

The Gardeners' Club

November 2010



Chaos & Order

Thursday, Nov. 11th, 7:00 p.m.
Aptos Grange, 255 Mar Vista Dr.



LISE

Come and enjoy a provocative, humorous and informative presentation on chaos and order in our gardens. Join a rousing discussion about the role of order and what exactly defines chaos, and how different personalities, tolerance-levels and aesthetic styles guide our gardens toward structure or anarchy. Nancy Andreasen



NANCY

and Lise Bixler will share photographs of their gardens and those of others, exploring and illustrating a non-conclusive debate on the relative values of chaos and order in our gardens. We'll touch lightly on philosophy, history and how meaning is created in and by gardens.

Nancy and Lise, who both live in Bonny Doon, have known each other for many years, both as colleagues in the field of Early Childhood Education and as friends and neighbors. Nancy retired from an illustrious career at Cabrillo College and tends a garden on 13 acres. She has been a serious gardener for many years. Her garden design was inspired early on by formal English gardens and influenced by the preeminent gardeners of the time such as the British landscape designer Russell Page and Vita Sackville-West, creator of the world-famous grand Sissinghurst garden in England. She loves classic roses and is inspired by poetry. Lise has always admired Nancy's garden as one of grace and order.

In contrast, when asked to describe her gardening and gardening style, Lise has always answered, "Chaos". She only seriously started gardening on her acre of land 8 years ago when she retired from UCSC. She doesn't garden from design, but from whim and opportunity (free plants, found objects, etc.). She is messy by nature and her garden shows this. Yet she finds chaos to be the source of enormous creativity, and does little to resist it. She gardens by color. When she is not thinking about chaos theory, she dabbles in welding sculptures, birding and butterflying. She, too, loves roses.

Nancy and Lise have jostled and joked about chaos vs. order for years, and recently revisited the issue with a more thoughtful and contemplative approach. Whether you lean toward a well-ordered garden or one of wild abandon, come join us for a lively evening! An annotated bibliography will be yours to take home.

Refreshments will be served. Thanks to Dyan Welch for bringing dessert, Carol Reiber for snack and Pat McVeigh for juice.



GROWING GOOD KIDS 2010 BOOK AWARDS

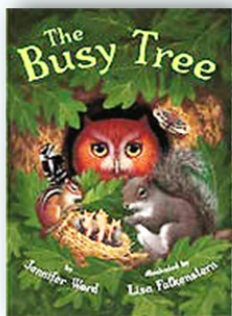
Created by the American Horticultural Society and the Junior Master Gardener program, the "Growing Good Kids – Excellence in Children's Literature" award program honors outstanding children's gardening and nature books. Each year, this award recognizes a select group of children's books that are especially effective at promoting an understanding of, and appreciation for, gardening and the environment.

Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie, by Robin Gourley.

With lyrical text and glorious watercolor illustrations, this very special book traces the childhood roots of Edna Lewis and her appreciation for the bounties of nature. The story follows Edna from early spring through the growing season to a family dinner celebrating a successful harvest. Edna and her family lived by the seasons, growing and harvesting nature's gifts. When she grew up she moved to New York City where she became a famous chef. An award-winning pioneer in her own right, Edna never forgot the lessons she learned as a child. Ages 8-12.



The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward



Spectacular illustrations rendered in oil paint, and a rhyming text that describes a tree's activities from its roots to its branches, introduce young readers to the amazing activities that go on in a tree. Acorns nibbled by chipmunks, ants scurrying across A trunk, a spider spinning a web, leaves "breathing out air for all to breathe in"- everything

adds up to a "busy tree" for all to "come and see." Ages 4-12.

News : The Gardeners' Club is making a donation of \$200 to the Santa Cruz Public Library to purchase gardening books like these and other.

