

Newsletter of  
The Gardeners' Club,  
Santa Cruz County,  
California



January 2018  
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## Growing the Garden of Your Dreams *with* Integrated Pest Management



Learn how to approach pests and diseases from a holistic perspective with the help of certified IPM Advocate Suzanne Bontempo, our January speaker. Suzanne, who owns a business called Plant Harmony ([www.plantharmony.org](http://www.plantharmony.org)), whose motto is "Transforming lives, one garden at a time." Suzanne teaches the fundamental principles of how to garden organically and solve many pest problems in the most eco-friendly ways. With her we'll explore a how garden ecosystem works through the lens of Integrated Pest Management, with a focus on common pests such as aphids and gophers. We will also look at how to manage our gardens during times of drought.

Suzanne works in association with Our Water Our World (OWOW). The purpose of the OWOW program is to raise awareness of the connection between pesticide use and water quality and provide information to consumers at the point-of-purchase about IPM and less-toxic alternatives that are not causing water quality problems. Go to their website for fact sheets, links and many other resources (<http://ourwaterourworld.org>).

With over 20 years experience as a professional horticulturist, Suzanne hopes her educational program will not only empower you to grow the garden of your dreams but also one that is safe and healthy for you, your family and the environment. She has many years experience as a professional horticulturist, landscape designing, urban composting, vermiculture, greywater systems and storm water pollution prevention. She is a Qualified Bay Friendly Landscape Professional, certified Master Composter from San Mateo Co, certified Greywater Installer from Greywater Action, and collectively, with the IPM Advocate Program, received the 2013 IPM Innovators award presented by the Department of Pesticide Regulations.

Suzanne will be bringing free samples of Espoma organic gardenings products to give to attendees at our meeting. Don't miss out!



HELPING CONSUMERS FIND LESS-TOXIC PRODUCTS  
FOR USE IN THEIR HOMES AND GARDENS

Thursday, Jan. 11th, 7 p.m.

Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.

Refreshments will be served. Thanks to Snacks - Jule Mann, Dessert - Pilar Kopeckey Beverages - Marge Gregory Betsy Stiefelmaier for snack; Lynn

# Workshops and Events

## Home Grown Fruit Basic Winter Fruit Tree Pruning Sat., January 13th, 9:30 am - 12 pm UCSC Farm

Review the goals and techniques of pruning fruit trees in this lecture and demonstration workshop. Get some hands-on pointers on how to prune your fruit trees to maximize health and production. Information on varietal selection, tools, timing, techniques, and more, with Matthew Sutton of Orchard Keepers and Orin Martin of the Alan Chadwick Garden. Rainout date is February 3. Dress for the outdoors and bring a snack. Register at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3178752>, or if you prefer to pre-register by check, please send a check made payable to UC Regents to: Vanessa Ackermann/CASFS 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, attn: Winter Pruning. Online registration costs: \$30 for general public; \$20 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members, and certified UC Master Gardeners; \$15 for limited income, and beginning farmers; \$5 for current UCSC students. Free for lifetime members of the Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden, and current Farm & Garden docents. Or pay at the door (cash or check only): \$40 for general public, \$30 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members, UC Master Gardeners, \$20 for limited income and beginning farmers, \$5 for current UCSC students. For more information call 831.459-3240 or email [casfs@ucsc.edu](mailto:casfs@ucsc.edu).

## Investiture Ceremony for Stephen R. Gliessman Presidential Chair in Water Resources and Food System Sustainability Tuesday, January 16, 4:40 - 6:30 pm, University Center

This event recognizes a new chair honoring emeritus professor Stephen Gliessman and his development of the field of Agroecology. The chair will support research and teaching on the linkages between water resources and sustainable food systems, with a special focus on groundwater research and ancillary interests in watersheds and surface water management. It was established with a \$500,000 gift from the Helen and Will Webster Foundation and matching funds from the UC Regents. Admission to the event is free. Register at <https://secure.ucsc.edu/s/1069/index.aspx?sid=1069&gid=1&pgid=2804&cid=5053>.

