



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

AUGUST JULY 2019

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IT'S A TWO-FER! One Meeting, Two Parts

And then...

The Famous Silly Vase Auction Returns!

Those of you who are long time Gardeners' Club members will recall the Vase Exchange fundraisers we organized in past years. This month we will have another one!

Go through your flower vases now and weed out a few to donate to the event. Bring them to the meeting and drop them off at the table near the entrance. They will then be sorted on the sales tables according to their perceived value.

Here's how it works: there will be three separate tables set up with signs on them marked \$4.00, \$2.00 and \$1.00 along with price tags. At the intermission (not before!) sales will begin.

A timer is set and after 5 minutes, sales stop. The prices on the tables will be switched to \$2.00, \$1.00 and 50 cents. After another 5 minutes of shopping, the prices are cut in half once more.

When choosing vases to purchase, be sure to take a price tag for each one from the table where you picked it up.

So, if you see a vase you love, the dilemma would be to buy it then or wait for a possible bargain! You take your chances!

At the end, you will take the price tags you collected to the cashier's table and pay the total to our Treasurer.

The remainders will be donated to a charity thrift shop.



Hands On Flower Arranging

Flower arranging as a group, with friends? How much fun will that be? Bring fresh-cut plant materials to share.

We suggest bringing it in buckets in water. Bring scissors or clippers as well, and if you have frogs or florist tape (a lattice of tape makes a fine base for arranging flowers), bring those too. Bring a vase or other flower receptacle, or buy a vase at the meeting. Take your arrangement home in your bucket, or bring a box lined with newspaper

to get it home safely. Thanks to George and Evelyn Zhovreboff for suggesting what should be a very enjoyable activity and evening.



<https://kaoritsuchimoto.com/birth-month-flowers>

Plant Table to Evolve

We'll be separating vegetables, succulent and ornamentals on the Plant Table and will follow this format when we have the October Plant Sale & Swap.

Sign-ups Needed

We need people to sign up to bring refreshments to the September and November meetings. Thank you!



Thursday, August 8th, 7 p.m., Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.
Refreshments to be served. Thanks to April Barclay for snack, Ilene Wilson for dessert and Marge Gregory for beverages

Tips for Arranging Home-Grown Flowers

Excerpted from Garden Therapy

<https://gardentherapy.ca>

Consider the size of your arrangement and where you plan to put it. A large dramatic display may seem like a good idea for a dining table but you want to avoid having your guests spending the night playing peek-a-boo-boo.

Keep the height of your cutting material in proportion to the vase you have chosen. The arrangement should be as tall as the vase again.

If you are using foliage and fillers, place these in your vase first to create some structure and then fill in with your flowers.

Trim your cutting material to different heights. There should be shorter stems towards the edge of the vase with stems gradually getting taller towards the middle.

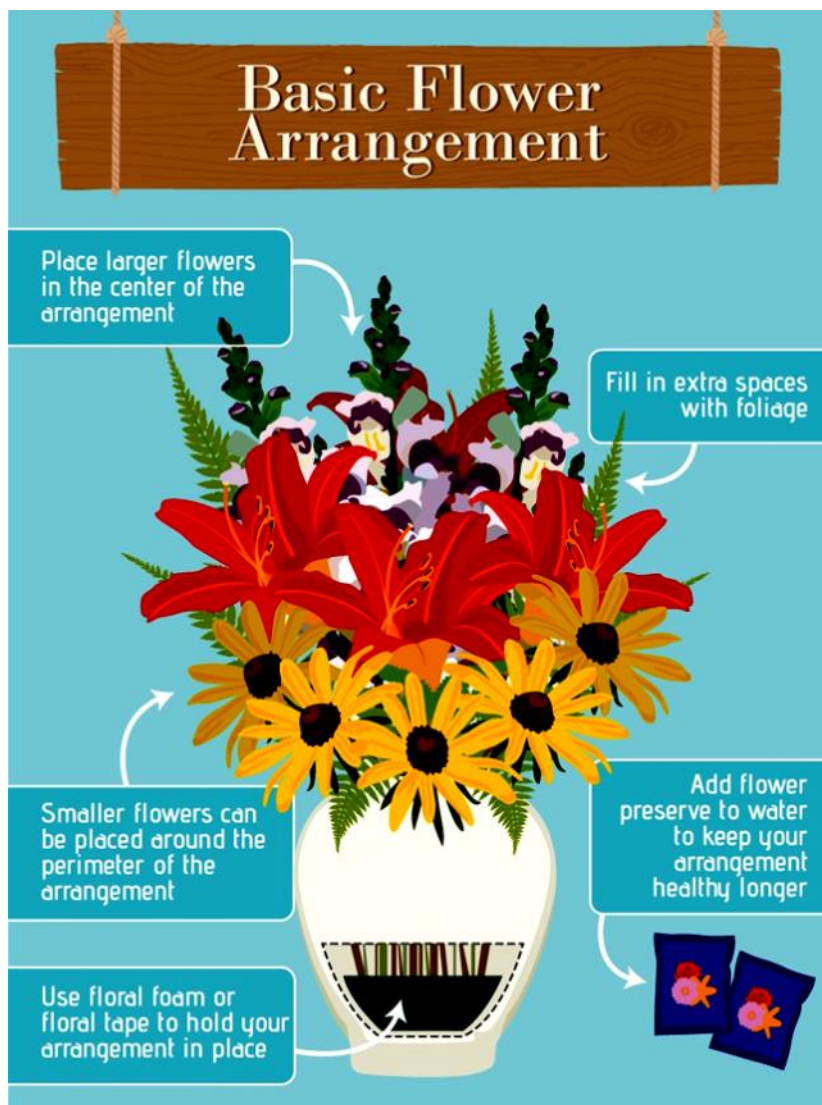
Using odd numbers of stems, say three or five stems, of a particular flower works well as odd numbers are much more pleasing to the eye.

