



The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

JULY 2019

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The Gardeners' Club annual Ice Cream Social is unique. As gardeners, we are perennially creative, and this creativity is in full bloom as we create gorgeous sundaes and contribute ice cream toppings made from bounty from our gardens or a farmers market, or find on the aisle labeled "decadent" at a grocery store.

We'll provide various flavors of ice cream (including one non-dairy), chocolate sauce, maraschino cherries and whipped cream. You bring toppings—fresh from the garden, or cooked, or baked, or crumbled.

Sauces, home-made or store-bought, cookie wafers, fresh fruit, herbs or herbal syrups, marshmallow fluff, nuts, candies, sprinkles, gummies, etc.—bring it on! Please label what you've



brought or made before the meeting (including your name).

As usual, we will have Succulent Sundaes for lucky attendees to take home. This year, everyone who brings a topping for the ice cream, brings a plant for the plant table or brings a bouquet to share will get a raffle ticket and a chance to win a Succulent Sundar.

July is National Ice Cream Month. If you want to celebrate it



Ice Cream Social

Thursday, July 11th, 7 p.m.
Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.

patriotically, red, white and blue ice cream sauces and toppings are encouraged.

THE PLANT MESSIAH: Adventures in Search of the World's Rarest Species

A Book Review by Sirleen Ghileri



I just finished reading 'The Plant Messiah: Adventures in Search of the World's Rarest Species' by Carlos Magdalena and enjoyed it so much I thought I'd tell you something about it. Carlos is Spanish and began his love of plants at his mother's knee in Northern Spain. At age ten this plant prodigy learned how to graft!



In Bolivia he taught the locals how to plant and grow the *Inga edulis* tree which is being used to regenerate areas that had been badly damaged by logging or overgrazing by cattle.

Much later as an unpaid intern at Kew Gardens in England he was given the chance to enroll in a program there after passing a grueling entrance exam in which he had to identify thirty plant samples giving their genus, species, family and common name. Then he was asked if he could propagate a random plant and how he would do it. Lastly he faced a group of senior Kew Gardens staff and was asked questions such as "Can you name five species of pine?" The inquisition ended with one final question "What is your favorite plant?"



In Peru he discovered native cotton plants that produce cotton bolls in a host of different colors: mustard yellow, crimson grayish-pink and tones of terra-cotta. The fibers are used to make traditional clothing. He traveled through the Nazca Plains of Eastern Peru where you can go for miles without seeing a single plant. It only rains there once every ten or twelve years!! Carlos was interested in the cacti and the Tillandsias, which can grow in conditions so harsh that even cacti don't grow. The bodies of some Tillandsias have been found to extend ten to thirteen feet down into the sand. They are believed to be growing from a seed that germinated 14,000 years ago!!

Carlos, along with 13 others passed and embarked on a three year course to obtain a Kew Diploma in Botanical Horticulture. This isn't about growing pretty plants but growing what Kew needs in order to maintain a collection.

During his training at Kew he worked with orchids, alpenes, trees, the Mediterranean garden and finally in conservation. There were classes, exams, projects and trips.

Later he traveled to exotic places in search of rare and endangered plants – Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean, Bolivia, Peru and Australia.

In Mauritius, which is located about 2,000 kilometers off the southeast coast of Africa he first went to Rodrigues Island in search of *Ramosmania rodriguesi*, a plant thought to be extinct until 1980 when one plant was rediscovered by a school boy. Plant conservationists flocked to the island and were shocked to discover that it had been chopped down in the middle of the night. From sprouts taken from the stump the plant was propagated, but it wouldn't produce seed. Carlos, the plant messiah, succeeded in raising the first seedling seen for almost a century.



Australia was the last stop in the book. He hoped to see many water lilies there since they're favorites of his. He lucked out by being invited to join a ten day water lily expedition and saw many species including one that has seeds that can be ground into flour. He also saw an interesting parasitic orchid *Rhizantella gardneri* that flowers underground and is pollinated by termites and gnats.

Carlos says that one in five plants is now believed to be threatened with extinction. He and his colleagues at Kew have what they call their "Noah's Ark" nursery at Kew and are trying to save as many as they can.

*this is the recipe of life
said my mother
as she held me in her arms as i wept
think of those flowers you plant
in the garden each year
they will teach you
that people too
must wilt
fall
root
rise
in order to bloom*

the sun
and her flowers
rupi kaur



Sunday, July 14, 9:30am-12:00PM
UCSC Hay Barn, 1008 Ranchview Road, Santa Cruz

Learn how to control gophers, moles, and ground squirrel in the home garden, landscape, and on the small farm using non-toxic techniques that focus on exclusion and trapping. This workshop will be taught by Thomas Wittman, founder and owner of Gophers Limited and an expert on vertebrate pest control.

