



The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

September 2019

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

PLANTS FOR A GALAXY NOT SO FAR, FAR AWAY

Andrew Wall: A True Story

How He and Suncrest Nurseries Chose and
Propagated a Universe of Plants for
Disneyland's New Star Wars Galaxy's Edge



Andrew Wall, who is the Contract Grow Specialist at Suncrest Nurseries in Watsonville, captivated us at our March meeting by teaching us the basics of biodynamic growing. This month he'll tell us about the project he's been working on for quite a while: at Suncrest he grew over 230 types of plants for Disneyland's newest attraction. That is far too many plants to cover at our meeting, so he will choose 20-25 of new plants that they used in the project, discussing their characteristics and garden placement. He will also briefly go over how the nursery goes about putting a project of that scale together.

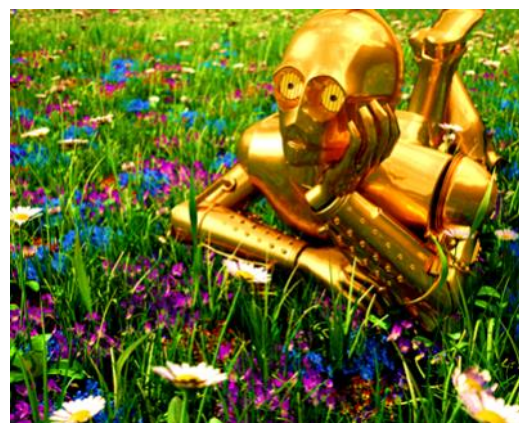
Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is a themed area inspired by the Star Wars universe located within the Disneyland Park in Anaheim. The area encompasses 14 acres. The action happens at the Black Spire Outpost on the planet of Batuu. The remote outpost takes its name from the petrified spires that were once ancient, towering trees surrounding the river valleys and plains.



Bringing Star Wars to life in the physical world attempts an immersive experience that engages all of the senses, and as we gardeners know, plants provide extraordinary sensory

experiences. What plants belong in an environment populated by humanoids, aliens and droids?

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.



"The garden is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper"
— Bertrand Kopjes

More images like this at <https://bullshit.is/urban-star-wars-gardening-97aed58cf764>

Thursday, September 12th, 7 p.m., Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.
Refreshments to be served. Thanks to Kerry Skyles for snack, JoAnn Christiansen for dessert and Michelle Dohl for beverages

When autumn arrives, we are reminded that transience is an essential aspect of gardens. We remember that nothing lasts forever. Dead leaves, dying annuals and decaying compost remind us to celebrate impermanence and love the ephemeral.

"All through autumn we hear a double voice: one says everything is ripe; the other says everything is dying. The paradox is exquisite. We feel what the Japanese call 'aware'--an almost untranslatable word meaning something like 'beauty tinged with sadness.' Autumn teaches us that fruition is also death; that ripeness is a form of decay." - Gretel Ehrlich, The Solace of Open Spaces

The Japanese can teach us much about recognizing and celebrating impermanence. One of the functions of Japanese culture is to express acceptance of mortality, of the inevitable decay of beauty. This mindfulness is expressed in a haiku:

*Listen,
all creeping things -
the bell of transience.*

- Issa

I visited Japan last June, and I haven't written anything about it or shared any photos with you. Perhaps because it was overwhelming—its beauty, history, culture, its very soul. Of course I took many photographs of plants, flowers, butterflies, temple gardens and more to share. Here are some.:



Fallen blossoms on a road

In the Nemuro peninsula of Hokkaido, at the northeastern end of Japan, we walked on a boardwalk in the unique Sakhalin Spruce Picea glehnii forest, which is on sand dunes. Everywhere were fallen trees with massive roots facing us, displaying

Lessons of Autumn: Transience

both decay and regeneration. Covered with moss, lichen, plants and small trees, they were stunning living sculptures. It was impossible to capture their beauty with a camera.



