

Newsletter of  
The Gardeners' Club,  
Santa Cruz County,  
California



December 2017  
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## Silent Auction and Potluck Dinner

Every December our tradition is to gather to celebrate gardening, good food, good friends and the art of re-gifting. You are welcome to bring friends, spouses, significant others and family. 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 plant sale or business meeting this month.

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 friends, families and ourselves.

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. See you there!

Thursday, DECEMBER 14TH, 7 PM  
Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Drive



Cabrillo Horticulture  
Department  
Open House - Poinsettia Sale  
6" pots for \$6.00!



Wednesday, December 6th  
3pm to 6pm

Come see wonderful poinsettia plants grown by student assistant Rachel Hargraves. Six beautiful varieties in 6" pots for only \$6 each. And there is more...landscape plants for \$8.00, succulent baskets for \$15.00, succulent bowls for \$12.00 and \$18.00, treats and something warm to drink! Please, no early birds. Open House and Sale is at the Cabrillo College Horticulture Department Greenhouses. Parking is available in the Nursery area.

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS?  
DON'T MISS

NATIVE REVIVAL NURSERY'S



25% OFF HOLIDAY SALE  
FRIDAY - SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 1, 2 & 3  
10AM - 4 PM

25% OFF PLANT MATERIAL & GARDEN SHOP MERCHANDISE  
(Samana & Camapania merchandise excluded)

Native Revival Nursery  
2600 Mar Vista Drive, Aptos  
831-684-1811  
[www.nativer revival.com](http://www.nativer revival.com)

## TomatoFest Annual Heirloom Tomato Seed Sale

TomatoFest focuses on sustaining heirloom tomato seed varieties so they may remain a vital and available food source for generations to come. The family-run company works to find what are considered to be the most favored heirloom tomato varieties from many different regions and family farms.

Then Gary and Lacey Ibsen grow and harvest these tomato seeds, save tomato seeds in its seed bank, and share them with other gardeners around the world.

Here's an opportunity to get seeds for your spring 2018 crop. Their annual sale takes from their online heirloom tomato seed catalog of more than 650 tomato seed varieties 350 of their most favored heirloom tomato varieties, including rare ones. The organic tomato seeds on sale are tomato varieties recently harvested for the 2018 season.



Tomato seeds will last 3-5 years if stored properly. These seeds are guaranteed for quality. All packs contain 25 - 30 seeds unless otherwise noted, and there is a minimum order of \$15.

Their offerings are organized in collections so you can find the specific types you are interested in, including the Gourmet Tomato Collection, Sauce Tomato Collection, Favorite Canning Tomato Collection, Cherry Tomato Collection, Rainbow Tomato Collection, Novelty Tomato Collection, Giant Tomato Collection, Short Season Tomato Collection, Cooler Coastal Tomato Collection, Tropical/Hot/Humid Tomato Collection, Tropical Container Gardening Tomato Collection, High Altitude Tomato Collection, Patio Container Collection and Indoor Container Collections.





I always think the perfect gift for a child, no matter what age, is a book. Robert Brault said, "In every gardener there is a child who believes in The Seed Fairy." I think I can be a seed fairy myself by giving books that share with children the love of growing things. To choose such books, I usually look for inspiration in the annual list of *Growing Good Kids Excellence in Children's Literature Award Winners* (Junior Master Gardeners and The American Horticultural Society). Here are the winners this year.



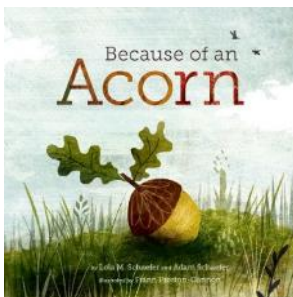
Secrets of the Vegetable Garden by Carron Brown, Illustrated by Giordano Poloni.



Shine a light behind the special pages of *Secrets of the Vegetable Garden* to reveal a plethora of insects and plants living

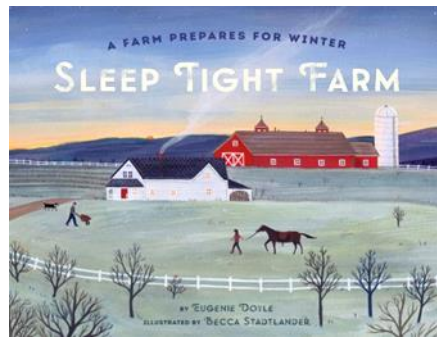
between the stalks, beneath the leaves, and under the soil of the vegetable garden.

