



The Gardeners' Club Santa Cruz County, California

**APRIL 2023** 

Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler (<u>lisebixler@sbc</u> <u>global.net</u>)

#### **ALWAYS GROWING!**

#### CATCHING UPON ON WHAT'S 60ING ON AT CABRILLO COLLEGE HORTICULTURE

We have had a long and productive relationship with everyone at the Cabrillo Horticulture Department over many, many

years. The Covid years interrupted us getting together and canceled some of their yearly events, but now we will use this meeting to catch up and celebrate our partnerships. What better way to update us, and give us ideas we can apply to our own gardens, then by having Heather Blume give us a talk?

Our friend Heather is the the Environmental Horticulture Center
Coordinator . She'll tell us about new initiatives and goals and activities and directions, what changed during Covid, upcoming events or workshops or classes, suggstions for what home gardeners can use, what is new and exciting in horti-

culture and the things SHE is most excited about now. She will talk about the thriving hydroponic, substrate and aquaponics food production systems developed in response to students' requests providing valuable hands-on training and theory in producing high quality food crops indoors and out. And rumor has it that a cookbook lending library is in the works for the Cabrillo Farmer's Market Cabrillo Booth.

## OUR SCHOLARSHIPS ARE BACK!

#### Come Cheer our Scholarship Reward Presentation this meeting!

The Gardener's Club is proud of its tradition

of giving scholarships to students studying horticulture to support them in their studies. This effort was spearheaded by Club Member and Cabrillo Volunteer Bill Patterson. After the Covid hiatus, Bill encouraged us to revive our giving program and resumed his position at Scholarship Chair. Our Board approved three scholarhips of \$500 each for Cabrillo horticulture students. Come meet the

students who will be awarded this year: Aex Valerosa, organic farming

Student Assistant; Connor Nolan, Hydroponic Student Assistant; and Emerson Camargo, who Bill says is "a bright young man who has tons of great energy, an inquisitive mind and very motivated". Heather will present the awards while we together celebrate being able to resume contributing to our community in a tangible way.



Heather & Bill at a previous award presentation

#### APRIL MEETING

Thursday, April 13th, 7:00 p.m. Aptos Grange Hall, 2555 Mar Vista, Aptos

#### Pickelberry Farm Plants for Pollinators Benefit Plant Sale

Proceeds will go to Community Bridges to provide assistance to families in Pajaro

# Saturday April 1, 9am-1pm Alta Organic Coffee 2712 Mission Street Ext. Santa Cruz

Next door to the Westside Farmers Market, between Swift St and Western Dr and across the street from the Wrigley Building



The featured plant at this sale is Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum 'Marie'.

It is named after our friend Marie Beckham, long-time Gardeners' Club member and community volunteer!

The parent plant was found growing in the San Lorenzo Valley, just above Santa Cruz.

Pickelberry Farm is located in northern Monterey County about 1 mile from Pajaro. During the levee breach earlier this month, the waters of the Pajaro River reached all the way up to the field right below the nursery. Fortunately the house and nursery are located on higher ground. The people of Pajaro, mostly farm worker families, were not so fortunate. We encourage you to support them in what ever way you can and hope to raise some money through this sale to donate to the flood relief efforts.

We trust our gardening friends are seeing through the buckets of rain to the early signs of spring. Many dormant plants are starting to leaf out, and we're trying to be patient for the ground to dry out a bit before we can plant more. Pickelberry Farm's first plant sale of the year on April 1st promises tempting selections to get a jump start on plants for pollinators. This sale will feature some of the best of our California wildflowers for your garden. It's not too late to get them in the ground for a beautiful spring display. All are easy to grow and will reseed when happy.

Pickelberry Farm focuses on selecting plants that will do well in central coastal California and those that provide pollen and

nectar for native and honey bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. Our plants are grown using sustainable and organic nursery practices. We do not use any toxic pesticides like the neonicotinoids that have been documented to be deadly for bees. Most of our plants are in 4" pots. Some are available in larger sizes. Members of Team Pickelberry will be on hand to help you make plant selections and provide information about them. Please note that our public plant sales are primarily for home gardeners. If you are a landscaper and would like plants for a project, feel free to contact us directly outside of a plant sale. For more information contact us at pickelberry@cruzio.com, 818-6304.



