



The Gardeners' Club Santa
Cruz County, California

February 2020

Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler
(lisebixler@sbc_global.net)

From Seascapes to Landscapes: Edibles and Native Plant Communities

Interested in adding edibles to your home landscape? You won't want to miss this meeting, featuring Judith Connor. Judith has a background in both terrestrial and underwater botany! While working at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Judith and her husband bought a property in Monterey County with nearly three acres of old plum, apricot and walnut orchards and billions of invasive weeds. This has been a long-term project to restore the 1879 farmhouse, revive or replant the old fruit trees, and develop a productive, attractive vegetable garden. She'll share what she learned from hands-on experimentation (the hard way) and from the past couple of years in Master Gardening. She says her gardens remain a work in progress.



Judith plans to begin her talk with a little information about her background in marine botany, how beautiful and diverse seaweeds are, and how the Monterey Bay Aquarium planted and maintains the first kelp forest in their "indoor" marine garden.



Dr. Judith Connor

then did post-doctoral research and taught at Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She retired from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in 2018 to revive her interest in terrestrial plant communities. Connor

Judith Connor has participated in educational and research studies on all the continents, including dives under ice 20 feet thick in Antarctica. She earned her Ph.D. in botany and tropical ecology from UC Berkeley, serves on the Land Committee of Elkhorn Slough Foundation Board. She is a Master Gardener, a writer, and a lecturer, with a special interest in native plants (marine and terrestrial), conservation, and invasive species.



Dr. Judith Connor



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH , 7:00 P.M., APTOS GRANGE, 2555 MAR VISTA DRIVE
Refreshments will be served. Thanks to JoAnn Christiansen for snacks,
Liz Neely for dessert and Marge Gregory for drinks.

Another Leader in Edible Landscaping

Leslie Bennett is an Oakland-based landscape designer and writer who creates gardens that help to nourish us and tell the story of who we are. Raised in the Bay Area and based in Oakland for the last ten years, Leslie holds degrees from Harvard University, Columbia University and the University College London in the fields of environmental justice, land use law, cultural property and preservation.

She is the owner of Pine House Edible Gardens, an Oakland-based landscape design/build firm that creates aesthetic edible gardens and productive outdoor spaces, and is co-author of The Beautiful Edible Garden (Ten Speed Press, 2013). Leslie's work entails creating culturally grounded gardens that provide as much visual inspiration as they do organic harvests of food, flowers and medicinal herbs.

The daughter of an English mother and a Jamaican father, Leslie studied law, cultural property and farming in the US, England and Jamaica. She tries to marry cultural diversity to gardens of beauty and meaning, gardens that reflect her values as an environmental activist but which also speak to her goal of designing beautiful and functional gardens for a wide variety of people and reasons. With a Jamaican-born husband, a young son, and knowledgeable, passionate views about the importance of cultural heritage, Leslie navigates blends of beauty, function, and cultural property in all her garden work.

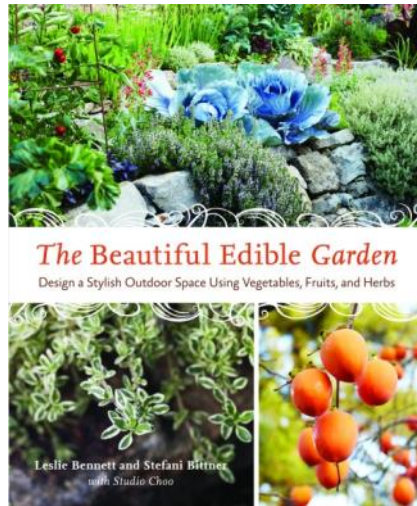
Leslie's work has been featured in Sunset Magazine, Better Homes & Gardens, Martha Stewart Living, Garden Design, C Magazine, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and Gardenista.com. Visit www.PineHouseEdibleGardens.com for links to those articles and a gallery of pictures that will inspire you.

If you want to hear Leslie's voice, go to the NPR podcast Cultivating Place. Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden is a weekly public radio program and podcast exploring what we mean when we garden. Listen to this episode at <https://podbay.fm/podcast/1116782774/e/1533225436>.

