

The Gardeners' Club

Santa Cruz County, California

June 2015

Writer/Editor: Lise

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Water-wise Plants and Lawn Alternatives

We welcome Nicole W. Douglas to our June meeting. Nicole is Santa Cruz-based landscape designer and project manager with a focus on water conservation and an ecological, whole-systems approach to the landscape. With two master's degrees in environmental science and a background in art and design, Nicole combines her expertise to create exquisite, water-wise, habitat gardens county-wide and beyond. Nicole loves to educate others on the topics that she is passionate about and gives regular lectures and workshops throughout the county on a variety of subjects relevant to sustainable landscape design, greywater systems implementation, and how to "Lose Your Lawn". She also works with non-profit Ecology Action and local water districts to educate consumers on how to "Help Out With The Drought". Nicole is a certified rater for the Monterey Bay Friendly Landscape Program, and a member of the Central Coast Chapter of The California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA).

Nicole will give a presentation on waterwise gardening and choosing plants. Her website is www.douglaslandscapedesign.com. Nicole is also giving a class on "Plant Selection and Landscape Design" at Cabrillo on June 20th (see next page).



Thurs., June 11th

1:00 p.m.

Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.

Refreshments will be served. Thank you to Jan Olafson for beverages, Janine Canada for snack & Susan Pace for dessert.

Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be at April Barclay's home and garden, 7158 Freedom Blvd., Aptos. It will be at 6:00 p.m. on April 22 (a week earlier than we usually hold our Board meetings). Do join us—all are welcome to attend!



Green Home and Garden Program

Cabrillo Extension in collaboration with the **Water Conservation Coalition of Santa Cruz County** is offering a series of workshops and classes for home and garden. These classes offer expert instruction on water-saving techniques and conservation principles to help preserve and protect our most valuable resource. **Collaboration with Soquel Creek Water District, the City of Santa Cruz Water Department, San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Scotts Valley Water District and the City of Watsonville has helped significantly reduce registration fees as noted below. Space is limited in these classes so register early! Register by June 8: \$20 Register after June 8: \$25**

Golden Love, horticulturalist, landscaper and Club member, says, "We will have another illuminating class featuring water neutral gardens and how to move your garden(s) to this most necessary model. Our class in February was standing room only and this class is filling up quickly, so register now!"

Do you want landscaping that is less dependent on municipal or well water, and more resilient for today and the climate changes ahead? Here is your opportunity to learn "designing for water" principles and apply them on your property. Learn a whole systems approach to landscape design that synthesizes resources available with a unified plan that stores rain water in soil and cisterns, harvests abundant greywater, chooses plants that require less water, and applies gardening and irrigation practices to reduce inputs. The class will tour state-of-the-art examples of principles and offer hands-on experiences.

Sat., July 11, 9 am - 3 pm, Room: 714

www.cabrillo.edu/services/extension/green.html#nueutral

A-Z of Rainwater Harvesting— Bobby Markowitz

Rainwater harvesting is a popular alternative for homeowners and gardeners who want to become more self-sufficient by collecting rainwater while reducing their water bills. Rainwater can be used to water gardens and for emergency water supply. In this class we will discuss the fundamentals of designing a domestic rainwater harvesting system, how to optimize capture and usage, filtration and distribution. Graywater systems will also be discussed.

Sat., June 27, 10 am - 3:00 pm Room: 714

Graywater: Laundry to Landscape Irrigation System

This class gives participants information on repurposing water which was previously considered waste water and can now be redirected for landscape and garden irrigation. Participants will learn about current plumbing code standards, gray water compliant products, irrigation techniques, system design, installation, materials and tools required to complete their own residential system. Instructor: **Jim Heaney**

Sat., June 13, 10 am - 3 pm. Room: 711

Plant Selection and Landscape Design

Do you want to get rid of your thirsty garden but don't know where to begin? If yes, then this class is for you! We will introduce and explain high-impact, low-water use plants from around the world, how to use them in the correct applications, and how to design or re-design your garden with these hard-working plants. Yes, you can have a gorgeous and colorful garden and still reduce your water use by up to 90%! Nicole W. Douglas.

Sat., June 20—9 am - 3 pm. Room: 714



A huge **THANK YOU** to Tom and Julia Pfister of Pfister Perennials for donating lots of plants to our spring plant sale and trade, which was a huge success. You'll have more opportunities to purchase their plants this month. On Sat., June 6th, they'll be at the Deanza College Flea Market; on June 7th, Sunday, the Alameda Antique Faire; on June 13 from 2-7 p.m. at the Baylands, a new venue at Deanza. On June 12, 13 and 14, Fri., Sat. & Sun. they will have a plant sale at their home, 9560 Central Ave., Ben Lomond, up from the Feed Store, offering an abundance of succulents and a clearance on many plants. On Sunday, June 20th they'll be at the Scotts Valley Garden Faire. Whew!