CENTER FOR AGROECOLOGY
SPEAKER SERIES:

JAVIER ZAMORA,
ORGANIC FARMER:
HELPING FARM
WORKERS SUCCEED IN
CALIFORNIA

FREE EVENT THURSDAY, APRIL 6 3:30-5:00 PM
Hay Barn, 1008 Ranch View Road, Santa Cruz

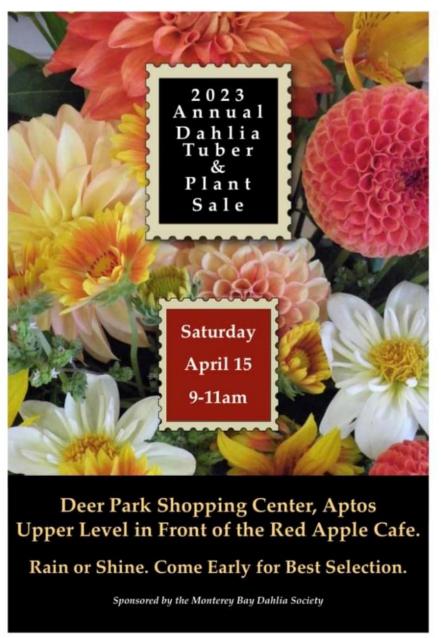
Join us for an afternoon with Javier Zamora, organic farmer and leading voice in the organic community. Zamora will share his experiences, challenges, and perspectives as a local organic farmer, including how he manages his Central Coast farming operation, JSM Organics, his relationship with his employees and views on AgTech, and his ideas for strengthening relationships between UC and regional growers. A Q&A session will follow the talk. After the discussion, attendees can enjoy light refreshments and mingle time. All are invited to this event. Spanish interpretation will be available. Parking permits cost \$5.

After immigrating here in 1986, Javier Zamora worked in the service industry for 20 years before going back to school to earn his GED and a degree in landscape design. He then participated in the horticulture program at Cabrillo College and sharpened his farming skills through the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA). He started farming organically in 2012 on 1.5 acres. Today, as owner of JSM Organics, he farms over 200 acres on California's Central Coast, 120 acres of which are part of a conservation easement through a partnership with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. He sits on the Boards of ALBA, Ecological Farming Association, Pajaro Valley Water Management

Agency, and the USDA National Organic Standard Board (NOSB) and is a member of USDA's Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Javier Zamora, local organic farmer and leading voice in the organic community, will share his experiences, challenges, and perspectives. <a href="https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/">https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/</a>



center for agroecology speaker series





#### Rhododendron Garden Tour

On Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 1 PM the De Anza Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will feature a tour of the Monte Toyon Rhododendron Garden of Maurie and Fran Sumner, that is located at the Monte Toyon Camp and Conference Center, 220 Cloister Lane, Aptos. From the parking lot located in the area of 36°59'46.7"N 121°53'51.5"W, please walk up the trail to the Observation Platform of the Rhododendron Garden, which is located at the top of the hill. The tour will be led by Mike McCullough, who knew the Sumners from 1975 on. The Sumners lived in San Francisco, but in order to test and display their hybrids such as the Maddenii Series rhododendrons My Lady, My Guy, Mi Amor, Saffron Prince, Martha Wright and Owen Pierce; and to grow other rhododendrons, in the 1950s they established the three acre Monte Toyon Rhododendron Garden in Aptos. Information on the rhododendrons of Maurie and Fran Sumner can be found here Hopefully the early blooming Sumner Maddenii Series hybrids My Lady, Fran Sumner, Saffron Prince, Martha Wright, and Owen Pierce, shall be in bloom; as well as rhododendrons such as the Maddenii Series species Rhododendron cubittii, the Maddenii series hybrid Else Frye and several Grande Series rhododendrons, such as Rhododendron grande, Rhododendron macabeanum, and Rhododendron magnificum. Grande series species are noted for their large leaves and would be good to grow just for their foliage alone. pukeiti.gardenexplorer.org/taxon-5599.aspx Some of the Grande series and other species were grown from seed from England and other areas. Maddenii Series rhododendrons are ideal for our climate, make good container plants, and many have fragrant flowers. The Maddenii Series hybrids by Maurie and Fran Sumner are in the nursery trade. These, and other maddenies, should be available at nurseries. Maddenies and vireyas are perfect for the small patio garden, and container gardens. There is no charge for admission. Mike McCullough is a charter member of the De Anza Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, was a longtime associate member of the Monterey Bay Chapter, and has been growing