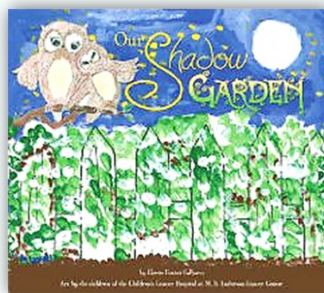
The Curious Garden by Peter Brown



One boy's quest for a greener world... one garden at a time. While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world. This is an enchanting tale with environmental themes and breathtaking illustrations that become

more vibrant as the garden blooms. Red-headed Liam can also be spotted on every page, adding a clever seek-and-find element to this captivating picture book. Ages 4-12.

Our Shadow Garden by Cherie Foster Colburn



This is the story of a beloved grandmother who becomes sick. The illness prevents her from being out in the sun where she loves to garden. Her husband and her grandchild try hard to make her feel better; they send her cards and fresh flowers, but nothing makes her

happy. Together they come up with a plan to transform her garden into a night blooming oasis, a place where she can be with the plants that bring her so much joy. This is the story of a family enchanted by the healing power of the night garden, a true gift of love. Most pages include a sidebar that has information about planning a garden, choosing plants, night insects, nocturnal animals and the health benefits of gardens. Our Shadow Garden is unique. This story is from landscape gardener Cherie Foster Colburn and it's her gift to children at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's Children's Art Project. She helped teach the children, all patients at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, about the plants, animals, and insects of this night-blooming garden and they in return created all of the illustrations found in this story. Ages 8-12.

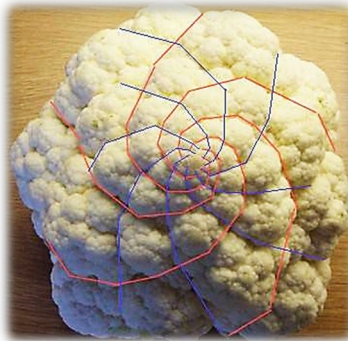
Fractal Food



This month let's consider the cauliflower, to honor Benoit Mandelbrot, the visionary mathematician who died last month. Mandelbrot developed the theory of fractals as a way to understand the infinite

complexity of the universe. Fractal forms—complex shapes which look more or less the same at a wide variety of scale factors, are everywhere in nature. Mandelbrot explained his theories by describing how patterns in cauliflower become apparent when you cut a head into pieces. "If you cut one of the florets of a cauliflower, you see the whole cauliflower but smaller. Then you cut again, again, again, and you still get small cauliflowers. So, there are some shapes which have this peculiar property, where each part is like the whole, but smaller". Ferns, trees, snowflakes and crystals are other examples of fractals in nature.

Here is a picture of an ordinary cauliflower. It is almost a pentagon in outline. Look at the center point, where the florets are smallest. The florets are organized in spirals around the center in both directions.



Perhaps you've come across "Romanesco", a variant form of cauliflower that is the ultimate fractal vegetable. Its pattern is a natural representation of the golden spiral, a logarithmic spiral where every quarter turn is

farther from the origin by a consistent factor. You find the golden spiral manifested in nature every where—in the spiraling bracts of pinecones, the development of the nautilus shell, the path a fly follows as it approaches an object, the head of a sunflower tightly packed with a spiral of ripening seeds.

If you are interested in exploring the topic of fractal geometry more, visit "Fractal Food Self-Similarity on the Supermarket Shelf" by John Walker at <http://www.fourmilab.ch/images/Romanesco/>, or read Mandelbrot's [*The Fractal Geometry of Nature*](#) or Rudy Rucker's [*The Lifebox, the Seashell, and the Soul*](#). If you are done with this topic and would rather consider a culinary possibility for cauliflower, read on.



When we grow cauliflower, many times we end up with a small head surrounded by enormous leaves. What a shame to strip off the leaves and toss them in the compost pile! They are delicious and nutritious. There are many recipes for them in Indian cuisine. But here is a very basic, easy way to prepare them:

Strip off the leaves, wash them, and chop them up. Take an onion and chop or mince it. Sauté the onions in oil until soft, then add the chopped ribs and leaves. Keep cooking until the greens are tender. If you wish, you can garnish this with salt and red pepper flakes. This recipe and many more can be found at the web site of Mariquita Farm, a small family farm located near Watsonville (<http://www.mariquita.com/>).



