

# The Gardeners' Club

Santa Cruz County, California

December 2012

Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler  
[lisebixler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisebixler@sbcglobal.net)



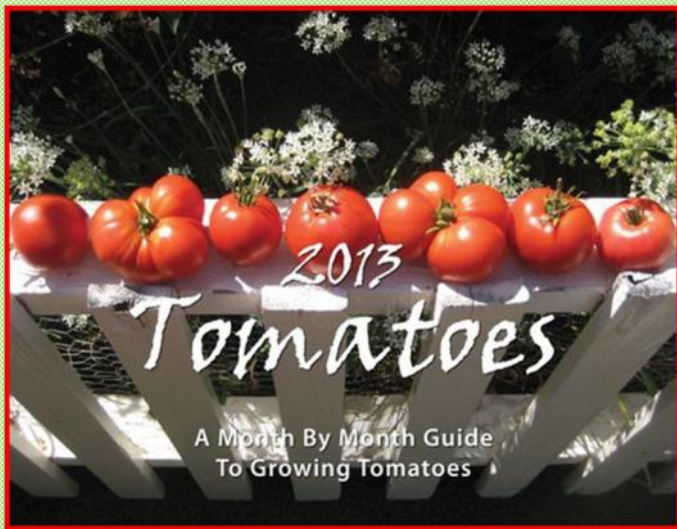
## Annual Holiday Potluck & White Elephant Silent Auction Thursday, Dec. 13th, 7:00 p.m. Aptos Grange Hall, 2555 Mar Vista Drive

Every December we gather to celebrate gardening, good food, good friends and the fine art of re-gifting. Bring a dish to share, labeled for the benefit of members with dietary restrictions. Please bring a serving utensil, and if you share a hot dish, please bring it already warmed. We'll provide plates, utensils and drinks.

No business meeting this month, and no plant table, either. After we feast and catch up on conversation, the liveliest part of our meeting will start. We'll browse the silent auction tables and discover items we didn't know we needed, and find perfect gifts for family and friends.

Bring unwanted oddities, jewelry, dishes, pottery, special plants, clothing, gardening items, gourmet goodies, birdfeeders, tools, chotzkes, bricabrac, vases, books, objets d'art and objets d'junk. You'll be thrilled whether you want to get rid of things or want to find bargains and treasures. You are welcome to bring friends, guests, spouses, significant others and people who are interested in our club. See you there!





Love Apple Farms has partnered with Laura Taylor to offer you a fabulous one-of-a-kind guide to growing tomatoes anywhere in the U.S. The 2013 Month by Month Growing Guide and Calendar goes far beyond being a traditional calendar by following the tomato growing season. It's color-coded for eight different climates, so that it can be used whether the tomato enthusiast is in Southern California or South Carolina! It includes delicious tomato recipes, gorgeous photographs and additional tips for the home gardener, both during the season and in the non-growing months. Price is \$20; order at [www.growbetterveggies.com](http://www.growbetterveggies.com).

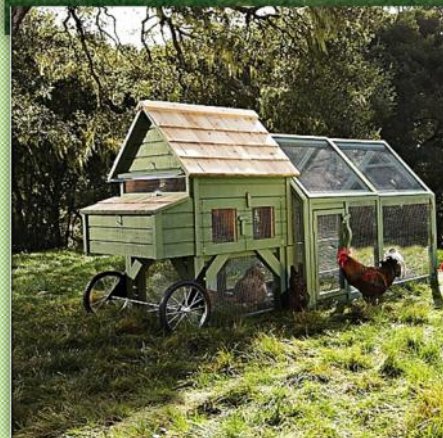
What's wrong with this picture?  
Matt Hickman of the Mother Nature Network (<http://www.mnn.com>) calls it "Wretched Eggcess".



