



The Gardeners' Club Santa Cruz County, California

JUNE 2018

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global.net)



Waterwise Lawn Alternatives: How to Lose Your Lawn and Live Happily Ever After



We are pleased to welcome Claudia Boulton as the speaker for our June meeting. She has been a Master Gardener for 17 years and a professional garden designer in the Santa Cruz/Monterey area since 2005. She trained at Cabrillo College and has been a member of APLD (Association of Professional Landscape Designers) and the Santa Cruz Landscape Designer's Guild. She designs gardens in many styles, but always takes into consideration the chronic water shortage in our area and likes to use native California plants whenever possible.



Claudia, owner of Wild Rose Landscape & Garden Design, is passionate about plants. Her love of gardens has led her to help Santa Cruz County residents select and arrange the perfect plants (ones that resonate with their personal tastes and styles)

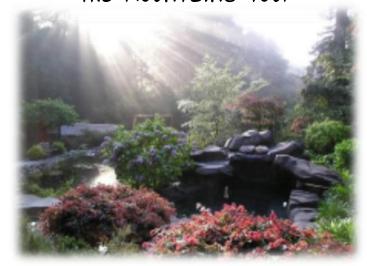
for for each spot in their residential landscapes. You can see her design work at www.wildroselandscape.com.
Below are "before" and "after" pictures of a Soquel residence front yard she redesigned.

This should be an inspiring meeting—we'll all leave with new ideas and insights.



Meeting: Thursday, June 14th, 7 p.m., Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr. Refreshments will be served. Thanks to Lupe Allen for Snacks, llene Wilson dessert and Betsy Stiefelmaier for beverages.

Enchanting Gardens in the Mountains Tour



sunday, June 10th-10 am-5 pm

Come to Bonny Doon to tour seven magical gardens. Included on the tour is "Bixlerville", the garden of yours truly, Lise Bixler. I'm eager to show off some new art as well as a bumper crop of roses, salvias, succulents and much, much more.

Among the highlights are a 1938 mission-style estate with extensive gardens that reflect Italianate and European touches; a completely organic garden, lovingly tended for over 40 years; vintage rose gardens, ponds, waterfalls, bonsai garden, chicken coops, metal sculptures, garden art, a spectacular garden with ocean views, and so much more.

Garden tour tickets are \$20. They can be purchased at Scarborough Gardens, Scotts Valley; Mountain Feed & Farm Supply, Ben Lomond; San Lorenzo Garden Center, Santa Cruz; and The Garden Company, Mission Street, Santa Cruz. Garden addresses and maps are included with tickets.

As there are no restaurants in Bonny Doon, gourmet lunches will be available for purchase. Visitors may choose from several lovely gardens where they may enjoy their lunch (\$12). Lunches will be prepared by popular Press Banner food columnist Colly Gruczelak. Please reserve your lunch in advance by calling 831-336-8098 or 831-469-0688.

Fence mural For more tour information, call 831-336-8258, ext. 228 or visit vcum.org. All proceeds will go to Valley Churches United to provide food and emergency services to those in need in the San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, and Bonny Doon. With community support, the Ben Lomond nonprofit has provided these services and more for over 35 years.

When You agree to be Part of a Garden Tour...



"you may find your relationship to your garden changes. I hadn't done any real purposeful garden work in a while— sculptures have disappeared entirely into copses of vegetation, unfinshed mosaic projects abound with colored mirror shards threatening the

I HAVE
BEEN
IN THE
GARDEN
FOR TOO
LONG

Doodle by Andre Jordean

barefoot visitor. And so I dove into my garden with obsessive zeal this year, as well as much anxiety.

Dirt tired: a condition that occurs after spending all My in the garden.

year

Having a spouse who dislikes garden work, I'm used to working in solitude. But with so much to do, I soon cried for help. Two laborers who worked for Cliff with a building project were quickly drafted to rat-proof the

chicken coop and cover ground with wood chips. Jorge and Nicholas loved the garden, and they showed me phone photos of their 28 free-range chicks in Mexico. My neighbor had a man from El Salvador trimming his hedges, and I quickly hired him to cut back my strawberry trees. I

Coop d'Cups

advertised for help on the Cabrillo job board, and so Morgan and Rachael, who live in Prunedale, became part of my team. This picture shows us cleaning the egg cup display on my "Coop d'Cups". What joy to

ridiculous task!

