



# Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club  
Santa Cruz County,  
California

Oct. 2019—Part 2

Writer/Editor: Lise  
Bixler ([lisebixler@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:lisebixler@sbcbglobal.net))

This is Part 2 of our October newsletter. More happenings to put on your calendar, news and more answers to the questions we posed to our members:

"What went well in  
your garden this year?  
What didn't?  
What did your garden  
teach you?"

## The Year for Rita Ramirez

What worked this year was:

Putting all smaller pots on drip, so we didn't have to worry when we went on vacation.

Protecting the peas from birds, gophers, bugs and ground squirrels. After 5 tries we had success! We used Sluggo Plus against the slugs, snails and sow bugs, containers over the little seedlings, and then row crop cover until they got strong enough to survive small birds' attacks, netting over the whole area against the larger birds. Birds sure do love pea seedlings in the spring, although it hasn't been much of a problem in the fall.

Growing hemp for the first time, in order to make CBD infused lotions

Having so many things to harvest and finally having the time to preserve, use them and share them

Harvesting string beans from March to September. The broad bean variety is my favorite.



So many things to harvest!



Lots of Pepino melons—yum!

What didn't work:

Grafting tomatoes onto strong root stock. Even the ones that eventually "made it" still got diseased

Keeping up with everything was impossible and the garden just did what it did, which means it was always in a messy state with weeds, pruning piles, bugs and diseased plants all around.



Successfully grafted apple trees, healthy broad beans and diseased tomatoes

What I learned:

How to successfully graft new apple varieties onto an apple tree with a variety we didn't prefer.

How to graft apple varieties only strong root stock.

Pepino melon plants do better in a cage than sprawling along the ground.

Still learning when to harvest the hemp plants, and how to dry and use for lotions.

Next year I'll:

Definitely grow peas, I love them fresh off the plant.

Plant string beans early again and keep harvesting so they keep producing.

Perhaps try buying more disease resistant tomatoes.

*(continued on Page 3)*



George and Evelyn Zhovreboff are on a mission to bring the tree *Eucryphia x nymansis* 'Nymansay' to our county. Top on George's "Most Wanted Trees" list, he's working hard to find a source for it, so those of us who'd like to plant one can do so.

Wouldn't you love to see this as a well-used street tree in our area? Since it was first exhibited in 1924 this cultivar has gone on to become one of the most popular late-summer flowering trees in general cultivation. It has been propagated and distributed widely and is now found in gardens across the world's mild-temperate climatic zones, in the west coast of North

America from southern California to British Columbia, in milder areas of Europe with an oceanic climate, and in similar parts of Australia and New Zealand. But George is having a hard time sourcing it, as there isn't a high demand for it here so our area nurseries don't grow it. But stay tuned...he'll find it! Email him if you'd like to be notified when he does (zhovreboff@aol.com).

## Falling in Love

By George Zhovreboff

We first saw the *Eucryphia nymansensis* at the Humboldt Botanical Garden close to Eureka. It was a tree that Evelyn fell in love with and just had to have. This led to doing much research.

It is a cross of two Southern Hemisphere plants. One of these is from Australia. Having grown up in Australia I knew that if anything survives there it has to be very tough or poisonous. The *Eucryphia* was the former. It is deer resistant, gopher resistant, fire resistant, drought tolerant once established, and rabbit resistant. It has no known pests, Ah, to be an Australian plant!

It does prefer acid soil over alkaline but will grow in either. It will grow in clay but again prefers a faster draining soil. It is perfect for small gardens or street trees as it is columnar in shape. It attracts

## *Eucryphia nymansis*: The Flowering Evergreen Tree Queen



butterflies, bees and birds. It grows from Vancouver Canada to San Diego along the coast.

There are locations in the Santa Cruz area with plants we donated: the UCSC Arboretum, the Cabrillo College horticulture department and at the home of a member of The Gardeners' Club. It is also being grown along the Cornish coast in England.