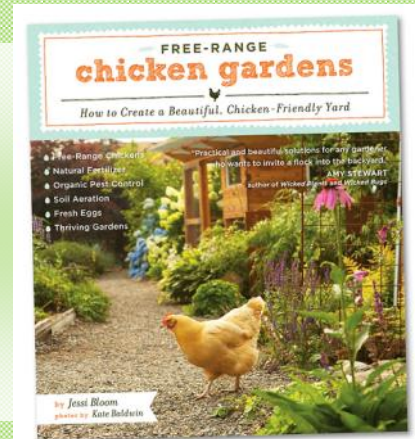
He's talking about the Neiman Marcus \$100,000 Hen House featured in their holiday catalog, described thusly:

*Picture this. Dawn breaks. The hens descend from their bespoke Versailles-inspired Le Petit Trianon house to their playground below for a morning wing stretch. Slipping on your wellies, you start for the coop and are greeted by the pleasant clucking of your specially chosen flock and the site of the poshest hen house ever imagined. Your custom-made multilevel dwelling features a nesting area, a 'living room' for nighttime roosting, a broody room, a library filled with chicken and gardening books for visitors of the human kind, and, of course, an elegant chandelier. The environment suits them well as you notice the fresh eggs awaiting morning collection. Nearby, you pick fresh vegetables or herbs from your custom-built raised gardens. You've always fancied yourself a farmer—now thanks to Heritage Hen Farm, you're doing it in the fanciest way possible!*

Yikes. Can't afford it? Visit the Williams Sonoma Agrarian Garden catalog ([www.williams-sonoma.com](http://www.williams-sonoma.com)) for their coop-and-run selections, which will only set you back around \$2000! Most of us DIY-ers will visit their site for inspiration only—pricey but so attractive. The only chicken-y thing I could afford is their Predator Kit (a roll of hardware cloth to keep out digging animals). I certainly won't complain if someone gifts me with one of their other cool items, though, like these slate plant markers (\$19.95) or elegant seed-saving packets (\$9.95) or a galvanized trug (\$29.95).



The best gift you could give a chicken enthusiast, or a prospective chicken enthusiast? This book, Free-Range Chicken Gardens: How to Create a Beautiful, Chicken-Friendly Yard. Many gardeners fear chickens will peck away at their landscape, and chicken lovers often shy away from gardening for the same reason. But you can keep chickens and have a beautiful garden, too! In this essential handbook, award-winning garden designer Jessi Bloom covers everything a gardener needs to know, including chicken-keeping basics, simple garden plans to get you started, tips on attractive fencing options, the best plants and plants to avoid, and step-by-step instructions for getting your chicken garden up and running. For anyone who wants a fabulous garden where colorful chickens happily roam, this guide will bring the dream home to roost.





# UCSC Arboretum Lecture & Potluck

## "California Shrubs For Gardens"

### with Ted Kipping



**Wednesday, December 12th**  
**6:00pm potluck, 7:00pm talk**

Ted is a skilled arborist (<http://treeshapers.com>) who travels worldwide to learn more about trees as well as locating rare flora and fauna. He provides lectures on many topics, demonstrations, and workshops on aspects of arboriculture, regional horticulture, regional botany and specialty pruning subjects. Ted is a Life Member of the Arboretum Friends, is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker and has wonderful photographs. The potluck fun begins at 6 pm. The event, in the Arboretum Horticulture 2 Building, is free. Donations, as always, are appreciated to support the Arboretum.

#### Tip:

To increase acidity just slightly—something all succulents like—add 1 tablespoon white vinegar to 5 gallons water when watering.

#### To Plant in December:

Indoor herbs and greens, rhubarb, artichoke, garlic, parsley, radish, rhubarb, spinach, bare root roses, fruit trees, asparagus, strawberries, artichokes.

*Pinterest*

Ah, Pinterest. Have you discovered it yet? As if reading gardening blogs and online newsletters does distract us enough from actually gardening, there are now virtual bulletin boards to inspire us and consume gardening hours. For those of you not yet addicted, Pinterest is a pinboard-style social photo sharing website that allows users to create and manage theme-based image collections such as events, interests, hobbies, and more. Users can browse other pinboards for inspiration, 're-pin' images to their own collections or 'like' photos. Pinterest says their mission is to "connect everyone in the world through the 'things' they find interesting" via a global platform of inspiration and idea sharing.

For example, Laura Gaudino who likes to "Garden Junky", pinned these photos at <http://pinterest.com/gardeningjunky>:



Make these funky garden stakes using chicken wire and spray paint.

4 likes 16 repins

[paradisexpress.blogspot.com](http://paradisexpress.blogspot.com)



Cover surfaces with pennies? apparently pennies are also good in the garden for repelling slugs and making hydrangeas blue. who knew?