## Free Fruit Tree Q & A Sessions

- Saturday, January 20, 10 am - 12 noon  
San Lorenzo Garden Center
- Saturday, January 27, 10 am-12 noon  
The Garden Company 2218 Mission St.,  
Santa Cruz

Join Matthew Sutton, owner of **Orchard Keepers**, and Orin Martin of the Alan Chadwick Garden for free talks and Q&A sessions on fruit trees. Bring your questions about appropriate varieties, soil preparation, and more!

Note: Jan. 20th event will happen rain or shine! There is indoor space available for this session. If you have rain concerns call San Lorenzo Garden Center, 423-0223.

Note: For Jan. 27th event, this is always an informative and popular event so please call and let them know if you plan to attend (The Garden Company, 429-8424). It is an outdoor event, so dress in layers, and heavy rain cancels.



*The Monterey Bay chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers Association is holding their annual Scion Exchange. Sunday, January 14th, from 12:00-3:00 at the Cabrillo College Horticulture Center located at the top of campus.*

*This is a great event for anyone interested in grafting new varieties onto an existing tree. Get great advice from people passionate about fruit trees. Cuttings and rootstocks will be available and grafting demonstrations will be offered. Beginners are welcome. Free for CRFG members, \$5.00 for the general public.*

*For more information contact Michael Kusiak 831-332-4699 or [montereybay@crfg.org](mailto:montereybay@crfg.org)*



## EVERY ROSE HAS ITS THORNS AND BLOOMS! NAVIGATING THE HIGHS (AND LOWS) OF ROSE GROWING

January 6th; 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
Alan Chadwick Garden at UCSC

Roses can be finicky, but persistence pays off! This workshop class will be a lively, 3-dimensional primer on growing roses in the home garden. Appropriate whether you have (or are planning to have) 1, 10, or 100 roses, for while scale matters, the basics are the same.

As part of the 2017 year-long celebration of the UCSC Farm & Garden's 50th anniversary, rose expert Owen Martin planted 150 new rose plants at the Chadwick Garden last winter. He'll use this setting for a lecture and demonstration workshop. Topics will include: site/soil planning factors; selecting roses that thrive on the Central Coast (types and varieties and their features, including David Austins, Hybrid teas, Floribundas, Grandifloras, and Rugosas); soil prep and planting, post-planting care and initial pruning; the yearly care cycle (an almanac of rose care throughout the calendar year; Irrigation; pruning; pests and diseases — trouble-shooting and strategies; fertilizing overview ; propagating roses from cuttings.

Cost of the workshop is \$30 for the general public (pre-registered) or \$40 at the door, and \$20 for members of the Friends of the UCSC Farm and Garden (pre-registered) or \$30 at the door. Limited income participants and UCSC students pay \$15 (pre-registered) or \$20 at the door. Pre-register at: <http://winterroses.bpt.me>. Cash or check only at the door.

The Alan Chadwick Garden is at the corner of Merrill Road and McLaughlin Drive at UCSC. Free public parking is available in the Merrill College parking lot. For more information, call (831) 459-3240 or email [casfs@ucsc.edu](mailto:casfs@ucsc.edu). Workshop is cosponsored by the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems and the Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden.

## MONTEREY BAY ROSE SOCIETY ROSE CLINICS

Jan. 13 & 14 — 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Hands on experience at the MBRS Display Rose Garden at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds • Use Horseshow Entrance • Bring your gloves and pruners.

## ALLADIN NURSERY ROSE CLASSES

Sat, January 20 at 10:00am Sat.  
Feb.24 at 10:00 a.m., 2905 Freedom  
Boulevard Watsonville

Taught by American Rose Society Certified Consulting Rosarians, come learn about rose pruning practices and procedures, pruners and tools, safety, IPM (Integrated Pest Management), fertilizers, and more!

Attendees are welcome to bring in their own rose plants for pruning and additional tips on proper care.

