



The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

MAY 2018

Writer/Editor: Lise
Bixler l(lisebixler@sbc
global.net)

SPRING PLANT SALE & SWAP

Thursday, May 10th, 1 p.m.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get free and bargain-priced plants and paraphernalia 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—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. Don't miss out—see you there!



(see inside back cover for more details)

Secret Gardens of the Valley

Ed. Note: If I could only go to one garden tour this spring, this would be it, The Secret Gardens of the Valley. The proceeds benefit the new Felton library, which will be so much more than a library. It will include an innovative and exciting family Discovery Park and a riparian restoration project. Read more at <http://www.feltonlibraryfriends.org>. And the descriptions of the gardens make me swoon.

Seven unique properties in Felton and Ben Lomond include an extensive succulent garden, a wildlife habitat garden with a huge koi pond, and a gorgeous tropical plant conservatory. Participants will enjoy music by Patti Maxine & friends, a raffle, refreshments, a succulent sale and gift seeds from Renee's Garden. Expert advice on ponds, succulents, rain catchment, and bonsai will be offered at several sites.

Advance tickets on sale starting 4/7/2018: \$20 at www.feltonlibraryfriends.org, the Felton Library, Felton Feed, and most garden centers. \$25 on day of tour, only at the new Felton Library/Park site by the Felton Post Office. Children under 12 free.

Featured Gardens

Garden Whimsy — Janet Silvergate

Shade-loving plants and art are nestled under the redwoods in a series of whimsical garden rooms created over the past 23 years. The deck, greenhouse, artful playhouse, and fire-pit are designed as an extension of the welcoming garden environment. Patti Maxine and friends will play here. . Whinny Hill — Gale McCreary Three mares live on the redwood-studded hillside pasture behind the gardens, which feature drought tolerant plants, fruit trees, and roses. An



- The New Felton Nature Discovery Park: See displays of plans for the new park and library. Cross the land bridge over Bull Creek to peek at the park site.

NamaStay — Jenni Fox/ Paul Gould

Enjoy architectural and artistic surprises as you meander through this two-acre sanctuary. Paths wind naturally through beautiful oaks and around an art studio, private yoga studio, and a pool overlooked by a profusion of rosemary. Refreshments here.

attractive rock river serves as effective storm drainage. Visit the gorgeous glass-roofed conservatory that houses orchids and a variety of tropical plants. Free packets of Rene's Garden seeds here. Buy tickets for the FLF benefit drawing here.

Little Cottage in the Redwoods — Debbie Bour

This charming cottage garden on Bull Creek features a 5,000-gallon rain catchment tank that provides garden water all summer. A unique home-built chicken coop hosts free-range chickens who provide natural pest control. Water systems expert Golden Love will be on site for discussion and advice.

Where the Wild Things Are — Adra Ross

This National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat adjoins Fall Creek Park.. Two major garden areas feature deer-tolerant plants and select art pieces. The huge 350,000 gallon pond is home to koi, turtles and dragonflies. Pond expert Rick Blazo will be on site. Habitat information here.

Pop-Ups!

- Bonsai Magic: The Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai Club will be teaching the ancient art of Bonsai as club members create beautiful new specimens and display Bonsai plants.
- Pollinators of the SLV: 4-H youth will demonstrate how to keep the Earth healthy by helping pollinators thrive in our backyards. Easy-to-make "hotels" for beneficial insects will be displayed along with educational information.

Succulents Rock! — Carla Richmond

An amazing variety of succulents and water-wise companion plants thrive on living walls designed by Kent Diethrick with over 100 kinds of rocks. Patios feature large planters and fountains overflowing with succulents. Expert advice on succulents and companions, and a succulent sale here.



Asparagus summer salad

April Barclay served up this delicious salad at the last Board meeting, and everyone clamored for the recipe. Here it is (originally from Sunset magazine). Anyone else have a recipe to share with us for spring or summer?



Sara Morris, Laguna Beach, CA

SERVES 6 TIME 20 minutes

2 lbs. thick asparagus, cut into 2-in. pieces

2 tbsp. each fresh lemon juice and Dijon mustard

3 tbsp. olive oil

1/4 cup each chopped fresh basil, chives, and cilantro

1 cup thinly sliced red onion

3/4 cup toasted pine nuts

2 oz. feta cheese, crumbled (1/2 cup)

1/2 tsp. each salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Bring a large saucepan of water to a boil. Drop asparagus into water and cook until bright green and slightly softened, 1 to 2 minutes. Drain asparagus and rinse with very cold water until cool to the touch.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together lemon juice, mustard, oil, and herbs. Add asparagus, onion, pine nuts, feta, salt, and pepper, and stir to combine.