She says: "For me, edible landscapes are a long term relationship, where my clients get to have all kinds of fun, seasonal experiences in their gardens and kitchens. My specific focus is on designing and building stylized vegetable and cutting flower gardens -- in other words, working gardens that happen to have beautiful structural design."

"It's so important and exciting that, as my business has become more established, I've been able to recruit gardeners of color as staff, and been able to take on interns of color and train them to be lead gardeners on my team." She's also been able to reach

out to and take on more people of color as clients, regardless of their budgets. Her ability to do more of this is growing as her business does. She says, "My own home garden is one of the best examples of cultural landscape....my goals is not around 'diversity' in and of itself but rather around the fact that gardens and gardening and just plain old natural beauty have been so important for my own happiness and joy," and she understands her work as "helping to make those joys more available to everybody".



Leslie's latest collaborative project is Black Sanctuary Gardens, a series of aesthetic, edible and culturally grounded garden installations



Blacksanctuary.com

serving as restorative plant-based spaces for the peace, self-care and inspiration for African Americans in Oakland, where black spaces are disappearing due to gentrification.



Backyard Harvest Bouquet—Food, Beauty and Utility



Our gardens can be organic, fruitful, sustainable, efficient—but they can also be gorgeous. Are you inspired to create edible and ornamental harmony in your garden?



Leslie Bennett & Pine House Edible Gardens, Best Of Cultivating Place
Published August 2, 2018 | 56 min

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Garden-Inspired Valentine's Day Food



Fried Polenta Hearts with Fig Jam



Brown Sugar Glazed Carrots <https://athriftymom.com/heart-shaped->



I 'Heart' Salad

Recipe: www.staceysnacksonline.com/2017/11/leftover-rescue-polenta-hearts-with-fig.html



<https://thismessisours.com/small-batch-potato-chips-for-valentines-day-gluten-free-and-vegan/>



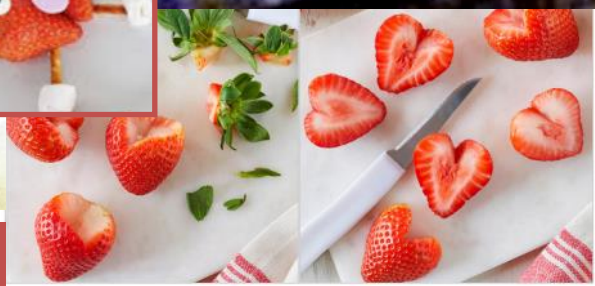
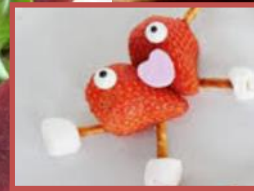
beyondcrazy.com



Roasted red peppers (canned) for hearts



MY HEART BEETS FOR YOU



Garden Gate Magazine has a really useful and timely article on starting seeds indoors, and now is the time you might want to get started.

"Why start your own seeds? Starting seeds indoors is an amazing process: You take a small (sometimes tiny), hard, dried-out bit of plant, place it in some soil and in a few days or weeks a slender stem unfurls filled with all the potential and hope of spring. With a little water and plant food you'll eventually have a plant that can make your flower border or vegetable garden richer."

Excerpts from the article are below, but if you want to read the whole thing, go to <https://www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/how-to/start-seeds/starting-seeds-indoors/>



This budget-friendly seed-starting system uses things from around the house or that are inexpensive to buy — it's great when you're looking to save some money or just start a few seeds.

- **Shop lights** Economical, but you'll need to add one warm and one cool fluorescent tube for the right light spectrum.
- **Upcycled containers** They can be practically anything you have around the house. Clean them out and poke holes in the bottom for drainage before using.
- **Nursery flat** Reuse one you have or upcycle something to help keep containers stable.
- **Bricks** A stack on each end helps raise the light once seedlings start growing.
- **Boot tray** Use it to protect the table surface if your flat has drainage holes.
- **Aluminum foil** Tape pieces on the light fixture to reflect more light.

