

The Gardeners' Club

Santa Cruz County, California

February 2014

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Introducing Andrew Wall

We are thrilled to welcome Andrew Wall to our February meeting. Last August he replaced his mentor and friend Ernie Wasson as the Nursery and Garden Curator at Cabrillo College.

Andrew is a California native, born and raised in Sunnyvale. He began classes at Cabrillo in 2007 focusing on Crop Production. He worked as a student assistant for the horticulture department for two years before becoming Lab Instructional Assistant for another two years. Because he loves working with the public, he particularly enjoyed working and organizing the Mother's Day Plant Sale. He says, "The community involvement in the plant sale was one of my favorite aspects. I love to listen to the passion that our community has for nature and the plant world that surrounds us". In 2012 he became the Assistant Manager at Four Winds Growers in Watsonville, growing mostly citrus, blueberries, avocados and olives as well as other edible shrubs and perennials, a position he kept until his move to Cabrillo. He currently holds certificates in Crop Management as well as Greenhouse and Nursery Management.

Andrew says, "It has been an honor and a privilege to replace Ernie and I am in contact with him on a regular basis. The wonderful part of the Curator position is that I continue to hone my skills as a horticulturist and learn everyday on the job. Cabrillo Horticulture has done a lot for my life and myself and I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to the place where I grew so much".

At our meeting, Andrew will update us on happenings, changes and goals at the Horticulture Department, as well as answering any questions you have. Currently the Hort Department is focusing on food production as well as production of landscape plants. They have been developing their hydroponic and aquaponic food



production systems for the past few years as well as their certified organic farm. Current crops are hydroponic tomatoes, basil and pac choi as well as aquaponic lettuce. On the organic farm, they produce strawberries, delicate squash, leeks, broccoli and daffodils. All of their products are sold at the Saturday Cabrillo Farmers Market or to the campus culinary department. New developments in the works are organic in-ground raspberries and hydroponic blueberries, both of which should be up and running this spring.

While their focus is mostly food production, they still have a wonderful botanic garden, Andrew's favorite place in the facility. The salvia collection is one of the largest in the world with over two hundred different species. Maintaining the garden is one of the biggest challenges, and they can always use volunteers to help weed, prune, mulch and install new plants. Since the garden was installed in 2004, some plants need to be replaced. Andrew says he likes to think of the garden entering the second phase of its life.

Andrew is very excited about the direction Cabrillo Horticulture is going as a department. While continuing to represent the love that so many people have for gardens they are also promoting a great production program to continue to develop new growers for our community to choose from. Come meet Andrew in person and join us in giving him a hearty welcome!

Thursday, Feb. 13th

7:00 pm

Aptos Grange

2555 Mar Vista Drive

Aptos

Refreshments will be served.

Thank you to Marie Beckham for snack, Bev Little for dessert and Barbara Vorlop for juice.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR



Did you know that February is National Bird-Feeding Month?

Gotta love those birds! You can get this beautiful hand-blown glass hanging heart hummingbird feeder at [\\$36](http://www.gardenart.com/hummingbirdfeeder/K3.html)



Love Bell Wind Chime

www.etsy.com/listing/106353615/

FILOLI GARDENS

There is a lot happening this month for those of you who want to venture north. Filoli Gardens in Woodside (just south of the junction of Highways 92 and 280) will have its opening celebration, "Branches, Buds and Blossoms — Romance of the Winter Garden" - on Friday and Saturday, February 14 and 15. From magnolia, camellia and narcissus blossoms to blooming branches of daphne, quince and plums this is a time of revitalization in the Garden. Celebrate the romance of the winter garden on Valentine's Day weekend by taking a guided camellia walk through a collection of more than 250 exquisite varieties. You can have a special lunch in the Café, watch a chef instructor do wonderful things with chocolate and attend an inspiring floral demonstration or eloquent Japanese tea ceremony. Hands-on activities for the children inspired by the winter garden are also planned for this celebratory weekend. Reservations are not necessary. For more information, go to www.filoli.org/opening/ or call (650) 364-8300.