Group a few stems of the same flower together, rather than dotting them about your arrangement. This helps to recreate the feeling of them growing in your garden.

We're all so busy today with jobs and family life that even the above may seem like a lot of work so it's worth remembering that some of the most straightforward arrangements can be the most beautiful. A single stem of cherry blossom or a bunch of primroses looks stunning and requires hardly any effort on your part. So be inspired by your garden and grow and arrange your own cut flowers.

Hydrangeas in August

- Most of the flowering should be about done.
- Even dried hydrangea flowers can be attractive on the plant as they change color and take on a unique appearance.
- The first week of the month is about your last good chance to remove any flowers that have faded. Pruning by then will still give the plant enough time to produce some new growth (which is where the flowers will be next season). Prune as far as half way down the stem below the faded flower.
- Only prune stems that have flowered this season, leave all other stems alone since they will flower on their tips next season.
- Any pruning after the beginning of this month will interfere with the plant's ability to bloom well next year. Don't cut the plant again until next summer.
- Feed them one more time in order to produce more new growth (which will bloom next year).



Making your own floral preservative – experiment to see what works with different species

- **Cut Flower Preservative Recipe #1**
 - 2 cups lemon-lime carbonated beverage (e.g., Sprite™ or 7-Up™)
 - 1/2 teaspoon household chlorine bleach
 - 2 cups warm water
- **Cut Flower Preservative Recipe #2**
 - 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice or white vinegar
 - 1 to 2 tablespoon sugar (use 2 with vinegar)
 - 1/2 teaspoon household chlorine bleach
 - 1 quart warm water

© Project SOUND

This Garden Thrives Without Municipal Water

Find out how an Aptos couple uses renewable resources to hydrate their plants! Tom and Jenny



Upcoming Garden Tour



Water Neutral in Aptos Saturday, August 17, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Tom and Jenny Palmer are sustainable living enthusiasts. Tom likes to grow his own food, and to hydrate the plants in a way that respects the environment and makes use of abundant on-site water resources. With the help of Love's Gardens, Tom and Jenny's fruits, vegetables, and drought-tolerant ornamentals are now all watered with rainwater collected from their roof and greywater collected from three showers, the washing machine, and bathroom sinks. The Palmers received over \$1600 in rebates to help with the costs of installing their water conserving features.

Stop by between 1:00 and 4:00 for a self-guided tour. Or come for one of the tours we are leading at 1:15 and 2:30. Organic snacks and a free raffle will be available.

Register to get the address:
<https://water-neutral-in-aptos.eventbrite.com>

(831) 471-9100 • www.lovesgardens.com

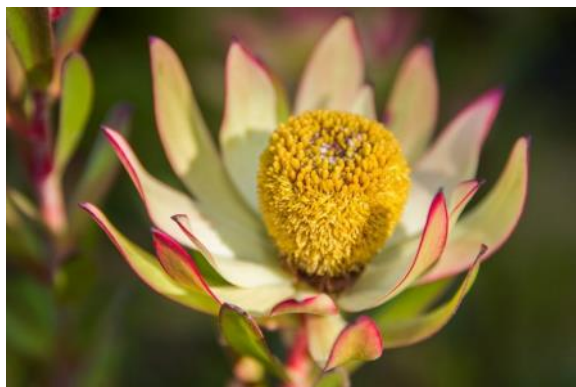
Palmer are opening their thriving garden on Saturday, August 17, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. The Palmer's are sustainable living enthusiasts. Tom likes to grow his own food, and to water the plants in a way that respects the environment and makes use of abundant on-site water resources. With the help of Love's Gardens, Tom and Jenny's fruits, vegetables, and drought-tolerant ornamentals are now all watered with rainwater and greywater. The event is free, but people need to register in order to get the address: <https://water-neutral-in-aptos.eventbrite.com>.

