



The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

July / August, 2020

Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler
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Pickelberry Farm Has Plants for You!

During this difficult time, we have heightened concerns for social justice issues as well as awareness of the economic hardships hitting so many people. What's a gardener to do? Helen Englesberg of Pickelberry Farm had an idea—she held a Plants for Pollinators Outdoor Public Sale on July 9th and donated all of the proceeds to Esperanza Community Farms, a non-profit program in the Pajaro Valley that promotes healthy eating and economic justice by supplying sustainably farmed and affordable produce for traditionally excluded people of limited income. (See more about this organization next page.) Helen said they are struggling, and this donation was much needed.

The sale featured lots of perennials to feed honey bees, native bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Pickelberry grows California natives including eriogonums, phacelias, monardella and columbine. Other plants included salvias, agastache, linaria, penstemon and foxgloves, ready for planting, and annuals, too.

that have bloom times throughout the year. We seek to be an educational resource for gardeners who want to create more habitat in their gardens for honey bees and native bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Most plants are available in 3-4" pots and are as affordable as we can make them. You can sign up to be on our email list to be notified about our plant sales. During the pandemic and shelter at home, we sent out a monthly availability list so people could place their plant orders for delivery to a couple of outdoor drop off sites in Santa Cruz. We are hoping to have a fall sale in September on the westside of Santa Cruz.

Our Facebook page is at PickelberryFarm and you can find us on Instagram Pickelberryfarm. Please contact us at pickelberry@cruzio.com or 818-6304 for more information, plant availability and to sign up to be on our email list."



Helen, appropriately masked and socially distanced!



Don't you need some of these?

I bought as many plants as I could fit in my car, but the good news is they have more, and you can make an appointment to buy them!

Helen says, "Pickelberry Farm is a small scale home nursery in Northern Monterey County focusing on growing plants for pollinators that have been selected to be well suited for planting in central coastal California. All plants are grown using sustainable and organic nursery practices. We grow both California natives and non natives, annuals and perennials and are endeavoring to provide a variety of plants

What a great example of practicing activism through gardening!



Helen's sidekick and sign-holder was appropriately masked, too.



Esperanza Community Farms is a system-changing, sustainable community agriculture project focused entirely and directly on increasing food security and good health among low-income families from under-resourced communities in the Pajaro Valley. We cultivate fresh, pesticide-free, culturally preferred vegetables and fruit varieties, then deliver bi-weekly boxes of produce directly to members' homes via a subsidized Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Primary access options for members are use of SNAP benefits OR direct payment.

The composition of our Advisory Board and paid work team reflects Esperanza Community Farms members and regional supporters who have demonstrated full-family dedication to the overall health of the Pajaro Valley.

We stand for a holistic and inclusive approach to using our current assets, personal experiences and collective skills to understand the conditions in which we live in order to transform them in the direction of financially-accessible, organic and high-quality produce, as a transformative aspect of living fully healthy lives.

All Advisors were CSA box recipients in the first two years of the program. Membership ranges from very-low income to middle income, from monolingual Spanish-speaking to Native English & bilingual, and from formally educated to primary school education completion.

We are intentional in our search for members who are diverse in the many different aspects that our program addresses, including diagnosis of diabetes, parenthood, professional roles in positions of power/authority and race.



Things To Do In the Garden — July and August

Many of us are commenting that our gardens have never been more glorious this year, especially since we've had more time to tend them. And we've been bemoaning that we can't share them! Post pictures on our Facebook page, or your own. Start an Instagram page! Take photos! Do botanical art! Okay, now back to work in the garden...



The weather has been variable, but we do get days of high heat. Adding mulch helps conserve moisture and keep soil from baking and drying. Spread 2 to 4 inches of mulch over the entire garden. Remember to keep it a couple inches away from tree trunks and shrubs and plant stems.

Don't worry if squash and melons wilt during the hottest part of the day as long as they recover each evening. If they don't recover, they aren't getting enough water. Pick vegetables – especially zucchini – daily to keep plants producing.