What is its nemesis? Prolonged periods of

heat, like the central valley. It will survive short periods of cold freezing temperatures but will lose some leaves. It has just been recently named the "tree to go to" by Berkeley, San Francisco and Portland Oregon. If planted in the street it does not crack the concrete. So what is the problem with the tree? It is not in vogue, YET. I have contacted five sources that I knew carried the tree. They are all sold out with orders placed for next year. If looking for one, nobody locally sells the tree. (Suncrest did but, as mentioned by one of their employees it did not "catch on" and they dropped it. This was years ago.)

I think it is a possible candidate for a future tree here in Santa Cruz as we are going through climate change. Outside of being tough it is absolutely gorgeous. Evergreen and covered with large white flowers late summer into the fall and covered with bees, lots of bees. In fact, a species of *Eucryphia* is grown commercially in Australia as the source of Leatherwood honey, Leatherwood tree being its common name there.



From late summer to early fall, at a time when few flowering trees are blooming, this tree is covered completely in large, anemone-like, white flowers. The dark green, compound leaves are unique in shape and make the plant quite interesting even out of bloom. The columnar shape provides versatility in landscaping.



## Sharon Hull Outwits Rats, and Helps Plants Survive Her Absentee Gardening



In July, rats were taking bites out of my ripe and partially ripe tomatoes, ruining many of them. So I began picking all the fruit when it first begins to show a change from green to yellow, as at that stage the rats do not yet find them interesting.

Initially, I also left any already bitten (and therefore useless-to-me) fruit on the vines to give the rats something to distract them. The picked fruit still ripens perfectly well in my kitchen and they taste just as good. I check the vines every day, picking any that are no longer completely green, and haven't had any damage since.

Because I travel a lot, I have my entire garden, including all containers, on drip irrigation on battery-operated timers. I find that having a consistent supply of moisture makes for healthier, more productive plants – more so than when I was hand-watering everything. I may still do a bit of hand-watering when home and certainly wander around daily to assess fertilizing, dead-heading needs, etc., but love being freed from supplying the constant water needs of the garden. All parts were purchased at a garden center and installed by me, which anyone can do. Any adjustments are also easy to accomplish, as plants grow, or in the case of natives, stop needing irrigation. The timers are easy to adjust, too, as the seasons change.



**October:  
Time to  
plant garlic**

## The Thompsons' Garden (Cherry and Joe)

Herbs have been prolific this year. Joe's been loving the thyme, basil and tarragon. I attribute the success to raised bed preparation. I dumped in a large amount of worm compost on top of two raised beds and then put bags of new soil on top of that and watered it in well before planting. Joe's been making pesto, and I've been pinching basil flowers to keep it going.



Basil in back raised bed

My tomatoes went in early, but with our foggy June and July, they did poorly. I have hope that the two I planted later (obtained at The Gardeners' Club from Jerry Walters) will produce better. We're certainly getting the sun now!

Otherwise, my main challenge has been to recover from digging all the plants away from the perimeter of the house in preparation for tenting for termites in February. Thirty years of planting since the last fumigation translated to months of work relocating plants, some into temporary 5 gallon containers. What I couldn't dig out (like the extremely old bougainvillea) was given a severe pruning.



Thyme and tarragon in raised bed at top of driveway

## What Evelyn and George Zhoberoff Learned This Year

1. We learned that if a limp plant does not regain turgidity overnight, after watering, suspect a gopher.
2. We learned that every plant has different soil requirements (though many are the same) and that you can not rely on commercial potting soils, but it is better to research out individual requirements and mix your own. Central and Aptos Landscape Supply have all the elements needed and mixing your own is even cheaper. If there is any truism, lean towards faster draining: a lot of small bark and pumice in your mix.
3. With potted plants, larger pots are better than smaller to ensure that moisture is more even throughout and that the soil stays cooler. Mulching even potted plants helps retain moisture and is a shield against heat. Pebbles deter squirrels from digging.
4. Australian and other Southern Hemisphere plants do not like phosphorous. When buying fertilizer, make sure the P in the NPK never gets over 4. On the other hand, European plants like magnesium (Epsom salts).
5. In propagation, the strength of the rooting compound is very important. If questionable, it is better to error on a lower number than a higher.

## A Toast from Marcia Meyer



...and to adults of all genders who garden in flannel, bathrobes, gowns and slippers. There are legions of us.