Two days was not enough for absorb the essence of the Nikko Toshugu Shrine, built in 1617, the mausoleum of a shogun surrounded by ancient forest. A striking reminder that all life ends, and yet life goes on.



Japanese dandelion seed heads

Japanese dandelions are related to ours, but different. Dandelion flowers are built to survive even the most adverse conditions. They sink their roots deep into the earth and endure.



Back home, autumn is said to be the best time to plant perennials in our gardens. Do you, like me, favor perennials, in the belief that they will last forever? You may have heard of the The New Perennial movement, which looks and learns from nature to embrace the full evolutionary life cycle of plants and their place in the garden. It finds beauty not just in flowers, but also in seedheads and skeletons – in the progression of time from birth to bloom, and from decay to death. I heard a talk by Kelly Norris, one of the new young New Perennialists, and bought his book, Plants with Style, which has lots of suggestions for plants that are often overlooked by gardeners. I'll end this rumination by quoting from that book.

"Sweet Endings"

"Berries and drupes dangling languidly from lither stems prove the wisdom of the old adage—save the best for last. As the garden races to a close, they are the stars of the swan song that is autumn, the sweet finale in a world of starlight romance. Dessert, anyone?"



Beautyberry (Callicarpa)

Among the sweetest fruits of a gardener's labor are the shiny beads of beautyberry borne in amethyst baubles. Beauty berries frequently hold the stage in gardens that know how to do fall."

— Article by Lise Bixler

Join us & help celebrate!



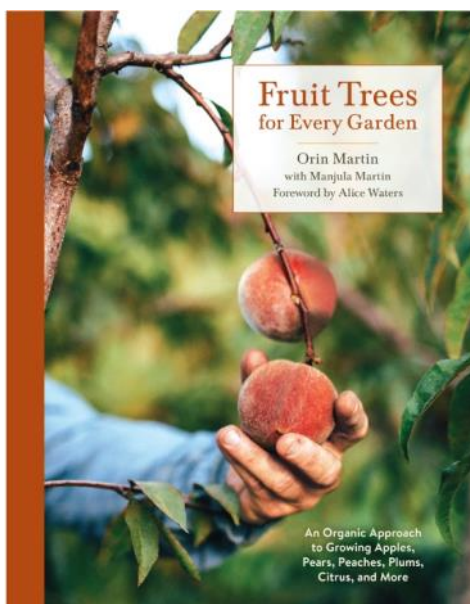
Orin Martin's

BOOK LAUNCH PARTY!

Orin Martin shares his wisdom, experience, and advice in his new book. Jennifer McNulty says, "The beautifully illustrated and lovingly written new book *Fruit Trees for Every Garden* is not your standard how-to book.

This volume is the fruit of a life's work, a gift to aspiring and experienced orchardists alike. Master gardener Orin Martin captivates readers with the skill of a storyteller, deftly carrying them along every step of the way, from fruit-tree selection and soil preparation to planting, pruning, care, and harvest. Writing with lyricism and melody, Martin has accomplished the impossible: He has written a can't-put-down grower's manual, a text that's destined to become a classic.

Martin developed his knowledge and talent as an educator over more than four decades at UC Santa Cruz, where he manages the Alan Chadwick Garden."



Read McNulty's full about the book and how it came about at <https://news.ucsc.edu/2019/08/martin-book.html>. Orin says, "Your relationship with a tree is like a conversation—a really long conversation." He wants more than anything to empower more gardeners to begin those conversations.

Celebrate the book publication, and Orin's years teaching thousands of people at the Chadwick Garden, at the UCSC Hay Barn on Sunday, September 15 from 4-6pm.

Enjoy a book reading and signing by Orin and artwork by Stephanie Martin on display and for sale. Refreshments will be available, plus a pie potluck. **Bring your favorite fruit pie if you can!**



This event is free and open to the public. Free parking will be available. For directions and information on parking, visit <https://casfs.ucsc.edu/about/directions.html>. For more information, call 831-459-3240 or email casfs@ucsc.edu. Signed copies will be available at the event.