How to store Your Lettuce Harvested from the Garden for Days

Dianne Venetta, in her blog Bloom Thyme, shares her suggestions for preserving your lettuce. In fact, she says you can preserve its taste and texture for up to 10 days! Here's how:

Gather and snip your lettuce, then wash it. Rinse and semi-dry. This is important. You don't want to completely dry your lettuce, as the moisture helps retain its freshness when you store it

Once you have cleaned all your leaves, roll out a line of paper towels (keep squares connected) and dampen, ringing out enough water, leaving your towels slightly damp. Lay out your lettuce across the towels.

Then roll it up!



Take your roll and place it into a plastic bag and remove as much air as possible before sealing. Store in refrigerator. That's it! When you want a fresh salad, simply go in and grab your bag, taking as much lettuce as you need, re-sealing the bag as before and then returning it to the refrigerator.

More tips at <https://bloominthyme.com>.



Tips for Injury Prevention & Back Care for Gardeners

Start slow! Our inconsistent weather these last months means we have not been working as vigorously in our gardens as we'd have liked to. It's spring! Let's go plant and weed and dig and sow! Woah – remember to pace yourself.

Take frequent breaks and be sure to stay hydrated. Keep a bottle of water handy at all times while in the garden.

Use the right tool for the right job. Try sitting on a low garden stool rather than bending over for long periods of

time, invest in knee pads or a kneeling pad to save your knees, and buy sturdy gardening gloves to protect your hands. If shovels, rakes, or trowels are broken or in disrepair, replace them and buy the best ergonomically designed tools you can find. It's worth the extra money to save your body from injury!



Watch your body mechanics. Bend at your knees and hips, NOT your back, and know your limitations. Don't lift more than is safe for you! Rocks are heavier than they look and

slinging 25-40 pound bags of dirt and mulch can take its toll. Break up loads into smaller/lighter cargo, ask for help, use a cart or dolly, or hire someone to do the job.

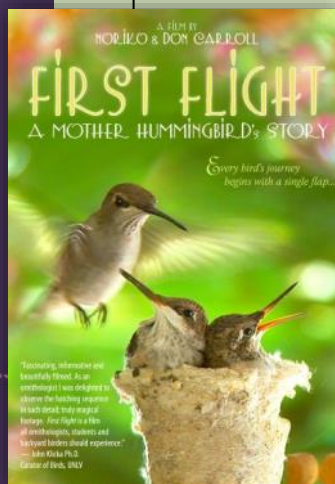
Consider yourself a domestic athlete and do a warm up and stretch before and after you tackle hours of lawn work or gardening. A hot bath with Epsom salts and a few drops of lavender essential oil can do wonders after a long day of pruning and planting. It's not pampering, it's prevention! Your body will thank you.

—Adapted by a blog post by PJ Sharon (<http://www.pjsharon.com/authors-in-bloom-and-back-care-tips-for-gardeners/>)



First Flight: A Mother Hummingbird's Story

What a perfect Mother's Day movie!



"This enchanting nature documentary follows the dedicated efforts of a tiny black-chinned hummingbird (nicknamed Honey by filmmakers Don Carroll and Noriko Carroll) to lay, incubate, and hatch two tiny raisin-sized eggs and raise the fledgling chicks. The film begins with remarkable nest-building close-ups; the soft fiber bird home rests on the Carroll's porch clothesline in Las Vegas.

Inventive 360-degree macro shots follow the progress, including egg development, incubation, hatching, feedings, nest defense (including chasing away the Carrolls' cat), and first flight. Honey's protective and attentive mothering is enlivened through Noriko Carroll's informative and humorous narration and rich musical soundtrack. This entertaining film includes a bonus making-of feature. Bird and nature fans will be entranced. -- Carol Holzberg (Booklist)"

The filmmakers spent three years documenting Honey's efforts, as she came back yearly to rebuild her nest. I loved the scenes when she is whizzing back and forth to the garden to gather nectar or nesting material or insects – did you know hummingbirds eat aphids?

You can watch this free on Amazon Prime video, or rent it from Amazon, or buy a DVD. It is a quite remarkable story about the labor of love and the celebration of life from an

incredibly close perspective.