The Magnolia Collection at the San Francisco Botanical Garden is the most important Magnolia collection for conservation purposes outside China, including 51 species and 33 cultivars, with many prized examples from Asia. This collection began in 1939 with Eric Walther, who planted the very first magnolia in the Garden and continued to introduce species and cultivars throughout his tenure as the first Garden Director. One of the most famous species he planted was the cup and saucer magnolia or *Magnolia campbellii*, with magnificent large pink blossoms.

Now through March, you can experience the breathtaking marvel of nearly 100 rare and historic magnolias erupting in fragrant and dazzling bloom. You can go for a day trip or tour, or, for Valentine's Day, consider the "Magnolias by Moonlight" event. Roam the moonlit paths from 7-9 p.m., guided by a naturalist. Marvel at the luminescent magnolia blossoms overhead reflecting the silvery moon and inhale their lovely fragrance. Enjoy hot, aromatic tea and cookies while gazing at the moon viewing pond. Bring a flashlight. Heavy rain cancels. \$10 Members/\$20 General. There is also the option of Magnolia Cocktails starting at 5. You must register online in advance to attend. Payment at the door. For more information or to register, go to www.sfbotanicalgardensociety.org/sfbgs_course_template.cfm?s=5454.



Valentine's Day is February 14th. How do you feel about this holiday? (Multiple choice quiz—check all that apply.)

- ☐ It's just a commercialist holiday—bah, humbug.
- ☐ Whoo-hoo! An opportunity to eat chocolate and buy myself a present!
- ☐ Ah, love...who shall I give a Valentine to?

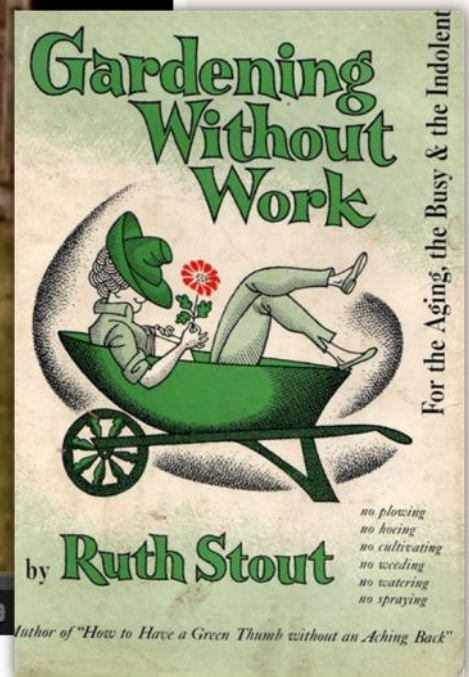
For those of you who chose giving options, here are a couple of ideas from the handmade gift webstores at Etsy.



Love Birds Garden Art Stakes

www.etsy.com/listing/102159484/love-birds-garden-art-plant-stake?ref=sr_gallery_41&ga_search_query=love+garden+art&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_ship_to=ZZ&ga_search_type=all

What an Inspiration! Watch This Video!



Ruth Stout's Garden (magyar felirattal)

Decades ago, Ruth Stout was world famous as the "No-Work Gardener." Her secret was a layer of permanent straw or old-hay mulch over everything – no tilling, no digging. She grew potatoes by just throwing them on the ground and covering them with hay. When new potatoes grew or when it was time to harvest the mature ones, she'd just "kick the straw aside" and pick potatoes off the ground.

You can watch Ruth in action at age 92 by going to You Tube and seeing "Ruth Stout's Garden" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNU8IJzRHZk). Videos of her were taken off the internet due to copyright conflicts, but my mother's Hungarian caregiver, Annamaria, surprised me by finding this one. Ignore the Hungarian subtitles – the soundtrack is Ruth's voice, in English. (By the way, Annamaria is not a gardener, but she knew we'd love this!) Watching Ruth Stout engaged in her no-nonsense gardening, wearing her trademark long housedress while talking about the many years she spent her

days gardening in the nude, is a hoot. She talks about how she discovered her methods when her asparagus talked to her. During a long-ago spring when the plow man hadn't come yet to till, she saw that the asparagus (a long-lived perennial) was already up and growing, right through layers of fallen leaves. "I walked over and said to the asparagus, 'We don't have to plow for you; why do we have to plow for the other vegetables?'" And the asparagus said, 'You don't.'"