Gardening In (or at least With) the Rain

by John Black

These light, intermittent rains that have been passing through the Bay Area are just what we need for Fall planting. Especially with our infamous clay soils, just this little bit of moisture loosens things up just enough that the nutrient-rich clay particles don't shatter when we dig into them; yet the soil's not so waterlogged that the clay gets compressed and compacted by our work.

This is an ideal time of year to add organic matter (the best "clay buster there is!), whose nutrients and microbes will leach a little deeper into the subsoil with every rain. It's also the best time to get new plants into the ground (particularly California natives), who will use our long, mild winter to develop a robust root system. If you succeed on both counts, your spring garden will be amazingly healthy — and amazing to behold.

A Blog to Read When You Aren't Gardening

Visit **A Verdant Life—Musings on Garden and Landscape Design, Gardening, Urban Planning, Man, Nature, Human Nature, and Basically Life as We Know It** (<http://verdancedesign.blogspot.com/>). John Black of Verdance Fine Garden Design writes it, and it is full of information, wisdom and humor. For example: "As a living system, the garden is one big experiment, and it will evolve regardless of how much or how little we're involved. Our landscape is "ours" for a relatively fleeting moment in time. So why not make the most of our short visit? Go ahead, wield your hand — try colors, combinations, specimens, and

features that truly delight you. The worst that can happen, really, is that others might think your garden dramatic, eccentric, or even downright rude. Can you imagine?"



When Should I Fertilize My Newly Planted Shrubs? Advice from Proven Winners ColorChoice

There is no need to fertilize your shrubs right away. The container soil mix your plants are sold in typically has enough fertilizer to get shrubs through the first year. Wait until the following spring to provide fertilizer.

When it comes time, it's always a good idea to have your soil nutrients tested by your state Cooperative Extension office before applying fertilizers. This simple test will tell you what nutrients your soil is lacking.

In general, a balanced, slow-release, granular fertilizer (organic) is a good choice for an annual feeding in early spring before the leaves emerge.

There is no need to fertilize a plant once it reaches the desired size, unless it shows signs of malnutrition: yellow leaves, or thin, open branching.

Leaf Mold



The British have a great enthusiasm for "leaf mold" in the garden, but American gardeners are less familiar with it. Leaf mold is the brownish-black residue of leaves after water and time have worked on them. It's soft, crumbly, and the individual leaves aren't recognizable. It smells nice and woodsy. It's pure composted leaves. Leaf mold has to be home-made, because you can't buy it.

Because the leaves contain very little nitrogen, and mostly carbon, when they fall, they break down rather slowly. You could create leaf mold by making a big pile of leaves, wetting it thoroughly, and covering the pile. After 6 to 12 months, the bottom of the pile will be useable leaf mold. Another easy way is to just bag them. Put the leaves in a garbage bag, add a little water and store them. Makes sure there are a few air holes in the bags and if they dry out you might need to add moisture at some point, so just wet them with the hose. It takes about six months for good leaf mold to form.

The benefits of using leaf mold in a garden are similar to the benefits of compost. Leaf mold will help drainage, help soil hold water, and will improve soil structure. And it makes an excellent mulch.





ROSE Pruning Class

Alladin Nursery

Saturday, November 20th—10 a.m.

This class is free, and will be taught by members of the Monterey Bay Rose. It's the perfect time to come and ask any questions you may have about roses. The nursery is at 2905 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville, (831) 724-5785.

November is a liminal month; it straddles fall & winter. Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 7th.

First Glenwood House Workday

by Monica Pieage

Our first workday at the Glenwood House Garden was very successful despite a small group and heavy rain for the second hour. Sim, Mary Balion and I were so lucky to have the help of Sim's son and brother. We could not have done it without them! Together they moved one of the large decorative boulders allowing us to create a more graceful grouping that we then interplanted with grasses. Along the fence we planted two honeysuckles, a Louis Saso Salvia from Cherry's garden, two Leptospernums from Sim, and two Cape Honey Honeysuckles from Marie Beckham. In front we planted a Sugar Plum Geranium, and quite a few plants

from the plant table.

When the rain started we Californians kept glancing skyward with confusion and some dismay. But Sim's brother from Alaska just kept his head down, not even appearing to notice and worked on as our champion hole digger. Residents came out several times to offer their thanks. We took a break and the Director, Jody, provided us with bagels, cream cheese, juice and home-made cookies to fortify us. Then we went back into rain and managed to get all the plants into the ground leaving satisfied though fairly wet and muddy.

The directors of Glenwood House were very pleased and appreciative. Many thanks to our sponsors: Laurencin Personal Physicians and Lifespan Care Management Agency. The club donated \$50.00 as well towards plants!

Board Meeting

The November meeting will be Monday, November 22th, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Debbie Kindle, 3320 Putter Drive, Soquel. Everyone is welcome—you don't have to be a Board member to attend.

More classes & Workshops

Lots happening this month! DIG gardens has many offerings: Nov. 6th, Making & Canning Holiday Gifts, \$30 per person; Nov. 7th, Rainwater Harvesting, \$25 per household; Nov. 7th, Living Gifts: Forcing Amaryllis Bulbs, \$10; Nov. 14th, Living Gifts: Forcing Paperwhites, \$10; Nov. 21st, Floral Design Workshop: Creating Thanksgiving Centerpieces, \$40. Reservations are required for some classes; call 466-3444. Go to www.diggardens.com for times and complete workshop descriptions.

On Nov. 6th, you can attend a Dried Wreath Workshop (\$30) at The Garden Company Nursery and Gift Shop is. You'll learn how to make your own wreath using dried flowers and foliage. They provide all the tools, materials and training needed to create a lasting, finished wreath. Choose from two sessions limited to 10 people each (10 am-noon or 2-4 pm Space is limited so reserve in advance. Call 429-8424 or visit www.thegardenco.com/.

White Elephant On Its Way



This is a reminder to set aside your treasures for our annual Holiday Party and White Elephant Sale next month. This annual event is crazy fun—who knows what you'll find? More information coming in the December newsletter.

AU REVOIR, Tomatoes

It's hard to describe this year's tomato season. Uneven is the word that comes to mind: a prolonged cold spell early summer, everything getting off to a slow start, then some weeks of scorching hot days. Some of us are still getting tomatoes, but it won't be long before the first frost hits, and everything will turn to mush.

That's why I was pleased to get a helpful e-mail post from Fine Gardening on what to do with our partly-ripe and green tomatoes (<http://www.vegetablegardener.com/item/9899/its-delicious-being-green>). Contributor Jodi Torpey suggests picking all the remaining tomatoes that won't have time to ripen on the vine. Then she sorts the tomatoes according to size and color. Mature green tomatoes, those that are a good size and have started to change color to a light white or pink, will eventually ripen. You can wrap them individually in newspaper and keep them in a cool, dark place. Check their progress every few days until you get a bright red tomato.

For the green-green tomatoes, cut the large ones into quarters, put in a roasting pan, drizzle with olive oil and slow roast. Refrigerate this and use as a condiment or the basis for curry-type dishes. Smaller green tomatoes can be washed, cored, and diced for freezing in convenient two-cup packets. These can be tossed or blended into vegetable soup, sautéed and added to omelets or other egg recipes, simmered into stews or baked into other dishes. There are hundreds of recipes online that you can try.

If the long wait 'til next year's tomatoes makes you melancholy, you can cheer yourself up by repurposing your tomato cages for the winter months. You can festoon them with grape and honeysuckle vines, add lights and dried hydrangeas and whatever else inspires you. You can use them as scaffolds for evergreen branches. You can cover them with old cut-up sweaters and lights; or with fabric to make deck lamps or indoor lampshades. Make a chandelier. Here are a few photos that may give you ideas.



