

Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club Santa Cruz County, California

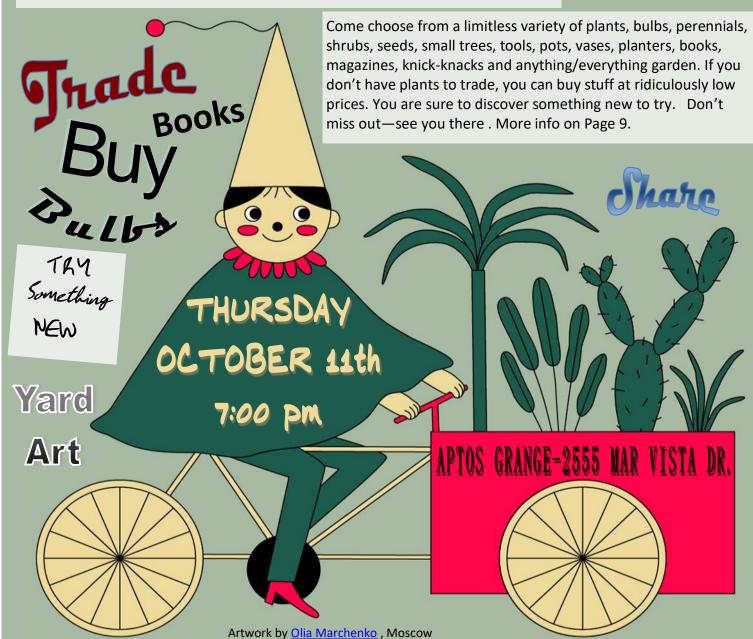
OCTOBER 2018

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

Fall Plant Sale & SWap

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.





straw Bale Veggie Garden Class



saturday, October 6th 11 AM 12:30 PM Hosted by Alladin Nursery 2905 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville

Alladin's very own William Santos will teach you how to make a unique vegetable garden in a hot straw bale! This is great for people who have struggled to grow vegetables, are limited with space, or even those who want to try something new.

Step-by-step instruction, from setting up and prepping the bales to planting, irrigation, and pest management will have you ready to start a straw bale garden in no time! Class is FREE and open to everyone of all ages!



Watsonville Wetlands Watch

Native Plant Sale

Saturday October 6th, 2018 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us on Saturday, October 6, 2018, from 8:30 am to 1 pm for our 6th Annual Native Plant Sale. Over 60 species of plants native to the Pajaro Valley and the Monterey Bay will be on sale. Let our expert staff and volunteers aid you in plant selection to create your own beautiful drought tolerant garden that attracts birds, bees and butterflies. Located at the Fitz Wetland Educational Resource Center at the top of the Pajaro Valley High School at 500 Harkins Slough Road Watsonville. All proceeds directly support the Watsonville Wetlands WatchFl

Location; , Fitz, WETLANDS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER. at the top of the Pajaro Valley High School campus. This event is free and open to the public. No registration necessary.

But what a mournful song! It is quite distinctive, different from the song of its close relative, also common here in fall and winter, the White-crowned Sparrow. The song consists pf three notes given in a descending scale with intervals of thirds: sol, mi, do ,, sliding downward in a melancholy phrase . Goldminers used to describe it as "I'm so weary" or "No more gold" and called ithe bird "Weary Willie."

This sparrow feeds on the ground, pecking and scratching. Its diet, particularly in the winter, consists primarily of plant material; items include seeds, berries, flowers and buds, as well as the occasional crawling or low-flying insect. It is an important destroyer of weed seeds on the Pacific Slope. In our gardens, it can also be a destroyer of sprouting seeds and young seedlings. Often a pair will forage together, the male following the female.

Each Golden-Crowned Sparrow has its own feeding spot at the bird feeder. Even when there are no other birds around, it uses its spot exclusively. They enjoy common birdfeeding seeds, preferring a broad platform rather than narrow hanging feeders. Along with White crowned Sparrows, they will also cling tenaciously to hanging suet feeders



Golden crowned sparrow (zonotrichia atricapilla

"What a cool name and what a cool life. The Golden crowned Sparrow loves small seeds that it finds in the bogs and forest of Western Canada and Alaska in the summer, then wanders down to California and the West Coast during the winter. Picture sun glasses, a chaise lounge, a plate of wildflower seeds and a barbecue."—Las Pilitas Nursery



Find directions for making this gardener's dream costume using dollar store flowers at ohhappyday .com/2012/10/field-of-flowers-costume/.