Plant a second crop of squash and beans to extend the harvest into fall. Cover newly planted seedlings with shade cloth or newspaper during the hottest part of the day until they are established.

Cut Mexican evening primrose to the ground when flowers are finished and you'll get another flush of bloom in September. Trim spent flowers from black-eyed Susan, coneflowers, roses and agapanthus. Cut spent flower stalks of watsonia, daylilies, kniphofia and agapanthus. Cut flowering stems of yarrow, columbine, salvia, coreopsis and butterfly iris to the ground after they've finished blooming. Keep dahlias deadheaded (and it is a good time to fertilize them). Pinch back fall-blooming chrysanthemums and asters to keep them bushy.

Cut iris leaves to about 3 inches. Dig up rhizomes if crowded and replant. (or save to share with Club members). Order bulbs for the best selection: lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, crocus.

Add fresh water to birdbaths at least every other day.

Continue deep watering fruit trees, grapevines, fruit trees and ornamental trees. Fruit trees can be summer pruned now. At this time of year they won't respond with lots of wild growth.

Fertilize almond, nectarine, apricot, peach, cherry and walnut trees.

Plants not to trim after July: rhododendron, camellia, dogwoods, deciduous magnolias. If you trim them now, you'll be cutting away next year's flower buds.



Start thinking about your fall garden! You can plant broccoli, spinach, cauliflower, cabbage, onion sets, peas, carrots, garlic and beets. Add organic matter to the soil before planting. You can also plant winter squash between some of the spinach; the spinach will be ready to harvest before the squash takes over.



Inspiration from Pat McVeigh

Pat has been volunteering at the Santa Cruz Art League occasionally to keep up their plantings.

She received this thank you note, which contains information about how you can get involved, if you are interested.

From: Terri Steinmann <terri.steinmann@gmail.com> Subject: A big THANK YOU from Santa Cruz Art League

Greetings Everyone. Thank you for your support and skill at our recent gardening event at the Santa Cruz Art League. WOW! The support was incredible. We filled 6-yard waste bins and a full sized truck. Salvador, the Eagle Scout who was volunteering his time to improve the area outside the art classroom has completed his project. The area has a pathway and future seating/gathering space, wonderful bark to keep the weeds at bay, and an expanded, dedicated area for plantings - even the hibiscus that was diseased and had to be trimmed to the roots, is thriving and growing again. Hopefully, on our next clean up day, we will have plants to add to that area....

We are looking to perhaps host a monthly event in August and September to keep the good work moving forward and then move to every 6 weeks or so thru fall and winter. I would love to set a couple of dates and invite everyone to come as they are able. We may try a 10 am start next time. And I will arrange for cold drinks as we now know we will work up quite a sweat. If you know of anyone who likes to garden and could use a safe social community activity, please send them my way and I will add them to our growing list of gardeners. Thank you also to the people who have offered to be gardening angels and go on your own time with pruning shears in hand to trim here and there. Those "in-between" times will make a really big difference in supporting our community effort. Though we wore masks and were positioned in separate areas, it was fantastic to be at the Art League again and to be in community with you - thank you for a humbling and incredibly gratifying day. Cheers! Terri, Board Co-Chair, Santa Cruz Art League

"Stories of race, culture, place, and people surround us, even in the garden. We must face them."



Journal Made by Willa Waters

These paragraphs are excerpted from a piece written by LeAnn Locher, the new outreach coordinator of the Oregon Master Gardeners Program.

"What are the stories we tell about our lives, our history, our gardens, our favorite flowers? I've been thinking about these things, and how we can personalize what's happening in the world. How we bring issues of justice and equity into our lives as gardeners."

"What can we do? How do we start? Why haven't we done this earlier? What does this have to do with gardening?"

These are all questions I'm hearing from Master Gardener leaders and volunteers throughout the state. I've been doing a lot of listening ... and asking questions."

"And in the way of the world right now, I'm incredibly thankful to be learning so much, even as I'm unlearning stories I thought I knew. Facing our need as Master Gardeners to better serve our community through a lens of equity, diversity and inclusion means uncovering the truth, questioning our stories, and checking our own assumptions."