## FREE TALK! ROSE PRUNING WORKSHOP

Sat., January 27, 10 a.m.—noon  
San Lorenzo Garden Center, 235  
River St., Santa Cruz

## TO STRIP OR NOT TO STRIP?

Most experienced rosarians strip off all of the old leaves on their roses this time of year after they prune. This helps to prevent fungal diseases and insect pests from overwintering. If you leave old leaves on and new growth pushes them off in spring, it will require more clean-up and may contaminate new growth. I usually do this by hand, but it is a big job to do all of my climbing roses.

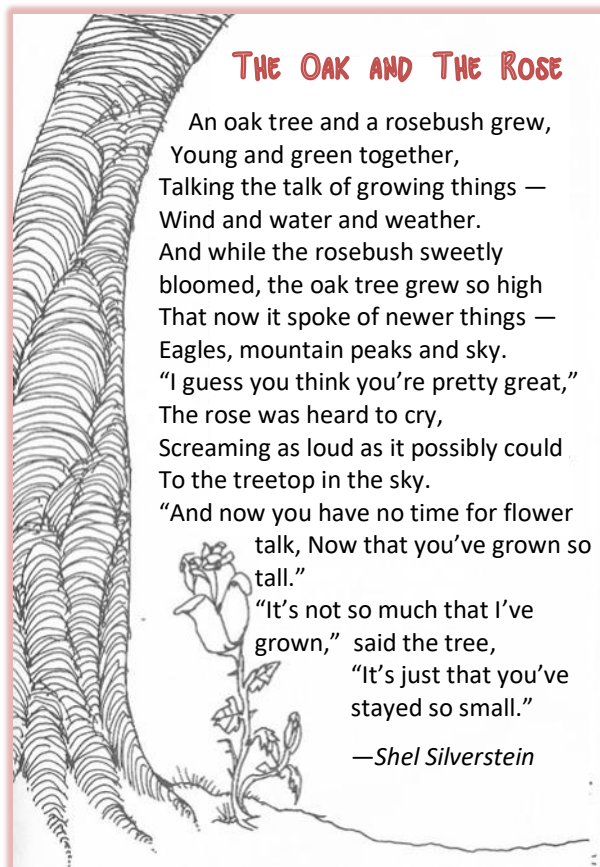
Fine Gardening suggests another way to take care of winter foliage: spraying. If you are a person who uses dormant spray on your roses, you know not to do it on a sunny day because it will burn foliage. Well, if you follow the reverse directions, waiting until a sunny day, spraying with dormant spray will burn the foliage off and kill pests and spores, they say. Read more at <http://www.finegardening.com/tip-stripping-winter-leaves-large-roses..>

## PLANT COMPANIONS FOR ROSES

There are many benefits to introducing other plants to your rose garden, including water saving, pest repelling and aesthetic help when your older roses get woody and leggy. Experiment with nepeta, salvias and heucheras. Here is a

list of recommended perennials to plant with roses (from 52 Weeks in the California Garden by Robert Smaus): Alstroemeria, Aster, Bearded iris, Bergenia, Brachycome multifida, Campanula, Candytuft, Catmint, Columbine, Coral bells, Daylily, Dianthus deltoids, Dusty miller, Euphorbia rigida, hardy Geraniums, Heliotrope, Isotoma, Lamb's ears, Lavender, Linaria, Lychnics, dwarf kinds of New Zealand flax, Nierembergia, Pelargonium fragrans, Penstemon, Platycodon grandiflorus, Rehmannia, Trailing rosemary, Salvias (particularly low-growing ones), Santolina, Saxifraga stolonifera, Scabiosa columbaria, Thymus vulgaris and Verbena.

Garlic and chives are also good companions—and help keep pests away.



Dig Gardens, 420 Water St., Santa Cruz, is offering several workshops, pictured below. Contact information to register: <https://diggardens.com/collections/workshops>; (831)466-3444 ; email [diggardens@gmail.com](mailto:diggardens@gmail.com) .