"Here you have all the practical tools to create your own orchard of any size—information on rootstocks, pruning, thinning, and a thrilling array of varieties—but moreover, you have Orin's wise and gently wry voice to guide you through it."
—Alice Waters

"An excellent guide for those of us who are 'addicted' to the joys, pleasures, and sweat of growing tree fruit—a sweet blend of the skills and art required to grow the perfect peach (or apple, citrus, fig ...)"
—David Masumoto

STRAWBERRY PEAR SEPTEMBER PIE

Use your favorite pie dough.

- 1 lemon
- 1 baking apple
- 6 Bartlett pears
- 1/2 cup halved strawberries
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh grated ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh nutmeg
- 1/2 stick of butter
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon cocoa powder (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 beaten egg



PREPARATION: Grate the lemon zest and set aside. Peel, core and slice both the apple and pears into 1/2-inch slices. Squeeze the lemon juice over the fruit, then toss fruit with the sugar, salt and nutmeg. In a separate bowl, toss the strawberries with cocoa powder and ginger. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the pears and cook, stirring until the sugar dissolves and juices simmer, about 2 minutes. Reduce heat to medium, and cook, uncovered, until the fruit softens and the juices evaporate some, about 10 minutes. Add the strawberries. Evenly mix in flour. Then cook about a minute more to thicken the juices more. Stir in the vanilla and lemon zest; and remove from the heat. Cool completely and set aside. Roll a disk of pie dough into an 11 to 12-inch circle. Transfer the dough to 9-inch glass pie pan, trimming so it hangs over the edge. Fill the crust with the fruit. Roll the remaining dough into a 12-inch circle. Brush the rim of the crust with some of the egg. Roll the dough onto the rolling pin and unroll it over the fruit so it hangs over the edge of the pie pan by about 1/2-inch. Fold the top crust edge under the bottom one, then press together to seal. Refrigerate the pie for at least 20 minutes. Meanwhile, heat the oven to 425 degrees F. Brush pie with egg and sprinkle sugar. Cut 6 to 8 small steam vents on top. Place pie on a baking sheet and cook for 15 minutes, then reduce to 375 degrees F. Bake until the crust is golden brown, about 50 minutes more. If the edges begin to brown too quickly, cut a piece of aluminum foil and cover the edges with it. Cool and serve.

Gardening With Beautiful Native Plants Sunday- Sept. 8th 2019- Felton

Date: September 8, 2019

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Contact: Sue at sprocter@cruzio.com

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz

Location: Quail Hollow Ranch

Event Details



Native plants provide the beauty and foundation for healthy ecosystems. Did you know that Santa Cruz County is home to 1,000+ native plant species? This diversity creates options in landscape designs and offers ways to work in harmony with nature. Native plants local to your site are uniquely adapted to thrive in your soils and once established, on natural rainfall.

Join UC Master Gardeners Janice Kuch and Mary Zinkievich as they give you the tools for selecting and locating the right plants for your location. Whether you are gardening in containers, have a small yard or a larger plot, native plants can add resiliency to your landscape, help you protect natural resources, and preserve our state's biodiversity.

Participants will receive practical handouts, plant lists, tips, and strategies to maximize results. Live specimens will be on display and additional interpretive materials will assist in visualizing your garden. In addition, because no garden is without weeds, weed identification and eradication information will be available.

Please arrive 15 min early to check-in or register, walk-ins are always welcome!

Cost \$5.00

FRIENDS OF THE UCSC ARBORETUM ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019
4PM-7PM

ENJOY FOOD, DRINKS, LIVE MUSIC,
GOOD COMPANY, AND HEAR ABOUT THE
ARBORETUM'S PROGRESS. MEMBERS
WILL THANK EXITING BOARD MEMBERS
AND VOTE IN THE NEW!