Letting Basil Go



epicgardening LETTING BASIL FLOWER?! Doesn't that ruin the flavor?! Well...kinda. It deeply depends on the cultivar, but this one in particular - African Blue Basil - is a FANTASTIC one to let flower.

Bees are all over it from sun up to sundown, it looks amazing in a raised bed, and it can even be perennialized in warmish climates.

If you've got a plant you let flower that you're "not supposed to", drop it in the comments - and tell me why, too!

#epicgardening #growfoodnotlawns #basil #growyourownfood

Kevin Espiritu is an urban gardener, (San Diego), plant lover, and the founder of Epic Gardening, a website dedicated to a goal of teaching 10,000,000 people around the world how to grow their own plants. Since 2013, Espiritu has grown Epic Gardening (<https://www.epicgardening.com>) in all its various ways to reach millions of aspiring gardeners in over 100 countries around the world. Kevin produces an endless amount of content, from blog posts to video tutorials, all about growing your own food, keeping your houseplants alive, preventing pests, diseases, and other problems from killing your green friends. He offers a comprehensive blend of humor, science, and nature delivered wit and enthusiasm. His blog and Instagram site are particularly useful and informative. He is also the author of Field Guide to Urban Gardening: How to Grow Plants, No Matter Where You Live: Raised Beds – Vertical Gardening – Indoor Edibles – Balconies and Rooftops – Hydroponics. Urban or not, this book helps you garden better. Especially if you are a food gardener.

**Zhoug Sauce
(Spicy Cilantro Sauce)**

Makes about 1/2 cup

This spicy and herbaceous sauce transforms creamy hummus to the next level of deliciousness. Zhoug, (sounds like “zoog”), is a spicy cilantro sauce that originates from Yemen. It is a flavorful, spicy sauce that is a delicious used as a condiment. Enjoy it swirled in hummus with fresh veggies, or as a stand-alone spicy dip. It’s also wonderful drizzled over falafel, grilled meats, fish, roasted vegetables, or even as a great way to accent a baked potato.

Ingredients:

1 bunch cilantro, some tender stems ok
3 cloves garlic, peeled
1 jalapeños, cored, seeds removed
3/4 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/2 cup olive oil

Directions:

Blend all of the ingredients together in a high-powered blender until smooth. Serve as a spicy dip or condiment. Swirl into hummus and enjoy with fresh vegetables and pita.

Recipe courtesy of



1527 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 426-1351

Presented by Regeneración in collaboration with CSUMB Environmental Studies Program

CLIMATE OF HOPE



Let's Beat the Heat!

*Solving the challenges of rising
temperatures together!*

AUGUST 5, 2020 | 3–5 pm PST

- Just released! Results of farmer survey about climate impacts
- Panel of local experts
- Guest speakers
- Campesinos: Workers of the Land virtual art show
- Networking opportunity

Bilingual Online Forum:
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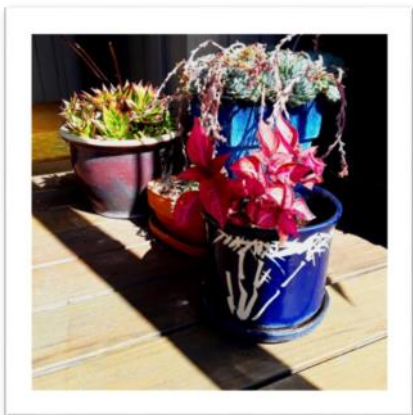
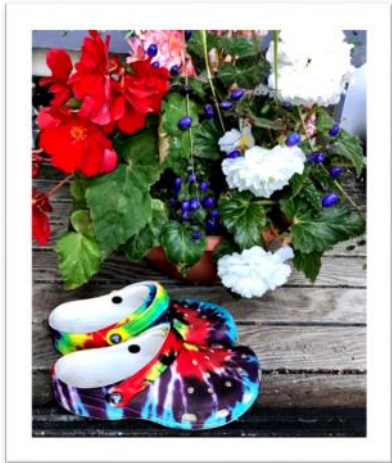
dandelion
grows along the trail
a moon full
of wish stars
hope for dispersal by those
who garden for peace

~jone rush macculloch, 2016

CELEBRATING INTERDEPENDENCE

By Lise Bixler

The newsletter is very late; It may come to a surprise to you that I started it before the Fourth of July. I approached the holiday in my usual way – what can I feature that is red, white and blue? I asked people to send me pictures of bouquets from their gardens featuring those colors. Thank you, Cherry Thompson and Jan Olafsson!



