

The Gardeners' Club

Santa Cruz County, California

April 2013

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Naturescape Your Yard

We are pleased to welcome Santa Cruz author Beth O'Donnell Young to our April Club meeting.

Beth is principal and owner of Beth Young Garden Design, a design firm specializing in home landscapes. Beth holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. She has been teaching do-it-yourself landscaping classes for homeowners since 2001. In 2005, she created a class called "Naturescape Your Yard." It was her personal response to Al Gore's call to action in *An Inconvenient Truth* to do whatever one can to minimize our collective carbon footprint.

Beth's book *The Naturescaping Workbook* is based on that class. The book is co-authored with Karen Bussolini, and is beautifully photographed and illustrated. Timber Press says, "With nature as your guide, your dream garden is within reach — one that rarely needs weeding, pruning, watering, fertilizing, or mowing. One that will take less time, money, and energy keeping it beautiful and healthy than you're spending on your yard now. A garden that will produce the most flavorful edibles, nurture plants to their full potential, and provide a haven for beneficial bees, birds, and



butterflies... Beth Young helps make your ideal naturescape a reality, walking you through the process with easy worksheets and clear, encouraging guidance. All you need is some outdoor space and this inspiring handbook to design an inviting, thriving landscape that reflects nature — and your love of the earth."

Visit Beth's website <http://www.bygardendesign.com> (the Naturescaping basics list to the right is taken from there) for more information and resources. And on her other site, http://naturescapeyouryard.com/?page_id=16, there are more resources, including EVERY worksheet in her book for downloading and printing!

Monthly Meeting
April 11th, 7:00 P.M.
Aptos Grange

2555 Mar Vista Drive
Refreshments will be served.
Thanks to Sim Gilbert for
snack and Melissa Peckinpah
for dessert.

"What the heck is is Naturescaping?" Beth says, "It's working with nature's awesome forces to make your yard more fun, pleasurable, and healthy--and less work! " Here are the basics:

Know your Place

Get to know your "nearby nature" as well as your own land.

Love your soil

Build your soil with organic matter whenever you can and your yard will be so much healthier.

Be water wise

Manage runoff, and reduce your need for supplementary water for an entire host of environmental benefits.

Right Plant, Right Place

Choose your plants based on your land, and local and similar plant communities.

Welcome all Wildlife

Provide a welcoming habitat for birds, bugs, mammals and microorganisms and rely on them to do the pest patrol.

Choose Sustainably

Give some thought to what you use for the built elements of your garden--it's



Photo: Werewombat

Plant a native shrub with a fragrance that will make you swoon! *Philadelphus lewisii*, also known as Mock Orange, has a sweet scent similar to orange blossoms but even more heady and heavenly. The shrub is rounded and grows to 3-6 feet high, sending out long stems which are red when new and fade to gray with age, with a bark that sheds. When it flowers, the plant is covered in masses of blossoms, with four white petals and many yellow stamens.



And, looking for more fragrance in your California native collection, how can you pass up a plant whose common name is "Catalina Perfume"? *Ribes viburnifolium*, aka Evergreen Currant or Island gooseberry, has leaves that when touched or rained on release a pleasing spicy, wine-like scent.



April 6th is
California
Poppy Day.
Yey!



Going Native Garden Tour

**South: Sat,
April 20,
10:00am to
4:00pm**

**North: Sun,
April 21,
10:00am to
4:00pm**

**A free tour of
native gardens in Santa
Clara Valley & Peninsula,
San Francisco Bay Area.
Organized by the
[California Native Plant
Society \(Santa Clara
Valley Chapter\)](#) in
association with
the [UCCE Master
Gardeners of Santa Clara
County](#).**



So many local people have raved about this tour, it seems like more of us should make the drive over the hill to enjoy this opportunity. Bay Area homeowners are making their gardens aesthetically pleasing, attractive to birds and butterflies, water-wise, and low maintenance by incorporating California native plants. Visit gardens landscaped with native plants on this free annual tour, now in its 11th year. Over 50 gardens will be open for viewing, from

town home gardens to acre lots, from newly planted gardens to established ones. The gardens are located all over the Santa

Clara Valley and the Peninsula, so you won't have to go far to see one. Some gardens will feature talks, others will have plants for sale. Visit as many as you like — for inspiration, for photos, for meeting other garden enthusiasts. The gardens are open on tour days in a do-it-yourself, open house format, and demonstrate reduced water use, reduced chemical and pesticide use, improved habitat, and the unique aesthetic appeal of gardens designed with California native plants. The CNPS website (<http://cnps-scv.org/>) also provides resources to help Bay Area gardeners to "go native" in their own gardens. On tour day, sponsoring nurseries will conduct native plant sales at select gardens (cash or check only).