Website: <https://gopher2019.bpt.me>

Online registration costs: \$30 for general public, \$20 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members, \$15 limited income, \$5 for current UCSC students. Or pay at the door (cash or check only): \$40 for general public, \$30 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members, \$20 limited income, \$5 for current UCSC students.



Foam-free Floral Design for Vases and Vessels

Learn how to create beautiful floral arrangements from flower growers and designers Caroline Martin of Wild Moon Flowers and Laura Vollset of Fieldsketch Farm in this design-focused "make and take" workshop.

The workshop will introduce the principles of floral design, including color palettes, flower types, and placement techniques. Caroline and Laura will

demonstrate styles of vased arrangements.

In the second part of the class, you'll work on your own arrangements using organically grown flowers from the UC Santa Cruz Farm & Garden, with guidance from the instructors. Create a beautiful floral design to take home.

Vessels, flowers, and other class materials are included in the registration cost.

Cost of the workshop is \$70 general admission; \$60 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members, and certified UC Master Gardeners; \$50 for beginning farmers and limited-income participants. Or pay at the door (cash or check only): \$80 for general public; \$70 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members; UC Master Gardeners; \$60 for beginning farmers and limited income participants.

PLEASE NOTE: SPACE IS LIMITED, PRE-REGISTRATION HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

If you prefer to pre-register for this class by mail (no service charge), please send a check made payable to UC Regents to:

Vanessa Ackermann, CASFS
 1156 High Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95064
 attn: Floral Design Workshop

Please include your contact information (phone and email) with your check. For directions to the Cowell Ranch Hay Barn on the UC Santa Cruz campus, please see the CASFS website.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Join us on July 22nd at Janine Canada's, 2655 Brommer St #43 Santa Cruz 95062. Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a tour of Janine's garden, followed by a potluck dinner and lots of discussion about gardens and The Gardeners' Club plans and happenings. You don't have to be a Board member to attend.

Let the FIREWORKS BEGIN!

Annie's Annuals is having its big sale of the year an explosion of gardeney goodness! There is a HUGE selection of fire-crackin' fancies – from quick Summer bloomers to a bonanza of butterfly and bee-sustaining essentials, water-sipping drought tolerant perennials, shade lovers, unusual CA natives, sultry succulents, juicy rarities and more galore!

The plants I picked up at Annie's spring sale in spring (the ones I got planted—sadly, a few are still in the shade waiting impatiently to get into the ground) are thriving. It is too busy a time in the garden to get to Richmond for me, but ordering online is really easy, and her plants arrive in excellent condition. On the website (<http://www.anniesannuals.com/gardening-guides>) is also a most excellent tutorial on summer gardening—below are some excerpts from it.

If you've already enjoyed a wonderful Spring garden it's easy to make your Summer dreams come true! Here's what to do:

Pull weeds now!!! Remember every weed you let go to seed can equal 100 weeds by mid Summer. Yikes! Pull out faded Spring blooming annuals and any dried save seeds or seed pods for Fall or early Spring planting.

Cut back Spring blooming perennials like Columbines, perennial Foxgloves, Penstemons & Delphiniums. Here in northern coastal California, Delphiniums & some Columbines will re-bloom during Summer. Cut Columbines to the ground & Delphiniums to about 4" tall. New growth will sprout up & even if they don't bloom, the foliage will look healthy & pretty in your garden.

Add a bit of compost If you've got an "abundantly planted" garden with many plants crowded together - those plants have been using up nutrients all Spring. Adding a 1" layer of good quality compost around established plantings (including shrubs), as well as your new plantings will really give them a boost and keep them much more healthy over the rest of the season. It really makes a big difference



and if you don't make your own compost, try to buy it at a landscaper's supply or good independent nursery rather than the "box store" as these places often carry poor quality "compost" with a high ratio of wood products.

