



The Gardeners' Club  
Santa Cruz County,  
California  
November 2019  
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## Seeds & Much, Much More! What's old, What's NEW at Renee's Garden

Many of us have counted on Renee's Garden seeds for reliable and bountiful flowers, herbs and garden vegetables for years. If you want endless bouquets of sweetpeas in a rainbow of colors, where else would you go for seeds besides Renee's? But in the last several years Renee has expanded her offerings in many areas, including root vegetables and bulbs. If you haven't visited her website in a while, go now! It is a revelation – there are so many possibilities for new things to grow in the garden! And you will find articles, videos, recipes galore, as well as ideas for the holidays.

Renee will give us an overview of her new seed selections for 2019 and 2020, both heirlooms and new varieties. And then, she'll give us an overview of how she has expanded her offerings— saffron, asparagus, rhubarb, shallots, garlic, potatoes, daffodil bulbs, and more.

Renee will show us her selection of favorite garden and kitchen tools and supplies that she added to her catalog. As holiday gift-giving season approaches, I am boggled by the choices. Hmm... should I get the perfect tomato knife as a gift, or buy one for myself? The answer is both, of course.

Renee is famous for her cookbooks and recipes. She'll share with us suggestions for garden-to-table, or harvest-inspired, dishes for the holiday season. And for all of you thinking of holiday flower arrangements, decor and table settings, perhaps Renee will inspire us.

And Renee will bring a door prize!



Fall blooming saffron crocus



Purple crowns asparagus



Rhubarb roots Chrimson Red



My grandnephews harvesting Renee's Huckleberry Golds, the first low-glycemic potato.

Thursday, November 14th, 7 p.m., Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.  
Refreshments to be served. Thanks to Lupe Allen for snack, Allen Neymark for dessert and Pat McVeigh for beverages.

## Growing Good Kids Awards

Created by the American Horticultural Society and the Junior Master Gardener program, the “Growing Good Kids – Excellence in Children’s Literature” awards honor the best new children’s books about gardening and nature. Each year, these awards recognize children’s books that are especially effective at promoting an understanding of, and appreciation for, gardening, nature, and the environment. Here are the 2019 winners.



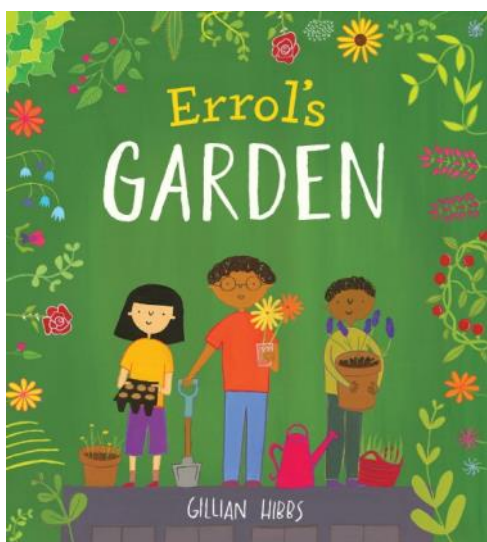
### Up in the Leaves

By Shira Boss;  
Illustrated by  
Jamey Christoph  
(Sterling Children’s  
Books)

“Bob lived in the big city. The city was very crowded.”

This charming picture book tells the true story of Bob Redman, a child growing up in New York City. Tired of the noise, the people, and the rushing around, Bob took shelter in the natural beauty of Central Park – where he covertly built a series of amazing treehouses, starting with a simple platform and growing more and more elaborate over time. He played cat-and-mouse with the park workers, who kept tearing down his houses, until he was finally caught. But, his story ends with a happy surprise.

### Errol’s Garden

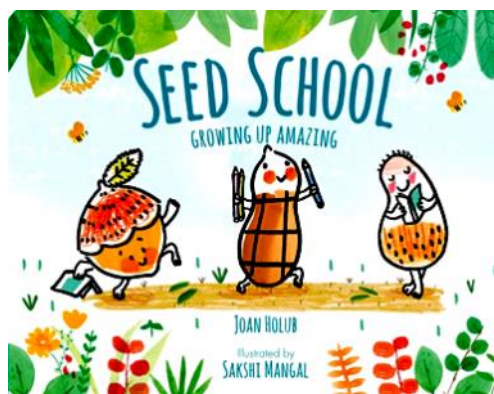


By Gillian Hibbs;  
Illustrated by Gillian  
Hibbs (Child’s Play)

Errol loves gardening, but he doesn’t have a proper garden. Although his home is full of beautiful plants, he longs for an outdoor space where he can grow things. A chance discovery leads to a solution, but Errol can’t do everything on his own. Luckily,

help is near at hand. A heart-warming and inclusive tale about how one small boy’s dream of a garden unites a diverse community in a positive and enriching experience for everyone.

## Seed School



By Joan Holub;  
Illustrated by  
Sakshi Mangal  
(Seagrass Press)

Welcome to the wondrous world of seeds! Just like people, seeds come in all shapes and sizes. In Seed School by Joan Holub, you’ll meet

the charming cast of characters who—with the help of soil, water, and sunshine—grow into vibrant fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

While some of the seeds friends seem to sprout and grow up in just one season, one odd-looking seed with a cap takes many years to become a strong oak he was destined to be. Sakshi Mangal’s delightful illustrations bring this whimsical story about friendship, diversity, and the natural world that surrounds us to life. Grow on!

## November Gardening Suggestions

There is still time to plant a fall/winter cover crop such as fava beans. Many green manures (especially clover varieties) will eventually flower, helping to attract bees and other pollinators to your garden.

