



Into the Garden

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

May 2017



Hope
you will
turn=up

AT OUR Spring Plant Sale & Swap

Our members offer a limitless variety of bulbs, annuals, perennials, shrubs, seeds, small trees, tools, planters, knick-knacks, books, watering equipment and anything/ everything "garden". You'll find plants you've never heard of and plants you've always wanted to try.

See the inside back cover for more information. If you don't have plants to trade, come with cash or check to buy at bargain prices. Don't miss out – see you there!

Got plants ready to divide, or ones you are replacing? Been so enthusiastically sowing that you've got seedlings to share? Pots you don't need any more? Garden art that needs a new home? Looking for free or low-cost treasures for your garden?

Clean out your tool shed, thin your perennial beds, make space on your bookshelf, finish your garden crafts...and bring your goodies to our amazing annual spring event.



Thurs., May 11th
Aptos Grange
2555 Mar Vista Dr.
7 p.m.

Dealing With Peach Leaf Curl



Peach leaf curl infecting a peach leaf

Yearly spraying with a fungicide listed for peach leaf curl during the dormant season will keep the disease in check and allow for a healthy tree and a bountiful harvest. But most of us who grow stone fruit trees, even if we spray, will find ourselves with some peach leaf curl despite our efforts.

You can't get rid of peach leaf curl in the active growing season once it has taken hold, but there ARE cultural practices that can protect the vigor of your tree (s).

- Thin the fruit to reduce the demand on the trees' resources. For peaches and nectarine, thin fruit to at least 3 inches apart. Remove diseased or cracked fruit and place in the trash, not your compost pile.
- Fertilize with nitrogen by mid-June, a good balanced fruit tree fertilizer. Lots of people recommend Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer (7-4-2).
- Keep watered to reduce water stress.
- Clean up dropped leaves or fruit around the base of the tree to reduce spreading to other trees. Don't put these in the compost pile — the spores can remain dormant for some time.

Want to grow great tomatoes but don't have time to take a class? Watch this episode of Season Eight of Joe Lamp'l's *Growing a Greener World*: Epic Tomatoes with Craig LeHoullier. Go to <http://www.growingagreenerworld.com/episode-803-epic-tomatoes/>.



Carmel Valley Garden Club

2017 CARMEL VALLEY GARDEN SHOW

May 6th & 7th

**at Hidden Valley Music Seminars,
Carmel Valley**

The Carmel Valley Garden Show features beautiful plant and floral displays with accredited judging and demonstrations. The hand-picked vendors at the marketplace present plants, products and advice that can enhance your garden and your life. New this year: photography contest and live music. Proceeds from the popular Silent Auction and food cafe allows the club to make donations to local non-profits dedicated to improving the beauty and environment in Carmel Valley. The Children's Garden offers activities and music for kids preschool to upper elementary. There will be delicious food, wine, beer, coffee and other beverages. Free admission, parking \$1. For more information, go to <http://cvgardenclub.org/2016-carmel-valley-garden-show/>.



WORKSHOP: TOMATO MASTERS



May 13, 2017 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m

Cost: \$59

Learn how to master the art and science of the world's most popular fruit. This is a hands-on seminar on backyard tomato growing. Get the latest techniques for fertilizing, pruning, and soil amending for maximum production, health and taste. Yes, you CAN help your tomatoes taste better. Yes, you CAN achieve results to make even your most doubting relatives and neighbors envious. We'll also talk staking, proper garden siting, mulching, watering, disease and pest control, harvesting, the heirloom vs. hybrid debate, and seed saving. Cynthia Sandberg, a recognized expert in tomato growing, will take you through the garden and discuss her tips and tricks to help you grow better tomatoes.

THIS WORKSHOP IS HELD AT 5311 SCOTTS VALLEY DRIVE IN SCOTTS VALLEY. REGISTER AT <http://www.growbetterveggies.com/growbetterveggies/2009/06/class-tomato-ma.html>.



HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO!



