



The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

MARCH 2019

Writer/Editor: Lise
Bixler (lisebixler@sbcglobal.net)

Biodynamic Basics: How It's Practiced at Suncrest Nurseries

Biodynamics is a holistic, ecological and ethical approach to farming, gardening, food and nutrition based on the work of philosopher and scientist Dr. Rudolf Steiner

Our speaker for March is Andrew Wall, site supervisor and contract grow specialist at Suncrest Nurseries. Suncrest has always been a bonafide agrarian community of generations of families living off the land. In keeping with their mission of growing life and beauty to support a healthy community, they have become the first certified biodynamic commercial wholesale nursery in the United States. They are now offering the Eco-Conscious Beauty line, with more than 100 varieties of herbs, edibles, medicinals, habitat and native plants.

Andrew explains, "As we have developed our growing process at Suncrest, we have moved away from the chemical based growing practices of the past and have begun to include many organic practices at all of our yards. The Sunrise yard, which I supervise, is certified biodynamic and is in the process of being certified by CCPF. We are moving towards organic practices because we believe we are being good stewards of the land. We have added ducks and geese into our ecosystem and treat them as our family. We also compost all of our green waste on site and use in our garden areas as well as developing both a landscape garden for biodiversity and a perennial and annual food crop garden for seed harvesting as well as produce for our team. Second, we are looking out for our employees and clients by producing plants without chemicals. Dependency on chemicals can be detrimental to the environment. We see our Eco-Conscious Beauty line filling a niche in the horticultural market that is much needed."

Andrew has had broad and varied experience as a horticulturist. After attending classes at the Cabrillo College horticulture department, he worked for Will and Cara Myers at Hidden Gardens and Dig Gardens, Aaron Dillon at Four



Winds Growers Citrus Nursery, Ernie Wasson and Kathleen Navarez at Cabrillo College as the Nursery and Garden Curator and Josh Fodor and Cindy Hudson at Central Coast Wilds Native Nursery. At Suncrest he works under the guidance of Delmar McComb.

At the meeting, Andrew will introduce us to a short history lesson on biodynamics as well some of the biodynamic practices adopted at Suncrest and what the effects they have had on their plants and

environment. Although biodynamics as a whole is a huge subject, he will describe the basic concepts of soil preparations and how they apply them. He will also explain how they use the moon and the stars. Join us for what promises to be a very informative presentation.



THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH
APTOS GRANGE, 2555 MAR VISTA DRIVE
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. THANKS TO
MARIE BECKHAM FOR SNACKS, LIZ NEELY FOR
DESSERT AND CHERRY THOMPSON FOR
BEVERAGES.

Workshops & Classes

There are **TWO** workshops on raising chickens this month! If you want fresh eggs AND chicken manure, check these out. Chicken manure is wonderful for your garden—it adds not only nutrients but structure to your soil. One hen will produce 130 pounds of manure per year!



Chix in the City, Hens in the Hood

Saturday, March 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Come learn about the joys of keeping chickens without annoying your neighbors in this workshop led by UC Master Gardener Candice McLaren. Find out what the best breed is for you and your family, the beautiful options there are for your birds and eggs, and if raising chicks or rescuing from Animal Services is right for you. You'll also get great ideas about how to design and place a chicken coop and how to transition baby chicks to the coop. Following the workshop, take an optional stroll up to the UCSC Farm to visit the chickens in the Life Lab garden. Location UCSC Hay Barn
94 Ranch View Road (Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems). Register at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3918621>.

Cabrillo College Extension Class

CHICKEN KEEPING 101 - HOW TO BECOME A BACKYARD CHICKEN KEEPER

Saturday, March 23, 2:30-4:30 pm

Do you want to have chickens in your backyard, but just don't know where to start, or how to keep them healthy? Don't know the difference between a Leghorn, a Barred Rock, or Rhode Island Red? We'll get you educated about what is involved in keeping them in your backyard, and teach you the basic requirements like housing, food, and maintenance. We will provide information about local zoning regulations, adoption options, breed traits, safety, and some insight about coop construction.

This workshop will help you prepare for the arrival of these new pets in your family. Join the ranks of chicken lovers, and get ready to enjoy your own fresh eggs!