RSVP & MEMBERSHIPS
ONLINE AT
ARBORETUM.UCSC.EDU
NOT A MEMBER YET?
BECOME ONE TODAY!

A Note From Arboretum Executive Director Martin Quigley

Dear friends,

There have been many changes at the Arboretum over the last year, and new challenges as well. We are entering a year of strict fiscal austerity while simultaneously losing valued staff due to several retirements. Our twice-yearly plant sales have been good events, but profits have not increased significantly for many years. So, after a lot of discussion, we are going to try a new approach. In addition to growing more plants for sale, we want to be more strategic about what kinds of plants we are selling, and how we sell them. We have just finished work on expanding the outdoor plant sales area at Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop here at the Arboretum, almost tripling the display space. We intend to have more plants there, all year round. In place of the Fall Plant Sale, we are going to have a Grand Opening for the new Norrie's plant display on Oct 12, from 10-4. We are happy to be hosting the California Native Plant Society's Fall Plant Sale at the same time, in the same location as last year. It is our hope that both the CNPS and the Arboretum will have a wonderful day.



EXTRAVAGANZA 2019

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

MORE INFO: <https://sgplants.com/pages/2019-succulent-extravaganza-schedule>

Succulent Extravaganza will close at 4pm sharp each day.

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

8:00: Early Bird Nursery Tour, Allana Childs of Succulent Gardens

9:30: Succulent Color, How to get the Most Vibrant, Lasting Color All Year Long, Robin Stockwell (Founder of Succulent Gardens; The Succulent Guy)

10:45: Quick, Easy, & Colorful Containers with Laura Eubanks! Learn how she pairs plants for color, texture and compatibility, Laura Eubanks, Design for Serenity. Laura will have swag for sale!

11:30: Lunch at Nayarit's Taco Truck.

12:00: Backstage Tour of Stock Houses, John Rodkin, Owner of Succulent Gardens

1:30: Succulents in the City: Sean and James will explore how city dwellers are enjoying succulents on balconies, rooftops and hidden oasis gardens, Organic Mechanics

3:00: Plant Raffle

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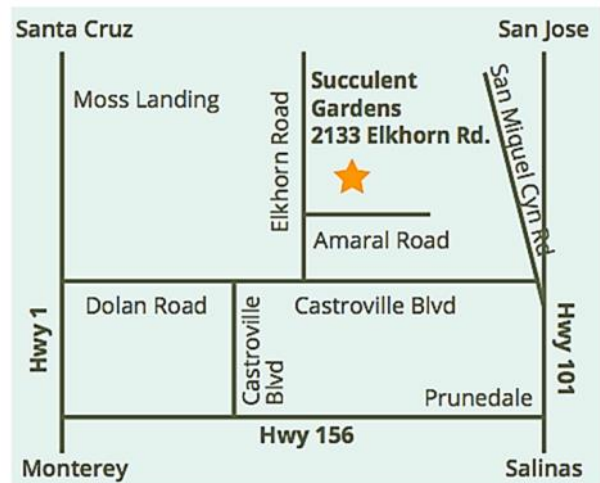
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11:30: Lunch at Nayarit's Taco Truck.

12:00: Backstage Tour of Stock Houses, John Rodkin, Owner of Succulent Gardens

1:30: Janet Sluis, Sunset Western Garden Collection

3:15: Plant Raffle



UC SANTA CRUZ ARBORETUM
PRESENTS

Flora y Canto

An afternoon of poetry and music

HOSTED BY CAP ALUMNA, POET, AND SPOKEN WORD ARTIST
AIDEED MEDINA

FEATURING THE POETRY OF:

ADELA NAJARRO	CHRIS CUADRADO
ADELA CASTILLO	MARIE BUTCHER
CHRISTINA OLAGUE	ARNOLDO COLIBRI

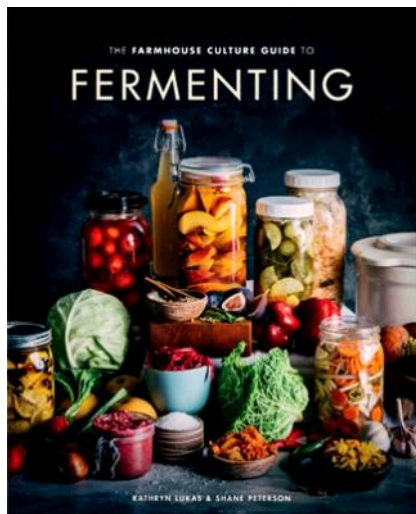
SACRED POETS: RICA DE LA LUZ and
JOSEPH JASON SANTIAGO LAGOUR

OPEN MIC TO FOLLOW PROGRAM
OPEN SPACE FOR LAWN CHAIRS, PICNIC BLANKETS, PICNIC BASKETS, AND THE MUSE!

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
28
3:30 - 6PM**

**\$10 ADMISSION
UC SANTA CRUZ ARBORETUM
1156 High Street, UCSC
(for GPS use Arboretum Rd)
Santa Cruz, CA 95064**

Bookshop Santa Cruz
Kathryn Lukas & Shane Peterson, *The Farmhouse Culture Guide to Fermenting*



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12- 7:00PM
Book talk, demonstration and sampling
Fermented and live-culture foods are beloved for their bold and layered flavors as well as their benefits for gut health and boosting immunity, but until now, there hasn't been a book that is both authoritative and easy to use. This book provides you with the history, health information, and safest methods for preserving, along with 100 recipes for krauts, pickles, kimchi, fermented vegetables, hot sauces, preserved fruits and jams, kombucha, and even mead. With trusted authors Kathryn Lukas, founder of mega brand Farmhouse Culture and master fermenter and best-selling author Shane Peterson, and their thoroughly tested recipes, this is the fermentation book that every home fermenter needs—whether you are about to make your first batch of pickles or have been preserving foods for decades.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Join us on September 23 at the home of Ilene Wilson, 100 Howell Lane, Corralitos. Come at 6:00 p.m. for a garden tour, 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.

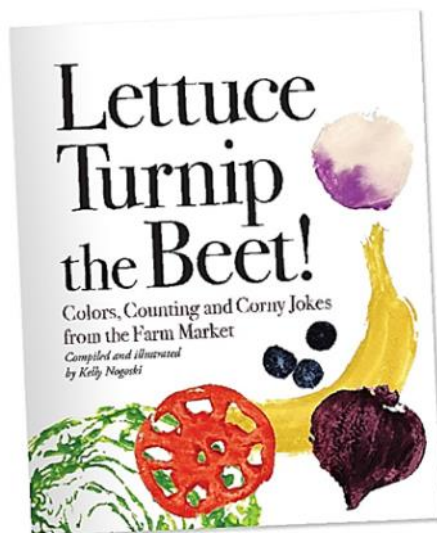
Last Arboretum Garden Photography
Walk with Bill and Ferd

Saturday, September 21

[Register Online for September's Walk](#)



Lettuce Turnip the Beet!



With this very silly trip to the farm market your children will be giggling throughout storytime. They will discover many fruits and veggies along with accompanying jokes such as, "What do you give a sick lemon? Lemon aid!" all are perfectly placed for preschoolers! Enjoy bright and beautiful illustrations that will inspire your children to take on a new project: food stamping with paints!

<https://secure.mothergoostime.com/product/lettuce-turnip-the-beet/>

Now is a great time to plant—it is cooler, and there is time for plants to settle in and get rooted. Sierra Azul is having a Summer Parking Lot Sale. Selected colorful perennials, succulents, shrubs, grasses and fruit trees. 30-60% off while supplies last. Also find special summer sales now inside the nursery. Salvias, Oregano, Thyme, and all Quart Perennials (10-20% off).



And while you are there, enjoy the Sculpture Is exhibit. Sierra Azul is at 2660 East Lake Avenue (Highway 152), Watsonville, across from the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds .



Gardeners and Climate Change

There are many things gardeners can do to cope with climate change. And at the same time, they can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and take other steps to slow the warming of the planet. That's the message delivered by David Wolfe, professor in the Department of Horticulture at Cornell University.

While gardeners everywhere like to complain about the weather, now they have to contend with an increasingly unpredictable climate. "We are in the unfortunate situation of being the first generation of gardeners, ever, who cannot rely on historical weather records to tell us what our climate is, or what to expect in the future," says Wolfe.

Those in cooler climates might welcome longer growing seasons, Wolfe points out. But we should be careful what we wish for because "... we are entering an era of great uncertainty that makes gardening even more challenging than it was before."

On the bright side, as climate zones shift, gardeners can experiment with new plants that they couldn't grow before. But they may no longer be able to grow some favorites, and changes in the climate may favor aggressive weeds and invasive exotics. Warm winters may also allow certain disease and insect pests to overwinter and become more troublesome.

Paradoxically, warmer winters can also lead to more freeze and frost damage when plants fail to "harden off" sufficiently before cold weather hits, or they bloom prematurely in spring only to have flowers killed by late frosts.

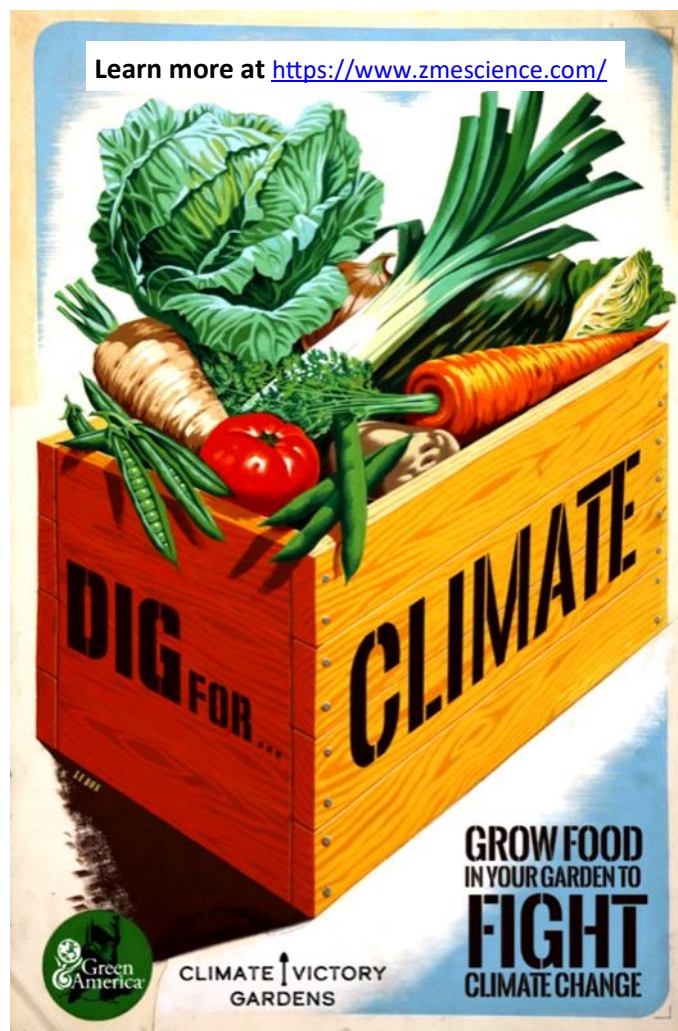
More heat stress in summer can hurt even warm-weather plants like tomatoes, causing them to abort flowers and fruit. And predictions based on climate models also include more variable precipitation – longer droughts, fewer but heavier rains causing more flooding and combinations of both. Too much water can lead to root diseases, delayed planting, and soil erosion and compaction.

Wolfe offers these tips to help gardeners cope:

- Diversify plant selection. Try new varieties that may be better adapted to the changing climate where you garden. Look for plants that tolerate heat and drought stress and are resistant to diseases and insect pests.
- Cautiously shift planting times. For example, plant cool-season crops earlier so you can harvest them before the season heats up.
- Look out for new weeds, pests and diseases. A warmer climate will help many get a leg up on crops.
- Be prepared to deal with too much – or too little – water. Add organic matter to your soil to both improve drainage in chronic wet spots and hold more water in drought-prone areas.

Gardeners can also reduce their carbon footprint and help slow planetary warming:

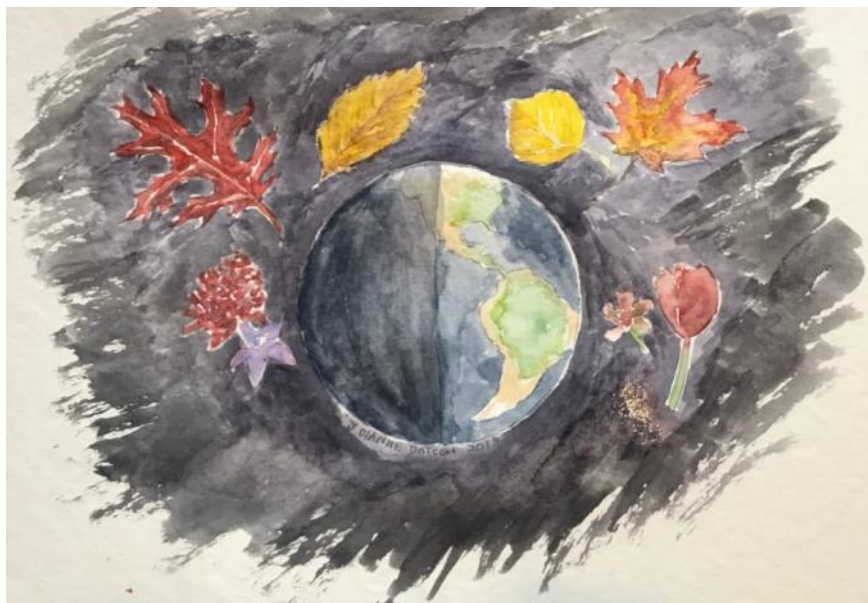
- Be strategic with nitrogen fertilizers. Synthetic nitrogen uses copious amounts of energy to manufacture. And once applied, a portion inevitably is released as nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas. Try legume cover crops (which can take nitrogen from the air and leave it in the soil to fertilize future crops) and local sources of manure or compost instead.
- Store carbon in your soil. Crops remove carbon dioxide from the air and leave it in the soil as organic matter. Till your soil less because tillage breaks down organic matter and returns carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.
- Plant trees. They store carbon in wood. Windbreaks can reduce energy used for heating buildings and shade trees can reduce cooling needs.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle disposable products. Use organic mulches instead of plastics, for example.
- Reduce fossil fuel use. Cut back on how much lawn you mow, and keep engines well-tuned. There are many things gardeners can do to cope with climate change. And at the same time, they can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and take other steps to slow the warming of the planet.



Are you Getting Ready?



The Gardeners' Club Fall Plant Sale and Swap is only a month away—October! Have you been sowing, dividing, taking cutting, repotting? Have you gone through your tool shed and doo-dad shelves to find things you don't need or want anymore? Plants, bulbs, pots, books, seeds, garden art, tools, hoses—bring it all. Don't put off getting ready. Our fall event is a medley of opportunity not to be missed!



Watercolor by J. Dianne Dotson

HAPPY AUTUMN!

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, IS THE
FALL EQUINOX AND FIRST OFFICIAL
DAY OF FALL.**

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

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



www.thegardenersclub.org

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