Woodland Terrarium Workshop Offered  
Saturday January 13th at 2PM \$ 20.00



Staghorn Fern Mounting Workshop offered  
January 20th at 2PM \$ 65.00



Orchids 101: Repotting & Reblooming  
Workshop Offered Saturday January 27th at 2PM \$ 25.00



Many of you are familiar with Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery at Moss Landing. Primarily a wholesale nursery with an extensive collection of California natives, it was open for retail sales on Fridays only. The owner, Robert Stephens, is retiring, so the nursery is closed. However, Members George and Evelyn Zhovreboff contacted him and have made several trips to purchase some of his leftover stock at good prices.

They are arranging one more purchasing trip, in early spring. Robert has said it doesn't have to be a Friday, so George and Evelyn can plan the buying spree for any day of the week that works for people. Contact them [atzhovreboff@aol.com](mailto:atzhovreboff@aol.com) or (916) 303-3673 to let them know if you are interested, and to tell them what day or days work for you.

A big "thank you" to George and Evelyn for making bulk purchases of Hormex Rooting Hormone in three different strengths (#1, #3 and #8) as well as plant labels and making them available to all of us at

Gardeners' Club meetings. We all have different methods (and success rates) of propagating plants from cuttings, stems and leaves. There are many "magic" recipes for the medium to stick your cuttings in. Share your methods at meetings, or send them to newsletter editor, so we can learn together.



The Ecological Farming Association (EcoFarm) is a non-profit educational organization whose mission is to nurture safe, healthy, just, and ecologically sustainable farms, food systems, and communities by bringing people together for education, alliance building, advocacy, and celebration. This year they will host their 38th annual conference, the oldest and largest organic farming conference on the West Coast, featuring over 70 workshops, intensives, keynote speakers, an exhibitor marketplace, seed swap, live entertainment, mixers and organic culinary fare. For more information, go to <https://eco-farm.org/>.

*"EcoFarm Conference is the winter cover crop for the farmer's mind."*



## Gardening—Things to Do in January

ADVICE FROM  
**THE GARDEN COMPANY, 2218  
MISSION STREET, SANTA CRUZ:**

It's that time of year to use dormant sprays on deciduous fruit trees to help prevent insect and disease issues in the spring. It should be noted that these sprays are intended for fruit trees that lose their leaves and are dormant in the winter, not for evergreen fruit trees like citrus or avocados. Take advantage of the dry weather to get the first application done before it rains. Monitor the weather forecasts and look for a two to three day dry period. This will allow enough time for the products to be effective.

Ideally, three applications are made roughly coinciding with early December, early January and early to mid-February. Spraying should be timed to avoid rainfall within 48 hours. It is helpful to apply the spray from a couple of different positions to achieve thorough coverage of all surfaces of the branches and trunk including small furrows in the bark and crotches between branches. These protected areas are where insects often deposit their eggs, and fungus spores collect. It's not always possible to get to all three applications, but do what you can, when you can.

There are two different products that are generally applied during the dormant season.

Bonide All Seasons and Master Nursery Pest Fighter are highly refined mineral oils that are approved for use in organic gardening. When sprayed on the branches and trunk, the oil smothers any over-wintering insect eggs before they have a chance to hatch.

Bonide Copper Fungicide is a copper soap approved for use in organic gardening. It is sprayed to neutralize over-wintering fungus spores to help prevent early season disease issues, including peach leaf curl.



### **CUT BACK AND DIVIDE PERENNIALS**

Winter is a good time to cut back some of your perennials and bunch grasses.

Perennials such as hummingbird sage and most kinds of hummingbird fuchsia can be cut back all the way to the ground. Perennials like daylilies and chrysanthemums can be divided. Bunch grasses such as purple needle grass (official California state grass), Idaho fescue and deer grass, and some perennials like douglas iris, alum root, seaside daisy and yerba buena, can be propagated by division now..