But with so much going on in the world, from the pandemic to police brutality and Black Lives Matter protests, I spent most of Independence Day in reflection, watching the news, reading and researching, finding different voices, questioning. I realized that the best way I could celebrate independence was through acknowledging and celebrating interdependence. That is what I most wanted to celebrate, which meant recalibrating some of my values of freedom, equality and justice.

Interdependence is not a new or original idea. Here is a 2018 post by Sowers and Reapers: Gardening in an Era of Change, Duke University:

Gardening is often seen as an apolitical relaxation pursuit. Yet in a time when neighborhoods are rapidly changing, gardens have become a place of race and politics, where history, contention, expression, resistance and negotiation meet. At the same time, the presence of an immigrant work force—landscaping companies largely staffed by migrant

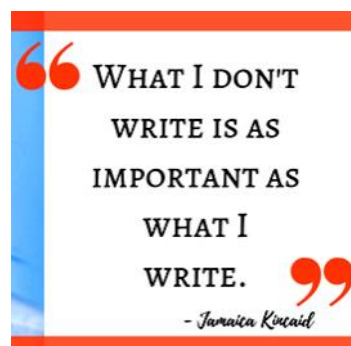
Latinos—means that the country's divided opinions over immigration are at play among the plants. There is also a hidden kind of migration in the types of plants home gardeners buy for their gardens: Home Depot, Lowe's and other big stores import plants from Mexico, Colombia and other countries, ensuring an ecosystem shift toward non-native species.

Creating a resilient garden means paying attention to the life histories of individual species and how they interact with others in the community. But just as importantly, it means understanding why, how and to what purpose humans craft gardens. How does gardening shape identity? Do gardeners see their land as expressions of creativity or history, or even resistance? Gardens have plants, but also fences and walls. Where do gardens divide? What happens when community gardens meant to serve poor populations end up in gentrified areas, with the families priced out of an area "improved" by that very garden? And how do gardeners see the global effect of climate change on their worlds, where some heirloom plants are fading and non-native species threaten to take over?

What stopped me from writing the newsletter this month? Fear, I think. I was nervous about speaking out to a group about race, especially when our club has not had any dialogue about it. What I am hoping is that there are other members hoping and wanting an expanded focus on diversity, equity and inclusion in our club.

Jamaica Kincaid, who in addition to her remarkable fiction writing wrote a gardening column for the New Yorker for many years, described in one essay how she accepted an invitation to speak about favorite gardens at the Garden Conservatory's tenth-anniversary celebration. The day after, she was told by the chairman that "he was was sorry I had been invited, that he was utterly offended by what I had said and the occasion I had used to say it, for ***I had done something unforgivable—I had introduced race and politics into the garden.***"

That, I think, explains some of my fears about devoting this newsletter to these topics. On the other hand, I am the member of more than one gardening group, and one of them, The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, did a statement that absolutely encouraged me to speak up. So here it is, next page, for your consideration.



Hardy Plant Society of Oregon: Where We Stand With Regard to Racism and Social Justice



