

The Gardeners' Club

JUNE 2011—Part I *

Protea Possibilities!



If you shop at the Cabrillo Farmers' Market, no doubt you have noticed the glorious protea booth of our June speaker, Michael Astone. His magnificent cut blooms, potted plants, bouquets, arrangements and wreaths come from the Aptos farm that he and his wife Bettina operate. They have been growing a large variety of proteas and other exotic plants from South Africa and Australia since 1981. They are a "dry farmed" flower producer; their plants are only watered the first two summers after planting. They use organic methods, and no fertilizer or mulch.

Michael will tell us the story of how he came to grow his impressive variety of splendid proteas, give us a show-and-tell of his favorite types and give us tips on how we can successfully grow proteas and their kin (Banksia, Leucadendron, Leucospermum and other hardy, drought-tolerant plants) on our own.

"Don't pamper protea", says Mike – just what we want to hear!

He'll also bring a variety of things for sale. You won't want to miss this exciting meeting. For more information about Astone's Proteas, go to http://web.me.com/arabidsquid/Astones_Protea/Astones_Protea.html.

June Meeting—Thursday, June 9th—7:00 p.m.

Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Drive

Thanks to Jan Shaw for snack, Betsey Farkas for juice
and Nancy Wameling for dessert.

*Note from the Editor: Due to delays caused by attending to family eldercare matters, and an unusually large bounty of events and news to tell you about, the June newsletter will be in two parts. Here is Part I; Part II will arrive a week or so later... I hope! -LB

CABRILLO COLLEGE HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT
MONTEREY BAY MASTER GARDENERS

PRESENT

HOME GARDENING BOOT CAMP

*A day of basic and advanced gardening classes taught
by expert horticultural instructors*



Keynote Speaker:

CYNTHIA SANDBERG, FARMER & EDUCATOR
LOVE APPLE FARM



These boots were made for plantin'...

- Landscape design
- Organic gardening practices
- Integrated pest management
- Biology of healthy, productive soil
- Garden tree care and pruning
- Bees and chickens in the urban garden
- Discover plants that attract beneficial insects
- Aquaponics...and more
- Garden raffle

CABRILLO COLLEGE HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

6500 SOQUEL DRIVE, APTOS

SATURDAY JUNE 25, 2011

8:30 AM TO 5 PM

\$35



CLASS SPACE IS LIMITED. PURCHASE YOUR TICKET NOW!

GARDEN FRESH BOXED LUNCH AVAILABLE WITH ADVANCE PURCHASE

☞ No tickets will be sold at the event.

☞ Parking on lower campus only. Shuttle available to Horticulture Department.

☞ To register and purchase lunch, go to www.montereybaymastergardeners.org

☞ Questions? Call 831.427.2255.



COLE CANYON
FARM



Sunday, June 12th
10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Are you interested in creating an attractive drought tolerant and wildlife friendly garden? Celebrate California's natural beauty by going on Santa Cruz County's 1st Annual California Native Garden Tour. This is a free, self-guided tour of public and private gardens that feature stunning native and drought tolerant plants. The tour will feature a variety of gardens, from backyard habitats to two acre rural landscapes. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about plant selection and care with the goal of lowering water bills and creating environmentally friendly gardens. You won't have to travel far, as all gardens are located within Santa Cruz County. Visit as many or few gardens as you like. There will be native plant sales and informative talks on gardening native plants at select locations.

What's so special about California native plants? They are adapted to our soil and climate and are easy to care for. Many of our native plants are water-wise and drought tolerant. They support a myriad of wildlife including native birds, bees, and butterflies. And, as you will see, California native plants are beautiful. Their dynamic forms and textures provide a sense of place that is uniquely Californian. Admission to the California Native Garden Tour is free, but registration is required. Space is limited, so register prior to June 10th at www.californianativegardentour.org to ensure your place.