### **BARE ROOT PLANTS**

Visit local nurseries for bare roots plants—fruit trees, roses, many kinds of berries and more. These are sold without any soil clinging to the roots making them easier and less expensive to transport; they'll do just fine in the garden as long as you don't let them dry out before planting. Buy and plant early in the month while roots are still fresh.

The bare roots should be soaked from an hour to overnight (large plants) in a bucket of water before planting. Trim roots of broken, dead or spongy bits and carefully pull the roots apart. Dig a hole that is fairly shallow and wide. Spread the roots out sideways and have the crown of the plant several inches above the soil level. This is necessary as the plant will settle down over time. Water in well but don't fertilize until you see new shoots growing. Water regularly if we don't get rain.

Trees and roses aren't the only plants that are sold bare root. You can also plant bare root asparagus, artichokes, rhubarb, berries, kiwifruit, horseradish, rhubarb, grapes, strawberries, and iris in January.



### **PLANT NATIVES**

This is a good month to plant most California native plants. They like to be planted in the cool fall and winter months, which is the beginning of their growing season. It is also a good time to plant wildflower seeds such as California Poppy. Scatter and tamp them down with your feet, and wait for the spring show.

### **PROPAGATE NEW PLANTS—ROOT SEMI-HARDWOOD AND HARDWOOD CUTTINGS**

If you've never tried cloning your favorite plants by rooting their stems, why not try it this winter? A good explanation of some techniques can be found at <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/files/53420.pdf>. Think of all of the plants we can share at the plant table if all of us start rooting now!

Rooting hormone helps, although it is not always used. Thanks to George and Evelyn Zhoreboff we'll have Hormex in different strengths for sale by the ounce or half-ounce at discount prices at our January meeting. If you are wondering which strength to use for which plant, visit the Hormex website

### **ATTEND THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING—A POTLUCK TO BEAT ALL POTLUCKS!**

Every January we start the year right with our annual potluck dinner at the home of President Cherry Thompson (3315 Putter Dr., Soquel). Usually Joe Thompson (Cherry's husband, our webmaster and, last but not least, chef extraordinaire) cooks us up one of his gourmet specialties, and we bring the rest. You don't have to be a member—come join us for a feast, conversation and a look forward to the Club's next year.

**JANUARY 23RD - 6:00 P.M.**



## Winter Veggie Pie With Cabbage, Roasted Beets, Goat Cheese & Dill



Celebrate National Pie Day with a pie featuring root-crops!

### Ingredients:

- 3 Tbsps olive oil
  - 3-4 cups thinly sliced cabbage 1 large onion, thinly sliced
  - 1 large carrot, peeled and shredded
  - 1/2 cup fresh dill, washed, removed from stems, and chopped
  - 2 roasted beets, thinly sliced (recommend roasting them as that concentrates their flavors deliciously, though you could also boil or steam)
  - 8 oz fresh soft goat cheese
  - Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
  - Pastry for a 9-10 inch double-crust pie
1. Make or defrost the pie crust. Roast the beets, slip the skins off and slice them in advance.

2. Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the cabbage and onion and cook until the onion is golden and abbage is completely wilted, about 25 minutes. Stir in the shredded carrot and the dill and stir to combine. Season the mixture to taste with salt and pepper.

3. Preheat the oven to 400 F.

4. But bottom crust in 9-10" pie pan. .Arrange the beet slices in concentric circles over the crust in the bottom. of the goat cheese over the beets. Spoon in the cabbage/onion/carrot mixture and top it with the remaining goat cheese.

5. Fit the top crust over the pie and crimp the edges with a fork to seal and prick several holes in the top of the pie to allow steam to escape during baking. (6. Bake for 15 minutes, then decrease the oven temperature to 350 F and bake for 30-35 more minutes, until the top is nicely browned. Let stand for at least 10 minutes and serve warm or at room temperature with a fresh green salad.

## New Tools for A New Year?



Where have you been all my life, O Root Slayer?