Because of an Acorn by Lola M. Schaefer & Adam Schaefer, Ill. Fran Preston-Gannon.



Because of an acorn, a tree grows, a bird nests, a seed becomes a flower. Enchanting die-cuts illustrate the vital connections between the layers of an ecosystem in this magical picture book.

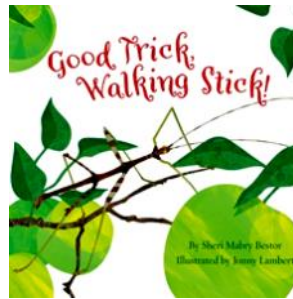
Wander down the forest path to learn how every tree, flower, plant, and animal connect to one another in spiraling circles of life. An acorn is just the beginning.



Sleep Tight Farm by Eugenie Doyle,

Illus. Becca Stadtlander. Captivating exploration of how a family gets a farm ready for the snow of winter, Sleep Tight Farm lyrically connects each growing season to the preparations at the very end of the farm year. This beautiful and informative book paints a fascinating picture of what winter means to the farm year and to the family that shares its seasons, from spring's new growth, summer's heat, and fall's bounty to winter's well-earned rest. All year long the farm has worked to shelter us, feed us, keep us warm, and now it's time to sleep.

Good Trick Walking Stick by Sheri Mabry, Illus. Jonny Lambert



From eggs buried in an ant colony under the winter snow, to the shedding of exoskeletons, to growing a replacement appendage, the amazing insects introduced here will fascinate budding entomologists and nature lovers of all ages.

The Night Gardener by Terry & Erric Fan.

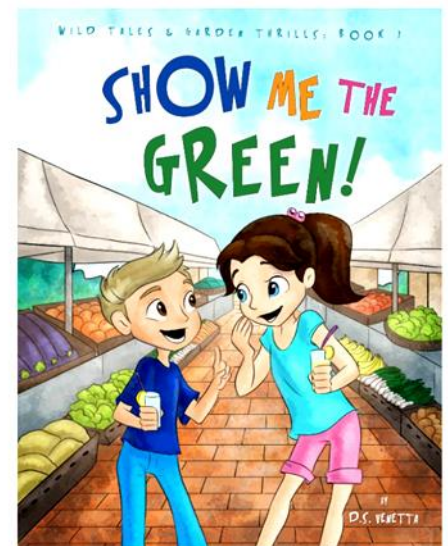


One day, William discovers that the tree outside his window has been sculpted into a wise owl. In the following days, more

topiaries appear, and each one is more beautiful than the last. Soon, William's gray little town is full of color and life. And though the mysterious night gardener disappears as suddenly as he appeared, William—and his town—are changed forever.



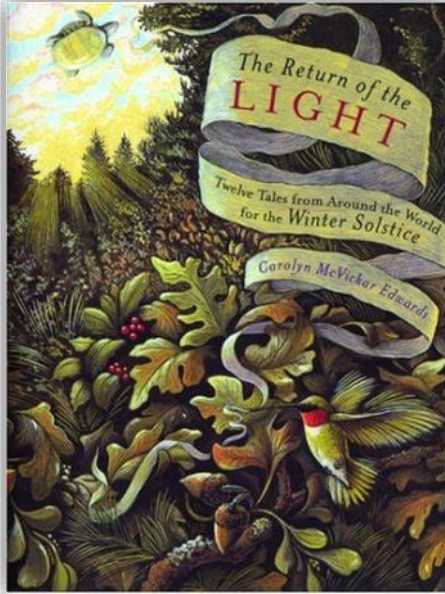
Here is an author and series I haven't heard about before. When Dianne Venetta volunteered in her children's Montessori school garden, it sparked a passion that gave rise to her series *Wild Tales & Garden Thrills*, stories bursting with the real-life experiences of young gardeners. Venetta feels that children see the world from a totally different perspective than adults, and hopes





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the adventures of her book characters will inspire a new generation to get outside, and get digging. These are chapter books for school children grades 2-4. She also has created a 2018 Monthly Garden Planning Calendar, where kids will find a monthly to-do list, know when to plant for warm and cool regions, help them to care for their plants and try out bonus craft ideas. Visit her blog at [Bloominthyme.com](http://Bloominthyme.com) for more information and ideas.