The GARDEN FAIRE



9:00 to 5:00, June 25th
 Skypark, 261 Kings Village Rd., Scotts Valley

"CELEBRATING DIVERSITY"

The theme of the sixth annual Garden Faire, hosted by the California Native Garden Foundation, acknowledges how fortunate we are to be gardeners in a place and time that abounds with healthful fruits and vegetables, and refreshes our spirits with beauty in the garden. The Garden Faire will again be a free admission, educational event under clusters of canopies on Skypark's grassy fields. New this year is a free Gardeners' Exchange! Bring something, then exchange what you bring for something you want to take home. Stop by a few times to see what's come in. There will be plants of all kinds (from cuttings to full size), books, garden and pond supplies, pots and tools, garden accents, etc.

Of course, you'll also have the other great Garden Faire experiences you expect: speakers and expert demonstrations on aspects of sustainable gardening;; ecology modules on rainwater, graywater, bio-diversity and native plants; vendors of garden plants and garden-related goods and services; informative and educational exhibits by local groups; vendors of healthful food and entertainment to add to the festive atmosphere; activities for children and families.

All home gardeners are invited to join this celebration of sustainable gardening and landscaping. For more information please send an email to thegardenfaire@rocketmail.com.

Tips for Growing Summer Squash



To make watering easier, sink a pot in the ground at planting time and sow the squash seeds around the outside of the pot. When you fill the pot with water, it drains out the holes in the bottom, immediately reaching the roots of the plants. Plant a cover crop of hairy vetch around the hills to discourage weeds and feed the soil. For more about this technique read "How to Grow Superb Summer Squash", [Kitchen Gardener Magazine](http://KitchenGardenerMagazine.com) at www.vegetablegardener.com.

National Pollinator Week



June 20-26, 2011

Five years ago the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of the final week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown to be an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles. Pollinator Week is a week to get the importance of pollinators' message out to as many people as possible.

Here are some suggestions for what we gardeners can do:

- Use a wide variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall. Help pollinators find and use them by planting in clumps, rather than single plants. Include plants native to your region. Natives are adapted to your local climate, soil and native pollinators. Don't forget that night-blooming flowers will support moths and bats.
- Avoid modern hybrid flowers, especially those with "doubled" flowers. Often plant breeders have unwittingly left the pollen, nectar and fragrance out of these blossoms while creating the "perfect" blooms for us.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticides whenever possible. If you must use a pesticide, use the least-toxic material possible. Before purchasing, read labels carefully, since many pesticides are especially dangerous for bees. Spray at night when bees and other pollinators are not active.
- Include larval host plants in your landscape. If you want colorful butterflies, grow plants for their caterpillars. They WILL eat them, so place them where unsightly leaf damage can be tolerated. Accept that some host plants are less than ornamental if not outright weeds. A butterfly guide will help you determine

the plants you need to include.

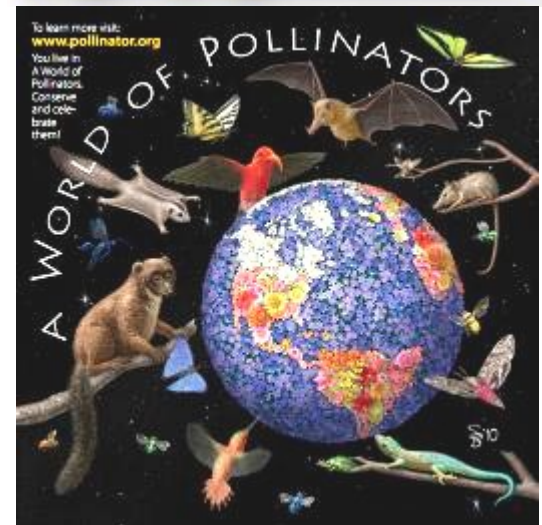
- Spare that limb! By leaving dead trees, or an occasional dead limb, you provide essential nesting sites for native bees. Make sure these are not a safety hazard for people walking below. You can also build a "bee condo" by drilling holes of varying diameter about 3 to 5 inches deep in a piece of scrap lumber mounted to a post or under eaves with southern exposure.
- Add to nectar resources by providing a hummingbird feeder. To make artificial nectar, use 4 parts water to 1 part table sugar. Never use artificial sweeteners, honey or fruit juices. Place something red on the feeder. Clean your feeder with hot soapy water at least twice a week. Butterflies need resources other than nectar and are attracted to unsavory foodstuffs. Try putting out slices of overripe bananas, oranges and other fruits, or a sponge in a dish of lightly salted water.
- Learn more about pollinators. Get some guidebooks and learn to recognize the pollinators in your neighborhood. Experiment with a pair of close-focusing binoculars for butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.