This tool won the 2017 Green Thumb Award presented by the non-profit Direct Gardening Association. It is a multi-purpose shovel that can eliminate the need for other tools, such as hatchets, pry-bars, and saws, when simply digging around the home. It is great for hard dirt and root-bound ground. If

you've ever hit roots while trying to plant a perennial, or been stymied by roots when trying to dig up a shrub, or tried to divide hostas with a spade only to have them slide away from your shovel, you'll know what we're talking about. You can use the Root Slayer as your go-to shovel. You can also use it to replace your nursery spade. Think of it as a shovel, root hatchet, and root saw all in one tool. It is certified to be more than 150% stronger than comparable tools by Intertek, an independent testing laboratory, made of carbon steel overmolded with a poly-comfort grip. It has a patented ergonomic Natural Radius O-Handle Grip with 4 times the gripping surface of traditional D-Handle tools provides additional leverage while reducing hand and wrist stress. It comes with a life-time warranty.

At the website of the Radius Garden, the family-owned company who developed the Root Slayer, you can read the personal story of its invention (<https://radiusgarden.com/>). You can learn about the philosophy of the company, and see their other products. I'm buying and trying out their their medium-size bypass pruners that are made specifically for women's smaller hands and helpful for people with arthritis in their hands.



The owner and founder says, "I founded Radius Garden because it bothers me that traditional garden tools force you to use your hands and wrists in ways that can cause injuries. Four out of five gardeners are injured every year while gardening. OSHA says 3/4 of all cumulative stress injuries are to the wrist and hand. Many, if not most, of these injuries can be prevented by better tool design. We believe that truly advanced ergonomic design ignores tradition and uses the most current research into human factors and tool usage. Our natural radius grip, big enough for two hands, maximizes your power and comfort while minimizing hand and wrist stress. Our sleek, multi-functional blades make home and professional gardening easier and more enjoyable. We started by inventing the 'Natural Radius Grip' for hand tools, a handle that sets your wrist and hand in a natural, neutral position allowing you to garden more without injury. Next, we perfected the 'O' handle that makes longer tools safer and easier to use. Now, with critical acclaim and and sincere endorsements from both experts and everyday customers we continue to innovate and introduce new, high quality garden tools so you can garden more and hurt less."

"We make garden tools for women. We make garden tools for people with arthritis. We make garden tools for life."

The Green Thumb Award winners are selected based on their uniqueness, technological innovation, ability to solve a gardening problem or provide a gardening opportunity, and potential appeal to gardeners.



# The Gardeners' Club Membership

The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are only \$15.00, due by January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2017. Dues entitle members to all club educational programs, our special events, plant trades and our awesome monthly newsletter. The "green" option is to receive an electronic PDF FULL-COLOR version of the newsletter by checking the newsletter e-mail option below. And...with gift-giving season almost here, consider sharing your passion for gardening, and supporting our club, by giving your favorite gardening enthusiast an opportunity to connect, share and learn with us. A gift membership is a gift nobody



will want to return!

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. We have a history of giving to the community, and have focused this giving in the last few years on scholarships for high school and Cabrillo College students who are working towards careers in horticulture. Because our dues are so low and we'd like to be able to continue to give at least one additional scholarship, we are giving you the option of making an additional gift with your membership. Thank you!

Renew now so you don't miss anything—you'll be glad you did.

## Your Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Preference (check one):

☐ Full color PDF via e-mail

☐ Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

## Gift Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Preference (check one):

☐ Full color PDF via e-mail

☐ Paper copy (B&W)

via snail mail

Enclose check for \$15 per member, plus any additional contribution to our scholarship fund, made out to *The Gardeners' Club*. Mail to:

**The Gardeners' Club % Suzanne Caron**

Membership amount	\$ _____
I would like to make an additional gift	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____





Anyone who thinks that gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year. For gardening, begins in January, with the dream.  
Josephine Nuese



### New Year's Resolutions:

1. Gardening
2. Gardening
3. Gardening

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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](http://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

