuberant, colorful, and flower-filled meadows. His signature style can be seen in prominent places like London's Olympic Park and the Botanic Garden at the University of Oxford. Using a distinct technique of sowing meadows from seed, he creates plant communities that mimic the dramatic beauty of natural meadows and offer a succession of blooms over many months—a technique that can be adapted to work in both large-scale public gardens and smaller residential gardens. [Sowing Beauty](#) (Timber Press) shows you how to recreate Hitchmough's masterful, romantic style. You'll learn how to design and sow seed mixes that include a range of plants, both native and exotic, and how to maintain the sown spaces over time. Color photographs show not only the gorgeous finished gardens, but also all the steps along the way.

Here is a detailed roadmap for anyone eager to try this technique, from site evaluation and preparation to species selection, seed sowing, aftercare, and long-term maintenance. Also included are recipes for seed mixtures that Hitchmough has used in some of his most famous projects.

These meadow-like plantings of locally adapted species provide a long season of color and interest and have far fewer maintenance requirements. Hitchmough shows how to create seed mixtures that, once sown, require only simple, low-intensity maintenance to mature into stable communities.

The book is a distillation of more than 30 years of research at Sheffield's Department of Landscape Architecture. In his introduction, Hitchmough makes it clear that the book is "about utilizing an understanding of how naturally occurring plant communities function ecologically, and then transferring this understanding to help design, establish, and manage visually dramatic herbaceous vegetation in gardens, urban parks, and other urban greenspaces that is long persistent."

Meadow gardening is one of the biggest design trends of the twenty-first century. This technique is especially relevant and important right now because this type of vegetation is

potentially less resource-hungry, cheaper, and sometimes easier to maintain. Its DNA is all about complexity and diversity, and this provides a better-than-average habitat, irrespective of where the plant species come from, for supporting insects and other wildlife. Hitchmough also asserts, "Urban living is richer when some disorder is put in opposition to the dominant order and predictability of the city. The vegetation I'm most interested in changes over short periods of time".

Publishers Weekly says [Sowing Beauty](#) is "a hopeful and expansive book for the gardener who can see a field as a canvas." [Sowing Beauty](#) introduces a bold, color-saturated style to ecological understanding. When asked if he could speak to his unique bold, color-saturated style and his goals for designing a public space, Hitchmough answered:

"It's not uncommon for people in the design world to hold strong positions on color, and more often than not, a sort of puritanism that too much color is somehow tasteless or even vulgar emerges. Whilst I understand how these values are constructed—either through the remaining eddies of the mannered thoughts of the Arts and Crafts movement, or through the 'green is good, of Modernism—color in planting is so ephemeral. Color is always coming and going as to make you think, 'Who could really hold these rather polarised positions?' I don't see much evidence of such strictures in contemporary art. For most people who are not puritans or micro-aesthetes, there is a threshold of colorfulness that plantings must exceed at some point in the year to be positively regarded. This is particularly so in naturalistic planting, which has no apparent cues in its disorganized, random structure to having been created by people rather than by spontaneous nature."

"When I design plantings, I am trying to stretch the flowering season for as long as possible without making the planting unmanageable. The growing weight of evidence from environmental psychology research is that it is diversity of colors that is most powerful for the public, so we try to make sure that in each month there are at least three species flowering that look good together."



London's Olympic Park

The Many Benefits of Fall Planting

By Linda Lane (From UCSC Arboretum website)

Whether it's best to plant in fall or spring has long been subject to debate. A definitive answer, in large part, is based on rainfall and temperature patterns. Those who live in places where the soil typically freezes solid by November and rain is regular in summer will likely side with springtime. But for those who live in a Mediterranean climate—such as the central coast of California, with summer rain rare and winter frost infrequent—fall can be the best time to plant for several reasons.

- **Energy Efficient.** In spring, a plant's energy goes primarily into making flowers, seeds, and reproducing itself. By fall, however, most plants are no longer in bloom; therefore, it's easier on them to transition from "living" in a nursery pot to being placed in the ground because, for the rest of the year and throughout winter, their energy can be redirected towards getting established, growing roots into their new soil, and preparing to bloom the following spring.
- **Earlier Spring Blooms.** Since planting in fall allows seeds or roots to "settle" into the soil over the winter, they are on an early schedule to burst into growth in spring; as an example, fall-planted wildflowers bloom about two weeks earlier than spring-planted seed.
- **Better Conditions.** The cooler air temperatures in fall are easier on both plants and gardeners. The soil is still warm, so roots can easily get established and begin to grow, and plants are more amenable to being dug up and separated (as long as they are no longer blooming). For gardeners, fall offers more optimum days for planting than spring, when rain and other unpredictable weather can make working the soil difficult. And gardeners typically have more leisure time for planting in autumn than in spring, a time often filled with many other yard and household chores that must be dealt with.
- **Easier Weed and Pest Control.** Since fall planting is done after the primary growing season has ended, the weed seeds in soil (always there) become semi-dormant, unlike in spring when they're highly energized and bursting to grow. Thus the fall gardener isn't doing double-duty, planting plants and digging out weeds all at the same time; and small weeds that do sporadically appear are easy to spot and remove. Pests and disease problems fade away in fall, too, and regular fertilizing is no longer required since it only promotes new, tender growth that would later get extinguished by a winter chill.
- **Ideal for Drought-Tolerant Plants.** Natives and other drought-tolerant plants do well when planted in fall. Since they need regular watering only during their first year in the ground, winter and spring rain is usually enough to get them well-established. After that, they'll require only infrequent, if any, water to thrive.