Loosen and work your soil a bit and get ready to plant. Always try to buy your plants small. Really. The smaller the better as long as the roots reach the bottom of the pot. Don't buy plants in bloom unless it's a party-type emergency. Plants already blooming in a container are stunted, have used up some of their bloom time and will never put on the show a small, non-blooming plant will. The smaller plant will grow nice, fat, roots, grow much faster, bloom much longer & will be much healthier. Resist the blooming plant! Just like the books say, it does look better when you plant in groups of 3-5-7 etc. If you're on a budget, remember one blooming annual this year will give you 10 or more self-sown seedlings next year. A

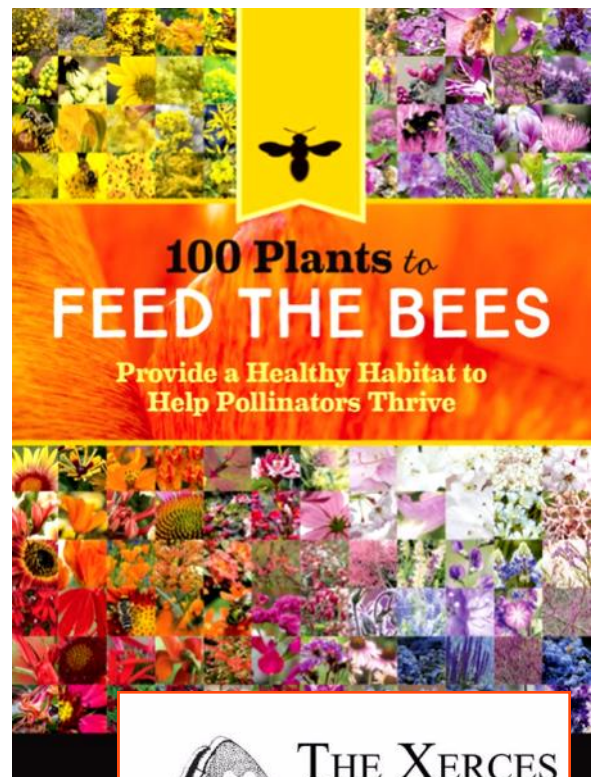
highlight or specimen plant may be planted singly, of course.

To stretch out the bloom season when planting a group of one type of plant, you can plant several different sizes; from small seedlings to ones almost in bud. Place the taller ones so they don't block the light to the smaller ones. Remove older plants as they fade so the smaller ones can put on an optimal show.

When planting a perennial that will take some months to bloom, plant shorter, fast growing annuals around it to fill in space. German Catchfly is great for this purpose. Make sure they don't block all the light to the perennial or the perennial will rot.

Even if you baited for snails during the spring, don't forget your Sluggo now.

Plants described as drought tolerant do need some water for a while until they become established.



Feeling Blue



Bird bath for a drought—wooden duck in blue rocks

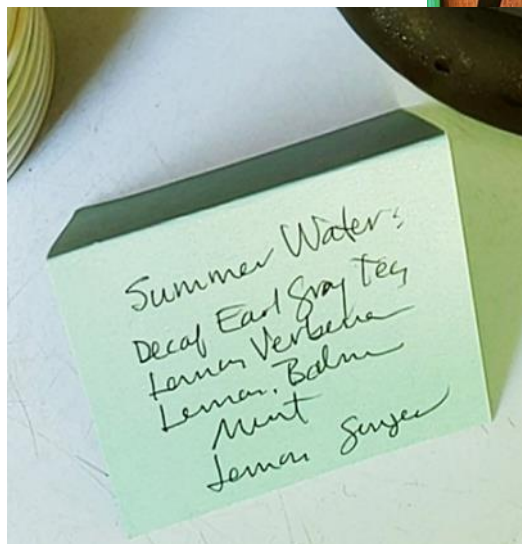
the newsletter the night before and before sending it out my software asked me if I wanted to save the changes. I had been religiously saving all along, but I pressed the button anyway. And the entire newsletter disappeared, forever.

Although it made me very unhappy and the publication of the newsletter late, it might be, ultimately, a good thing. I was giving you decadent recipes for ice cream sundae toppings, and now, instead, I'll share with you something healthy served at one of the gardens. Although you just MIGHT want to try out the White Hot Fudge Sauce.



<https://lilluna.com/white-chocolate->

Next month in the newsletter I'll share a lot about what we saw and learned. The last Open Garden we visited was The Wisner Garden, also known as Flicker Farm. The weather was wonderfully warm, and they served the most delicious tea water. Here is a picture, and the recipe.



That's all, folks, until next month. Here are just a few more photos from the event to tide you over.



Barbara and I at our favorite open garden. More about it and the art next month.



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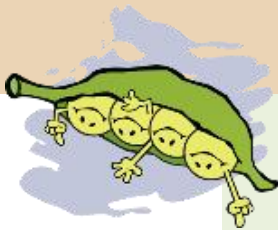
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It's easy-peasy to join our club!

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

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.