The only thing she ever added to her mulch was cottonseed meal when needed. You can buy a DVD of the film (without the Hungarian subtitles!) at Bountiful Gardens (www.bountifulgardens.org/prodinfo.asp?number=BGE-1615#.UtFz2LQra3M).

Ruth's 1962 book, Gardening Without Work: For the Aging, the Busy & the Indolent, has been republished—you can get it in paperback. Read it when you need to be reminded of how to live a joyous and independent life.

Is your Meyer lemon tree drooping with fruit, or have your friends and neighbors given you lemons galore? Happily, Genesis Lawson, the mother of Club Member Nikolara Jansons, has sent us this wonderful, and easy, recipe for lemon curd. She says to enjoy it on toast, but you can also put it on ice cream or use it as a layer cake filling. Genesis lives in Portugal, and next month we'll print the amazing recipe for Portugese kale soup she sent us.

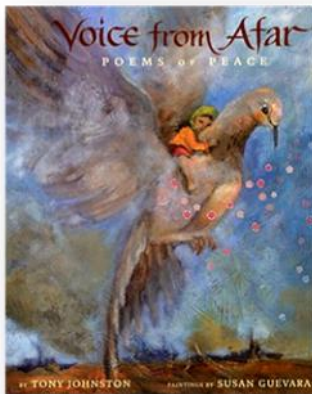


Ingredients: Juice of 4 lemons, and the grated peel; 450g Sugar; 4 beaten eggs; 100g butter

1. Place all ingredients in bowl. Mix well.
2. Cook on high power in microwave oven for 1 minute. Stir. Continue to cook in 1 minute stages until mixture starts to thicken. Then cook at 30 second stages until mixture coats back of spoon.
3. The Lemon Curd will thicken as it cools. Put into jars and enjoy on your toast!

Another Rose Poem

Seems like "rose poems" could be a monthly feature! Submit your favorite and we'll print it. Bookshop Santa Cruz had a beautifully written and illustrated book of poems about peace and war around the world for sale, and in it was this inspiring poem. "Rosebush, I will be like you: Whatever comes, I will bloom." (Voices from Afar: Poems of Peace, written by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Susan Guevara)



Survival

Somewhere in Africa grows a rosebush
as tough as my little old grandmother.
We gave it to her, our family, when she
completed half a century.
We held a fine ceremony then and sang
and drank bush tea and ate gorgeous foods,
chapati, mandazi, kolas,
while each person gouged out dirt
to make a home for the rose.
My grandmother gingerly patted it.
Then she made a speech: *Little rosebush,*
now we plant you in the good earth. Grow.

Time passed.

Zealous clippers maimed the rose.

Dogs watered it. Storms mauled it.

Drought shriveled it.

War rolled over it. And peace.

But it always listened to my grandmother.

Always it came clawing back.

Rosebush, I will be like you:

Whatever comes, I will bloom.

Award Given



At the January meeting, President Cherry Thompson presented Melita Israel with our Most Extraordinaire Award And Lifetime Membership For Thirty-seven Years of Inspirational Leadership. Along with the award, the Melita Israel Scholarship was created, to be awarded to a Cabrillo Horticulture student later this year. Yey, Melita!

Infamy

Succulent enthusiasm knows no bounds. Club Members Marcia Meyer and Lise Bixler appeared



Should we buy all the plants?
Yes!

in the Succulent Gardens newsletter, caught in a moment of joyous gluttony during the Gardens' Castroville Extravaganza.

The Gardeners' Club Membership

Please renew your membership NOW. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$12.00, due by January 31st. 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.

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!

Come grow with us!

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

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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.