"Cultivate untidiness"

-Susan J. Tweit,, author, educator, blog writer (<http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com>)



An "untidy" unawned lawn of native wildflowers and grasses, each species allowed to grow where it prefers in natural groupings.

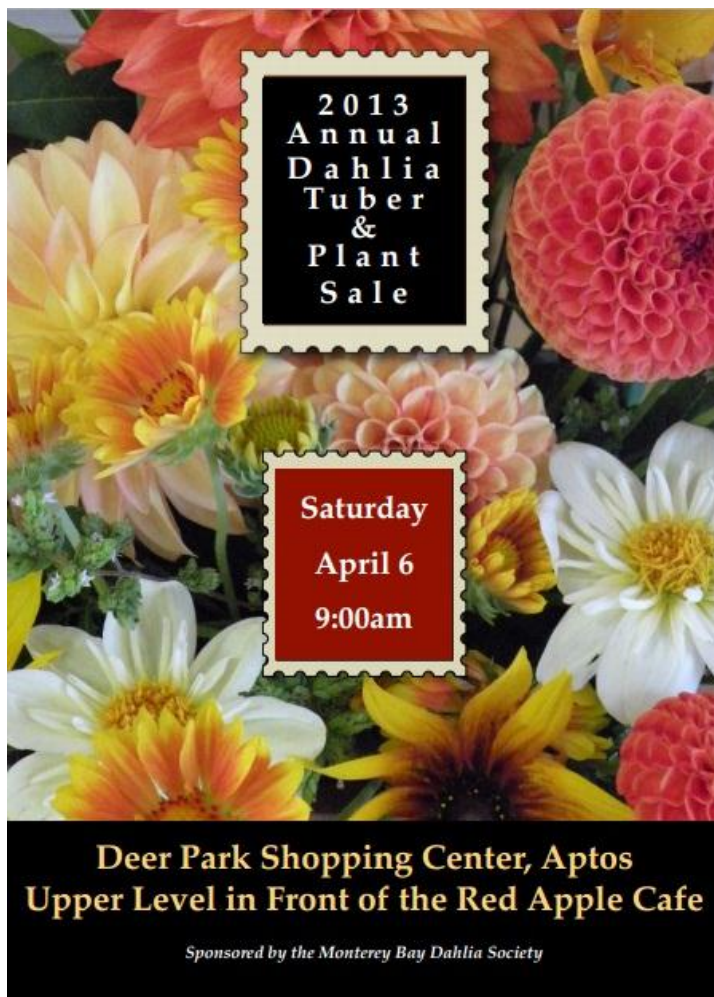


Spring Plant Sale Sat., April 21st

**The Eucalyptus Grove at the
Arboretum at UCSC, High
St. at Western Dr.**

**10 am - 12 noon: members only;
12 noon - 4 pm: everyone .**

The plant sales of the UCSC Arboretum and the Santa Cruz Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) will present several thousand colorful native and drought tolerant plants. The spring sale is an ideal time to see the plants in bloom and with new growth., offering a wide variety of native plants including ones for shady areas and some local selections. The Arboretum will offer a range of unusual exotics, especially from South Africa and Australia, all screened to be noninvasive. Knowledgeable members will be on hand to help you select the ideal plant for your location. Memberships, as well as books and posters, will be available at the sale.