Location: Cabrillo College, Room: 1605

Cost: \$55. Register 2 or more: \$40 each

Register at <http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/extension/green.html>

Instructors:

Isabelle Cnudde. Founded Clorofil, a local non-profit organization promoting chicken adoption and educating the

public about pet chicken care. She enjoys sharing her passion for chickens and inspiring people to open their backyards to these amazing creatures. For more information about Isabelle please go to www.clorofil.org

Timothy Lydgate is an artist and fine woodworker who began his woodworking career over 30 years ago after earning a degree in History of Art from Yale. He is a regular Santa Cruz Open Studios exhibitor and is experienced in constructing coops (and palaces) for his own hens. To see Tim's work please go to www.custommade.com/by/woodcircus/



Beginner Beekeeping Workshop

March 24, 2019 @ 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

\$5 – \$45 Price varies

CASFS Beginner Beekeeping Workshop: The Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at UC Santa Cruz invites you to join

Apiarist Emily Bondor for a beginner beekeeping workshop at the UCSC Hay Barn. The Workshop will cover basic honey bee biology and colony dynamics and how to start a hive. The class will conclude with a "hive dive" where participants can get up close and personal with a bee hive. Sign up at <https://bees2019.brownpapertickets.com/>

Sierra Azul Nursery & Gardens

2660 East Lake Avenue (Highway 152)

Watsonville, CA 95076

Across from the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds



Mediterranean Mound Workshop

Saturday March 16th - 10:30a- 12:30p

Back by popular demand is this continually timely workshop on creating a waterwise garden/landscape design using mounds, drought tolerant plants, paths, seating and focal areas. Taught by Jeff Rosendale who will also cover materials, plant selection, mulches and drip irrigation and water rebates.

Registration cost: \$15

Call 831-728-2532 for reservations!

(Class size is limited so you must call in advance to register-Rains will reschedule)

Wildlife Pests of the Garden

Sun. Mar 24- 2019 - Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Contact: Sue Procter, sprocter@cruzio.com

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & SC

Are you sharing your landscape and the harvest in your vegetable garden with furry and feathered friends? Wildlife that roam your garden can be a joy to behold but can cause great frustration when they ruin parts of your garden. Join master gardeners Delise Weir and Sue Procter to learn integrated pest management methods for controlling vertebrate pests.



This class will explore pest behavior, identify the damage they cause and management strategies using traps, barriers, deterrents and by incorporating pest resistant plants. We will be covering common pests including gophers, squirrels, voles, rats, deer and birds.

Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. The instruction is free but Quail Hollow needs \$3.00 for use of the facilities. Reserve your seat at <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=25591>.



Thursday, March 7, : 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Location: Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

\$25 General | \$20 Museum Members

Master Gardeners

Space is limited, pre-registration required Sign up at:

<https://64432.blackbaudhosting.com/64432/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=b0193c1b-27de-40d4-9475-6dc5c68a12c2>

Designing a home garden using California Native Plants can create low water use habitats that invite birds, beneficial insects and wildlife into your garden, as well as year-round color. Workshop attendees will learn the best plant choices for their yards, where to place plants to maximize beauty and plant health, and design considerations for aesthetic and practical aspects. Working in small groups, attendees will design a model garden, or may use their own lot plan to design a home garden. Native plant books and resources will

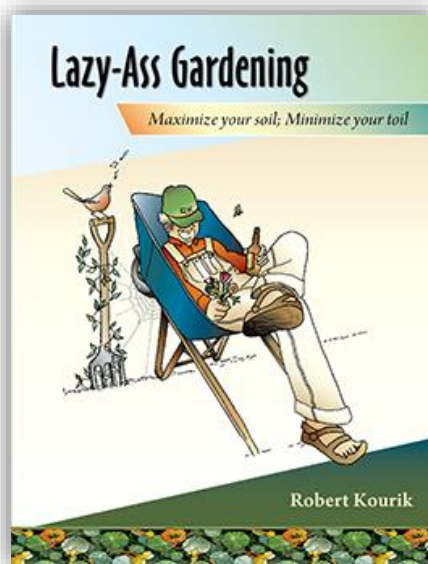
be available for purchase from the California Native Plant Society.



About our workshop leader: Ramie Allard provides residential landscape design and installation services on the Monterey Peninsula. Ramie relocated from Redlands, California in 2011 and has designed and installed gardens for 12 years. Ramie has participated in seminars for Landscape Designers, Master Gardeners and public speaking on Designing with Mediterranean Climate Plants, Invasive Plant Species and Ocean Friendly Garden Design

LAZY-ASS GARDENING

Maximize Your Soil, Minimize Your Toil



In this book, veteran horticulturalist Bob Kourik (unfolds his manifesto of “Inspired Laziness”—using efficiency and forethought to create gardens and landscapes with a lot less work and a lot more enjoyment.

By following Kourik's relaxed and readable guidance, gardeners will discover how to save time and money, enrich their soil, increase their yields, and reduce their

effort, all while absorbing “Bob’s” philosophy of kicking back and growing more good times.

You’ll learn how to: Figure out which edibles to raise, with a careful selection of the most care-free varieties and tips for easy growing; Lay out your garden to balance effective growing area with space for enjoyment, relaxation, and play; Cultivate creatively to grow your own nutrients and build healthy self-sustaining (no-till) soil for the future; Attract the best pollinating insects and deter hungry pests; Plan your “hardscape” (paths, patios, arbors, etc.), for an easy-care (and more fun) aspect of your yard or garden; Choose the right plants for your landscape, climate, soil, and water supply, not to mention your aesthetic and nutritional needs; Learn how to develop a personal garden that manifests your own eccentricities.

**Special
Prepublication
Offer Until April
1!!**

**Only \$15 if ordered before
April 1st - no kidding! Then the
price goes up to \$20.**

**ORDER NOW FOR
\$15**

**[www.robertkourik.com/
books/lazy-ass.html](http://www.robertkourik.com/books/lazy-ass.html)**

**Prepublication special
to be shipped
April 15.**

Birding at Dawn

At UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden

Birders & Photographers!

Enjoy the gardens at sunrise.

**March 8, 9, 10
6 am - 9 am**

The Allen's Hummingbirds have returned to breed and are buzzing around the gardens. Come watch or photograph their amazing acrobatics and elegant plumage.

\$10/day for Members

\$15/day for Non-Members

Purchase tickets online at:

**<https://arboretum.connect.ucsc.edu/earlybirds>
or at the gate**

Photo by: Ferd Bergholz



Our next board meeting will be on March 25th at the home of April Barclay at 6PM (pot luck). The address is: 7158 Freedom Blvd in Aptos. All are welcome to attend.

The San Francisco Flower and Garden Show is now at CAL EXPO, Sacramento. The San Francisco Flower & Garden Show is on the "road" for the first time in its 34 year history. What started in 1985 as a fundraiser for San Francisco's Parks and Recreation Department has since blossomed into one of California's most elaborate gardening events. The Show inspires attendees with designer gardens, as well as demos and Q&As with professional gardeners, florists, nursery owners, and trees born with vocal cords. Check out their website—the display gardens look pretty exciting. Buy tickets online at https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/3086762/san-francisco-flower-garden-show-sacramento-california-state-faircal-expo?cobrand=SF_Flower



CAL EXPO - Sacramento
MARCH 21-24, 2019
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**[www. Sfgarden
show.com/](http://www.Sfgardenshow.com/)**



GAIA: Garden Goddess
Garden Designer: Benjamin Goulart | Garden Creators: Goulart Designs, Hayward, CA

Felton Library Friends

OPEN HOUSE

for our new Library and Park

CHECK IT OUT!

*See the latest library & park plans
Talk with folks involved in the project
Share your ideas for enhancements & programs*

Saturday, March 16th
Drop in between 1 and 4 pm
 at the Felton Community Hall
 6191 Hwy. 9 in Felton

*Fun activities for the kids
Refreshments for all*



Felton Library FRIENDS
 Libraries Build Community
 FeltonLibrary.org
 A chapter of Friends of the Library

A First for Santa Cruz County!

What does the new Felton library, under construction now, have to do with gardening? Plenty! It will become the only Santa Cruz County library operating in tandem with an environmental education-oriented county park connected to it. The entire library, is designed and themed to seamlessly bridge indoor and outdoor education.

The Felton Library Nature Discovery Park will include an outdoor learning space, interactive nature discovery zones and an interpretive nature loop trail. The design of the interior is planned in relationship to the outdoor components. Inspiration, ideas and planning resources came from the "Nature Explore" program (<https://natureexplore.org/>), which is helping libraries, schools and communities throughout the nation

This project has been a partnership between AmeriCorps, Felton Library Friends, Santa Cruz County Parks and the San Lorenzo Valley Water District, who are working together to build environmental stewardship for future generations and enhance children's education and health through nature-based learning. The benefits of interacting with nature are proven for all ages, and promote different types of literacy and community growth.

To learn more about the new Felton Library and Nature Discovery Park, or to find out how you can be involved or help, drop in to the Open House described in the poster above, or go to www.feltonlibraryfriends.org/ for more information.

**THE BEST LIBRARIES
DON'T STOP AT THE
FRONT DOOR.**—Emily

Puckett Rodgers, Library Journal

Library Programs: Theme Gardens



- Create an environment that promotes curiosity and a passion for learning



- Promote health and good nutrition through gardening

Native Plant Demonstration Garden



- Provide education to the public on water wise planting.
- Provide pleasant areas to read and have conversations.
- Build community partnerships through collaboration on beautification projects.
- Offer self guided tours for plant identification.