Our Members' Open Gardens

We are continuing our program of opening our gardens to fellow members of the club. The Open Gardens this month are:

Valera Templeman
514 Calle del Sol
Aptos CA 95003
Sunday, May 7, Noon-4pm

Sirleen Ghileri
65 Trailwood Way, Aptos
Bonsai & carnivorous plants & a fairy garden
(Carnivorous plants and succulents for sale)
Sunday, May 7th, 1pm to 4pm

Dr. Eurs
Mother's Day at Creekhaven
4851 Cherryvale Ave, Soquel CA 95073
May 14th, 10am to 4pm

Lise Bixler*
91 Country Estates Dr, Santa Cruz (Bonny Doon)
Saturday, May 20th
1:00—3:00 p.m.

*A work party will happen at Lise's in the morning the same day, which is her prize for the newsletter naming contest. 10:00 a.m. to noon. Organizer for work party is Bill Patterson—contact him at 479-3729 or wilderwill@comcast.net. Workers will be treated to BBQ lunch!

The Westside New Leaf Market, 1101 Fair Ave., Santa Cruz, is offering a Cooking with Salsa class on Thursday, May 4th, 6:00–8:00 PM. Taught by Leah Aguayo, you will learn her simple recipes to prepare with family and friends using her 5 varieties of Famous Salsas! The picture above is of a veggie taco using potatoes and fresh corn. Other recipes and more information about "Mrs. A's" salsas can be found at <http://www.mrsafamous.com/>.

If you can't make the class or it is full, here's a recipe you might want to try. This filling can be served on soft heated corn tortillas if you don't want to fry.

Veggie Tacos with Queso Fresco (makes 8 to 10 tacos)

- 1 white potato, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 yellow onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon canola or grapeseed oil
- 1 zucchini, chopped
- 1 yellow/summer squash, chopped
- 1/2 cup sweet corn kernels
- 1 cup black beans, drained (if using a can of beans rinse before use)
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 8 to 10 corn tortillas
- 4 ounces queso fresco, crumbled*
- chopped cilantro for garnish, and lime wedges

* Queso fresco is a Mexican farmers style cheese.

1. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Place potato, onion, red bell pepper, and garlic in the skillet and saute until the potatoes are browned and al dente, about 8 to 10 minutes.
2. Once the potatoes are browned, add squash, zucchini, corn, beans, chili powder, salt, and cumin to the pan. Stir to combine and saute for 5 minutes until the squash and zucchini are tender. While the vegetables are cooking place the tortillas a few at a time on a griddle or skillet and warm until the tortillas are soft and ready to serve.
3. To serve, place two large spoonfuls of the sauteed vegetables on a corn tortilla. Top with a large pinch of queso fresco, a squeeze of lime, and cilantro.

Recipe is from Meredith Steele, from Steele House Kitchen: <https://steelehousekitchen.com>.

The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and The Ray Collett
Rare and Extraordinary Plants Lecture Series Presents

FLORA UNVEILED: THE DISCOVERY AND DENIAL OF SEX IN PLANTS



Tuesday, May 9th, 7pm

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum Meeting Hall

Historians have long marveled at the incredibly long delay before sex in plants was finally discovered at the end of the seventeenth century. The delay is especially remarkable when you consider that sex in animals was discovered at least 14,000 years earlier. Why did it take so long to discover sex in plants, and why, after it's proposal and experimental confirmation, did the debate continue for another 150 years? The ancient belief that plants are unisexual and female can be traced back as far as the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, and this is a gender bias that Lincoln and Lee explore in *Flora Unveiled*. Lincoln and Lee Taiz will be signing books after the lecture. This is a free community event with free parking.



The UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay offer monthly FREE hands-on workshops on a variety of home gardening topics at their Watsonville demonstration garden. Class sizes are limited, reserve your space now. For more information contact Tina Heitzman at tina.heiztman@gmail.com.

Soil Prep for a Veggie Garden Sunday, May 7

10:00 a.m.—Noon. UC Master Gardener Delise Weir will discuss the importance of soil as the starting point for your seasonal garden in the Monterey Bay region. We'll begin with a little soil science to explain why organic matter, pH and soil structure are important to soil health. Then we'll talk about fertility and soil nutrition. We'll end with practical techniques for converting hard or sandy untouched dirt into fertile, rich garden beds. Then, we'll move out the demo garden and put our skills and knowledge into action. Things to bring: a sample of your soil ~1 cup in a mason jar with a lid; garden gloves if you plan to help with preparing beds in the demo garden; hat, sunscreen, layered clothing for the outdoor portion.