FREE CLASS! Pumpkin Day at Felfon Farmer's Market OCTOBER 23rd 3:30 pm

Mountain Feed and Farm Supply will celebrate winter squash, the harbingers of fall and the cool weather that is just around the corner. You'll learn how tol make a delicious pumpkin syrup that can be used to flavor drinks, top cakes, or fermented into a non-alcoholic Pumpkin Beer with a ginger bug. (It might be better called Pumpkin Soda, but the Harry Potter

reference is too good to pass up.) It's magic, whatever you call it, and however, you choose to use it. class participants receive a printed recipe, as well as a 10% discount card for Mountain Feed Housewares products, good for one week after the class



Supporting Life toLab

Our September meeting was awesome. John Fischer, the Director of Programs and Partnerships at Life Lab, began his presentation by asking us to share what we knew about Life Lab. It was amazing how little we did know, even those of us who have volunteered or participated in Life Lab programs. Hearing the history of this non-profit was inspiring, as was their latest directions in expanding services to South County and providing support to existing school gardens. We'll be telling more stories about Life Lab in future newsletter editions. We were happy to present John with a \$500 one-time donation.

If you missed the meeting, or want to learn more, watch the exciting video on their website. Click on the link below.

At the meeting, I purchased a set of Kids' Garden Activity Cards. I was pleased to open the box and find



40 interactive activities. Kids' Garden encourages children to engage with the outdoors and appreciate the green world around them. Each double-sided card has step-by-step instructions with colorful collage artwork. A great way for budding gardeners to plant, investigate, learn and experiment! The first activity I'm going to start with the children in my life is perfect for October—"Pumpkin Leapfrog". You need 8 medium size pumpkins and 2 short pieces of rope.

First you harvest 8 pumpkins. Find an open area and place the pumpkins in a long line, each about 3 feet apart. Use the pieces of rope to mark a start and finish line on either end of the line of pumpkins. Beginning at the start line, leap over each pumpkin one at a time all the way to

the finish line. Time yourself, and see how fast you can make it from one end to the other. Have a Pumpkin Leapfrog race with friends. Now try to

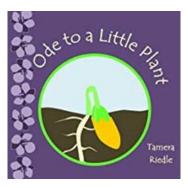
slalom through the pumpkin course, running in an "S" shape between the pumpkins. Again, race with your friends. Now set the pumpkins up any way you like; create your own obstacle course. You can run around some pumpkins and leap over others until you get to the finish line.



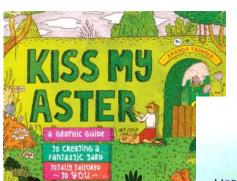


Revisiting My Garden Library

Weeding through my garden books to find give-aways for the Fall Sale and Swap, I kept opening them and rediscovered much interesting content. I'll share some of it here.



In Ode to a Little Plant by Tamera Riddle, I found some provocative questions about our attitudes toward weeds (see excertp on right of this page). I'd be interested in your answers to these! This book is a colorfully illustrated rhyming story about birth, travel, danger, coming of age, death—it has it all. Follow the life of a plant from when it is a seed to its seed production and eventual death. Life happens in cycles. Even though an outdoor space that captures your individual may end, the impact they have on the world continues. Included is a fun fact section with snippets of background info on many related iological concepts, plant definitions, and questions to ponder;.



Wondering about Weeds

Is the plant in this book a weed? If it is, does that make the ending sinister?

Can a native plant be considered a weed?

If you enjoyed looking at a flower on what you later found out was a noxious weed, how would you feel?

Would you feel differently about a species that was introduced 500 years ago compared to one that was introduced 25? Where were your ancestors living 500 years ago?

Does the size or beauty of a plant's flowers influence your opinion of the plant's weediness? How about the strength of a plant's defenses against herbivory? Imagine a plant with beautiful flowers but with thorny spines or poisonous leafs.

Can two different people disagree about whether a plant is a weed or not?

Kiss My Aster is a hilarious, irreverent, interactive guide to designing an personality. Amanda Thomsen filled this quirky book with innovative ideas,



encouraging us to forget the accepted "rules" and make our own landscaping choices. I love how she classifies weeds as anarchists—I agree!

If you want.more funny gardening and crafting advice, tricks and hacks, visit Amanda's web site and blog, which includes how to use kitschy collectibles and quite a bit of swearing.



