



The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

DECEMBER 2018

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White Elephant



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 13th, 7:00 pm
Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Drive

**Cabrillo Horticulture Department
Open House and Poinsettia Sale
Wednesday, December 5th
3pm to 6pm**

Come see wonderful poinsettia plants grown by Cabrillo's student assistants. Six beautiful varieties in 6" pots for only \$7.00 each. And there is more...landscape plants for \$8.00, 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.

Have you ever wondered about the history of poinsettias: Named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, first United States ambassador to Mexico and the amateur botanist who introduced the plant to the U.S. in 1825, the poinsettia is also known as Mexican Flame Leaf, Winter Rose, Noche Buena and, in Turkey, Atakurk's Flower, because it was the favorite flower of Atakurk, the founder of modern Turkey.

While considered by the ancient Aztecs to be symbols of purity, in today's language of flowers, red, white or pink poinsettias, the December birth flower, symbolize good cheer and success and are said to bring wishes of mirth and celebration.



If you think a white elephant planter might be the perfect holiday gift, look no further than Etsy for many choices::

<https://www.etsy.com/>.

On the other hand, if you value function over form, consider this cactus orange juicer: <https://colossalshop.com/products/juicer>.



Arb at the Farmer's Market

The UCSC Arboretum will be joining the Holiday Craft Fair at the Downtown Farmer's Market on Wednesday, December 12th, from 1-5 p.m. Unique creations made by skilled Arboretum volunteers will be available for sale.

This is a great way to connect with the local community and remind folks that the beautiful gardens and a great gift shop are just a hop, skip and a jump away. **A special discount coupon will be available for shoppers to use at Norrie's Gift Shop during the holiday season.** Connecting people with plants—please visit them and the other great vendors in the Holiday Craft Fair!



'Tis the season of gratitude and giving. Check out some of our local non-profits and their projects who were selected for the Santa Cruz Gives program, which simplifies giving and includes challenge grants (<https://santacruzgives.org/>). Included are some our club is familiar with, such as Food What?, Farm

TomatoFest Annual Organic Heirloom Tomato Seed Sale

<https://www.tomatofest.com>

New this year: combination flower and heart-shaped tomato seed collection!!



Discovery at Live Earth, the Homeless Garden Project and more.

Giving locally to support our community is great. Usually at this time I give a few tips on giving to international causes, but I'm finding that a little overwhelming this year. As we celebrate family and abundant food, thinking about the famine in Yemen, for instance, makes me weep. So I'll just share who I am giving to this year, suggestions for organizations that provide relief and fight hunger around the world. We may not be able to solve the big problems, but we can do what we can, however small, to make the world a better place.



www.savethechildren.ca



www.rescue.org/country

INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE



WANTED
★ GIFTS THAT DELIVER REAL REWARD ★

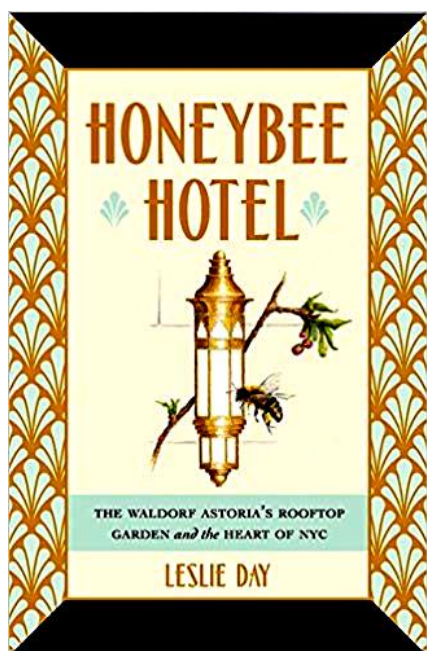
13"
13"
3"

"THE BEET-DOWN BOYS"
VEGETABLE GARDEN \$30

This season, don't just give the usual suspects. Put a vegetable garden on your most-wanted list and help a family living in poverty put food on the table.

See the full lineup at OXFAMGIFTS.COM

OXFAM America



The tale of Honeybee Hotel begins over one hundred years ago, with the Astor family and the birth of the iconic Manhattan landmark, the magnificent Waldorf Astoria. In those early days the posh art deco masterpiece had its own rooftop garden for guests to enjoy. Fast-forward to the turn of the twenty-first century, and we meet executive chef David Garcelon, the creative genius behind the idea of restoring the celebrated rooftop garden. His vision included six hives containing some 300,000 honeybees, which would provide a unique flavor for his restaurant's culinary masterpieces. Yet Garcelon's dream was much grander than simply creating a private chefs' garden: he wanted the honeybee garden to serve as a bond among people. Soon the staff of the hotel, the guests, local horticulturists, and beekeeping experts formed a community around the bees and the garden, which not only raised vegetables, herbs, and honey to be served in the hotel but also provided healthy food to the homeless shelter across the street at St. Bartholomew's Church.

Through her meticulous research and interviews with culinary glitterati, entomologists, horticulturists, and urban beekeepers, Leslie Day leads us on a unique insider's tour of this little-known aspect of the natural world of New York City. She familiarizes us with the history of the architectural and cultural gem that is the Waldorf and introduces us to the lives of Chef Garcelon and New York City's

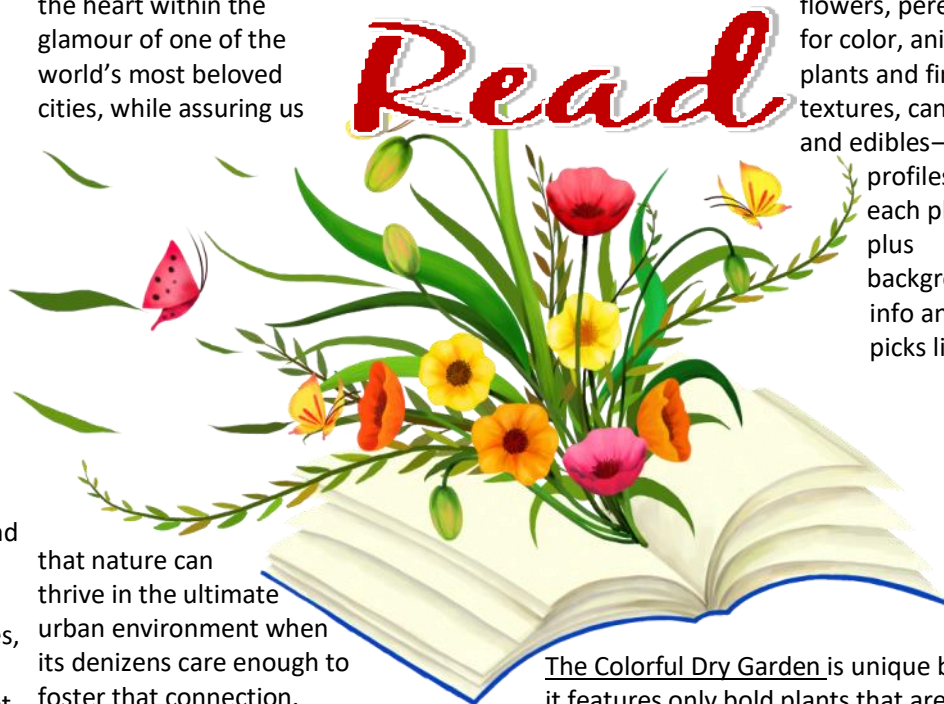
master beekeeper, Andrew Coté.

Day, an urban naturalist and incurable New Yorker, tells us of the garden's development, shares delectable honey-based recipes from the hotel's chefs and mixologist, and relates the fate of the hotel in the wake of the Waldorf's change of ownership. During our journey, we learn quite a bit about apiaries, as well as insect and flower biology, through the lives of the bees that travel freely around the city in search of nectar, pollen, and resin. This absorbing narrative unwraps the heart within the glamour of one of the world's most beloved cities, while assuring us

in the Western US. When readers must reluctantly remove water-guzzling favorites from the garden, they need equally beautiful substitutes! This book is a visual treat that supports the transition to dry gardening by proving that gardeners can have all the gorgeous color and flowers they had in the past using just a fraction of the water.

Gilmer provides chapters on design categories of plants—flowering shrubs, the ground plain, eye-catching accents,

ephemeral flowers, perennials for color, animated plants and fine textures, canopy, and edibles—with profiles for each plant plus background info and top picks lists.



that nature can thrive in the ultimate urban environment when its denizens care enough to foster that connection.



The Colorful Dry Garden: Over 100 Flowers and Vibrant Plants for Drought, Desert & Dry Times by Maureen Gilmer

A design-focused, easy-to-use guide to colorful, eye-catching foliage and flowers for your whole yard, from the ground plane to the canopy, for homeowners and landscapers faced with replacing thirsty gardens in California and other dry regions

The Colorful Dry Garden is unique because it features only bold plants that are also heavy bloomers despite heat and limited water. It also features more than just Western native plants by including varieties from the world's driest climates. Maureen Gilmer has over thirty years' experience in landscape design and has written 18 books on gardening.



Cartoon by Joseph Tychonievic

NORRIE'S GIFT & GARDEN SHOP HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

UNIQUE GIFTS, PLANTS, LOCAL ARTISTS, HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

December 8, 2018
Saturday, 10am-4pm

Local artists and makers on-site,
sharing their creations.

Give a truly "green gift",
plants and succulents from around
the world.

Shop handmade wreaths, ornaments, centerpieces, candles, succulent pumpkin planters, dish gardens, and more. While shopping, enjoy honey, olive oil, and hot chocolate tastings along with hot cider and homemade cookies.

Featuring:
Jewelry
Plants
Garden Items
Books
&
Unique
Holiday Gifts

arboretum.ucsc.edu
(831) 502-2998

Other Sales and Open Houses

Open House at Alladin Nursery, Nov.30-Dec. 2 (4-6 p.m. each day). Sit around the fire and enjoy a cup of hot coffee or hot apple cider. Once you've warmed up, dance to live jazz and have a glass of wine from local wineries. Enjoy homemade pastries, and stroll through gift shop and nursery. 2905 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville DIG Nursery will have its Annual Holiday Open House on December 1st from 4-8 pm. estive Holiday Shopping at 10% off, small bites, wine and beer. 420 Water Street Santa Cruz The Homeless Garden Project has TWO stores open now, one holiday shop downtown at 1338 Pacific Ave., and one in Capitola, 222 Esplanade. .Products made in training program from herbs and flowers grown on their organic farm. A wide selection of all natural bath and body products, hand dipped beeswax candles, organic baking mixes, organic soy candles, the BEST EVER strawberry jam and more!!!

December Garden Tips

Gardening is a great stress reliever, so make time to restore yourself in the garden when you can tfind time his month.

Sunset Magazine suggests bypassing crowded malls and heading to nurseries for plants that the gardeners on your list can enjoy long after the holidays. Tie a bow around a dwarf citrus tree or a cluster of strawberry plants. For something in bloom, choose a camellia, Christmas cactus, cymbidium, kalanchoe, or moth orchid. Bare root roses should be in the nurseries, and there is always room for one more rose.

Fallen leaves are lovely, but left undisturbed they may form a sodden mass which can starve plants or grass of oxygen. If you shred them, they make wonderful mulch and compost. Use a vacuum shredder, a lawn mower or weedwhacker (stick dry leaves in a

Youth-Powered Pie for the Holidays

"We, the youth of FoodWhqt, planted pumpkin seed this summer with a delicious goal in mind - Youth Powered Pie! This Fall we harvested the organic pumpkins and prepped them for the kitchen. When the last squash had been roasted, scooped, and pureed, we baked over 175 pies guided by seasoned bakers at Beckmann's



Bakery.

Our farm and culinary youth crews carefully tended these pies from seed to plate. We are proud and excited to share these pies with you just in time for the holidays! We hope you enjoy them in the spirit of community in which they were grown and baked. \$24.99 each -- available

at all New Leaf locations until they sell out!

Thank you for supporting FoodWhat youth leaders!"



garbage can and pretend it's a blender) to shred them.

Apply dormant spray to smother overwintering insect eggs and pests such as aphids, mites, and scale, on deciduous flowering and fruit trees. For complete coverage, spray branches, branch crotches and ground beneath the dripline. To control peach blight and peach leaf curl, spray with lime sulfur mixed with dormant oil after leaves have dropped. If rains are light, continue to irrigate plants when the soil dries out—this will help to prevent frost damage.

To care for succulents after rainstorms, Debra Lee Baldwin suggest you check for: 1. Succulents with rotted leaves. Remove mushy leaves before rot spreads to the plant's stem or crown. 2. Drainage issues. If soil stays sodden and muddy areas remain long after a storm, roots may drown. Move plants to higher ground. 3. Slope erosion. Create dams of rocks and diversion channels, and add gravel or mulch to diffuse the rain's impact.

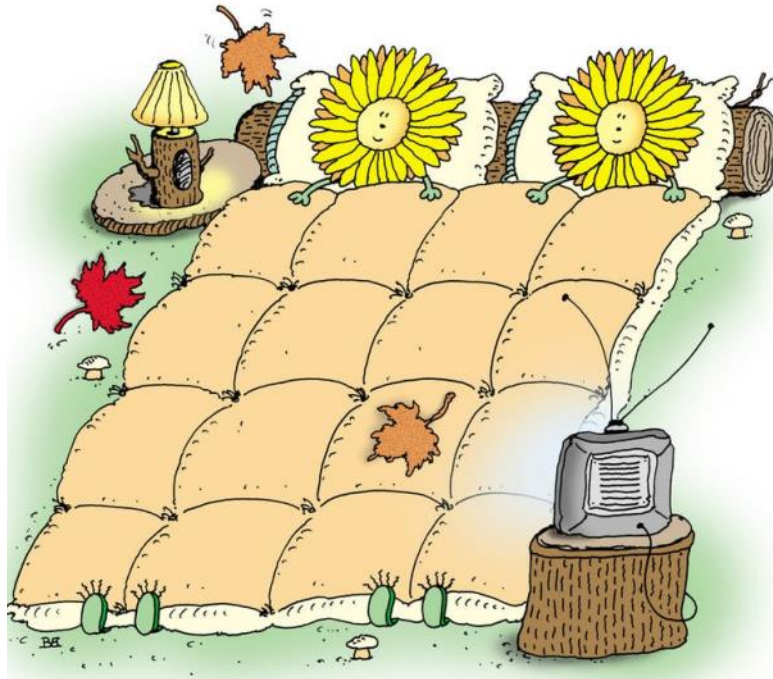
It used to be a truism: we lovingly tuck our gardens to rest and recoup as winter approaches. But there are not only a zillion WAYS to put a garden to bed, there is open disagreement about whether to do it at all.

In a NY Times article, Michael Tortorello divides the possibilities into these categories: tasks that need doing for the health and hygiene of the garden; tasks that could be done to tidy up the place; tasks that a more organized, more ambitious and generally better person would do to create a thriving garden next spring; and, finally, what he calls the Sloth Option, doing nothing—the refuge of idlers—and also, as it happens, backyard ecologists. If you fall into one of the first three categories, read the article for good advice on what to do (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/17/realestate/putting-garden-to-bed.html?_r=0). If you fall into the last category, read the article to justify your minimalist approach and to affirm that doing less is good for the environment.

“The circle of life doesn’t work as well with a winter-shaped wedge cut out of it.”-Michael Tortorello

Nancy Lawson is the author of The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife. She founded Humane Gardener, an outreach initiative dedicated to animal-friendly landscaping methods. Check out

Putting the Garden to Bed?



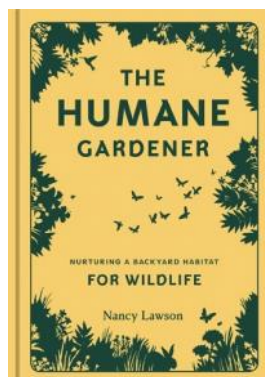
her essays and other resources on her website.



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

Remember the advice to shred your fallen leaves on the previous page? Ms. Lawson offers a different approach. Let it turn into leaf mold. Move the leaves to an inconspicuous corner of the yard and forget about them until spring or summer. When the leaves are wet, they

won’t blow away. Stacked over newspaper and cardboard, the leaf litter will decay into rich soil for spring.



Over at Garden Rant, (<https://www.gardenrant.com>) there are different points of view. Carol Reese advises against “wackadoodle” pruning this time of year and says to wait until late winter. Elizabeth Licata says, “Leave the leaves? I think not” in one of her rants. But my her other one, where she describes that she is planting spring bulbs rather than cleaning up. She doesn’t fertilize bulbs, just

covers them with compost because she “probably didn’t plant them deep



enough and it’s easier to build up than dig down.” Why bother with stinky bone meal, she asks. She plants them in clumps, not worrying about spacing, and says it is never too late to plant them, right though midwinter.

Me? I’ll clean up the tomatillos on the ground under their withering vines, and



freeze them for another time. Then I’ll go inside and read this book of full-use cooking tips from the Beard Foundation.

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, 2018. 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!

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: _____

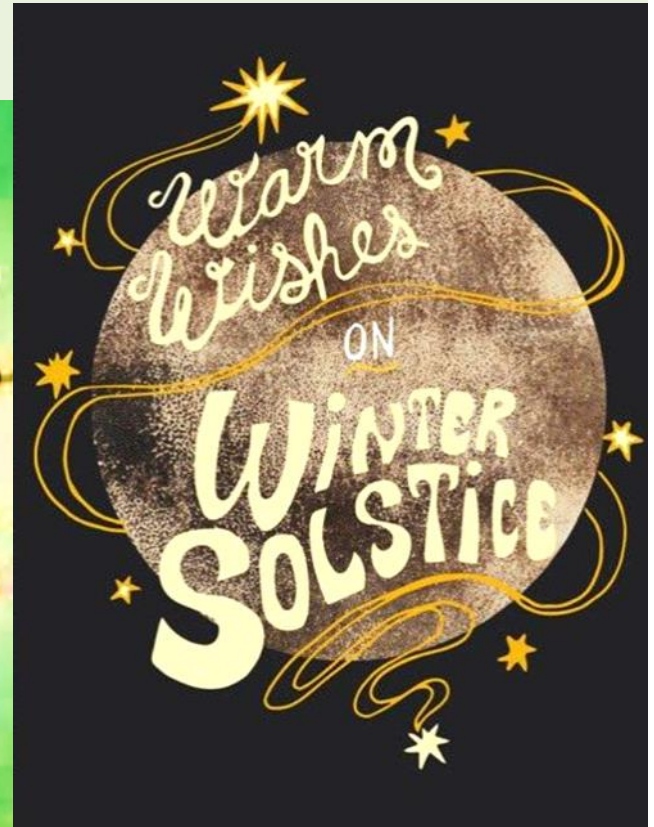
Newsletter Preference (check one): _____ Full color PDF via e-mail _____ Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

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
c/o Suzanne Caron, P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005.

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

WINTER SOLSTICE IS DECEMBER 20TH.
ONLY 90 DAYS 'TIL SPRING!



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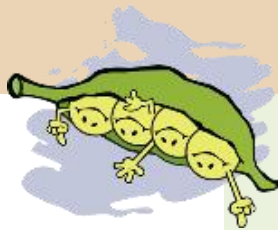
each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of

Dues are \$15 per calendar year. Make check

to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond,

It's easy-peasy to join our club!



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.