<http://familyfun.go.com/christmas/christmas-cards/christmas-card-displays/cagey-conifer-792522/>



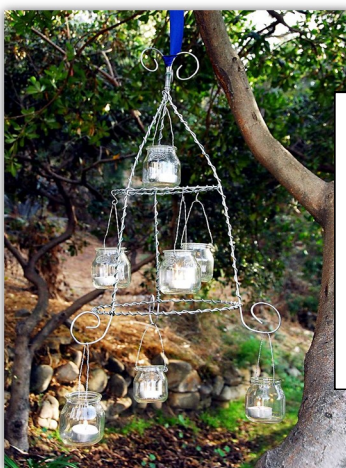
Just ribbon & a cage.



Fancy-shmancy tree, quite elegant, by Christa Elyce (www.iamappelles-christa.com/2010/09/super-saturday-project-tomato-cage-tree.html)



Tomato cage densely planted with ornaments and other objects.



<http://markmontano.typepad.com/mark-montano/2010/10/tomato-cage-chandelier.html>

The Arboretum at UCSC



Dried Flower and Succulent Wreath Sale November 20 & 21

Wonderful holiday decorations and gifts will be available from the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum at the annual Dried Flower and Succulent Wreath Sale on Saturday and Sunday, November 20th and 21st. Exotic dried flower arrangements, living succulent wreaths, rare and unusual succulent plants, and materials for making your own gifts are among the offerings at this year's sale.

Sale hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. The sale will be held at the Horticulture Building in the Arboretum, located on High Street (Empire Grade) between the two entrances to the UCSC campus.

Many different kinds of wreaths will be available, some featuring featherlike and conelike flower parts from plants in the protea family and others made of colorful dried perennials and herbs. The Arboretum's extensive collections of South African and Australian plants provide a variety of unusual dried plant materials for use in wreaths and arrangements. There will be living wreaths planted with succulents that will last three to four years. Dish gardens, landscaping plants, cacti, and gift books round out the selections.

The Dried Flower and Succulent Wreath Sale is an all-volunteer effort featuring materials grown at the Arboretum or donated by volunteers. All proceeds benefit the Arboretum, which, as you know, needs our help more than ever! For more information, call (831) 427-2998. For more calendar items visit arboretum.ucsc.edu/.

Ecology and Conservation of Maritime Chaparral in the Central West Region of California,

A Talk by Mike Vasey

Monday, November 15, 6:00pm potluck,

7:00pm Arboretum Horticulture Building

This is the first talk in the Conservation and Horticulture of Central Coast Native Plants Lecture Series. Mike Vasey has taught conservation biology at San Francisco State University for many years and during that time he collaborated with Tom Parker and Jon Keeley in studies involving the ecology and systematic biology of *Arctostaphylos* (manzanitas). This knowledge of manzanitas in-part motivated Mike to focus research on the ecology and conservation of maritime chaparral along California's central coast where *Arctostaphylos* reaches its highest level of diversity. This research has served as the centerpiece of his PhD dissertation project in the Environmental Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz. Mike will share some of the insights he has gained regarding this topic. Arboretum Director, Brett Hall, will also talk about growing manzanitas on this same evening.

Manzanita the tips in fruit,
Clusters of hard green berries
The longer you look
The bigger they seem,

'little apples'

Succulent Wreath Making Volunteers Needed

New volunteers are sought to join this ongoing group. Succulent wreaths are made by volunteers and sold through Norrie's and the annual Wreath Sale in November, providing much needed support to the



Arboretum. Learn how to make these lovely living creations. Most Wednesdays 10am-noon, but call to confirm instruction will be available, 427-2998.

Garden Attention Distraction Syndrome -

Do You Have It?

by Carol Michel

Note from the Editor: We first shared this in 2008. Since for many of us GADS seems to be getting worse, we thought we'd revisit it. Carol gardens gardens in Indiana. When she remembers to do so, she sows her thoughts and opinions on her blog, May Dreams Gardens (<http://maydreamsgardens.blogspot.com>).



There are no cures that I know of but here are some suggestions to maintain focus in the garden.