Gardening with Kitsch and Sarcasm Gardening, crafting and swearing

veeds happen

150rt of like weeds, actually. They're the anarchy in a sea of perfection. They can take over, though (as anarchists do). Know your weeds, then figure out tactics for dealing with them. For weeds in beds, I strongly recommend getting addicted to hand pulling. It's amazing what you can do in 10 minutes.

HANDS ON CLASSES



UC MASTER GARDENERS

OF MONTEREY & SANTA CRUZ



It's time to compost! Are you not sure what to do with your kitchen, garden and

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Backyard Compost & Vermicompost

9:00 am - 12:00 pm **UC Cooperative Extension** WATSONVILLE

> 1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite E Watsonville, CA 95076

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

Succulent Care

10:00 am - 12:30 pm **UC Cooperative Extension** WATSONVILLE

1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite E Watsonville, CA 95076



Join UC Master Gardeners, Sue Procter and Tina Heitzman,

yard scraps? Would you like natural, homemade compost for your lawn and gardens in the spring? Then expand your recycling efforts to include kitchen scraps and yard debris by signing up for a free Backyard Composting and Vermicomposting workshop taught by UC Master Gardener Bridget Matz.

Learn how to turn your yard waste and food scraps into a valuable resource for your garden. The class will employ a combination of hands-on, lecture and other participatory activities in order to learn the two primary methods of home composting—vermicomposting and backyard composting—as well as harvesting and using your resulting compost.

Please arrive 15 minutes early to complete class registration. A portion of the class will be held outside, please dress appropriately, for sun or fog. Layers, hat and sunscreen are advised.

and learn how to plant and care for succulents from the ground up!

This popular class includes examples of and information on the growing habits of the major succulent species, container soil selection and amendments, planting and repotting techniques, propagation by cuttings, and ongoing watering and fertilizing needs.

A succulent exchange will follow the class—if you like, bring cuttings and/or plants to share. Participants will have the chance to plant a small container with succulents in class. Feel free to bring a special container of yours with a drain hole in which to make your succulent creation or bring an overgrown container planting that needs revamping.

Succulent plant material, potting soil, top dressing and some small terra cotta pots will be available along with tips on planting design to help you create a miniature succulent garden. Please arrive 15 minutes early for registration. This

> class will be outside, please dress appropriately, for sun or fog. Layers, hat and sunscreen are advised.



OCTOBER 14TH 11 AM - 4 PM

Natural Bridges State Beach,









2531 W Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz

Visit us at the UC Master Gardener information booth for advice on how to create and maintain a butterfly-, bee-, and bird-friendly garden. Let us help you invite beneficial insects into your garden to maintain a healthy environment. Bring your questions!

Natural Bridges will offer numerous activities including arts & crafts, active games for kids, music by the 5M's (the mostly mediocre musical monarch mariposas), hand-cranked ice

cream (pumpkin), information and action booths as well as more about monarch butterflies and how-tos for a butterfly garden. Event is free; day-use parking fee is \$10. This event is appropriate for all ages. For more information please call (831) 423-4609.



Late October into early November is the ideal time. Garlic is very easy to grow. In order to grow the best and biggest bulbs, good soil preparation is necessary Well cultivated, well-

drained, rich soil is what you want. Add 2-3 inches of compost or well-rotted manure to the bed before planting. Add a good supply of phosphorus for root development —work in fertilizers like bone meal, soft rock phosphate or something like Dr. Earth Bud and Bloom Booster that has higher levels of phosphorus and potassium. Avoid giving it a high nitrogen fertilizer. The idea is to get the roots established before the plant gets hit by cold temperatures of winter.

Use quality seed garlic (not from grocery store) and plant several different varieties in case one doesn't do well. Separate the cloves no more than 48 hours before planting to keep them from drying out. The largest cloves will produce the biggest bulbs. Plant individual cloves, peels intact, pointy end up, 2 inches deep and 6 inches apart.

Mulch 5-8 inches deep with seedless straw or shredded dry leaves. If using straw it will pack down over the winter to about 2 inches by spring and help to keep the weeds down during the growing seasonWant to learn more? Take this workshop:



Grow Great Garlic! Cultivating Organic Garlic in the Home Garden & Small Farm Sat., Oct 27, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM — UCSC Hay Barn

Led by Sandhill Farms garlic grower Pete Rasmussen and Chadwick Garden manager Orin Martin, this workshop will include in-depth discussions of all aspects of growing great garlic, from soil preparation and seed selection, to planting and harvesting tricks of the trade. There will be roasted garlic available for workshop participants to taste.