rhododendrons for many years. Information on the De Anza Chapter, and the rest of the American Rhododendron Society can be found at: <a href="http://deanza-ars.com/https://www.rhododendron.org/membership.htm">http://deanza-ars.com/https://www.rhododendron.org/membership.htm</a> If you would like to see superb rhododendrons, please join the tour of the rhododendron garden that was created by Maurie and Fran Sumner.





California native plant gardeners are well acquainted with the "Fall is for planting" mantra, giving new plants two seasons (winter and spring) to put down deep root systems before they need to weather hot summer days making them more resilient. That said, if there was ever a spring where you could get away with planting late and still reap most of the benefits of fall planting, it's this one!

Take advantage of our heavy rain year by shopping at our chapter's Spring Plant Sale which will feature well over one hundred species of native plants, many of which are new offerings for our chapter. Of particular interest will be a significantly expanded line-up of spring flowering annual wildflowers which provide instant garden color and diversity for pollinators. Many of these annuals are from locally sourced seed which means they were grown from seed collected from local lands around Santa Cruz County (with landowner permission, of course).

Because of our relatively cool spring, however, the plants are a bit smaller than in past years. Ready to put in the ground and thrive. The sale will also offer a wider selection of spring flowering bulbs (Allium, Brodiaea, Dichelostemma, and Triteleia sp.) and both cool and warm season grasses (Anthoxanthum, Aristida, Bouteloua, Festuca, Koeleria, Muhlenbergia sp. and more) which bring beauty and texture into any garden space.

The chapter received a generous donation of Dudleya, including highly sought after hybrids. A selection of these plants will be available at the sale with more to

come in fall as the seedlings mature.

The sale plant list which will be posted one week prior to the sale date. <a href="https://cruzcnps.org/plant-sales/">https://cruzcnps.org/plant-sales/</a>



#### SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 29, 10am-3pm & Sunday, April 30, 10am-1pm at the Hay Barn at UC Santa Cruz

Planning your spring garden? Support your campus farm by shopping at the Center for Agroecology's annual Spring Plant Sale, happening April 29 and 30, 2023 at the Hay Barn!



Our

high quality organic vegetable, flower, and herb seedlings are grown by staff, students, and volunteers in the UCSC Farm greenhouses. Plants for sale will include tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, cucumbers, greens, lettuces, squash, basil, eggplant, tomatillo, chois, collards, kale, chard, leeks, shallots, scallions, pumpkins, flowers, and more (plant list coming soon!)

Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden members gain early admission to the plant sale on April 29 (beginning at 9am) and receive 10% off all purchases with a current membership card. Become a member or renew your membership to receive these benefits. Students with a valid student ID receive 25% off all purchases.

We accept cash, check, and card as forms of payment. We encourage you to bring carrying containers for transporting your plants and we will have boxes available for this as well. Attendees should park in the Carriage House/Campus Facilities parking lot (Lot 116) and walk to the Hay Barn. There will be a limited number of accessible parking spaces in the Hay Barn parking lot. Accomodation requests can be directed to agroecology@ucsc.edu.



## ROSES ARE A CELEBRATION! STARTING RIGHT WITH ORGANIC ROSE GROWING

Saturday, April 22 9:00 a.m.—12 p.m. Alan Chadwick Garden 239 McLaughlin Dr., Santa Cruz

Roses, arguably the "Queen of Flowers," can be finicky, but persistence pays off! This class will be a lively, interactive demonstration/discussion on growing roses in the home garden. Appropriate whether you intend to grow one, 10, or 100 roses, for while scale matters, the basics are the same. Visualize yourself in your future spring/summer garden, picking and choosing color combinations from a pletho-

ra of blooms - it all starts now, in the dead of winter.