1 like 8 repins

[bethenvansramos.files.wordpress.com](http://bethenvansramos.files.wordpress.com)



Bottle Tree Arbor

1 like 6 repins

[missmetaldesign.com](http://missmetaldesign.com)



## Things to do with sticks and leaves

It is the time of year, after cleaning and pruning, when we have twigs and leaves in abundance. Here are some things to do with them.

Connecting kids with nature in the garden, and using it as a teaching tool, doesn't have to be complicated. Most of us love collecting and sorting from an early age.

Ideas & photos from: [www.mummymum.com/2012/10/15/](http://www.mummymum.com/2012/10/15/)

### Leaf sorting into colours



More sophisticated stick sorting—table arrangements, anyone?



Spray branches with metallic or sparkly paint, or bling them with glue and glitter. Arrange artfully (or randomly) in a vase.



Gather leaves and pile them, with twigs above to keep them from blowing away, on top of raised beds. By the end of winter, they'll have composted down to the level of the bed.

This ladybug habitat from [marthastewart.com](http://marthastewart.com) doesn't compare to the bug hotel below. An assortment of recycled containers and organic debris, put in a sheltered spot, will provide homes for ladybugs and assorted others.



<http://nurturestore.co.uk/bug-hotel>



Pictures speak as loudly as words...so the photos below will tell the rest of this story .



Ellen Petti

<http://ellensdailyheart.blogspot.com/>

## Simple Harvest Crown



[www.dana-made-it.com](http://www.dana-made-it.com)

## The Gardeners' Club Membership

Time for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$12.00, due by is January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2013. 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 here, 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!

### 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 Suzanne Mercado, P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005.



## Holiday Open House & Poinsettia Sale

Wednesday, December 5th

3:00 to 6:00 pm

At the Cabrillo College Environmental

Horticulture Center Greenhouses

Room 5300, "Top of the Campus"

Amazing display and sale of student-grown poinsettias of many colors and varieties. Houseplants and succulents available, too. Treats and something warm to drink! For more information about the Cabrillo Horticulture program, its facilities, and a map, go to [www.cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture](http://www.cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture) or call 479-6241.



Illus.: Elizabeth Gordon's *Flower Children* (1910)

## The Gardeners' Club

P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

### President

Cherry Thompson, 475-0991

[cherrylea@comcast.net](mailto:cherrylea@comcast.net)

### Vice President & Publicity

Ilene Wilson, 724-4609

[mygardensup@aol.com](mailto:mygardensup@aol.com)

### Secretary

April Barclay, 688-7656

[AABarclay@aol.com](mailto:AABarclay@aol.com)

### Treasurer

Sim Gilbert, 475-8162

[simgilbert@baymoon.com](mailto:simgilbert@baymoon.com)

### Membership

Suzanne Mercado, 609-6230

[Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com](mailto:Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com)

### Hospitality

Debbie Kindle, 462-6296

[poppy-54@live.com](mailto:poppy-54@live.com)

### Newsletter Writer/Editor

Lise Bixler, 457-2089

[lisebixler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisebixler@sbcglobal.net)

### Members-at-Large

Bill Patterson, 479-3729

[wilderwill@comcast.net](mailto:wilderwill@comcast.net)

Pat McVeigh, 475-9357

[pmcveigh@baymoon.com](mailto:pmcveigh@baymoon.com)

Joanna Hall, 662-8821

[jhavelock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhavelock@sbcglobal.net)

### Plant Table

Patty Connoles, 335-4134

[pattyconnolerlr@aol.com](mailto:pattyconnolerlr@aol.com)

Lupe Allen, 24702705

[lupea@ucsc.edu](mailto:lupea@ucsc.edu)

3rd position - vacant

### Refreshments

Dey Weybright, 426-3028

[DEENART@aol.com](mailto:DEENART@aol.com)

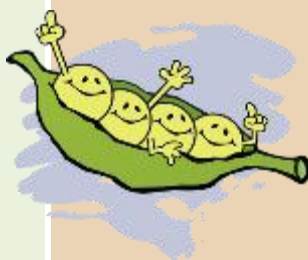
### Website

Joe Thompson

Computer Frustration Specialist

[joe@joehometech.com](mailto:joe@joehometech.com)

[www.thegardenersclub.org](http://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 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 Hall, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos.

Printed on 100% recycled paper