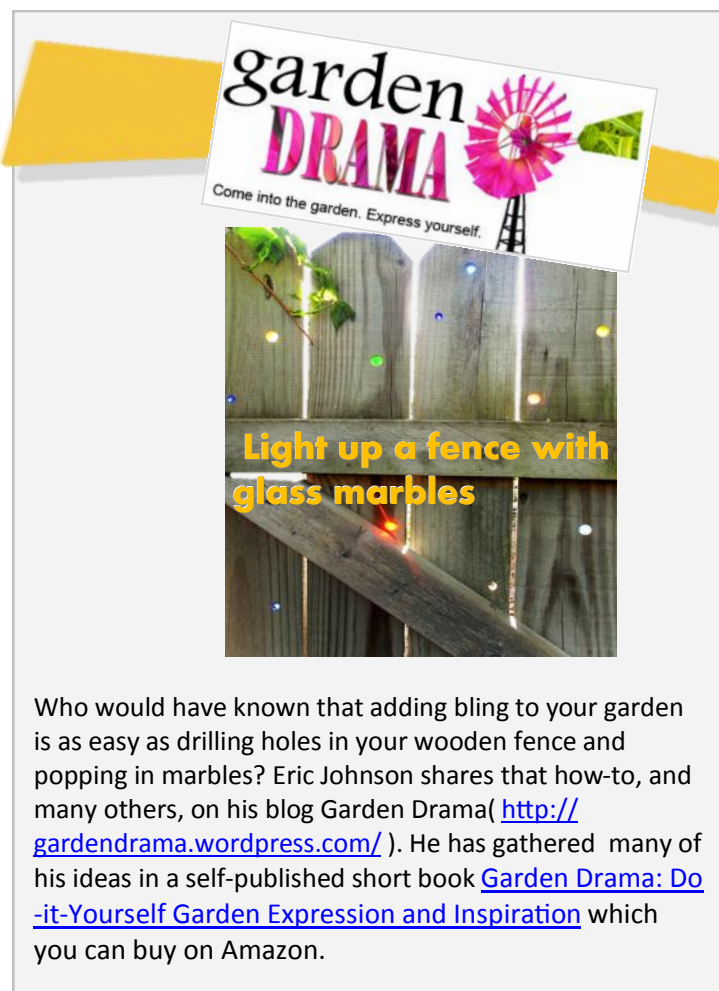


**2013
Annual
Dahlia
Tuber
&
Plant
Sale**

**Saturday
April 6
9:00am**

**Deer Park Shopping Center, Aptos
Upper Level in Front of the Red Apple Cafe**

Sponsored by the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society



**garden
DRAMA**

Come into the garden. Express yourself.

**Light up a fence with
glass marbles**

Who would have known that adding bling to your garden is as easy as drilling holes in your wooden fence and popping in marbles? Eric Johnson shares that how-to, and many others, on his blog Garden Drama (<http://gardendrama.wordpress.com/>). He has gathered many of his ideas in a self-published short book [Garden Drama: Do-it-Yourself Garden Expression and Inspiration](#) which you can buy on Amazon.

Book Talk & Recipe Sampling Monday Evening, April 22nd at 7:30 DEBORAH MADISON, [Vegetable Literacy](#)



In her latest cookbook, Deborah Madison reveals the surprising relationships between vegetables, edible flowers, and herbs within the same botanical families, and how understanding these connections can help home cooks see everyday vegetables in new light. This groundbreaking new cookbook is a celebration of the diversity of the plant kingdom, and an exploration of the fascinating relationships between vegetables, edible flowers, herbs, and familiar wild plants within the same botanical families. For example, knowing that dill, chervil, cumin, parsley, coriander, anise, and caraway come from the umbellifer family makes it clear why they're such good matches for carrots, also an umbel.

Bookshop Santa Cruz
Downtown Santa Cruz, 1520 Pacific Avenue
423-0900

Things To Do In the April Garden

Ready, set, go...no more frost, time to garden! When the soil is dry enough to work in without the soil clinging to the shovel, dig in lots of compost or other amendments, especially in the vegetable garden. You can plant annuals, perennials, vegetables and trees. If you haven't grown your own seedlings or done cuttings then pick some up at a garden center (or at our Club meetings). Put out some cosmos, nasturtiums, hollyhocks, sunflowers, vegetables and herbs. When spring-blooming bulbs fade, leave the dying foliage alone to draw nutrients into the bulb for next year. You can use lobelia and sweet alyssum to hide the fading foliage. Take cuttings for new plants from azaleas, carnations, chrysanthemums and geraniums (snip off about 4 inches from the flexible growth at the tip of a branch; use rooting hormone if you want; root the cuttings in damp sand or vermiculite). Fertilize roses, citrus, flowering plants about to bloom, trees, shrubs and cool-season lawns. Fertilize azaleas, camellias and rhodies when they finish blooming. Prune spring-blooming plants as they finish blooming, including hydrangeas, fuchsias and bougainvilleas. Plant out summer bulbs such as callas, cannas, dahlias, gladiolus, lilies and tuberous begonias. Plant berries now—strawberries will give you a crop this year. Perennials—agapanthus, campanulas, columbine, daylilies, etc.—can go in. Watch out for hungry snails and earwigs.