May 11, 12 & 13 Mother's Day Weekend

The largest annual college plant sale in Central California! Over 1000 different organic vegetable starts, perennial edible crops, annuals, bedding plants, culinary & medicinal herbs, cut flowers, natives, perennials, salvias, succulents and vines.

Friday 3:00–7:00 p.m.: Member presale (membership can be bought at the gate)

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Cabrillo College
Environmental Horticulture
Center & Botanic Gardens

6500 Soquel Drive
(top of campus)
Aptos, CA
(831) 479-6241

PLANT SALE PARKING:

Follow the signs to the top of campus. Please park in parking lots F & G just off the upper perimeter road and take the shuttles up the hill. Purchased plants may be picked up with your vehicle at the designated hold areas.

List of plants that will be available at the sale can be found at <https://www.cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture/plantinventory.html>.

Scholarships Highlight our April Meeting

by Bill Patterson

The Gardeners' Club members enjoyed a heart warming evening, as we met the recipients of this year's Scholarship Awards Program.

Marcia Meyer presented the high school student, Julie Avila, from Watsonville High School and her teacher Paulina Correia. The selection process was a collaborative effort with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Career Technical Education Partnership and the Farm Bureau, to designate a deserving high school student enrolling in the Cabrillo College Horticulture Program in fall 2018. Julia's father was very interested in the presentations and Club activities, and Marcia gifted Julia with a plant Julia was admiring at the Plant Table.

Heather Bloom of Cabrillo's Horticulture Program Introduced the three collegiate students. Mary Vogel, Sarah Stephens and Jerry Liggins were chosen by the Cabrillo College Horticulture Department Faculty as outstanding in their studies, their work ethic and their potential future in the field. Heather shared each student's story of the circuitous path he or she took to end up in the field of horticulture studies. The stories were heart-warming, inspiring and, at times, humorous. Jerry, who is a single father, couldn't attend the meeting because one of his sons was sick.

Our Club awarded three scholarships of \$500 this year, through the generous effort of our Board and members, earned through membership dues and plant sales, while a fourth scholarship was donated by the family of Pat Williams, a dear member, in remembrance of the many years we enjoyed her presence in our group.

These awards support our young people in their educational pursuits through the important financial support, and the recognition that will encourage them for the rest of their educational days. We members of the Gardeners' Club through our constant funding efforts may be proud of our support of a most deserving part of our community.



Opening Reception: The Future Garden for the Central Coast of California

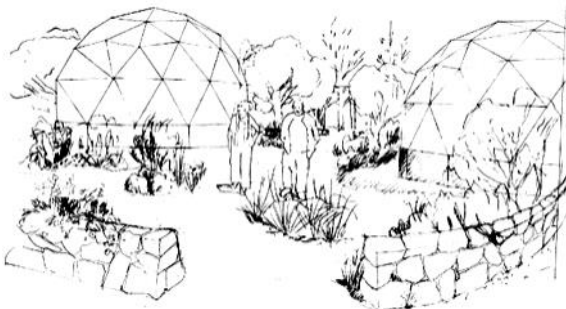


The newly refurbished geodesic domes of the Arboretum provide the perfect setting for imagining a future in the face of climate change. Internationally renowned eco-artists and UC Santa Cruz emeritus faculty Newton Harrison and his late wife and lifelong collaborator Helen Mayer Harrison the Harrisons created a site-specific environmental art installation in the three greenhouse domes and the surrounding garden at the Arboretum and Botanic Garden. The ***Future Garden for the Central Coast of California*** transforms the domes from relics of the past, steeped in 1970s era charm, into carriers of the future in response to the crisis of climate change.

The Harrisons worked with scientists at UC Santa Cruz and botanists at the Arboretum, along with other artists, scientists, and visionaries, to create trial gardens within the domes in which native plant species are subjected to the temperatures and water conditions that scientists see for the region in the near future. The aim is to determine which plants are best able to thrive as the region warms and to propagate these species to create the scaffolding for more rapid regeneration of the local ecosystem as climates shift. As Newton Harrison explains, the future for the rapidly warming planet lies in finding durable plant species that together create ecosystems that can continue to live and flourish as temperature increases.

The Institute of the Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce the opening reception for this major art and science project. at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden. The opening is FREE and open to the public.