Free Composting Workshops this Fall!

Santa Cruz County Public Works is stepping up to promote more composting by offering workshops developed by Master Composter Jeffrey Smedberg. These workshops will discuss the principles of composting kitchen and yard wastes using backyard bins and vermicomposting (worm composting) techniques. You will learn how composting will improve your soil and aid in the health of your plants and vegetables, as well as reducing waste going to the landfill. Hands-on workshops are led by a Certified Master Composter and Master Gardener and sponsored by the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department. Upon completion of the workshop, GreenWaste Recovery customers are offered a free backyard composting bin or worm bin. Non customers may purchase a bin a discounted price.

Basic Composting Workshops will be held on the following dates/times at the locations listed below:

Saturday, October 21, 10 AM - 12 Noon at Pinto Lake County Park, Watsonville

Saturday, November 4, 2 PM - 4 PM at Live Oak Grange, Santa Cruz

Sunday, November 5, 1 PM - 3 PM at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, Felton

Advanced Composting & Troubleshooting Workshop (geared for those with some experience composting) will be held on Sunday, December 3, 1 PM - 3 PM at Live Oak Grange, Santa Cruz

Space is limited; advance reservation required. Call (831) 824-6484 or sign up online at goo.gl/Fw6BaK. After submitting your request, you will be notified if you are accepted in the workshop.



October Board Meeting

Monday, October 23 at 6 PM

Join us at the home of Lise Bixler in Bonny Doon for a tour of her garden, a potluck dinner and a meeting to discuss Gardeners' Club business, plans, ideas and events. An added incentive: samples of Madagascar chocolate for dessert! You don't have to be a Board Member to attend. Easiest way to find her house if you are coming from Santa Cruz is to take Hwy. 1 to Bonny Doon Road; turn right. When you get to the Beauregard Winery, turn left. Turn right on Country Estates Drive. Lise's house is 2nd one on the left— address, 91 Country Estates Drive (NOT Terrace). Her phone number is 457-2089, but cell phones don't work in her area. Contact Cherry if you want to carpool.



Please don't bring plastic pots to meetings and sales! We can't handle them. The Arboretum takes 1-gal. size, and many local waste management programs now accept them in their recycling bins. Thank you!

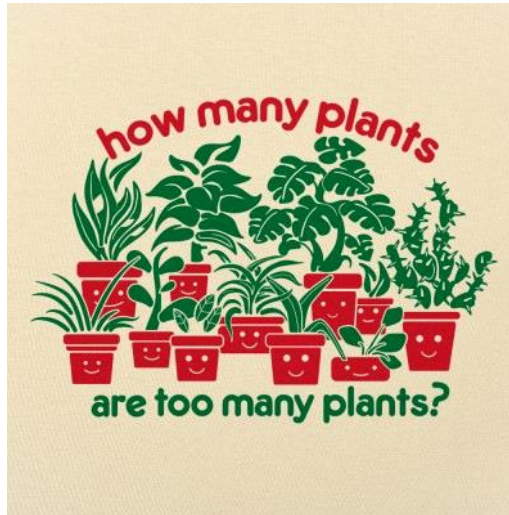
Instructions & Tally sheet for Plant sale and swap

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get free and bargain-priced plants and paraphernalia for your garden. Come choose from a limitless variety of plants, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, seeds, small trees, tools, pots, vases, planters, books, magazines, surplus harvest, knick-knacks and anything/everything garden. If you don't have plants to trade, you can buy stuff at ridiculously low prices. You are sure to discover something new to try.

You can take plants home by either by paying cash or check, or by bringing plants and other items for trade tickets to use instead of cash. Fill out this form before the meeting if you are going to trade. This is what you'll get for what you bring:

- 2", 3" & 4" pots: 1 ticket each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 1.5 ticket each
- 1 gallon pot: 2 tickets each
- 2 gallon pot: 3 tickets each

Miscellaneous items are priced at the meeting.



Label your plants with their common or botanical names, and put your name on them in case purchasers have questions.

Please don't bring loose, dirty plants that would make a mess, or plants you wouldn't be proud to put your name on.

We appreciate all of you who come early to help set up – it's a lot of work! And if you can, plan on staying to help with clean-up.

We'll start accepting plants at 6:40 p.m.

The purchase prices are:

- 2", 3", or 4" pots: 2 tickets or \$1 each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 3 tickets, or \$1.50 each
- 1 gallon pot: 4 tickets or \$2.00 each
- 2 gallon pot: 6 ticket or \$3.00 each

When there are multiples of the same plant available, please take only one until other members have had a chance to buy one. If there are multiples left over, then you can grab them! Plants that don't get sold or given away go home with the person who brought them.

Good luck, and have fun!

Please complete this form at home and bring it with you to the meeting.

Number of 2, 3 or 4" pots: _____ X 1 = _____ tickets

Number of 6" pots or 6-packs: _____ X 1.5 = _____ tickets (round up to whole number)

Number of 1-gal. pots: _____ X 2 = _____ tickets

Number of 2-gal. pots: _____ X 3 = _____ tickets

Miscellaneous items (to be priced at meeting): _____ tickets





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Our front page logo is graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

It's easy-peasy to join our club!

Dues are \$12 per calendar year. Make check

to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond,

CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of

each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