This hands-on workshop will cover:

- Site selection and soil improvement factors
- Selecting roses: types and varieties and their features, including David Austins, Hybrid teas, Floribundas, Grandifloras, and Rugosa
- Getting started in the garden: Soil prep and planting, post-planting care, and initial pruning

- The yearly care cycle: an almanac of rose care throughout the calendar year: what do and when to do it
- Irrigation
- Pruning
- Pests and diseases: strategies and troubleshooting
- Fertilizer overview and timing of applications
- DIY: propagating roses from cuttings

Led by our own experienced rose grower and organic gardening instructor Orin Martin, this workshop takes place in the historic Alan Chadwick Garden at UC Santa Cruz. Admission to the workshop includes a free copy of the 40 page Rose Primer - An Organic Approach to Rose Selection & Care by Orin Martin.

Pre-registration is required for this workshop. Email accommodation requests to agroecology.ucsc.edu.

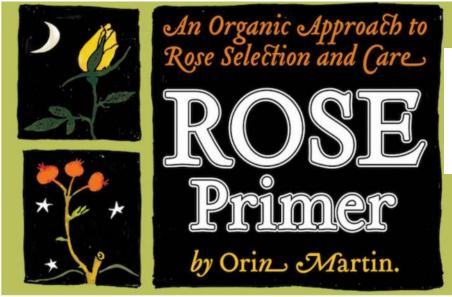
Presented by the Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden. Members receive a 10% discount on workshop cost. Learn more about becoming a member and sign up at https://agroecology.ucsc.edu/get-

https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/ roses are a celebration#.ZCWxsHbMLD4

involved/join-the-friends/index.html.



A primer is defined as "a book that covers the basic elements of a subject." In this primer, Alan Chadwick Garden manager Orin Martin discusses the basic steps involved in cultivating a healthy rose plant. Organic pest and disease control options are addressed, but the emphasis here is on selecting, establishing, and caring for your roses in a way that gives them the best chance to thrive in an organic setting — what Martin calls a "plant positive" approach.





### FREE DOWNLOAD!

Although not currently in print, you are welcome to download Martin's 40-page primer.

https://agroecology.ucsc.edu/documents/ rose\_primer.pdf Welcome to Rekha's Kitchen Garden: a North London allotment that is bursting with the very best seasonal produce all year round. With more than 30 years' experience as both an amateur and professional gardener, there is no better guide to home-grown produce than Rekha. Let her teach you the tricks and share the lessons she has learned from a lifetime of sowing, digging, and harvesting.



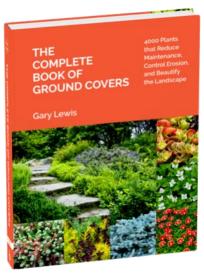
This isn't your average introduction to growing your own vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Packed with personality and stunning photography, this is a celebration of more than 40 seasonal crops that will inspire you to make the most of your allotment or kitchen garden. Dive straight in to discover:

- More than 40 profiles on different allotment crops, including vegetables, fruit, and herbs, with each one showcasing Rekha's personal experience and advice for achieving the best results.
- Profiles organized by harvest season, emphasizing the importance of seasonality.
- "Garden tips" offer advice and solutions that Rekha uses in her own allotment, while "Kitchen tips" reveal how Rekha makes the most of her harvest.
- "Planting partners" introduce readers to companion planting, while suggested varieties reveal the crops that Rekha recommends from her own experience.
- An introductory section at the start of the book sets out Rekha's ethos as an organic gardener, her approach to seasonality, general allotment tips and her favorite tools. The section also features a table highlighting some of the key tasks on the plot and in the greenhouse each month..
- All photography has been shot at Rekha's own allotment over the course of a full year, to emphasize her hands-on experience with growing every crop featured in the book and to reveal what can be achieved with a single plot.

About the Author: Rekha Mistry is a writer and kitchen gardener, named by Country Living Magazine as one to watch in 2021. After reaching the quarterfinal of the BBC's Big Allotment Challenge in 2015 and achieving the RHS Diploma in Horticulture a year later, she is now a regular columnist for BBC Gardeners' World Magazine and works as a gardener at the historic Inner Temple Garden. Her North London allotment appeared on Gardeners' World (BBC) and is showcased on her Instagram account, @Rekha.garden.kitchen, which has almost 80k

followers. AVAILABLE AT BOOKSHOP SANTA

CRUZ



."A magnum opus of ground covers that deserves a place in every gardener's library."