One more book you might want to consider as a gift—The Return of the Light, which tells the story of the winter solstice from places around the world. the day the "sun stands still," marks the longest night and the shortest day of the year (it occurs either on December 20 or 21). Celebrations honoring the day the "suns stands still" as a moment of transition and renewal date back thousands of years and occur among many peoples on every continent. Storyteller Carolyn McVickar Edwards retells twelve traditional tales from North America, China, Scandinavia, India, Africa, South America, Europe, and Polynesia.

## FREE Backyard Composting & Worm Bin Class

December 5, 2017 — 1:00-2:30 PM



It's a great time of year to start composting garden debris and leaves. You can learn how to successfully build your own compost pile, including the do's and don'ts of composting. Information will include worm composting (vermiculture) which is especially good for smaller yards or urban gardeners.

The location is Costanoa Commons, 335 Golf Club Drive Santa Cruz. The demonstration is held outside, so dress accordingly. If it rains, we will move inside.

This class is taught by UC Master Gardener and Master Composter Otis Johnson. Register at <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=22277>.



## Volunteers Needed

Trish Hildinger, Horticultural Therapy Santa Cruz, is looking for volunteers to assist during horticultural therapy sessions at Aegis of Aptos Thursday afternoons from 1:00—2:30pm. The mission of HTSC is to facilitate the human plant connection for nurturance, growth and restoration of the physical body and soul. Our main goals are to have participants engage in meaningful horticultural activities that engage them physically, emotionally, socially and mentally. Please contact Trish at (831) 713-7997 or [trishsgarden@earthlink.net](mailto:trishsgarden@earthlink.net).



Slow Food Santa Cruz invites you to celebrate sustainable food systems and agricultural biodiversity at their annual Terra Madre celebration and holiday party on December 6th. An open board meeting will take place at 5:30 and the celebration will begin at 6. Italian-themed appetizers made with local and seasonal ingredients will be provided. There will be a silent auction featuring great local goodies. The location is the Vino Prima Wine Bar, 55 Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz. For more information, go to <http://slowfoodsantacruz.com/events/>.



# The Gardeners' Club Membership

The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are only \$15.00, due by January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2017. 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. And...with gift-giving season almost 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!

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. We have a history of giving to the community, and have focused this giving in the last few years on

scholarships for high school and Cabrillo College students who are working towards careers in horticulture. Because our dues are so low and we'd like to be able to continue to give at least one additional scholarship, we are giving you the option of making an additional gift with your membership. Thank you!

Renew now so you don't miss anything—you'll be glad you

## 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 \$15 per member, plus any additional contribution to our scholarship fund, made out to *The Gardeners' Club*. Mail to:

**The Gardeners' Club % Suzanne Caron**

**P.O. Box 3025**

**Ben Lomond CA 95005**

Membership amount	\$ _____
I would like to make an additional gift	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____





Winter solstice marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year, as well as the official start of winter. This year it will occur on Thursday, December 21. Why celebrate ? Oliver Herford's poem of optimism expresses it well: "I heard a bird sing In the dark of December...a magical thing and sweet to remember.. We are nearer to spring than we were in September.. I heard a bird sing In the dark of December." Days are short, darkness is long, it is cold, but we remember the circle of life and know that spring is on its way. To celebrate, consider baking a celestial pie or two.

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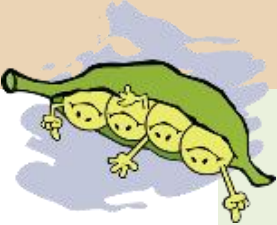
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**It's easy-peasy to join our club!**  
Dues are \$12 per calendar year. Make check to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

Our front page logo is graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop [www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern](http://www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern).