

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



March 2018  
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## Propagation: "Growing plants in test tubes, and... there's smoke, there's germination!"

A Presentation by Nicky Hughes

For the last ten years Nicky Hughes has run her own small nursery in Soquel – Gold Rush Nursery – which specializes in water-wise plants and plants that attract birds, butterflies and beneficial insects. For the last two years, she has also been teaching in the Horticulture Department at Cabrillo College where she teaches classes in Plant Propagation, California Natives and Fall and Spring Plant Materials and Design.

Nicky's talk will be a two-topic one. She'll be talking about tissue culture and micropropagation and how these relatively new techniques are now dominating the world of propagation. And, in the light of all last year's wildfires in California, she'll also be talking about plants that are fire-followers and safe and sane methods of germinating seeds of these species at home.

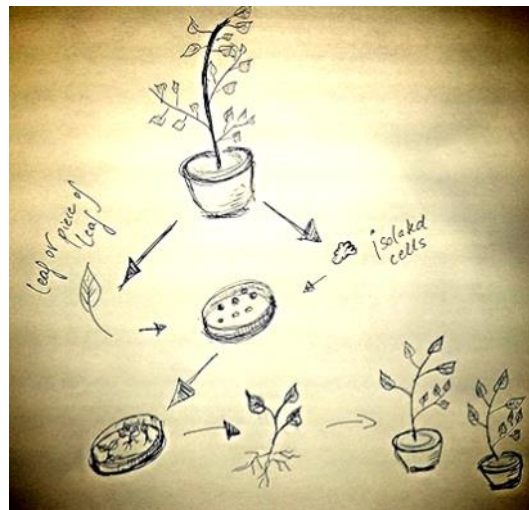


Nicky's grandfather, who was a judge for the Royal Horticultural Society in England and a breeder of dahlias and chrysanthemums, gave her her first set of gardening tools when she was three years old and she's been hooked ever since! She grew up in England and transplanted to the Santa Cruz area 20 years ago.

This should be a fascinating talk, and teach us things about how plants are propagated that many of us know nothing about. See you there!



<http://www.goldrushnursery.com/>



Meeting: Thursday, Mar. 8th, 7 p.m., Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.  
Refreshments will be served. Thanks to Dottie Lechtenberg for snacks,  
Kate Riley for dessert and Julie Pendergast for beverages.

# The best time to prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs is right after they bloom.



If you wait until summer or fall, you'll cut off a lot of the flowerbuds for next year. Examples: forsythia, azalea, quince, spiraea, lilac, and Japanese magnolias. —Steve Bender, The Grumpy Gardener ( <https://www.southernliving.com/home-garden/gardens/grumpy-gardener-best-gardening-tips#grumpy-graphic-golden-rules-image>)

## In Praise of the Raised Bed - Garden Bed Preparation, Chadwick Style!

Saturday, March 10, 9:30 am - 12 pm  
Alan Chadwick Garden at UCSC



Join Chadwick Garden manager Orin Martin for a special workshop about garden bed preparation, featuring the classic double digging technique that Alan Chadwick introduced at the Student Garden Project (now the Chadwick Garden) more than 50 years ago.

Learn when and how to create and maintain garden beds, incorporate compost, and maintain your beds through the years with cover crops and careful cultivation practices. The workshop will also review "intensive" planting techniques, including intercropping, to maximize production in your garden beds.

Workshop Cost: \$30 general admission (pre-registered) or \$40 (at the door); \$20 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members and certified UC Master Gardeners (pre-registered) or \$30 (at the door); \$15 for limited-income (pre-registered) or \$20 (at the door). \$5 for UCSC students.



Please note: Heavy rain cancels. Rainout date is Sunday, April 1. Full refund if you cannot attend on the rainout date.

If you prefer to pre-register for this class by mail (no service charge), please send a check made payable to UC Regents to: Vanessa Ackermann, CASFS  
1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064  
attn: Garden Bed Workshop. Please include your contact information (phone and email) with your check.

Feel free to bring a bag lunch and enjoy the garden following the workshop.

**SPRING 2018**

MONTEREY BAY AREA  
**CACTUS & SUCCULENT**  
SOCIETY

**SHOW & SALE**



Saturday  
March 24th  
9 am - 5 pm

Sunday  
March 25th  
9 am - 4 pm

San Juan Bautista Community Hall  
10 San Jose St

<http://www.mbsucculent.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/MontereyBayAreaCactusAndSucculentSociety/>

Don't miss this!



**8 am to 10 am Quiet hours for Birders/Photographers**  
**10 am to 4 pm Family Fun and Activities**

Hummingbird Day is the central coast's premier family-oriented educational event celebrating one of nature's vibrant aerial acrobats, the hummingbird. Hummingbirds just can't resist the temptation of such a plentiful supply of nectar at the Arboretum. During the event, nature lovers of all ages will see and learn about these amazing birds, and the gardens that host and support them. Guests will have plenty of opportunities to watch and hear hummingbird courtship shenanigans, as well as participate in a variety of activities focused on these amazing creatures.

- \$5 admission for Arboretum Members
- \$10 admission for Non-Members
- Free for children 12 and under & UCSC students

10 am to 4 pm: Special activities for children - Children 12 and under must be accompanied at all times by an adult. Take-home Craft making: mobiles, masks, finger puppets and seed balls; children's bird walks/play; face painting; scavenger hunt 11:30am-1:30pm

Educational Talks—Don't miss these exceptional presentations from distinguished local experts

10:30 am: Dr. Michael Bolte is presenting: "Wildlife in the Arboretum". Dr. Bolte, a UCSC Astrophysics and Astronomy professor, has been capturing some of the Arboretum's most elusive and interesting animals through his lens for decades. Join him as he shares some of the most memorable images of Arboretum wildlife.

1 pm: Dr. Bruce Lyon is presenting: "Jewels of the Garden: A Darwinian Natural History of Hummingbirds". Dr. Lyon is a UCSC Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and is

currently conducting research on golden-crowned sparrows.

2:45 pm: Dr. Martin Quigley is presenting: "**Gardening for the Birds: Choosing Plants That Hummingbirds Love**". Dr. Quigley is the Arboretum's Executive Director and has a background in plant community ecology and landscape architecture.

Garden Tours and Beginning Birder Tours

8 am to 4 pm: Photographing the Fastest Birds in the World: throughout the event a number of our talented and dedicated amateur photographers will be "out in the field" to answer questions on techniques for photographing hummingbirds.

8:30 am to 3:30 pm: Bird and Plant-Centric Tours with experienced and knowledgeable volunteer tour guides. Family friendly tours will be available throughout the day.

\* Select souvenirs, gifts, and acquire the perfect plant for the perfect place at Norrie's Gift and Garden Shop.

\* Enjoy live music by local musicians at Norrie's patio

\* Delight in an assortment of beverages and snacks available for purchase.

### Invitation to Volunteer at Shannon Collins Memorial Garden

Hello! My name is Nicole Laflin and I am contacting you on behalf of the Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center. We have garden work days coming up to help us expand our memorial garden at our center and it's our hope to have volunteerS.



The purpose of this garden will be multi-functional. It will have community plots for our participants and community members to access fresh, healthy food, a small amphitheater, a tranquility garden, a children's garden with interactive features, and various paths for wandering and reflecting.

Our garden is a memorial space for Shannon Collins, a community member who dedicated countless hours to our organization. Unfortunately, she was tragically slain in 2012; however, with the help of her family, this garden has become a part of her immeasurable legacy. This space will aim to honor her goals for women and youth empowerment, education, and community engagement.

The garden work days are the second Saturday of every month, from 11am-3pm. These are the upcoming dates: March 10, 11am-3pm; April 14, 11am-3pm; May 12, 11am-3pm. Please contact Anna at [alieby@wafwc.org](mailto:alieby@wafwc.org) if you are interested.

Please bring gloves and gardening supplies if you have them. This is a wonderful family, group, and individual volunteering opportunity.

Here is more information about the garden project: <http://www.wafwc.org/shannoncollins>.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

We'll be meeting at the home of Sim Gilbert on March 26th. We'll start at 6:00 p.m. with a garden tour. Sim's address is 3999 Glen Haven Rd., Soquel. You don't have to be a Board member to attend— join us!

## ONLINE CLASS WITH DEBRA BALDWIN: "STUNNING SUCCULENT ARRANGEMENTS"



Renowned succulent expert Debra Lee Baldwin shares the secrets to caring for these low-maintenance plants and explains why they lend themselves well to container arrangements. First, create a color wheel container composition and stress your plants to reveal beautiful hues. Then, make a gorgeous floral-style arrangement and add dimension and interest to your piece. Do you only have shade to give your succulents? Choose plants that thrive in low-light areas and learn how to care for their unique needs. Next, create a terrarium arrangement that's straight from the pages of your favorite magazine! Debra shows you how to care for succulents in no-drain containers and add colored sand and pebbles

for a special touch. Moving on, learn how to create a show-stopping succulent bouquet and never settle for ho-hum table decor again with this gorgeous centerpiece. Plus, attach succulents onto a wreath for beautiful door decor. Make stylish container compositions with gorgeous succulents. Create bouquets, terrariums, wreaths and more. The course, which costs \$19.50 on Craftsy, includes 7 hours of streaming HD video lessons with anytime, anywhere access. <https://www.craftsy.com/gardening/classes/stunning-succulent-arrangements/35155>.

## Sale! New Introductions from Renee's Garden

Renee's is having a sale (15% off) on new vegetable and flower introductions. The sale has been extended until March 15. Some interesting new container varieties!



Also, check out their new plant offerings, including asparagus crowns, rhubarbs and potatoes. <https://www.reneesgarden.com/collections/new-introductions/>

## LOTS TO DO IN MARCH!

Plant camellias and azaleas. Because they are now in full bloom, you can see the exact colors of their flowers, so it is a good time to shop and plant. Amend the soil with organic matter, and plant so the top of the root ball is an inch higher than the surrounding ground.

Pest alert. Carefully guard tender new plantings from snails and slugs, which become more active as the weather warms. Don't wait a day to put down bait or deterrents. Be ready for rose slugs (actually the larvae of sawflies), which pepper rose leaves with tiny holes. Caught early in the year, they are easily controlled with a spray of light horticultural oil (nonpoisonous) applied every two weeks.

You can plant beet, cabbage, carrot, corn, endive, kale, lettuce, greens, New Zealand spinach, onion, pea, potato, radish, sunflower and Swiss chard. In a normal March, you could put out some "Early Girl" tomatoes with "Wall-of-Water" protectors, but this year it is hard to predict when this cold spell will end!

Side-dress the garlic you planted in fall with compost and soil amendments high in nitrogen. Pinch your chrysanthemums now for better, bushier blooms later. Feed your roses: try an organic blend of cottonseed meal, alfalfa meals and composted manure.

Order early bird tickets by March 4th (\$17.50, but you've got to hurry!) for the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, which will be returning to the historic Cow Palace this year. The theme this year is "Return to Paradise". Dates are April 4-8. For tickets go to <http://www.sfgardenshow.com/>.



# The Gardeners' Club Membership

The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are only \$15.00, due NOW. 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. 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 did..

## 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	\$ _____

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR  
DUES YET? Don't make this your last  
newsletter-that would be a shame! Renew your  
membership by the  
end of the month.

## SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Savings Time  
begins on Sunday,  
March 11th. Set your clocks  
ahead one hour.



Don't forget:  
Annual dues  
\$15

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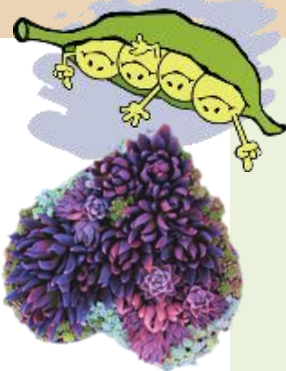
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### Webmaster

Joe Thompson

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).