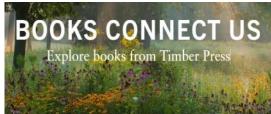
 Tony Avent, founder and owner Plant Delights Nursery

"High density planting is perhaps the ultimate groundcover – the 'less mulch, more plants' model – and Lewis picks up this baton and runs with it, moving beyond simple

traditional ideas of 'groundcover plants'. "— Marianne Willburn, Garden Rant

Ground covers are widely thought of as utilitarian—we turn to them when we have a problem that needs a solution. Yet these plants also offer a diverse range of beautiful and intriguing options with a variety of colors, textures, and forms. They can unify a landscape, knit together plantings and hardscape, and add extra layers of beauty, dynamism, and surprise. As a replacement for lawns, they can reduce our use of water, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, carbon-based fuels, and transform a yard into a diverse landscape of habitat and food for native insects, birds, and other wildlife.

In this meticulously researched reference, nurseryman Gary Lewis profiles more than 4000 ground covers that can perform these roles with aplomb. No matter what kinds of conditions you're facing—shade, dry soil, heavy clay, excess moisture—there's a ground cover that will thrive and beautify your garden. Comprehensive, practical, and copiously illustrated, this indispensable volume belongs on the shelf of every designer, land-scape architect, and serious gardener.



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Our Spring Sale ends soon and with it your chance to save  $20\%\,$ 

on everything, plus free shipping over \$45. Save on the full Timber Press collection, including 2022 bestsellers. Use Code: SPRINGSALE2023. SHOP NOW at <a href="https://www.timberpress.com/store/spring-sale-2023">https://www.timberpress.com/store/spring-sale-2023</a>



#### **NEW PRODUCT FROM RENEE'S GARDEN**



Photos from Our Trial Garden:







Editor's Note: Maybe I'll have a chance against white flies this year! \$49.95. For more info or to order, go to https://www.reneesgarden.com/ products/proteknet-insect-barrier -netting. Renee has quite a selection of new gardening tools, supplies and resources—explore!



#### A Real Breakthrough That Eliminates Using Pesticides!

Keep out harmful pests that damage leaves, lay destructive larvae or transmit diseases with this highly effective new barrier netting. Made in Canada of tough, finely knitted synthetic mesh, it totally prevents pest insects, birds, rabbits and deer from preying on your plants. Lightweight, UV resistant and easy to see through, ProtekNet floats over your plants, while allowing the normal flow of air, water and sunlight to pass through its ultrafine mesh holes.

ProtekNet is easy to install; use wire or tubing hoops to hold it comfortably above growing veggies so insects don't lay eggs on foliage, weight down the edges, and secure the perimeter. Remove from fruiting plants for pollination; leave on brassicas and greens until ready to harvest! After use, just remove and roll up to reuse each season.

This innovative mesh effectively protects plants from a long list of pests including: aphids, spider mites, leafhoppers, flea beetles, thrips, whiteflies, squash bugs, cucumber beetles, Japanese beetles, borers and many more. See complete list below.

Each package contains a 6.9 ft. x 32 ft. length of netting and weighs .74 oz. per sq. yd. Mesh is 0.35 mm x 0.35 mm with 93 % light transmission and 62% porosity.



#### **GARDENING AFTER A FLOOD**

If your garden suffered from flooding during last month's destructive storms, the UC MUCANR has tips to help save stressed or damaged plants, as well as for reconditioning your soil. <a href="https://">https://</a> mbmg.ucanr.edu/?blogpost=55961&blogasset=108057

Because it is difficult to determine whether flood waters carry contaminants without lab testing, the best and most cautious approach is to discard all produce that has been in contact with flood water, whether it was submerged or splashed by water or mud.

This publication <a href="https://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/files/259468.pdf">https://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/files/259468.pdf</a> specifically talks about best practices for gardening after a flood, including how to replace plants in soil that has been affected by flood and how long to wait before attempting to work the soil. .

Photo: Flooded backyard in Elk Grove, California. Credit: Erica Schroepfer.

#### BOARD NEWS

What would we do without our hard-working, steadfast Board of Directors? Thank you, all of you! The last meeting, with a wonderful potluck dinner and garden tour, was held at the home of Dena Gonsalves.