Historic Cowell Ranch Hay Barn To Be Restored

UC Santa Cruz has received a \$5 million cornerstone pledge from Alec and Claudia Webster, representing the Helen and Will Webster Foundation, that will help restore the historic Cowell Ranch Hay Barn near the campus's main entrance. The restored site will serve as a new home for the Center for



The historic hay barn, in better days in 2005, was built in the late 1860s. (Photo by Frank Perry)

Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS), Life Lab, and other south campus sustainability groups, as well as a welcoming new "front door" to the UCSC Farm and south campus area. The Webster Foundation gift will be awarded over several years, with the majority of the funds targeted for the Hay Barn's reconstruction and outfitting for multiple uses, including offices, classrooms, and exhibit space.

According to Daniel Press, executive director of CASFS, the restoration effort demonstrates the campus's commitment to its historic infrastructure and to its long history as a working landscape. "Front doors are important to people," says Press, "This restored portion of UCSC's entrance, with its focus on CASFS and other environmental programs, will signal to students and visitors the campus's respect for its

past and its commitment to a sustainable future."

The restored Hay Barn will create a focal point for CASFS student, apprenticeship and community activities and a welcoming gateway to campus and the UCSC Farm. The restored site will also make it possible for CASFS to expand its outreach and extension work with local growers, with plans for a new classroom space to accommodate groups of up to

75 for short courses and workshops. Plans for related improvements to the site include a new produce pick up area for the UCSC Farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and visitor parking that will improve access to the farm. A portion of the gift will support CASFS and Environmental Studies programs in the future.

In a related project, a new three-acre field is currently being brought into production and will permanently expand the UCSC Farm's boundary to the edge of renovated Hay Barn, making the Farm easily visible to students and visitors as they enter campus. Fundraising is now underway to purchase and install the fencing, irrigation, and other infrastructure needed for this expansion of farming activities



Come join us at our next Board Meeting. It will be at 6:00 on March 22nd (Earth Day!) at the home of Valera Templeman, 514 Calle del Sol, Aptos. Everyone is invited; you don't need to be a Board member. Our spring Board Meetings are delightful, because we get to visit and appreciate each other's gardens!

"Gardeners may create order briefly out of chaos, but nature always gets the last word, and what it says is usually untidy by human standards. But I find all states of nature beautiful, and because I want to delight in my garden, not rule it, I just accept my yen to tame the chaos on one day and let the Japanese beetles run riot on the next. I don't require perfection from my garden or me."

- Diane Ackerman, *Cultivating Delight*

Gopher Control in the Home Garden and Orchard

Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m.-noon, Louise Cain Gatehouse, UCSC Farm

Thomas Wittman, founder and owner of Gophers Limited, will lead a workshop on how to control gophers and other vertebrate pests in the home garden and orchard using non-chemical methods. \$30 general public, \$20 Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden, \$5 UCSC students. Online registration available at <http://gopher.bpt.me>, or pay by cash or check at the door. Questions? Call 831.459-3240 or email casfs@ucsc.edu.