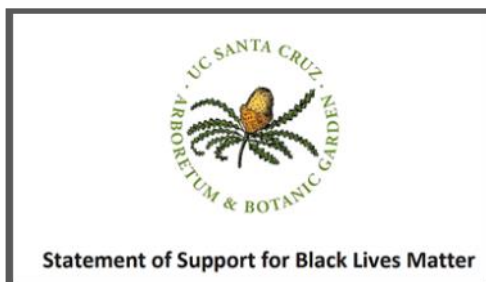
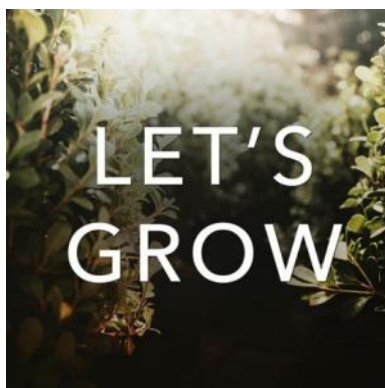
A Message From HPSO's President, Jim Rondone:

After a nearly unfathomable spring, the past few weeks have seemed even more extraordinary. I'm not referring to the weather. On the heels of a pandemic and its ensuing economic calamity, the long-festered issue of racism now generates tremendous unrest in the national and local landscapes. HPSO members and the public are asking where HPSO stands with regard to racism and social justice, and whether Black lives matter to HPSO. It is imperative that we respond to them.

HPSO is an inclusive organization, but it is not a diverse one. Modeled on England's Hardy Plant Society, our programming reflects that heritage, with speakers, workshops, books, and open gardens for a largely white and mostly privileged membership. Even if we're not displaying lawn jockeys or flying Confederate flags—symbols deeply offensive to African Americans and many others—we may casually presume that a person of color will “mow and blow” our gardens. We may enjoy beautiful nursery-grown plants while overlooking the rights and needs of the workers—overwhelmingly Hispanic—who raise them for us. We may be unaware or unconcerned that funding is often unequally allocated among neighborhoods, resulting in fewer parks and community gardens in neighborhoods of color. We may not understand that climate change, already evident in our gardens, disproportionately impacts communities of color.

These are examples of implicit bias and systemic racism. They can persist even where there is no bigotry. Communities of color, and Black lives, must matter. HPSO's mission “to nurture

the gardening community” dictates that we reach and serve more than one segment of it. We must bolster our programming, communicate in new ways, invite a greater range of speakers and writers, expand our workshop topics, broaden our library and book sale titles, and award grants and scholarships to organizations and students we have not previously supported. HPSO is working to devise specific actions to put us firmly on the path to diversifying. We also need to hear from you.



Our UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden has published a statement in support of Black Lives Matter. You can read it in its entirety at <https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/statement-of-support-for-black-lives-matter.pdf>.



Canning Tomatoes
Virtual Class 9/12/2020



Fermented Hot Sauce
Virtual Class 8/30/20



Virtual Blackberry Jam
and Canning Class
8/8/20



Virtual Fermented
Vegetables Class: Kimchi
Cucumbers 8/15/20



Virtual Vinegar Pickles
and Canning Class
8/20/20

Also, check out their many upcoming preserving and pickling/fermenting classes. If you go to their website, you can spend a good deal of time exploring. There are great recipes, articles, instructional videos, stories about homesteading adventures and a journal.

<https://www.mountainfeed.com/>

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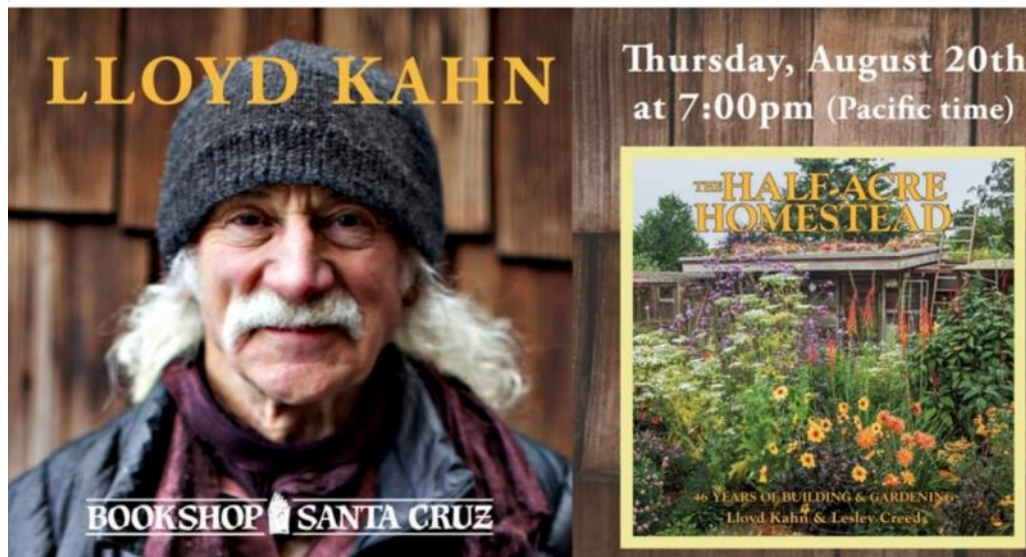
Join us on Instagram, every Wednesday at 5:30 PM, PST for a live discussion of your veggie garden and preservation questions. Post your questions on our Instagram or Facebook pages and Jess and Karla will answer them live on IGTV. You can also watch past episodes at