We are thrilled to announce that members Evelyn and George, who have been actively participating in the Board informally for many months, are now officially joining the Board as our Plant Table Ranglers. Yay!

Join us at the next Board Meeting on Monday, April 24th at 6pm. You don't have to be a member—join us for a potluck and a tour of Sim Gilbert's magnificent garden, at 3999 Glen Haven Rd, Soquel.



Contact: Joy Agcongay, mbmgjoy@gmail.com

#### Spring Garden Pests

When: Saturday, April 8, 10 am – noon Where: Quail Hollow Ranch, Felton Cost: Free. Donations appreciated.

Nothing is more frustrating than putting new spring seedlings in the ground and then finding them eaten or missing after a few days. What or who happened? Learn about the most voracious spring pests in our gardens - snails, slugs, earwigs, birds, and gophers.

UC Master Gardeners Delise Weir and Trink Praxel will take an Integrated Pest Management approach to this discussion. We will learn to identify the problem, then focus on natural control techniques that are minimally disruptive to our garden's ecosystem.

This class will include hands-on instruction on setting traps for gophers.

To register, go to mbmg.ucanr.edu

UC Master Gardeners of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties is an all-volunteer organization serving Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. Our mission is to empower people with knowledge and skills to grow food and garden sustainably, protecting California's natural resources. UC Master Gardener programs include a gardening advice line, a demonstration garden, events, low-cost classes and special projects. UC Master Gardeners of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties is a program of the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.

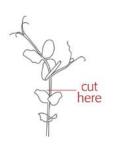
#### Plant Peas for Shoots

One of the first things we can do in early spring is sow peas, and the promise of seeing green sproots is alluring. The cere-



mony of sowing is seen by some as a spring ritual. You can soak your pea seeds overnight to speed emergence, although you don't have to. Within a few weeks, the seedlings' bright green foliage will appear, and you can enjoy pea shoots!

Pea shoots are edible and taste a lot like peas. Harvesting a few pea shoots won't harm the vines' growth, but actually encourages more branching, potentially producing more peas to harvest. When plants are a few inches tall, select 2"-4" shoots from the top of the plants and



pinch them off using your fingernails or scissors, leaving at least one set of true leaves on the plant (see illustration). Assuming you don't snack on them right in the garden, add them to a salad or use them as a garnish for dinner. Pea flowers are also edible. Harvest just a few at a time so I don't impact the pea yield. Usually, you will see two flowers coming from one leaf junction. By harvesting one of the pair, you are actually making the remaining flower generate a larger pea than it otherwise would have.



This article was adapted from Botanical Seeds. They have quite an assortment of pea seeds available, including one specifically for growing baby green pea shoots. <a href="https://www.botanicalinterests.com/category/Peas">https://www.botanicalinterests.com/category/Peas</a>.



https://www.sewdaily.com/product/garden-sewing-pattern-collection/



## Regenerative Soil Techniques for the Home Gardener

4/29/2023 10am-12pm

Register here -----> https://mbmg.ucanr.edu/

Monterey Bay/Santa Cruz County Master Gardeners invite our local community to join us in our Watsonville Demonstration Garden to learn regenerative soil techniques that you can add to your gardening bag of tricks. Growing healthy soil helps the home gardener grow vibrant veggies and herbs, bountiful fruit trees and gorgeous flowers. We will demonstrate proven techniques such as cover cropping, vermicompost, lasagna beds, straw bale growing and soil testing. We're looking forward to meeting you in our lovely garden!

The garden is located adjacent to the UC Cooperative Extension of Santa Cruz County building at 1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite E, Watsonville.

# Get Ready - Spring Plant Sale & Swap is Coming!

Our always stupendous plant sale and swap is coming in May! As soon as your gardens dry out enough, make time to divide plants, bulbs, & tubers, dig up plants you no longer want or have too many of, sort books, seeds, garden décor, tools, pots, trellises, etc. Everything will be bargain priced, and you get credits for the things you bring! Bring friends, too—new members welcome!



#### www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

Our front page logo iis graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop

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

It's easy-peasy to join our club!

#### www.thegardenersclub.org

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The Gardeners' club