Home Gardening Boot Camp

Date: June 6, 2015

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Contact: 831-763-8007

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay

Location: [Cabrillo College - Horticulture Facility](#)

Last date for online registration is June 4th.

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1388707

Walk-in registration available.



From a small seed
a mighty trunk may grow.

—Aeschylus

Friday, June 5
6-8 PM

at our

Downtown Store
110 Cooper Street, Suite 100G,
Santa Cruz

Special presentation:
6:30 PM

Summer is coming! The Homeless Garden Project is hosting an event which celebrates our natural world, discovery and the promise of young people in our own community. Kelly McCandless, the 15-year old author of "A Field Guide to the UCSC Arboretum," inspired this event. McCandless spent three years studying the animals and plants of the Arboretum and consulting with UCSC Professor Todd Newberry while writing the book. She says the book is geared toward naturalists of any age, but that she especially hopes it will reach and inspire a young audience. She'll be presenting with Todd Newberry and signing books. We'll have interactive activities that teach children and adults alike about nature connected to the place we call home. See you there!



Come Grow Together at The Garden Faire!

*In its 10th year, The Garden Faire will be held
on **Saturday, June 20, 2015**, from **9am to 5pm**, in **Scotts
Valley's Skypark**.*



The Garden Faire is a free-admission, educational event focusing on benefits of organic gardening and sustainable, healthy living. Included will be a unique assemblage of garden goods and materials, plants and services, plus many knowledgeable speakers, interactive presentations, food and beverage, live music and plenty of activities for everyone.

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The 2015 theme, "Growing During Climate Change" will explore the importance of individual actions toward building the health of ourselves, our community and our planet, implementing new ideas and techniques that will assist and enhance the growth of plants, while sustaining our earth and our environment, resulting in organic/holistic food for body and spirit.

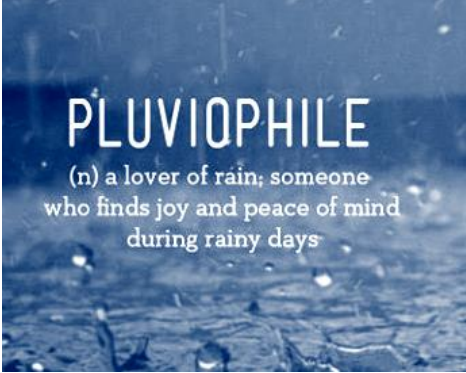
"Growing During Climate Change" was selected as the theme for the event because:

- Change is inevitable...all of life is constantly changing, every second
- Change brings us new beginnings...it is to be embraced.
- Change creates growth ...developing new ways...thoughts and ideas.
- Change encourages us to grow, expanding our horizons through the seasons of life.
- Changes succeed when we envision and pursue them together.
- We must all join in the global response to climate change.

Let us embrace change and growth – let us find new ways to take care of our physical earth and world through innovative techniques and ideas that will nurture the earth instead of poisoning it with pesticides and by other destructive means.



Remember when as a child a rainy day meant you couldn't go out to play? Remember when not too many years ago we gardeners grumped at late spring rains because it was delaying our start at gardening? No more—now we must be responsible stewards of the environment and follow the torrents of advice on water-wise gardening. But we can revisit pictures of our rain-blessed gardens of yore, and voice our invocations for rain.



"The rain to the wind said,
You push and I'll pelt.'
They so smote the garden bed
That the flowers actually knelt,
And lay lodged--though not dead.
I know how the flowers felt."
— [Robert Frost](#)



INVOCATION TO RAIN IN SUMMER.

O GENTLE, gentle summer rain,
Let not the silver lily pine,
The drooping lily pine in vain
To feel that dewy touch of thine,—
To drink thy freshness once again,
O gentle, gentle summer rain!

In heat the landscape quivering lies;
The cattle pant beneath the tree;
Through parching air and purple skies

The earth looks up, in vain, for thee;
For thee—for thee, it looks in vain,
O gentle, gentle summer rain.

Come thou, and brim the meadow streams,
And soften all the hills with mist,
O falling dew! from burning dreams
By thee shall herb and flower be kissed,
And Earth shall bless thee yet again,
O gentle, gentle summer rain.

William Cox Bennett (1820-1895)

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, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

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The Gardeners' Club

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3rd position - vacant

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www.thegardenersclub.org