Set aside time for puttering in your garden. Flit about from task to task and do whatever you think needs to be done, but don't start any big projects. Yes, basically you are setting aside time to just enjoy a full-fledged GADS attack on your garden. Enjoy it! Set no expectations, just go for it.

Garden Attention Distraction Syndrome (GADS) is a common affliction amongst gardeners. Whenever I post about it, I get a few comments from others saying they have it, too.

You might have GADS if you've ever gone out into your garden to do one thing, maybe something simple like dump a basket of plant trimmings into the compost bin, and you see something that needs attention, like a big weed that needs to be pulled, and you think, "Gads, I need to pull that weed."

Then you pull that weed and see something else to be done, like maybe there are some zinnias that call out to be cut to be brought inside. "Gads, those are so pretty." So you go get your pruners and cut the zinnias and bring them inside and find a vase for them. Then you see out of the corner of your eye that the house plants need some water. "Gads, I had better water those house plants."

house plants and some of the water gets on the floor. That leads you to decide to go ahead and clean up the entire floor. By then it is night time and there isn't enough day light to go back out to the garden to do what you had started to do in the first place.

The next day you go outside and you see that the bushel basket of trimmings you were going to take out to the compost bin yesterday is still sitting right next to where you pulled that big weed. You think, "Gads, I need to dump that in the compost bin."

You've come full circle through an attack of GADS.

I assure you that you can have attacks of GADS even in the winter when all your gardening is indoors. How do I know? See that picture above of the plastic tub of trimmings from the day I repotted the aloe plants? Let's just say it took a few days for me to get back to it and take it out to the compost bin.

Cures?

Likewise, set aside time for the big projects in your garden. Put on the blinders and focus in on finishing the project. Easier said than done, but with some practice, you can do it.

Always take your pruners with you when you go out in the garden, or have them nearby in your sunroom in the winter time. This way, if you see something that needs to be snipped or cut back, you can do it right away. You won't have to go back for your pruners and encounter three or four other distractions on your path to and from wherever your pruners are. It helps to have a holster to keep your pruners at your side.

Put tools away when you are done with them. If you don't know where "home" is for the pruners, for example, you can spend a lot of time on negative GADS activities, like looking for them. "Gads, where did I put those pruners?" And while you are looking for whatever tool you need, you'll encounter numerous other distractions to feed your GADS.

You find your watering can, fill it with water, water the plants. Carry around a little notebook and pencil with you when you are in the garden and write down new "gads, I need to do that" tasks when you think of them and then do them later. No, fellow garden bloggers and family members, I do not do this! This is for really obsessive compulsive people, who, come to think of it, probably don't have GADS to begin with anyway.

But even if you don't carry a little notebook into the garden with you, if you have an extreme case of GADS, you might find it useful to make a list of what you want to do before you go out into the garden. Then when you get distracted, and you know you will, you can refer back to the list to remind yourself about what you should have been doing in the first place.

My favorite way to overcome GADS? I don't try to fight it anymore. I just go with the flow of GADS, and see where it leads me. Try it. It's kind of fun to see where you end up!

The Gardeners' Club Membership

This is an early reminder for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$12.00. The membership year is January 1—December 31, 2011. (If you aren't a member yet and you join this month, we'll toss in November and December of this year at no charge!)

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.



'When gardeners garden, it is not the plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves.—Ken Druse

Come grow with us!

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. Renew your membership now so you won't miss a thing...you'll be glad you did.

And...with gift-giving season fast approaching, 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! Lovely cards announcing your gift will be available at the November and December meetings, or upon request.