**May 19— 4-6 pm, Opening Reception
5 p.m. Remarks**



Imagined finished landscape of the Future Garden

Brook Lomond Iris Farm Sale & Show

Brook Lomond Iris Farm in Ben Lomond opens its gardens to the public two weekends, May 5th and 6th, and 12th and 13 (Mother's Day). Brook Lomond Iris Farm is certified organic, offering top grade iris rhizomes (plants) for sale. Enjoy a beautiful pallet of scrumptious colors, shapes, and smells (yes, smells) of tall bearded Iris. May is the peak bloom time and hundreds of flowers are waiting to be enjoyed. Tall bearded iris are drought tolerant, and deer and gopher resistant.



This farm is owned by Christine and Rick Moran, an enthusiastic and inspiring duo that Jan Nelson described as "a world renowned pottery artist combined with a reformed corn grower" (see her 2016 article at www.goldenstatenewspapers.com/press_banner/community/brook-lomond-iris-farm-educational-inspirational). Their farm also has an organic vegetable garden, cactus and succulent collection and features Chris' unique pottery.

On-going demonstrations will help you care and prepare your rhizomes for the best blooms year after year. The Iris Farm features colorful beds of iris with a backdrop of towering redwoods. Compost bins take center stage, providing piles of rich gardener's gold. Compost demonstrations take place all day.

Rhizomes (plants) are on sale Sat. and Sun., May 5 & 6, and, 12 & 13 from 9 to 4. Rain date is the following weekend. The address is 10310 California Drive, Ben Lomond, ½ mile past Ben Lomond up Highway 9. Don't forget your camera! Email: irisfarm1012@gmail.com.



If you left your ornamental grasses up for winter interest, you can cut them back now, you don't need to wait for new growth. Warm season ornamental grasses like *Miscanthus* (Maiden Grass) or *Panicum* (Switch Grass should be cut down within four to six inches to the

ground. This allows the sun to get down on the roots and warms them up faster.

However, don't cut down cold season grasses such as *Fescue* and *Carex* (Sedge Grass) – because they've already started actively growing.

Digging Deeper: Thematic Garden Planning with Tom Karwin



Tom Karwin's Garden Saturday, May 19 4:00 PM

Tom Karwin's talk will revolve around the rewards and challenges of organizing the garden around a theme or—more likely—a series of themes, the differences between themes and styles in landscape design, and will include an overview of relevant online resources. There will be an opportunity for participants to describe their own experiences with thematic garden planning. Tom is a lifetime Master Gardener (certified in 1999–2009), and garden writer with a weekly garden column for two newspapers in California's Monterey Bay area (2001 to present—sixteen years!). His columns are archived on <http://ongardening.com>. He is current president of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society, past president of the University of California–Santa Cruz Arboretum, past president of the Monterey Bay Iris Society, and member of several garden related local and statewide groups. He is retired from staff positions at University of California–Los Angeles and UC–Santa Cruz.

Registration is required and space is limited. Location: Tom Karwin's Garden, 121 Easterby Avenue, Santa Cruz

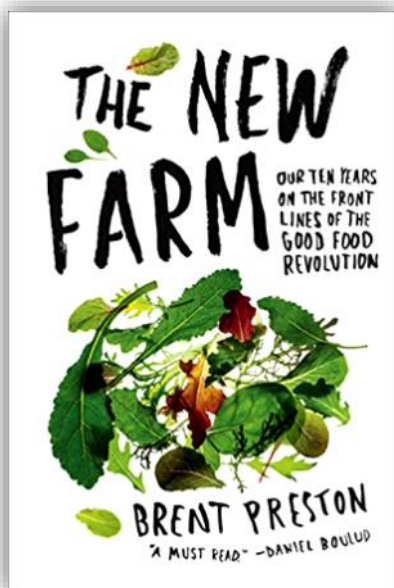
Registration

\$30 members of the Garden Conservancy

\$35 nonmembers

Your registration includes Open Days admission to this garden destination—a \$7 value. The garden of Tom Karwin will be open to general Open Days visitors on this date from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION BY
BILL PATTERSON



The New Farm by Brent Preston. Random House,

The New Farm is a light hearted, enjoyable read, yet it is a compelling story of one family's purchase of a farm near Toronto, Canada as they escape from the urban environment to build a better life. Their ten year journey through blood, sweat and tears, supported by a faith in a more sustainable future, is inspiring.