Starting Your Summer Garden. May 27

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. UC Master Gardener Carole King will be teaching a FREE class on "Starting Your Summer Garden", with an emphasis on growing successful tomato plants.

NABA Memorial Day Butterfly Count



The NABA Memorial Day Count will be held May 27-29, 2017. This new count will give butterfly enthusiasts throughout the continent an opportunity to get out and enjoy butterflies while contributing to our growing knowledge of butterfly distributions, flight times, and abundance.

In contrast to the highly organized NABA 4th of July and 1st of July Butterfly Counts, the Memorial Day Count is free-form. All you need to do is to observe butterflies at one or more of your favorite butterflying localities (such as your own backyard) this coming Memorial Day weekend and note what butterflies you've seen. There are no requirements regarding how much time or area you cover. Then go to the NABA web site, www.naba.org, and from there to the "Butterflies I've Seen" web pages and enter your report, filling in the location, date, and butterflies seen. More than 1 million locations are already in the system. For your own backyard, you can create a new location using the information at the site, or, perhaps more easily, you can simply use the name of the town or city in which you live -- these names have already been entered into the system.

Because this count will be taking place during a very different time of year than the July counts, we can expect to see different populations of butterflies than those present for the July counts. Because the approach is different, maybe we'll also see different populations of counters! Hopefully thousands of enthusiasts will have a great time in the field and contribute their knowledge, quickly making "Butterflies I've Seen" one of the largest biological databases in the

Smart Gardening Fair

UC MASTER GARDENERS OF MONTEREY BAY

Saturday, May 13, 2017
9:00 to 3:00
Jewell Park
Central and Grand Avenues, Pacific Grove

FREE EVENT * EXPERT SPEAKERS * LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



The class will cover information on what to plant this time of year, where to plant, spacing, companion planting, irrigation, staking plants that grow vertical, keeping the soil healthy throughout the season, protecting your plants from pests and saving seeds at the end of the season.

The Traveling Gardener

Lise Bixler Visits Huntington Beach Library, and Ponders Nikolara's Thoughts on "The Next 20 Years"



Recently we had the pleasure to visit our young granddaughters in Huntington Beach, and on Earth Day we went with them to the Huntington Beach Library and roamed the "Secret Garden" on the grounds. It was thrilling to experience



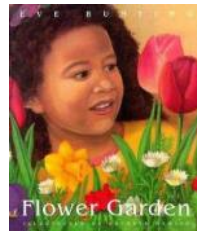
outdoor learning in combination with a library story time that celebrated nature and the joy of growing things.



The Secret Garden was intimate and inviting. Masses of echium attracted many hawk moths zipping around midday like hummingbirds, something I've never seen before.



librarian read Growing Vegetable Soup and Flower Garden to celebrate Earth Day.



The Huntington Beach Public Library is only one of a few libraries in California to offer a seed lending program. This movement has been spreading throughout the United States to create a sustainable and diverse stock of seeds for households and communities to freely access. Seed Libraries provide the public with access to free seeds for their garden to grow nutritious food.

Nikolara Jansons asked us, in a newsletter article earlier this year, what kind of gardeners we want to be in the next 20 years. I want to be a gardener who contributes to vibrant programs like this one that support young children and families. Libraries are one of my passions. Children are another. Adding gardens and nature experiences to this mix is something I'd like to help happen whenever possible.

The city of Felton is in the process of constructing a new library, and the community is planning to include many of the components I've described above.