Go to the website of the Pollinator Partnership www.pollinator.org/ for some astonishingly useful and FREE resources. If you are a teacher, or know a teacher, look what you can get! Spread the word.

What are pollinators and why should you care?

- Pollinators are bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other animals which feed from flowers, transferring pollen in the process.
- Nearly 80% of all flowering plants need the assistance of pollinators to transfer pollen within flowers in order to produce seeds, fruits, and vegetables.
- Approximately one out of every three bites of food you eat depends on the work of a pollinating animal.
- Pollination also produces seeds and fruits that feed birds and other wildlife.
- Many blooming plants depend on pollinators for survival, and globally many pollinators are showing disturbing signs of decline from a variety of causes.
- When you use pesticides you could unintentionally harm pollinators and other beneficial insects. Your careful actions can prevent harming pollinators.



This gorgeous poster is one example of what's available. You can download many informative brochures, such as these:



(continued next page)

(continued from previous page) The most impressive resource of all is the series of ecoregional planting guides for pollinators,



"Selecting Plants for Pollinators". They are available for 31 ecoregions in the U.S. These guides are practical tools for gardeners and others who want to share their landscapes by establishing habitat for pollinators through native plants that are specific to their own region. The guides are available for free at www.pollinator.org/guides.htm. All users need is their zip code, and an online Zip Code Habitat Locator will connect them to their map and guide.

Club member Trician Comings informs of a documentary that should interest all of us who are concerned about the plight of the bees. Our club should probably buy the DVD so we can put it in our lending library or show it at a meeting. Go to www.queenofthesun.com to learn more about it.

We'll conclude our celebration of Pollinator Week with some poetry. The first is a poem by Mary Oliver.

Hum

*What is this dark hum among the roses?
The bees have gone simple, sipping,
that's all. What did you expect?
Sophistication?
They're small creatures and they are
filling their bodies with sweetness, how
could they not
moan in happiness? The little
worker bee lives, I have read, about three weeks.
Is that long? Long enough, I suppose, to understand
that life is a blessing. I have found them-haven't you?—
stopped in the very cups of the flowers, their wings
a little tattered-so much flying about, to the hive,
then out into the world, then back, and perhaps dancing,
should the task be to be a scout-sweet, dancing bee.
I think there isn't anything in this world I don't
admire. If there is, I don't know what it is. I
haven't met it yet. Nor expect to. The bee is small,
and since I wear glasses, so I can see the traffic and
read books, I have to
take them off and bend close to study and
understand what is happening. It's not hard, it's in fact
as instructive as anything I have ever studied. Plus, too,
it's love almost too fierce to endure, the bee
nuzzling like that into the blouse
of the rose. And the fragrance, and the honey, and of course
the sun, the purely pure sun, shining, all the while, over
all of us.*



**"It is utterly forbidden to be half-hearted
about gardening. You have got to love your
garden whether you like it or not."**

W.C. Sellar & R.J. Yeatman,
Garden Rubbish, 1936



Holy Tomato! A Great Deal at Love Apple Farms!

Have you been wanting to take one of Cynthia Sandberg's vegetable raising workshops, but couldn't afford it? In her newsletter that arrived in my email today (you must subscribe...she tells you step-by-step how to make sturdy tomato cages) she says, "Half off on our last Summer Vegetable Gardening Class of the year! Yep, that's right! As a thank you to our customers and knowing that times are tough, we are opening up 10 seats in our final Summer Vegetable Gardening workshop to those who need the knowledge but can't spare the cash! The workshop is this Saturday, June 4, from 9 to 4. It is an all-day, intensive seminar on how to prepare and amend vegetable beds, sow, transplant, space, fertilize, thin, stake, harvest and care for all of your favorite summer vegetables. You even get two flats of veggies to sow from our seed bank, germinate and grow yourself! To get the special 50% rate, click through to our registration page <http://summervgjun24.eventbrite.com/> and enter the discount code "newsletterdeal."

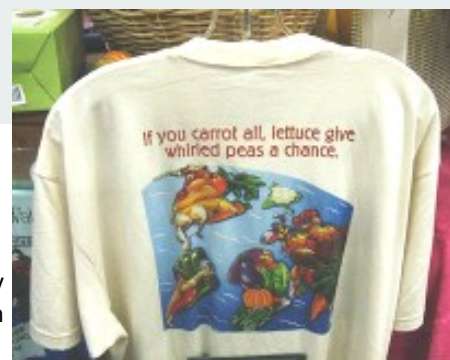


Photo by
Cherry Thompson



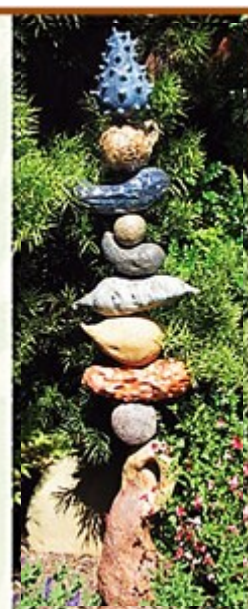
There was an Old Man in a tree,
who was horribly bored by a Bee.
When they asked, "Does it buzz?"
he replied, "Yes it does!
It's a regular brute of a Bee!"
—Edward Lear, *Book of Nonsense*



Sculpture IS

May 31 – October 31 2011

It's back! Sierra Azul Nursery's astounding 2-acre demonstration garden is the perfect setting for the eagerly anticipated annual outdoor exhibition of regional artists' sculptures, "Sculpture Is". Stroll through the gardens (bring your camera), see Mediterranean gardening at its best, bring home a plant you can't live without and see art and nature combined in an extraordinary fashion. Admission and inspiration are free. The exhibit runs from May 31 – October 31, but put June 4th (4:00-7:00 p.m.) on your calendar. That's the date of the Artist and Public Reception, which will include music, food and refreshments. Sierra Azul Nursery and Gardens, 2660 E. Lake Ave., Watsonville, 763-0939 (www.sierraazul.com).



Make Your Own Garden Sculptures with Darjit

Brent Sumner is a New Zealand builder and sculptor who developed a wonderful material for making garden sculptures, furniture, pizza ovens, walls, etc. called "Darjit". Darjit is made of mine tailings, paper fiber (recycled newspaper, magazines, junk mail, etc.) and recycled old acrylic paint from dumps. When used outside in the

elements it is stabilized with cement. It is clay-like in texture, user friendly, lightweight when dry, and fantastic for elegant large scale work such as statues, garden walls and planters, columns and seating. It's unique applications as a sculpting compound or finish plaster in a variety of thicknesses allows the artist to achieve an organic adobe look, round corners, niches, arches, gateways, or whatever one can imagine. It is amazing stuff and Brent is an amazing teacher. Every summer he comes to the Bay Area to give classes and workshops; several are in the Santa Cruz Mountains (Los Gatos). I took a 2-day workshop a few years ago, and it was a thrilling experience, although hard work.

The workshops are designed to be creative and fun events in which participants are able to create and complete a sculpture of their own design. Each workshop begins with a demonstration and individual practice at using Darjit for free-form sculpture. Next, the techniques for creating the skeletal forms for large sculpture are demonstrated. Wire netting and steel bars are typically used for skeletal forms, which can also be made from recycled material such as buckets and old furniture. A wide variety of effects can be achieved including embedded mosaic patterns, impressed patterns, textured finishes, paint, stain and hand crafted fine details. Brent assists each participant with technique and construction approaches for their individual design. Participants can come with a project in mind or be spontaneously inspired. Dates for the Garden Sculpture workshops in the Santa Cruz mountains are June 11th-12th and September 17th-18th. For the Santa Cruz workshops, the fee is \$180.00 plus materials. Or if you are returning or bring a friend it's \$150 per person plus materials. Brent is also offering a Wood Fired Oven building workshop on August 18th-14th, and more garden sculpture workshops at Esalen and the Institute of Mosaic Art in Oakland. For more info on Darjit and photos of what people make at the workshops visit www.sculptureparty.com. To sign up, go to www.darjit.com/work_shops or contact Brent at sculptureparty@yahoo.com.



LUNACY? GARDENING BY THE MOON


Lunar gardening assumes that the moon's gravitational force affects not only the ocean tides, but also the ground water tables beneath the earth. For instance, during a waxing moon, the time when the moon appears to grow fuller in size, more water is drawn into the upper soil, making this an ideal time to plant seeds for enhanced moisture absorption and better germination. On the other hand, pruning trees and cutting hedges should be done during the waning moon phase, when the moon appears smaller. At this time the moisture content in roots and branches decreases, and cutting and trimming is said to produce less bleeding, thus helping plants to heal more quickly.

Want to learn more about the age-old practices of gardening with the moon? Read R. J. Harris's Moon Gardening. Unlike most calendar format lunar gardening books, this is a dictionary of crops, techniques and issues that deal with each step by step. Not a "New Age" book, this is a straightforward guide to organic gardening. Harris says, "Gardening by the dark planet is the oldest thing under the sun, if you know what I mean. But it's not just yesteryear's way of life — it's a way forward."

The web site Gardening by the Moon (www.gardeningbythemoon.com) states, "Plants respond to the same gravitational pull of tides that affect the oceans, which alternately stimulates root and leaf growth. Seeds sprout more quickly, plants grow vigorously and at an optimum rate, harvests are larger and they don't go to seed as fast." This site IS New Age-y, adding gardening by astrological signs to the mix. They have nice calendars and moon phase charts; you can purchase them printed, or download them by-the-month, like I've done here, or by the year.



Gardening by the Moon 2011 Planting Guide for a LONG Season



JUNE

GARDEN ACTIVITIES

Give tomatoes, pole beans and tall perennials support
Pinch side shoots on tomatoes
Harvest onions, garlic, herbs for drying
Prune any dead wood in shrubs and trees
Cut raspberries to the ground after fruiting
Bait and trap earwigs, slugs and snails
Hoe and cultivate to break up soil crust
Plant or mow lawns 3" high

Thin fruit trees and water deeply
Deadhead lilacs, spring flowers, divide perennials after bloom
Apply a thick layer of mulch to keep weeds down and conserve water
Feed actively growing plants with fish emulsion or compost
Feed spring blooming shrubs such as azaleas, lilacs, rhododendron

TIME TO PLANT

VEGETABLES

SOW IN FLATS— basil, lettuce
SOW DIRECT— tomato, pepper, eggplant, luffa, squash, cucumber, squash, onion sets, lettuce, turnips, carrots, beets, parsnip, radish, beans, corn, okra, peanuts, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, basil, melon, leeks
TRANSPLANT— tomato, pepper, eggplant, squash, luffa, melon, cucumber, lettuce, corn, okra, basil






























FLOWERS

SOW DIRECT— heat loving annuals such as allyssum, calendula, cosmos, cockscomb, cornflower, geranium, globe amaranth, impatiens, larkspur, morning glory, marigold, nasturtium, nigella, poppy, rose moss, salvia, sunflower, zinnia
TRANSPLANT— most heat loving annuals as listed above

June 2011 Pacific Time

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Visit www.gardeningbythemoon.com

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  | 1 NEW 7:04 pm PST | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| Water, compost and fertilize | | | | Plant melons | | Plant above ground annuals |
| MOON IN TAURUS | | MOON IN GEMINI | | | | |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8 2nd QTR | 9  | 10  | 11  |
| | | | Plant flowering vines | | Plant above ground annuals, especially flowers and herbs | |
| MOON IN LEO | | MOON IN VIRGO | | | | |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15 FULL 1:15 pm PST | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| Plant above ground annuals | | Harvest, cultivate and prune | | Plant for root growth, especially tubers and onions | | Harvest and cultivate |
| MOON IN SCORPIO | | MOON IN SAGITTARIUS | | | | |
| 19 Father's Day | 20  | 21 Summer Solstice | 22  | 23 4th QTR | 24  | 25  |
| Harvest, cultivate, weed, and control pests | | Plant for root growth | | Harvest, cultivate, weed, and control pests | | Water |
| MOON IN AQUARIUS | | MOON IN PISCES | | | | |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |  |  |
| Water, compost and fertilize | | Harvest, cultivate, weed, and control pests | | | | |
| MOON IN TAURUS | | MOON IN GEMINI | | | | |

There was an Old Person of Tring,
Who embellished his nose with a ring;
He gazed at the moon every evening in June,
That ecstatic Old Person of Tring.