The Palmers' rainwater system collects rain from their roof and stores it in four tanks with a combined capacity of 1130 gallons. It is fed to the vegetables and fruits via a gravity-fed drip system. The greywater system collects used water from three showers, the washing machine, and bathroom sinks, then directs it through of a state-of-the-art Aqua2Use pump system that filters the water. After filtering, the water is fed to the garden via a greywater drip system with self-flushing emitters.

This very productive and beautiful garden demonstrates the possibility of maintaining thriving gardens in the Santa Cruz area in a way that saves money and respects the water limitations of our environment. Multiple state and local water district rebates are available to help homeowners install water-conserving features in their landscapes. The Palmers received over \$1600 in rebates to help pay for the cost of their greywater and rainwater systems. The event is open to the public. Love's Gardens will be leading tours at 1:15 and 2:30 and answering questions about the

water-conserving features of the landscape. People are also welcome to take self-guided tours at any time between 1:00 and 4:00

Photography Walks with Bill and Ferd



Leucadendron stelligerum. Common Name: 'Duet' Conebush

Photo above by Arboretum Member and volunteer Bill Bishoff, who will be leading more of his popular Photography Walks in the Arboretum this summer, with the assistance of photographer and Board Member Ferd Bergholz.

Bill & Ferd will share many of their tips for taking and creating amazing photographs of plants, birds, landscapes and people. Free with paid admission, \$5 for general admission.



All walks are on
Saturdays from 9am
to 11am.

August 24
September 21



Register at [https://](https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/news-events/events/photowalk.html)

arboretum.ucsc.edu/news-events/events/photowalk.html

We recommend that you bring a water bottle, layered clothing, and good walking shoes. Please be sure to bring your camera—, smartphone cameras welcome.

Bill & Ferd are generously donating their time and talent to share their love of photography and the Arboretum with you! Each walk begins with a short instructional presentation indoors, before heading out to the gardens to practice your new-found skills, get tips from each other and our volunteer instructors.

August Tip

Order your fall planted garlic now. Also finalize your orders for fruit trees, bushes and other perennials that will be fall planted.

Availability and selection will run short if you delay in ordering too long.

August Garden Advice

Over Watering in the Warm Summer Months Can Cause Root Rot Disease

As summer temperatures rise in the summer months, it feels like we need to water more. The heat of the air makes one think that the soil around our plants is drying out. It may be true that as the air temperature rises, plants will transpire more and cause the soil to dry out faster. But if one were to dig down in the soil or use a moisture meter, one may find that the soil can stay moist for several days, not needing water, especially if there is a layer of mulch present.

Before you kill your plants with kindness (over watering), go out and do some investigating of your soil moisture. If you dig a small hole and feel the soil, you can quickly determine whether watering is needed. Cold soil has plenty of moisture for plants to grow and thrive. If the soil feels a bit warm and the soil crumbles, then watering is needed. Always err on the dry side. Most all plants that die in the summer are from over watering. An under watered plant can be revived easily, where an over watered one is a goner. Be careful! If you are watering every single day, you may be on the way to having problems.

Root rot disease, *Phytophthora*, eats off the tips of the root hairs, causing the plant to not be able to take in water. Since the



plant cannot get any water, wilting will be the symptom. The plant does need water, but the disease has made it impossible to for the plant to get any, and once infected, watering more just increases the root rot disease. Once the wilting has started and watering does not cause an improvement, then it is evident that there is a pathogen causing it. At this point, nothing can save your plant, and removing not only the plant, but a

good amount of infected soil will be necessary. If you want to replant soon, make sure you add lots of bark to the planting hole. Bark seems to have a preventative quality against root rot diseases.

Article by Don S. Wallace. Courtesy of::



Check their specials and 50% off shipping at www.singtree.com.