A portion of the two acre parcel for the new library will include a native plant demonstration garden, and another will offer opportunities for

There were so many young families in the garden and in the library. Fathers, mothers, grandparents, toddlers, preschoolers. Indoors, they all plunked themselves down to hear a green-haired

young children to connect with nature in a Nature Explore Area, the Bull Creek Discovery Park. Richard Louv, co-founder of Children & Nature Network and author of Last Child in the Woods, says "By creating libraries with integrated natural spaces, we create a center for developing kids' intelligence, curiosity and imagination. Books nurture learning and inner imagination, while play in nature engages the sense of curiosity and exploration critical to healthy brain development. Putting both of these essential childhood experiences in one place is a simple idea, but one that could have profound effects on whole neighborhoods". To learn more, read "WELCOME TO THE NATURAL LIBRARY: The Essential Role of Libraries in Creating Nature-Rich Communities" (<http://www.childrenandnature.org/2015/06/09/welcome-to-the-natural-library-the-essential-role-of-libraries-in-creating-nature-rich-communities/>). The new Felton Library will have an interpretive riparian walkway and a seed bank, too.

I've been participating in the library project by creating a garden sculpture which I'll contribute to the Fantastic Figures auction (online May 20-June 19). The Fantastic Figures are a dozen garden art figures created by local artists, larger-than-life sculptures which will be temporarily "planted" on the building site. Each figure will be completely different, and materials will vary according to the artist's vision. If you are looking for unique garden art, this auction is for you. See them at the Fantastic Figures Festival (see the figures and information about the festival in the poster on the next page).



fantastic figures FESTIVAL

SC
PL

Art Builds Community!



AT THE EDGE



HORSE CRAZY



IMAGINATION



MADGE AND BOBO

Art Activities
Fantastic Figure Auction
Pizza, Strawberries, Lemonade

#

Saturday, May 20th |
Noon - 4pm

on the Library Land

next to the Felton Post Office

Music by Patti Maxine, Ben Lonesome, Dave McClellan, and Little People's Theatre

#

On-Line Auction of Fantastic Figures
May 20 - June 16

Details at FeltonLibraryFriends.org



WE NEED HER



DOTTIE'S GARDEN



TOTEM: OWL, COYOTE, CORVID



EX LIBRIS



SUPER HEROES ARE SPEED READERS



THE AFRICAN QUEEN



IMAGINATION IS LIMITLESS

Tally Sheet & Instructions for Plant Sale & Swap

You can take plants home by either paying bargain prices in cash, or by bringing plants and other items for trade tickets to use instead of cash. Fill out this form before the meeting if you are going to trade.

You may bring plants, seeds, bulbs, harvest bounty, books, tools and any other miscellaneous items of use or interest to gardeners. This is what you'll get for what you bring:

- 2", 3" & 4" pots: 1 ticket each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 1.5 ticket each
- 1 gallon pot: 2 tickets each
- 2 gallon pot: 3 tickets each

Miscellaneous items are priced at the meeting.

Label your plants with their common or botanical names, and put your name on them in case buyers have questions.

Please don't bring loose, dirty plants that would make a mess, or plants you wouldn't be proud to put your name on. Please don't



bring black plastic pots - we can't handle them, and encourage you to recycle them elsewhere.

We appreciate all of you who come early to help set up – it's a lot of work! And if you can, plan on staying to help with clean-up.

We'll start accepting plants at 6:40 p.m. The purchase prices are:

- 2", 3", or 4" pots: 2 tickets or \$1 each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 3 tickets, or \$1.50 each
- 1 gallon pot: 4 tickets or \$2.00 each
- 2 gallon pot: 6 ticket or \$3.00 each

When there are multiples of the same plant available, please take only one until other members have had a chance to buy one. If there are multiples left

over, then you can grab them! Plants that don't get sold or given away go home with the person who brought them.

Good luck, and have fun!

Please complete this form at home and bring it with you to the meeting.

Number of 2, 3 or 4" pots: _____ X 1 = _____ tickets

Number of 6" pots or 6-packs: _____ X 1.5 = _____ tickets (round up to whole number)

Number of 1-gal. pots: _____ X 2 = _____ tickets

Number of 2-gal. pots: _____ X 3 = _____ tickets

Miscellaneous items (to be priced at meeting): _____ tickets

TOTAL TICKETS: _____



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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

each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond, Dues are \$12 per calendar year. Make check

It's easy-peasy to join our club!