Following the workshop there will be a selection of seed and culinary garlic available for sale. Note that garlic seed available at the workshop is limited; if you'd like to pre-order prior to the workshop, see www.sandhillfarms.org. Workshop will take place rain or shine. Buy tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3590079

Cost: \$30 general admission (pre-registered) or \$40 (at the door); \$20 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members and members of the Monterey Bay UC Master Gardeners (pre-registered) or \$30 (at the door); \$15 for beginning farmers & imited-income (pre-registered) or \$20 (at the door). \$5 for UCSC students.



By all reports, this is a horrendous year for rats, in gardens and elsewhere. It is just no fair that they love ripe tomatoes so much. In my garden, the wood rats made themselves at home in my hugelmound, chicken coop and compost bin, necessitating focused eradication efforts.

I've replaced my old-style compost bins with a compost tumbler. And I've repurposed my old bins as planters.

You can subscribe to Garden Therapy for lots of tips,articles, new gardening ideas, DIY projects, crafts, and recipes related to gardening. It's creator, Stephanie, give us five reasons you should use a compost tumbler



- 1) A compost tumbler is a closed system that keeps out rats and other pests.
- 2) A compost tumbler is neater as the compost is contained completely inside the chambers of the bin.
- 3) A compost tumbler speeds up the completion time for finished compost. You can use a two-chambered model so you can be making compost in one side while adding compostable materials to the other, or a single chambered model for larger batches. Some people have both.
- 4) A compost tumbler is easier to mix (by spinning it) than a traditional compost bin (using an aeration tool) or pile (fork turning the compost). It's a whole lot of fun to spin it, too!
- 5) Some compost tumblers collect the excess moisture from the compost and makes it into compost tea. Collect the tea

from the base of the bin and use it to feed your garden.

Stephanie's favorite tumbling composter is this one, available at www.gardenersedge.com but there are many different types/styles to choose from.



The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden Presents:



Saturday, October 27th from 10 am-2 pm

Using leaves, flowers, vegetable skins, mushrooms, nut hulls and roots, we will naturally dye silk scarves. Eco-print is a technique where plants are placed on silk and wrapped around a copper, iron, or aluminum pole and steamed in a hot water bath.

We will discuss using different dye mordants, harvesting and incorporating abundant local plant species, "recycling" food scraps by dyeing with them, and how to imprint the shape of plants onto fiber. Everyone will leave with a dyed silk scarf they make themselves. This class will include a short walk to identify particular plants, and classroom time designing and steaming our scarves. Please bring snacks or lunch for yourself.





\$50 (members), \$65 (non-members) + \$15 materials. Class limited to 15 Ages 16 and up

Burl Wood a clinical herbalist, weaver, artist, and musician living in Santa Cruz. Her philosophy is based on building relationship with landscapes, and understanding history, context and the layers of complexity that make up place. She maintains an herbal apothecary and small clinical practice. More info can be found at ApocalypticHerbs.com

To Register & pay for the class, call the Arboretum office Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm at 831-502-2998

https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/news-events/events

October Board Meeting Monday October 22nd 6:00 p.m.

Join us at the home and garden of Suzanne Caron, 1633 Quail Hollow Rd, Ben Lomond. We'll tour Suzanne's garden first and then share a potluck dinner. At our meeting we'll discuss The Gardeners' Club business, goals, plans, ideas, events and news . You don't have to be a Board Member to attend —join us!

October is a great time to take hardwood cuttings of woody plants such as Lavender, Rosemary, Manzanita, etc. Take small cuttings, dip in rooting hormone, stick in damp vermiculite and keep misted (using plastic wrap over a plastic box works well). Keep out of direct sunlight and wait for roots to form – several weeks to a couple of months depending on the plant variety.

Fall sales are at many nurseries — look for bargains but make sure to be mindful of the fact that many of the plants are root bound and will need to be watered regularly before the winter

rains begin in earnest. Do not buy anything that you can't get into the ground and keep watered. Some pot-bound perennials can be divided into two or more before planting, using a pruning saw or large serrated kitchen knife.

If you have soil that is too high in clay content or too sandy, you should apply serious amounts of compost this fall. Spread it out about 3 to 4 inches deep. This compost will slowly breakdown and will improve the structure of your soil over time. Apply more again in the spring!

Perennials should be completely dormant before you begin to remove the foliage to just above ground level. This may range

from November to January. It's too early to start now, but not too early to take note and make lists! The reason you need to leave the foliage alone is that as a general rule, the leaves will

continue to feed the root system throughout the fall. You can cut back the flowering stems and trim some of the most unsightly leaves, but leave well enough alone until the leaves are killed by the frost. Those dead or dying leaves also provide habitat for wildlife and often seeds

for birds throughout the winter

If you have deciduous trees, stay ahead of the leaves. If you compost, shred the leaves before composting, or run a lawn mower over them. If not shredded they will mat and take forever to decompose, making a slippery, gooey mass in your compost pile or beds.

October Gardening

7 DAYS OF HUGE SALES!

San Lorenzo Garden Center Thank You Sale

235 RIVER ST., SANTA CRUZ



WATER SAVERS 30% OFF All Cacti &

Succulents G&B" Cactus Mix \$5.99

G&B® Organic Soil

Building Conditioner \$6.99



30% OFF All Long Handled & Hand Tools,



Peggy Snider









40% OFF Any ONE Plant over \$40







30% OFF All G&B* Organic (OMRI-approved) Fertilizers

G&B* Harvest Supreme & Planting Mix \$5.99

G&B* Organic Potting Soil \$6.99



SATURDAY -

PLANT & PROTECT YOUR GARDEN!

30% OFF All of our Outdoor Ornamental Plants \$7.99 & UP

30% OFF All sizes of Diggers Heavy-Duty & Speed Gopher Baskets MINI, 1 GAL., 3 GAL., 5 GAL. & 15 GAL.



EDIBLE GARDENING!

30% OFF Dwarf Citrus Trees +3 & +5 CARS, REG. 53

30% OFF All Fruit Trees, Blueberries, Herbs & 6-Pack and 4" Pot Veggies

G&B* Farmyard Blend \$3.99

30% OFF Dr. Earth Organic Fertilizers 418.4 1218.







Let's support our local artists.

Open Studios

Claude Monet said, "My garden is my most

beautiful masterpiece." But sometimes it is

good to get out of our garden clogs,

get a dose of inspiration from the

take a break from autumn chores and

artists in our community. Open Studios

gives us an opportunity to visit some of

the 312 artists who are opening their

studios this month. Visit one studio or

50—it is a self-guided tour, and it is

free. Here's the schedule:

Studios

October 6-7 South County

October 13-14 North County

.Pick up a free Artist Guide available

alongside the Good Times at locations

throughout Santa Cruz County to help

you plan your tour. You can also chart your tour at the the Preview Exhibit at

on seeing garden sculpture, ceramics,

mosaics, paintings, jewelry, planters,

yard art, photography, glasswork, or....?

October 21-22 All County Open

POT IT UP!

30% OFF All Planters-Glazed Pottery, Wood & Terra Cotta GreenAll Organic Potting Soil \$6.99 2 CT. FT. EAG. REG. 53.99

All Annie's and 4" Pot Perennials Buy 1 Get 1 Free! REG. \$1.99 - \$5.99

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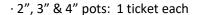
Instructions & Tally Sheet for Plant Swap and Sale

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get free and bargainpriced 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 with 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:



· 6" pot or 6-pack: 1.5 ticket each

· 1 gallon pot: 2 tickets each

TOTAL TICKETS:_

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





10 AM TO NOON - CNPS AND ARBORETUM MEMBERS PRESALE NOON TO 4 PM - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Run, don't walk, to the Arboretum's ever-popular Fall Plant Sale! Savvy gardeners know this is the best time of the year for planting. You will find hundreds of varieties of plants that are well-suited to the central California Coast. Featured plants are from

California, Australia, and South Africa. Visit the Arboretum's website for a list of available plants one week prior to the sale. In partnership with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the sale offers high quality, regionally-friendly plants from both groups at great prices.

Come early for the best selection. Not yet a member of the Arboretum or CNPS and want to get in early? Join the Arboretum Friends online or at the entry on the day of the plant sale.

Curators and knowledgeable volunteers on-site will help you choose extraordinary plants.

"Wheelbarrow Service" will be available—volunteers assist shoppers in transporting their purchased plants to the parking area.

www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

Our front page logo iis graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop

Dues are \$15 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

It's easy-peasy to join our club!

www.thegardenersclub.org

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