Bull Creek Riparian Walkway

- Post informative signage about local waterways and habitat
- Create places to sit and read
- Promote regional identity
- Share information about maintaining healthy waterways



Seed Lending Library



- Preserve Biodiversity
- Build Local Resiliency
- Maintain Food Sovereignty



Anythink Library Thornton, Colorado

One of many libraries in the country with a "Nature Explore" program



Rose Companions: Seed-Grown Favorites to Compliment the Beauty of Roses



Renee Shepherd wrote a lovely article this month about companion plants for roses (<https://www.reneesgarden.com/blogs/gardening-resources/rose-companions-seed-grown-favorites-to-compliment-the-beauty-of-roses>). She says, "The lush blossoms and complex perfume of blooming roses make them the true queens of the garden. And every season I also plan and plant a new court of companion flowers, grown from seed, to set off and nurture my roses. These flowers attract pollinators and add beauty and grace to the landscape surrounding the rose bushes, and many are pretty in bouquets along with roses. All can be handily started from spring sowing for a long season of enjoyment." Here are a just a few of her favorites:



Alyssum Gulf Winds



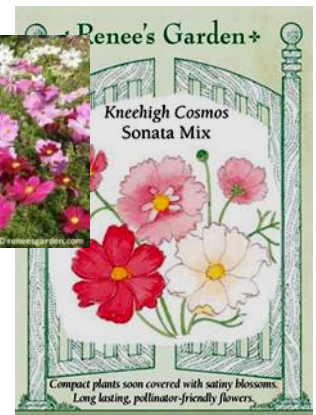
Alyssum Summer Peaches



Alyssum Summer Romance

Alyssum makes a perfect ground cover to sow at the feet of rose bushes. It attracts pollinators and beneficials. It is a vigorous grower, and if you take shears to it midsummer you'll have a new flush of growth.

Beautiful Cosmos! Renee's favorites are dwarf and white cosmos.



Nigella Mulberry Rose



Nigella Persian Violet



Nigella Bridal Veil

"Love in a Mist" is an old-fashioned charmer. It blooms effortlessly in early spring, providing a backdrop for roses first bloom, and self-sows itself easily.

Lovely Lavender. Even after their flowering is finished, the silvery aromatic foliage of lavender is a perfect compliment to roses in the garden.



Lavender Hidcote



Lavender White Ice

Rose Companions for Pest Control

True companion planting, of course, is rooted in permaculture and vegetable gardening; most organic growers know that marigolds, geraniums, basil, and mint repel pests, along with the aforementioned garlic (as well as chives, ornamental and edible onions). In fact, members of the Allium family are reported to increase the perfume of roses and help prevent black spot in addition to warding off insect pests. Many plants are companions from this organic point of view. The following may be helpful when growing roses: Onion – repels aphids, weevils, borers, moles; Garlic – repels aphids, thrips and also helps fight black spot and mildew (for the best results you may need to keep the garlic planted with roses for several years); Chives – also repels many pests; Basil – repels aphids, mosquitoes, moles; Geranium – repels Japanese beetles, aphids and rose beetles; Marigold – discourages harmful nematodes, repels pests and is a trap plant for slugs; Parsley – repels rose beetles; Mint – deters ants and aphids; Tansy – deters flying insects, Japanese beetles; Tomato – helps protect roses from black spot.

The Gardeners' Club Membership

The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, are only \$15.00, due now. The membership year lasts through the end of December. 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.

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

your 2019 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
P.O. Box 3025
Ben Lomond CA 95005



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

MARCH 10TH

we move the clocks ahead
one hour and spring forward.



After the winter we've had,
I'm all for anything with the
word "spring" in it!

Visit Jim Hunt at facebook.com/huntcartoons

March

A Spike of Green

When I went out
The sun was hot
It shone upon
My flower pot.
And there I saw
A spike of green
That no one else
Had ever seen!
On other days
The things I see
Are mostly old
Except for me.
But this green spike
So new and small
Had never yet
Been seen at all!

Barbara Baker

from All Day Long
compiled by Pamela Whitlock



Happy 1st Day of
Spring! March 20

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The Gardeners' Club

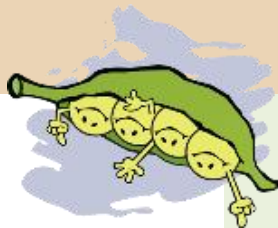
P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

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

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

Dues are \$15 per calendar year. Make check

It's easy-peasy to join our club!



www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

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