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

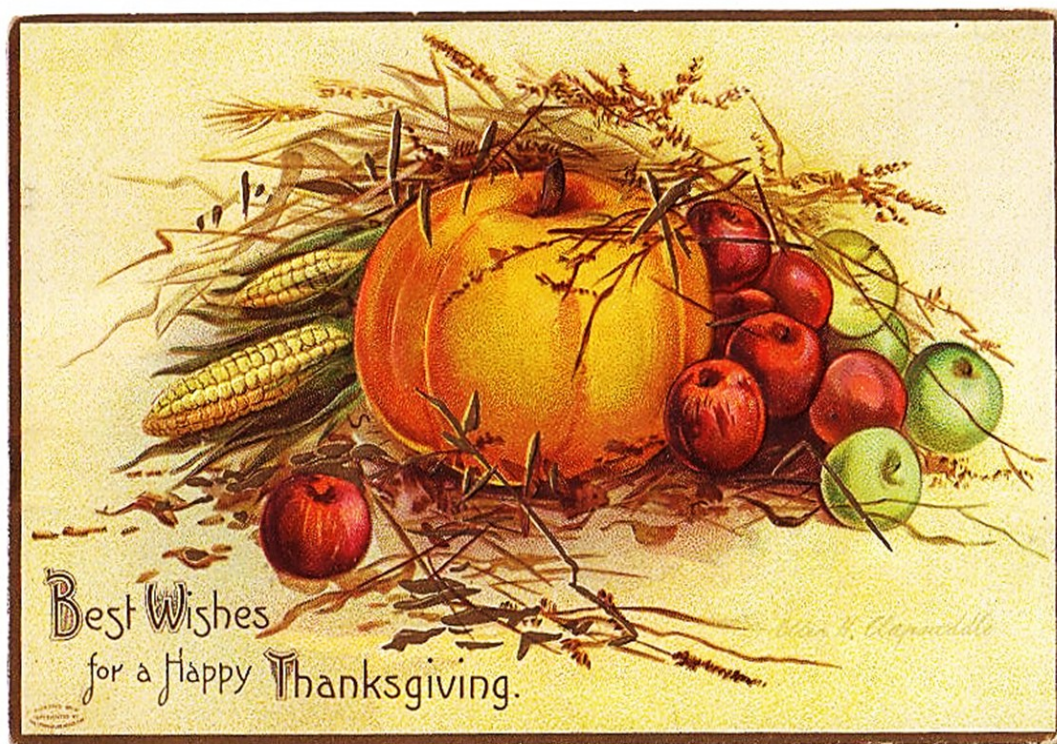
Enclose check for \$12 per member made out to *The Gardeners' Club*. Mail to The Gardeners' Club c/o Skyles, 270 Hames Road, #50, Corralitos, CA 95076.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.

It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

—Melody Beattie



The Gardeners' Club

270 Hames Road, #50, Corralitos, CA 95076

President

Cherry Thompson, 475-0991
cherrylea@comcast.net

Vice President

Patty Connole, 335-4134
pattyconnolerltr@aol.com

Secretary

April Barclay, 688-7656
AABarclay@aol.com

Treasurer

Sim Gilbert, 475-8162
simgilbert@baymoon.com

Membership

Kerry Skyles, 728-5076
KerrySkyblue@cruzio.com

Hospitality

Debbie Kindle, 462-6296
poppy-54@live.com

Newsletter Writer/Editor

Lise Bixler, 457-2089
lisebixler@sbcglobal.net

Members-at-Large

Bill Patterson, 479-3729
wilderwill@comcast.net
Pat McVeigh, 475-9357
pmcveigh@baymoon.com

Plant Table

Ilene Wilson, 724-4609
grywilson@aol.com
2nd position—vacant
3rd position - vacant

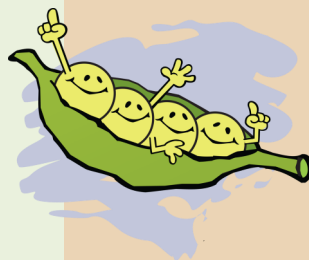
Refreshments

Joanna Hall, 662-8821
jhavelock@sbcglobal.net

PSAs/Glenwood

Monica Pielage, 460-0215
mpielage@yahoo.com

www.thegardenersclub.org



It's easy-peasy to join our club!

Dues are \$12 per calendar year. Make check to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to 270 Hames Road, #50, Corralitos, CA 95076. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Aptos Grange Hall, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos.

Printed on 100% recycled paper