Edward Lear, Book of Nonsense



SUMMER SOLSTICE SALAD

A variety of fresh vegetables aesthetically arranged is a fine way to celebrate summer. You can substitute greens, mixing and matching ingredients according to preference and availability.

Salad:

2 cups tender lettuce leaves (butter or green leaf)
2 cups baby spinach, rinsed and dried
2 cups arugula, rinsed and dried
3 cups strawberries (about 1 ½ pt.), hulled and sliced
1 1/2 cup shredded carrot
1 1/2 cup chopped cucumber
1/3 cup fresh calendula petals, chopped
A few mint leaves, chopped
1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil or cilantro
1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley

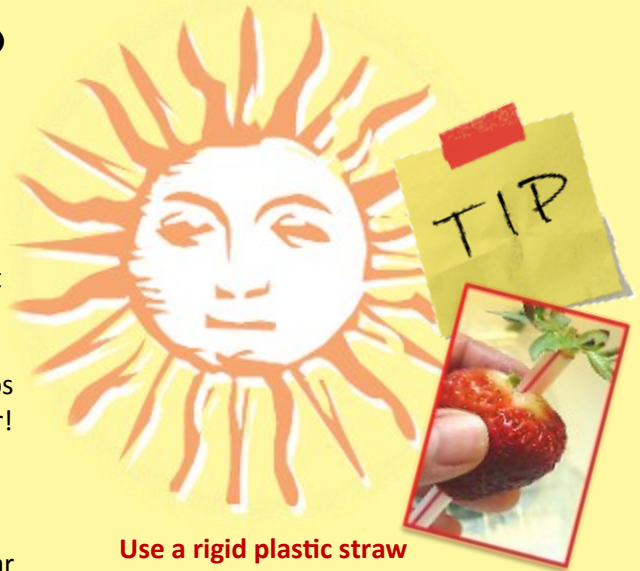
Combine the greens, then divide among 6 dinner plates. Top with the other vegies and strawberries, arranging them in a visually

pleasing manner. Garnish with the chopped herbs and calendula petals. Serve dressing on the side. You can add goat cheese, almonds or pecans, sunflower seeds – whatever helps you celebrate summer!

Dressing:

3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
1.5 tbsp honey mustard
1.5 tbsp olive oil
1.5 tbsp fresh chopped basil
Pinch of salt and freshly ground pepper

Whisk the vinegar and mustard together in a small bowl; slowly whisk in olive oil. Add basil and season with salt and pepper.



Use a rigid plastic straw to hull strawberries. Push from the bottom up through the crown; easy!

Sol + stice derives from a combination of Latin words meaning "sun" + "to stand still." As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. Summer solstice in our area is on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at approximately 10:16 am.

The Gardeners' Club

1633 Quail Hollow Road, Ben Lomond CA 95005

President

Cherry Thompson, 475-0991
cherrylea@comcast.net

Vice President

Ilene Wilson, 724-4609
mygardensup@aol.com

Secretary

April Barclay, 688-7656
AABarclay@aol.com

Co-Treasurers

Sim & Bob Gilbert, 475-8162
simgilbert@baymoon.com

Membership

Suzanne Mercado, 609-6230
Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.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
Joanna Hall, 662-8821
jhavelock@sbcglobal.net

Plant Table

Patty Connoles, 335-4134
pattyconnolerltr@aol.com
2nd position—vacant
3rd position - vacant

Refreshments

Dey Weybright, 426-3028
DEENART@aol.com

PSAs/Glenwood

Monica Pielage, 460-0215
mpielage@yahoo.com

Website

Kerry Skyles, 728-5076
KerrySkyblue@cruzio.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 1633 Quail Hollow Rd., Ben Lomond, CA 95005. 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.

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