Sketching in the Garden

August 24, 9:30–11:30 a.m., Alan Chadwick Garden, \$5–\$40/person

Cultivate your observational skills and artistic talent with inspiration from the Alan Chadwick Garden. Instructor will be on hand to help when needed. Bring your own materials. Instructor will provide an array of sample materials to experiment with.

More info at https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/sketching_in_the_garden#.XTyN8uhKjYM

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Join us on August 26th at the home of Valera Templeman , 514 Calle del Sol, Aptos. Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a tour of Valera's garden, followed by a potluck dinner and lots of discussion about gardens and The Gardeners' Club plans and happenings. You don't have to be a Board member to attend.

More Things to Do in the August Garden

• **Divide Perennial Flowers**

August is the best time to dig and divide perennial flowers in your garden (such as hosta, Oriental poppy, lily, daylily, ornamental grasses, and bearded iris).

• **Plant Chrysanthemums**

Give your flower border a late-summer injection of color by adding a generous helping of chrysanthemums. Available in an almost unlimited selection of colors, shapes, and flower forms, chrysanthemums go well with any garden decor. Plus, because they are sold in bud or bloom, they'll add instant impact to pots, planters, or flower borders. Their nectar-rich flowers attract a variety of colorful pollinators including migrating Monarch butterflies. Mix single- and double-flowering varieties with asters, pansies, and other fall bloomers.

- If you already have chrysanthemums established in your garden, now is the time to cut them back to within 10" of the ground. Cutting back and fertilizing will result in a compact blooming plant that won't need staking. You can share cuttings with us!

Nikolara Dunbar-Jansons highly recommends this video exploring Japanese cultivation, history, grafting and eating of chrysanthemums, taking growing them to a new level.ew level. J



- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q85nQsOPWws&fbclid=IwAR1BaL9PBVURRep4NJjX4Xy0ZaAQs_TR-Ua8iWcsNCKHSzbe_RZNUUpNiigAk

Fairy/Miniature Garden Workshop



August 3

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Go to Alladin's to create your very own fairy/miniature garden. Your instructor will be

Tamara Cucchiara, better known as "The Succulent Diva." An expert in succulent designing and miniature gardening, demonstrations, teaching, care and propagation. Her love for gardening and succulents shows in her amazing work!

Cost: \$20 per person Includes: Terra cotta pot, soil, moss, decorative rock, (2) 2" succulents, and (1) 3" accent plant.

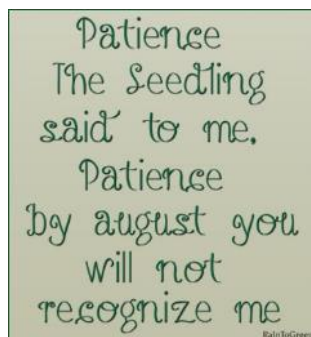
Fairy garden figures not included, but they carry a large selection available for sale, so you can select the pieces you would like to use for your miniature masterpiece. Space is limited! Please call to reserve your seat. Alladin Nursery & Gift Shop, 2905 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville. Phone:(831) 724-7517

Lotsa Master Gardeners Events

No more room in this newsletter issue to describe all of the events being sponsored by our Master Gardeners. Here's a list; go to their website for full descriptions, details and locations.

- **Santa Cruz Community Garden Outreach- Saturday August 17th - Santa Cruz**
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) August 18th - Felton**
- **Veggie Garden Basics -Sat, Aug 24th, Watsonville**

<http://mbmg.ucanr.edu/>



"Fairest of the months!
Ripe summer's queen
The hey-day of the year
With robes that gleam with
sunny sheen
Sweet August doth appear."
R. Combe Miller

A Benefit for the Homeless Garden Project



Sustain SUPPER

Saturday, August 24, 2019

4:00 - 7:30 PM

Natural Bridges Farm at Shaffer Road

Featuring **Jonathan Franzen**

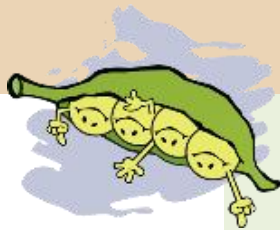
We're excited to invite you to HGP's organic farm for a gourmet, 4-course dinner prepared by exceptional, local chefs featuring fresh food grown on our farm. Enjoy a farm tour, drinks - including special wine pairings - live music and engaging talks by speakers focusing on sustainability, including our fantastic speaker, acclaimed author Jonathan Franzen!

Tickets: \$10.93 – \$150 More information at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/august-24-2019-sustain-supper-a-benefit-for-the-homeless-garden-project-tickets-62864151369>.

www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

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

It's easy-peasy to join our club!
Dues are \$15 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



www.thegardenersclub.org

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