**RECOMMENDATION BY
NIKOLARA DUNBAR-JANSONS**

Member Nikolara says, "Have you seen the BBC show "Gardeners' World"? It's a brilliant, seasonal show that dives into some expert gardening lessons but also shares beautiful gardens too. Well worth watching on YouTube. "

Ed. Note: It's addictive, and you'll find other British gardening shows there which will occupy much of your non-gardening time. And check out the Gardeners' World blog: <https://www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com/blog>. Overload!

OPEN GARDENS



We are continuing our program of opening our gardens to fellow members of the club. The Open Gardens this month are:

Sunday, May 6th, 2:00-4:00 pm

✠ Pat McVeigh, 2573 Parker Street, Santa Cruz

Sat., May 12th, 11:00 am-2:00 pm

✠ Dena Gonsalves 3145 Salisbury Drive, Santa Cruz

Sunday, May 13th (Mother's Day)

10:00 am-4:00 pm

✠ Dr. Eurs, "Creekhaven," 4851 Cherryvale Ave., Soquel

Saturday, May 19 th,

10:00 am-1:00 pm

TWO this day!

✠ Dottie Lechtenberg,

275 W. Phillips Rd, Watsonville

✠ Rita Ramirez, 255

Bollinger Place, Watsonville

MAY DAY ART FAIRE

**An Invitation from Member
Suzanne Caron**

"This coming weekend is the annual May Day Art Faire. Those of you who have attended this wonderful event in the past know that it is one you don't want to miss. This year there will be 15 artists of various mediums. The address is 421 Gharkey St. (Westside) Santa Cruz. Saturday May 5th and Sunday May 6th, from 10:00 to 5:00.

Last year I found that my smaller flowers were extremely popular. I will have quite a few small glass flowers at the show as well as some smaller (1 foot) combination glass, acrylic and metal flowers that I have been having so much fun with in my garden. I hope to see you there!"

Suzanne Caron



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



7 REASONS TO BUY A T-SHIRT

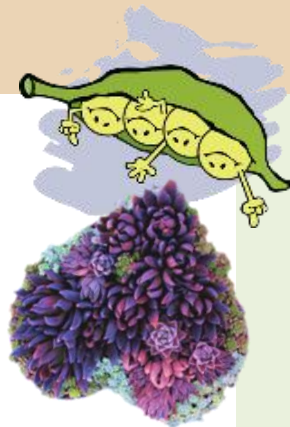
- ✦ You are going to a garden tour and you want to show off that you are a member of a cool garden club.
- ✦ You really liked the grey color shirt you got, but now they have navy blue! They'll match your jeans, and hide dirt from the garden.
- ✦ You meant to get one when they were available before but by the time you remembered to bring your checkbook to a meeting they didn't have your size. Now the new shirts are available in many sizes, both women's and mens. There are 33 long-sleeved and 39 short-sleeved shirts available.



- ✦ Did you say long-sleeved? Gotta have one of those! Protect your arms from the sun, rose thorns and wind, fog and cold.
- ✦ Mother's Day is coming up. Buy yourself a shirt as a gift, or give one to a mother, or someone with a motherly personality, or to a friend of a mother.
- ✦ Already have a shirt? Only ONE??? Everyone knows gardeners are collectors. It takes at least two to start a collection. Now you'll be able to say you have both hybrid species, the 2017 and the 2018.
- ✦ Peer pressure. Don't be the only one who doesn't have a spectacularly floriferous shirt.

The shirts will be available at the May Plant Exchange, on May 10?

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



The Gardeners' Club

P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

President
Cherry Thompson, 475-0991
cherylea@comcast.net
Vice President & Publicity
Ilene Wilson, 724-4609
mygardensup@aol.com
Secretary
April Barclay, 688-7656
AABarclay@aol.com
Treasurer
Denise Rossi
475-3081
drossi3342@comcast.net
Membership
Suzanne Caron 609-6230
Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com
Hospitality
Janine Canada 359-5949
jcanada26@gmail.com
Newsletter Writer/Editor
Lise Bixler, 457-2089
lisebixler@sbcglobal.net
www.thegardenersclub.org

Members-at-Large
Joanna Hall, 662-8821
jhavelock@sbcglobal.net
Debbie Kindle, 462-6296
poppy-54@live.com
Plant Table
Lupe Allen, 247-2705
lupea@ucsc.edu
Allan Neymark
457-2505
aneymark@hotmail.com
Jan Olafsson, 464-0554
humnusme@aol.com
Refreshments
Marge Gregory
684-1529
gregoryapto@aol.net
Webmaster
Joe Thompson
joe@joehometech.com