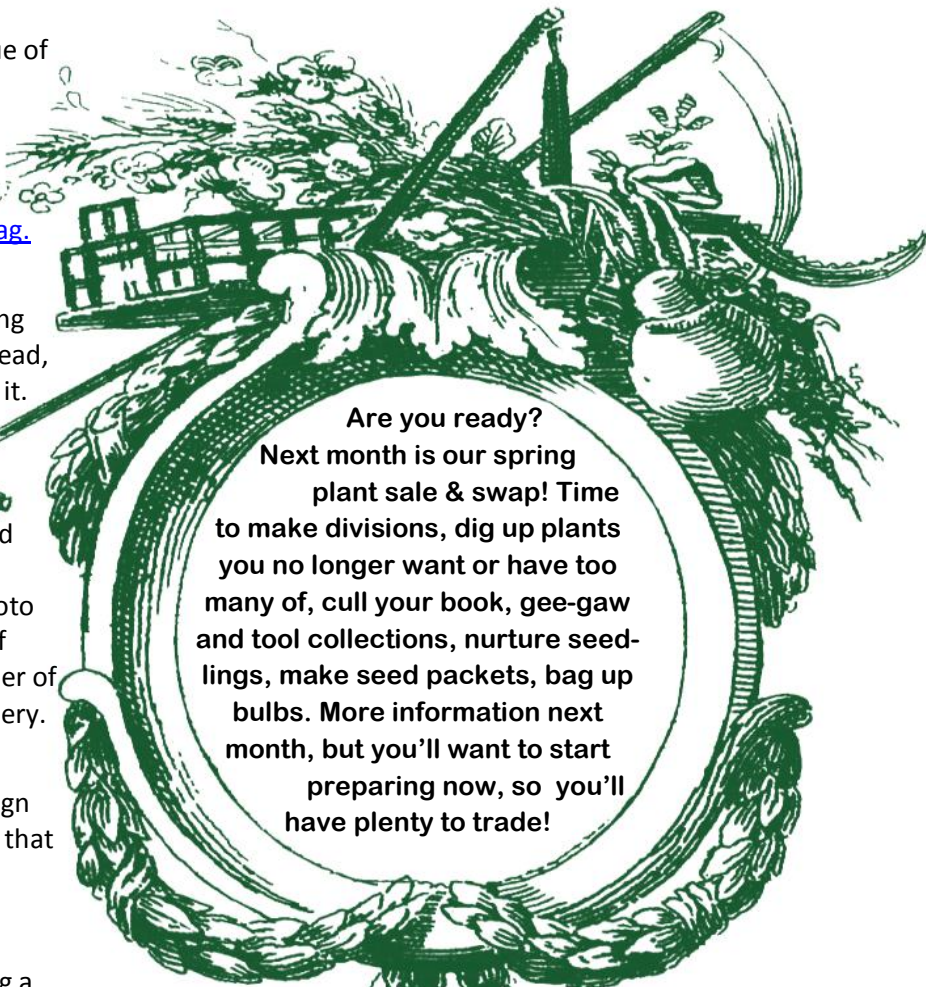
The spring issue of Leaf digital magazine is out—read it or subscribe at www.leafmag.com.

It is a fascinating and inspiring read, all 78 pages of it. I was excited to see in an article called “Art Under the Open Sky” a photo of a work by Jeff Rosendale, owner of Sierra Azul Nursery.

Lots of garden history and design ideas, too. Now that Garden Design magazine is no more, give this outstanding mag a try.



“Branches with Color” by Jeff Rosendale.



Last call for Membership Dues

If you haven't renewed your membership, this will be your last issue of the newsletter. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$12.00. 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. 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.

The Gardeners' Club Membership Form

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.

The Go-For-It Gazette

The #1 Newspaper for Fool-Proof Gardening

April First, 2013



Thomomys bigboyae

Carnivorous Gophers

"A gardener's dream," researchers say

Researchers in Southern California have successfully bred a carnivorous gopher species, *Thomomys bigboyae*.

Observant gardeners in urban areas had found In-and-Out hamburger wrappers in gopher tunnels in their yards, and alerted Master Gardeners in their area

to this finding. A research project jointly funded by the Gopher Conciliation Council and the Better Bacon Bureau allowed researchers to study this local gopher population, which already subsisted largely on a carnivorous diet. Successive generations were conditioned to expand their diets to include snails

and earwigs.

Gophers, herbivores that love to eat roots, have long been the bane of gardeners. Traditionally, they will eat the roots of your vegetables, flowers, perennials, grass, etc. It is hoped that gardeners will now welcome carnivorous gophers into their gardens with understanding and compassion.

The Gardeners' Club

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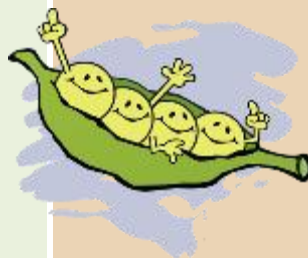
3rd position - vacant

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joe@joehometech.com



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



www.thegardenersclub.org