## Elliot Shares

From his gardening year, Member Elliot Dembner was reminded of a Walt Whitman quote: "Re-examine all you have been told at school or church or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall be a great poem." Elliot says, that means, "Go with your gut!"

Elliot also shared some photos of



topiaries in botanical gardens that are awe-inspiring.

## October Gardening Tip; Remember to Have Fun



## Autumn is for Asters: Suggestions and Inspiration from Digging Dog Nursery

Aster's cheerful daisy faces plus the profusion of colors and sizes that make up this genus promise lots of flower power when other perennials have tucked out. Invaluable for summer and fall gardens, Our easy-care Aster offerings are tried-and-true performers in sunny locales with average soil and moderate moisture. Cherished by plant aficionados, flower arrangers, song birds and pollinators,

## October Board Meeting

**Monday, October 28 at 6 PM**

Join us at the home of Lise Bixler in Bonny Doon for a tour of her garden, dinner and a meeting to discuss Gardeners' Club business, plans, ideas and events. Lots happening in her garden this year—you don't have to be a Board member to come for a visit! The Bixlers will provide the main course; potluck for the sides and dessert. . Easiest way to find her house if you are coming from Santa Cruz is to take Hwy. 1 to Bonny Doon Road; turn right. When you get to the Beauregard Winery, turn left. Turn right on Country Estates Drive. Lise's house is 2nd one on the left— address, 91 Country Estates Drive (NOT Terrace). Her phone number is 457-2089, but cell phones don't work in her area. Contact Cherry if you want to carpool (475-0991 or [cherrylea@comcast.com](mailto:cherrylea@comcast.com)).



many Aster cultivars work well in either formal or informal venues and can be tucked into stylized meadows, cottage gardens and borders.

Tall ornamental grasses and perennials, like Calamagrostis, Eupatorium purpureum, Panicum or Helianthus serve as intriguing backdrops, while Molinia lends a mysterious element when planted right up front. Late season bloomers such as Persicaria, Solidago, Sedum, Yarrow, Phlox, Verbena bonariensis, Hypericum androsaemum and Selinum wallichianum become colorful cohorts when intermingled with mid-sized Asters!

More at [https://mailchi.mp/diggingdog/autumn-is-for-asters-pollinator-friendly-american-natives-last-2019-saturday-stroll-622461?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/diggingdog/autumn-is-for-asters-pollinator-friendly-american-natives-last-2019-saturday-stroll-622461?e=[UNIQID]) Also read their early October newsletter on all-star ornamental grasses.



# 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, 2020. 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 needed scholarships, we are giving you the option of making an additional gift with your membership. Thank you!

## 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  
c/o Suzanne Caron, P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005.

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





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

# Fall Fest & Plant Sale

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

UC Master Gardener Demo Garden  
- Watsonville

[1430 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville, CA 95076](http://1430FreedomBlvd.com)

Bring the whole family to our free community event celebrates all things gardening in the fall in our own demonstration garden in Watsonville.

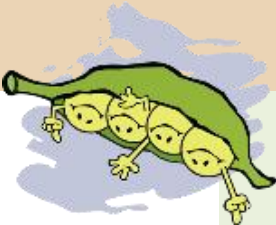
Activities will include mini-classes, demonstrations and our annual fall plant sale.

More details at <http://mbmg.ucanr.edu/>

Photo by [Sydney Davidson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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 \$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



# The Gardeners' Club

P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

<b>President</b>	Cherry Thompson, 475-0991
<b>Vice President &amp; Publicity</b>	cherrylea@comcast.net
<b>Secretary</b>	mygardensup@aol.com
<b>Treasurer (Interim)</b>	Pat McVeigh
<b>Membership</b>	pmcveigh@baymoon.com
<b>Refreshments</b>	Suzanne Caron 609-6230
<b>Webmaster</b>	Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter Writer/Editor</b>	Janine Canada 359-5949
<b>Members-at-Large</b>	<a href="mailto:jcanada26@gmail.com">jcanada26@gmail.com</a>
	<a href="mailto:lisebixler@sbcglobal.net">lisebixler@sbcglobal.net</a>
	<a href="http://www.thegardenersclub.org">www.thegardenersclub.org</a>