Put in spring-blooming annuals now so that they will grow sturdy roots over the winter. Try Iceland poppies, pansy, viola, calendula, primrose, alyssum, columbine, coral bells, cyclamen, dianthus, snapdragon and sweet William. These spring-flowering plants put in during November will outflower transplants of the same plants put in next spring.

Spring bulbs (daffodils, hyacinths, grape hyacinths, etc.) can still be planted this month. Plant garlic and shallots to harvest next summer.

As you pull up old crops and rake up leaves, compost, compost. You’ll need the finished compost in the spring.

Fall is a great planting time for perennials and California Natives in our climate. Cut back and divide leggy perennials or plant new ones. Plant shrubs and trees.

As plants slow down, stop fertilizing. Water as necessary and consider turning off irrigation systems.

Want to save seed? Download a free 30 page booklet from the Organic Seed Alliance, which includes which varieties to grow with eventual saving in mind, to maintaining that crop in the garden, to drying and even storing it, with both the botanical science and sensible tips, too. <https://seedalliance.org/publications/seed-saving-guide-gardeners-farmers/>





"What went well in your garden this year? What didn't? What did your garden teach you?"

Message received from Member Trician Comings: "This month's newsletter(s) - October- the best ever! Book reviews and garden websites are interesting, but I love reading about members' gardens! I also like that the information is local. Hope you can keep it up.!"

That depends on you, dear readers! Let us know what happened in your garden this year, and we'll add your stories to the December issue. In the meantime, read about Bill Patterson's completed project below!

#### "Hey Kids

I am proudly sharing the completion of the lower garden area at my home on Baker Street.

I started at the beginning of this year, filling in the rainwater basin with eighteen years of mulch that had been dumped on the lowest hill side. Then tearing out the chicken coop and removing all the broken concrete beneath it,

I converted the dove cage to a garden-tool shed, creating a safe walkway on two sides of the basin and building a safe flight of steps, while working with the Santa Cruz County Parks to prune the eucalyptus trees, while completing the filling of the catchment basin with four yards of amended dirt and 4 yards of crushed granite.

The site will rest this winter, receiving a yard of rain. Then five new bare-root fruit trees, best suited to a marine climate, will be planted on March 1st 2020, with a flair.

It's been a fun project, never feeling a burden, rather an adventure in landscaping.

Bill



Southern food is one of the most beloved and delicious cuisines in America, and one that

Sean Brock, who has been called "the most conspicuously gifted American chef of his generation" (Time), thinks should be considered among the most revered cuisines of the world. In SouthEssential Recipes and New Explorations, the award-winning chef and Southern-food crusader shares his recipes for key components of the cuisine, from grits and fried chicken to collard greens and corn bread. Regional differences are highlighted. This the book Southern-food lovers the world over will use as their bible.

Bookshop Santa Cruz is thrilled to welcome Brock for an offsite event celebrating his new cookbook. He will be in conversation with Top Chef alumna Tanya Holland, executive chef and owner of Brown Sugar Kitchen in Oakland and San Francisco's Ferry Building, and author of Brown Sugar Kitchen. Their discussion will be followed by a Q & A and book signing. This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at UC Santa Cruz and will take place at the Cowell Ranch Hay Barn on the UC Santa Cruz campus. Ticket packages are \$45 and include one ticket for entry to the event and one copy of the book. For ticket go to <https://www.bookshopsantacruz.com/>

### November Board Meeting Monday, November 25 at 6 PM

Join us at the home of Pat McVeigh, 2573 Parket Street, Santa Cruz. for a potluck dinner and a meeting to discuss Gardeners' Club business, plans, ideas and events. You don't have to be a Board Member to attend.





## UC Santa Cruz Arboretum GIFT & WREATH SALE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2019

9AM-10AM MEMBERS PRE-SALE\*  
10AM-4PM GENERAL PUBLIC

Wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday items will be available at the 34th annual Wreath & Gift Sale!

Local artists join forces with talented Arboretum volunteers to produce one-of-a-kind living succulent wreaths and dried floral wreaths, floral centerpieces and other artwork for the sale. These beautiful botanic decorations will make the perfect seasonal accent for your home, or holiday gift for loved ones!

This is the only collection you will find that draws upon the Arboretum's rare and extraordinary succulents and dried plants. From amazing Australian Banksias to South African Proteas, the Arboretum has a world of natural materials to inspire. Succulent pumpkins and dish gardens will also be for sale! These are the perfect decorations and centerpieces to last through the holidays.

Get creative! The artistry of these volunteers may also encourage you to buy plants or dried flowers to make your own creations.

Wreath making demonstrations and a wide variety of succulents will be available at the sale.



Memberships will be available at the door or sign-up now online (<https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/support/associates/index.html>).



## Phenology Walk Workshop

**Calling All Community Scientists!**  
**Students! Families! Educators!**

Do you enjoy watching plants change through the seasons? Would you like to be a part of a national effort to monitor the effects of climate change?

Learn how to track seasonal changes in plants through hands-on training at our **ongoing, once a month, weekend workshops.**

At the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden  
1156 High St, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.  
**No experience required!**

**Workshop Dates:**

☛ Sat. October 19 | 11 am - 1 pm ☛

☛ Sat. November 16 | 11 am - 1 pm ☛

☛ Sat. December 14 | 11 am - 1 pm ☛

\$5 Admission | UCSC Students **FREE**  
Please check-in at Norrie's Gift Shop or register online.

USA **nnpn**  
National Phenology Network  
Taking the Pulse of Our Planet

Visit <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/education/phenology-walk/> to register online. Online registration recommended.



# 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, 2020. 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 scholarships as needed, 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	\$ _____