Yesterday Torino and Saif joined the crew, Saif putting up wire to keep out the rabbits and Torino planting my long-waiting-to-beplanted Annie's Annuals, I LOVE

having comradeship in

the garden, although of course I can't afford this forever. A fence

Planters

have someone share this

painting party for neighborhood children resulted in great murals, and so I had to paint planters to complement them. So much to do, so little time! Hope to see many of you here on June 10th.

A Tapestry Garden: The Art of Weaving Plants and Place

By Ernie O'Byrne and Marietta O'Byrne Photographs by Doreen Wynja

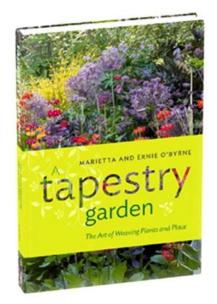
Marietta and Ernie O'Byrne's garden-situated on one and a half acres in Eugene, Oregonis filled with an incredible array of plants from around the world. By consciously leveraging the garden's many microclimates, they have created a stunning patchwork of exuberant plants that is widely considered one of America's most outstanding private gardens. In A Tapestry Garden, the O'Byrne's share their deep knowledge of plants and essential garden advice. Readers will discover the humble roots of the garden, explore the

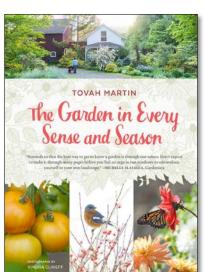
numerous habitats and the plants that make them

A visual feast of luscious combinations, extraordinary plants, and the dedication of two passionate gardeners.

> Richie Steffen, curator of the Miller Botanical Garden

shine, and find inspiration in photography that captures the garden's astonishing beauty. There is something here for every type of gardener: a shade garden, perennial borders, a chaparral garden, a kitchen garden, and more. Profiles of the O'Byrne's favorite plants-including hellebores, trilliums, arisaemas, and alpine plants-include comprehensive growing information and tips on pruning and care. A Tapestry Garden captures the spirit of a very special place.





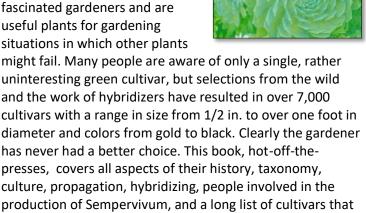
The Garden in Every Sense and Season by Tovah Martin, Kindra Clineff (Photographs)

So much of gardening is focused on the monthly checklists, seasonal to-do lists, and daily upkeep weed this area, plant these seeds, prune this tree, rake these leaves, dig this hole frantically done all year long. But what about taking the time to truly enjoy the garden in every sense and season?

In The Garden in Every Sense and Season, Tovah Martin does just that. Beginning with the heady blooms of spring and closing with putting the garden to bed in winter, Martin mindfully explores her garden through sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste. She sees the bright yellow of forsythia of spring, smells summer's pungent roses, hears the crows in autumn, and tastes winter's juicy citrus. Throughout her lyrical essays, she shares sage garden advice and intimate reflections on her own garden. This compelling narrative is beautifully supported by photography by Kindra Clineff. This is a must-have book from one of the greatest garden writers of our time that urges gardeners to listen up, look over, inhale, savor, and become more attuned with their gardens.

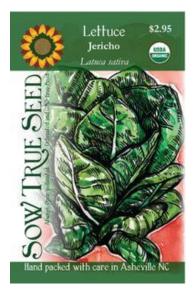
Sempervivum: A Gardener's Perspective of the Not-So-Humble Hens-and-Chicks

by Kevin C. Vaughn Sempervivum have long fascinated gardeners and are useful plants for gardening situations in which other plants



uninteresting green cultivar, but selections from the wild and the work of hybridizers have resulted in over 7,000 cultivars with a range in size from 1/2 in. to over one foot in diameter and colors from gold to black. Clearly the gardener has never had a better choice. This book, hot-off-thepresses, covers all aspects of their history, taxonomy, culture, propagation, hybridizing, people involved in the production of Sempervivum, and a long list of cultivars that are recommended for the gardener. Color illustrations show not only the cultivars, but garden uses and cultural practices.

Kevin Vaughn has been fascinated by plants since he was a boy. At age nine he made his first crosses with Sempervivum and the cultivars "Silvertone," "Emerald Spring," and "Greenwich Time" were the result. Cultivars "Jungle Shadows" and "Lipstick" were award winners created when Kevin was but twelve. This early fascination with plant breeding led to a PhD in plant genetics and a career with the USDA as a plant cell biologist. He was USDA Scientist of the Year, Young Weed Scientist, and Research Award Winner of the Weed Science Society of America. Kevin hybridizes irises of all types, daffodils, dayliles, penstemon, alliums, Pulmonaria, and hardy geraniums. Nothing with pollen is safe on his property!



Growing lettuce which doesn't taste bitter in the summer is a challenge, so I think I'll try this one, Jericho, recommended by Sow True Seed. Bred to withstand Israeli weather. this upright romaine stays refreshingly sweet and crisp in the heat. Before modern lettuce ended up in salad bowls everywhere, it had a place as an aphrodisiac in pre-dynastic Egyptian ceremonies, cooked with eggs on the Roman dinner

table, and in medieval herbals as a sedative and digestive. Now, it comes in a beautiful variety of forms, colors, and textures from smooth lime green leaves to red headings, to multicolored, smooth or crinkled leaves, with flavors ranging from a bracing bitterness to a soft buttery taste. While all lettuces can be harvested for loose leaf salad mix, romaine and butterhead varieties create folded heads for single head harvest. Nutrients: vitamins K (high), A and folate.

I enjoyed the following article by Chris Smith, the community coordinator for Sow True Seed—an Asheville-based company that specializes in open-pollinated, heirloom, and organic seeds—who wrote this in his regular column for Smoky Mountain Living.

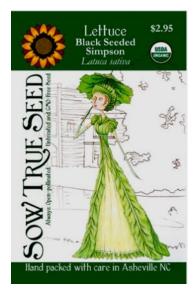
Think Like Lettuce to Extend Salad Days

It does seem somewhat unfair that just as our beautiful ripe salad tomatoes start producing, our lettuce crop begins to bolt and the leaves turn bitter. Bolting is when the lettuce sends up a flower stalk. The hot weather makes the lettuce

think it's days are numbered and the urgency to flower and set seed kicks in. While lettuce will always be much happier in cooler weather, it is possible to grow it through the summer with a few tips and tricks. First, you'll need to think like the lettuce and attend to its needs. Second, you can plant varieties that are slow to bolt and less bitter in the heat. Third, you can plan small successive plantings of lettuce in anticipation of it's shorter life cycle.

Thinking Like Lettuce

The urge of lettuce to bolt and produce seed is increased when the lettuce feels stressed. During our summers that stress comes in the form of heat and thirst. Most of our fruiting vegetables need full sun to be really productive, but



with lettuce we are eating the leaves and it doesn't require full sun to grow. A couple of my vegetable beds get summer shade in the afternoon from a large tree and this is where I'll always plant my summer lettuce. If you don't have natural shade then your local garden center will likely sell shade cloth, which can achieve the same stress-reducing protection. In summer the water needs are higher, so it's important to make sure that the plants receive a good deep

soaking during dry weather.

Heat Tolerant Varieties

Sow True Seed conducted a heat tolerant lettuce trial last year. The aim was to look at how quickly certain lettuce varieties bolted and how well the lettuce varieties tasted as they began to bolt. It was interesting that some varieties still

tasted pretty good as they began bolting, but other varieties tasted bitter before they got anywhere close to bolting. Here are our top three lettuce varieties which maintained good taste and were slow to bolt. Give them a go this year.

Chrystal (a batavian lettuce)

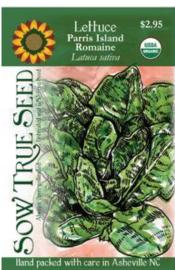
Black Seeded Simpson (a loose leaf lettuce)

Parris Island (a romaine lettuce)

Succession Planting

I've spoken about succession planting before and it really is a great tool in the home garden. Instead of planting a

whole bed of lettuce which will give you an overwhelming amount of salad for a short period of time and then bolt, you should plant in small successions. Every 10 days or so plant a new row of lettuce. If you are working with traditional 8x4 beds, sow 4-foot rows instead of 8-foot rows. This will mean you'll always have some lettuce in a good state of edibility. As older lettuce bolts with the heat, newer lettuce comes into production. You can apply this with many crops, but one important note with lettuce is that the seeds will not germinate in high soil temperatures. I would suggest that you sow lettuce seeds indoors in flats once you get into July and August. You can keep the 10 day planting schedule, but you'll have the extra step of transplanting your lettuce outdoors once its a couple of weeks old.





Sculpture Is: In the Garden 2018, marks the twelfth sculpture

exhibit partnership between Pajaro Valley Arts and Sierra Azul Nursery & Gardens. The jurors, Susana Arias and Jeff Rosendale, selected over 80 sculptures created by more than 40 artists and collaborators. Many new works being installed now—there will be 100 sculptures.

Visit the stunning two-acre demonstration garden; relax under the umbrellas, bring your picnic lunch, and spend an afternoon enjoying the exhibit.

Sierra Azul is at 2660 East Lake Avenue (Highway 152), Watsonville (across from the Santa Cruz County fairgrounds). They are open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Phone: 728-2532; email: sierraazulnursery@yahoo.com.



Mosaic Stepping Stone Workshop

Saturday June 2nd (11am - 1pm)
your own stepping stone to put in your garden
using a variety of mosaic materials.

Registration cost: \$30-payable in advance. Please call 831-728-2532 to register.

(All materials included and a \$20 materials fee is payable to the teacher Laura Morales at the class)



You are invited to join in this plant-centered workshop at the Santa Cruz Museum Natural History Museum, 1305 E. Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz. Gain hands-on experience with seed saving, learn strategies for habitat restoration, and explore the life cycle of select native plants. We will take time to sit with plants and make field sketches of our observations in the garden and learn how to winnow seeds (separating seed from chaff). Each participant will print a silkscreen image on a seed-collecting bandana that shows the life cycle of one of our chosen plants, as well as go home with a collection of seeds to start a garden. \$20 General | \$15 Children | \$5 off for Museum Members | Pre-Registration Required (http://www.santacruzmuseum.org/public-programs/).

⁵Also at Sierra

Father's Day Gifts: A Few Ideas







This lightweight steel and nylon garden stool combines the features of a tool bag and a folding chair



It's time to fertilize your rhododendrons again!

With June, and Father's Day as a reminder, we all need to feed our rhododendrons again so they will make flower buds for next year. Here is how it works: the June application of 6-7-5 Bloom Fertilizer will take about a month to become available to the plant. If we do not have any rain after sprinkling it around the dripline of the plant, you will want to water it in yourself. Once this fertilizer has been taken up by the plant, the small buds developing at the ends of the new growth of your rhododendron will likely produce a flower bud instead of a leaf bud. Our goal is to help the plant create a flower bud at the end of each terminal. These flower buds will become very easy to identify in October.





Saturday, June 2nd, Noon-2:00 p.m.

An eclectic lineup of poets and musicians grace the Alan Chadwick Garden stage at UCSC this year: Santa Cruz poet and out-spoken Sentinel columnist Stephen Kessler, award-winning poet Farnaz Fatemi and poet/artist Ingrid LaRiviere, eco-poet Kai Siedenburg, Steven Meadows (Ohlone), self-proclaimed wanderer Dan Phillips, and our own poet/organic farmer David Robles. On oboe, the funky Olivia Erwin from Austin, TX. Join us for this annual celebration on the chalet porch surrounded by apple trees and song birds as these poets and musicians share their talents in the beautiful setting of the Alan Chadwick Garden at UC Santa Cruz. Free event, refreshments, all are welcome!

WORKSHOPS AT LOVE APPLE FARMS

The Fine Art of Dahlia Growing
June 3 (Sunday) 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
\$69 plus small materials fee of \$10



We like to call dahlias, "the king of flowers," because of their awesomeness. If roses are the queen of flowers, then dahlias are certainly their equal. We'll learn the various shapes and sizes of dahlias, and their names, as well as how to propagate, plant, stake,

prune, fertilize, and deal with their worst garden pests. Students will take home potted cuttings after we walk the garden, talking, discussing, and learning all about this wonderful flower family.

Tomato Masters June 30 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. \$79

Learn how to master the art and science of the world's most popular fruit. Follow the growing techniques learned in this workshop to grow 7 foot tall plants that yield 100



pounds of fruit per plant! 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.

Classes are is taught by Cynthia Sandberg, renowned gardening expert and co-founder of the World Tomato Soaciety. and is held on-site at Love Apple Farms, located at 2317 Vine Hill Road, Santa Cruz, CA (please no visitors unless you are a registered student and only on class day).

ALL CLASSES ARE HELD RAIN OR SHINE AND REQUIRE ADVANCE REGISTRATION

Registration information at http://www.growbetterveggies/upcoming-eventsclasses.html

Don't toss those beautiful radish greens—they are full of nutrition. Try them in this unusual but simple recipe.



SAUTEED RADISHES AND RADISH GREENS

To make sautéed radishes and radish greens: Cut radishes into wedges. Wash radish greens by swishing them around in a bowl of cold water several times, until all the dirt is gone. Heat a splash of oil in a pan over medium heat. When oil is hot, add sliced garlic and cook for about 20 seconds, making sure it doesn't burn. Add radishes and sauté for a couple minutes, then add greens. Cook just until greens are wilted. Season with salt and pepper. You can keep this simple, or add a squeeze of lemon or lime, or a dizzle of sesame oil, or spice It up with some crushed red pepper.

You could also toss raw radish leaves with a mix of other salad greens, sliced radishes, sliced strawberries, and a little bit of cheese.

From Mitch in the Kitchen (http://www.mitchinthekitchen.com/post/6118431862/saut%C3%A9ed-radishes-and-radish-greens

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Join us at 6 p.m on May 28th at the home of Marge Gregory, 129 Ramada Lane, Aptos. We'll tour her garden, have a potluck, and discuss Club business and



ideas. You don't have to be a Board Member to attend—join us! certail dahlia prune take h

This c found Farms visitor Read

June 3 mater emailin

your s class i please accom



Check out the many resources at http:// pollinator.org/pollinator-week.

butterfly and moth caterpillars.

The buzz about bees: An introduction to beekeeping

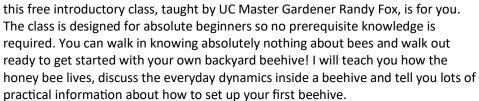
June 23 -10:00 AM

Contact: tina.heitzman@gmail.com

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz Location: UCCE Cooperative Extension, 1430 Freedom Blvd,

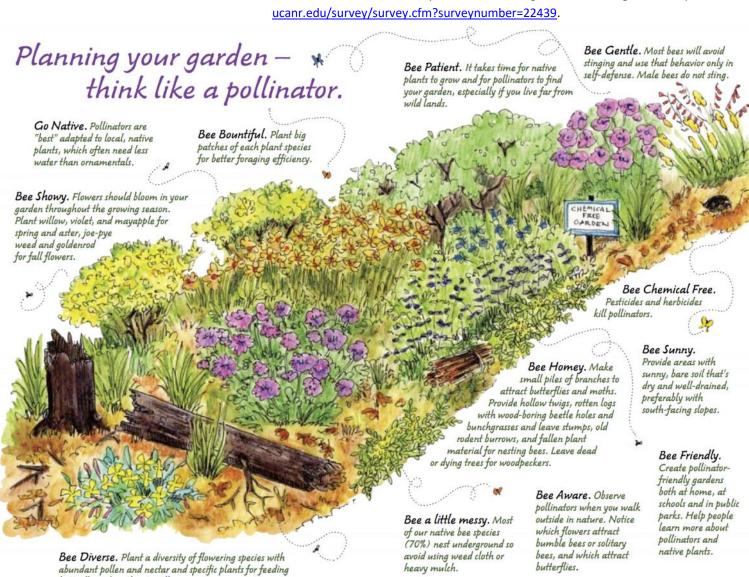
Suite E, Watsonville

If you're thinking about starting a backyard beehive or are just curious about what's involved with keeping bees, then



Topics include: - A brief history of the honey bee. - How to identify the Queen, Worker and Drone bees. - Understanding of the bee's lifecycle, individual duties and contribution to the colony's life. - The challenges that bees face while trying to survive in today's environment. - What tools you need to properly maintain your hive and manage your bees.

Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in or registration. Pre-register at https://



Seed Planting in June and July

Timing is important when planting in a garden, but each year is different, and this spring has been a very indecisive one. It is hard to predict what summer will bring us, but let's review Renee Shepherd's advice on summer planting. According to her, June is still prime planting season.



Don't be overwhelmed by a sense of being too late to plant by some arbitrary date. In truth, each season is different and garden planting dates have been even harder to peg down than the traditional wisdom would lead one to believe! I want to emphasize that it's not too late to plant a great garden, even in June and July.

What to plant: While it is true that fruiting plants like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants need to be set out now, many, if not most, summer producers will grow even more quickly from seed planted in early summer when the soil is well warmed up and teeming with life. You'll be surprised how fast seeds will come up and explode with growth.

Don't hesitate to plant seeds

for cucumbers, beans,edamame, summer and winter squashes, pumpkins, melons, beets, carrots, chard and scallio ns. Start a crop of "cut and come again" salad mix, braising mix, mild mustards, and any of our mesclun blends in a spot with bright light but out of the full, hot sun. Plant heat and sun-loving herbs

like basil, marjoram, chives, oregano, thyme and sage with abandon, keeping the seed beds well moistened. Don't neglect to plant some fragrant scented basils in containers to heighten summer afternoon gardening pleasure.

Second crops

Even if you already have beans, squash, chard, carrots and basil in the ground, and your plants are growing well, June is a fine time to start a second crop to have ready for another bounteous late summer harvest when the first crops of these staples have finished up.



I usually start seeds every month, finishing sowing summerproducing vegetables in late June. In July and August, I plant seeds for fall crops like all kinds of lettuces and mesclun blends, spinach, radishes, kale, leeks, peas, broccoli raab, braising mix, carrots, and Asian delicacies like mild mustards, stirfry mix and pak choi.



You can still plant flowers, too!

Planting later crops in June also applies to flowers! Plant ore marigolds, sunflowers, cosmos, zinnias, four o'clocks, nasturtiums, etc. – all of the annuals that usually burn out by late summer. This way, you'll have a marvelous second flush of bloom and can cut armfuls for Labor Day!

June and July are also good times to start seeds for perennials and biennials to bloom next spring. I sow seeds in a protected seed bed and then transplant seedlings in fall to overwinter, then bloom, ensuring me a wonderful spring greeting in the garden next year.

Nature Crafts Workshop: "Nature's Prints"

Instructor: Sarah Ory

Saturday, June 16th from 10 am-2 pm UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden (Cost \$45 members/\$60 non-members) plus a \$10 materials fee

Ages 12 and up. Class size is limited to 15

Join us in experiencing the beauty of the Arboretum's botanical offerings through printmaking. We will create prints inspired by nature, carving our own traditional blocks, and relief printing with flowers and leaves. Prints will be made on a variety of art paper that will be provided, as well as any materials you choose to bring, such as fabric. Each participant will take home their print creations and their own carved block for future printmaking.



Sarah Ory is a certified California Naturalist with experience in science illustration, printmaking, watercolor and oil painting. She draws inspiration from the natural world and is excited to share techniques in relief printmaking with the

Santa Cruz community.

The number of this workshop is payment must be time of secure your place participants for limited to 15. So made at the registration to in the workshop.

Register <u>at https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/news-events/events/</u>nature-craft-pay6.html.



Art by Lynn Fogel https://www.etsy.com/shop/LynnFogel

www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

Our front page logo iis graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop

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

It's easy-peasy to join our club!

www.thegardenersclub.org

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