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Bookshop Santa Cruz Presents: Lloyd Kahn | THE HALF-ACRE HOMESTEAD

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/bookshop-santa-cruz-7>

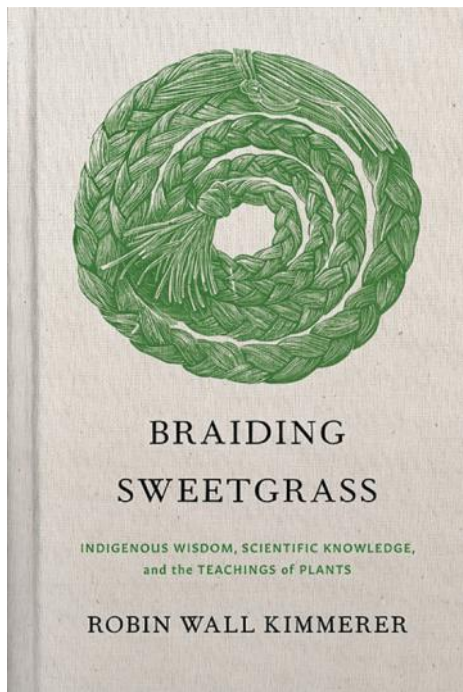


In the mid-'60s, Lloyd Kahn quit his job in the insurance business and began working as a carpenter, first building post and beam houses, then geodesic domes. In 1968, he became the shelter editor of The Whole Earth Catalog, which led him to publish two books on dome building and then, in 1973, the book Shelter (which went on to sell 270,000 copies). Lloyd's been writing ever since. In this latest book, The Half-Acre Homestead, he for the first time covers his own work, and that of his wife Lesley, in building a house and creating a garden in the seaside town of Bolinas over a 46-year period.

"One of our finest writers on one of her greatest loves. Jamaica Kincaid's first garden in Vermont was a plot in the middle of her front lawn. There, to the consternation of more experienced friends, she planted only seeds of the flowers she liked best. In My Garden (Book) she gathers all she loves about gardening and



plants, and examines it generously, passionately, and with sharp, idiosyncratic discrimination. Kincaid's affections are matched in intensity only by her dislikes. She loves spring and summer but cannot bring herself to love winter, for it hides the garden. She adores the rhododendron Jane Grant, and appreciates ordinary Blue Lake string beans, but abhors the Asiatic lily. The sources of her inspiration -- seed catalogues, the gardener Gertrude Jekyll, gardens like Monet's at Giverny -- are subjected to intense scrutiny. She also examines the idea of the garden on Antigua, where she grew up. This is an intimate, playful, and penetrating book on gardens, the plants that fill them, and the persons who tend them."



Written in 2013, Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants is a book by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, that examines modern botany and environmentalism through the lens of the traditions and cultures of the indigenous peoples of North America. As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

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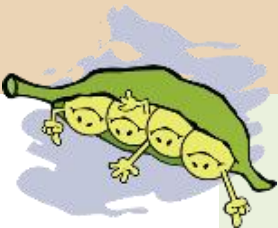
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It's easy-peasy to join our club!

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.



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