Seed-starting containers can be upcycled items, such as milk cartons, peat pots, nursery pots or all of the above. Whatever you use, be sure to poke a few holes in the bottom so water can drain; otherwise seeds will rot. Peat or coir pots are a good choice for plants that don't like their roots disturbed, such as sweet peas or delphiniums. When it's time to plant outdoors, these pots can go right in the ground — just make sure that the lip of the pot is buried so it won't wick moisture away from the growing plant.

Nursery flats ensure the containers aren't easily tipped over.

You'll need seed-starting mix for starting seeds indoors. It has the right combination of fast-draining materials — usually sphagnum peat moss or coir, vermiculite and perlite. Or make your own by mixing equal parts of each. Commercial mixes often include micronutrients that help seeds get established. However, don't use garden soil. It isn't sterile and may harbor diseases. In addition, when it dries out, it gets so hard that seedlings may not be able to emerge.

Premoisten the mix before you plant so the seed has plenty of moisture right away. Watering after planting can wash seeds, especially tiny ones, to one side of the container or even over the edge.

Most seeds germinate best in dark conditions so you must push them into the growing medium to the depth appropriate to that plant. Others need light to start growing. Scatter those on the surface of the mix and press in lightly.

Once sprouted, seedlings need 12 to 16 hours of light a day. That's why lights (rather than a spot on a windowsill) work best. Position a light 3 to 6 in. above the tray to start. As plants grow, keep the light 3 to 6 in. from the top of the seedlings. Spring for the stand above and you'll find it's easier to raise and lower as needed. But a basic shop light fixture

works, too. Attaching a piece of aluminum foil to the sides of the light fixture as in the photo above can help reflect more light. If you want to spring for a timer, it will save you the hassle of turning the light on and off yourself each day.

Don't forget labels! Whether it's an old miniblind cut into pieces or the purchased ones in the photo above right, labels help you know if that tiny tomato is the indeterminate beefsteak you want to plant with plenty of room to grow in the garden or the dwarf cherry that goes in the pot on your deck.

What else? Not every tray comes with a lid, but if you can supply one, it creates the moist environment germinating seeds thrive in. Can't find one? No problem — cover the flat loosely with plastic wrap. Leave it on until most of the seeds sprout, then take it off.

Many seeds have an ideal temperature range they need to germinate. Tomatoes can take 50 days to sprout at 50 degrees F but only four days when the seed-starting mix is 85 degrees F.

Placing the containers on top of the refrigerator provides plenty of warmth. But sometimes it can get too warm, drying things out quickly. That's where a heat mat comes in handy. It's thin, water-proof and works a lot like a heating pad. Some even have a temperature gauge. Leave the heat mat on day and night until the seeds have sprouted, then remove it.

Confession from Editor: The Garden Gate article continues with some more upscale seed starting suggestions. I'm going to try a couple of them: self-watering seed starter units, and a thermostat to make sure my heating mats don't overheat my seedlings.



Discovering Chrysanthemums

By Nikolara Dunbar-Jansons

Last year I came across an article on old-fashioned chrysanthemums from Floret Farms (see link below) and was delighted to find there is still a mail order plant company growing and selling them! King's Mums offers an incredible selection of taller mums, that I just haven't been able to source locally.



Trying to rein in my enthusiasm I ordered ten starts, in a variety of classes and colors. The earlier shipment times were unavailable so I had them arrive at the end



labeled and ready to be transplanted into 4" pots Immediately as instructed.

Here they are



after a month, potted in regular potting soil. This year I will pinch them back at this step to help encourage side branching.



A month or two later I transplanted the 4" into 1 gallon pots. This year I - [pln on giving them a healthy pruning, reducing

the height to 6-8" above the soil to encourage more branching and better blooming.

Once the buds started showing on the



stems in September, I disbudded all but the top most bud (simply pinching out side buds as they formed). This year I plan on continuing to experiment with pinching out the buds, and figuring out crown buds vs terminal buds vs leaving the plants alone.

In October I was rewarded with the first flowers and encouraged everyone who came near my garden to "come look at my mums"! Above showing "Seaton's Je'Dore" in the autumn light.



Mums come in many, many forms and sizes. This one is in the Anemone class, smaller flowered spray "Shock" a gorgeous rich purple/magenta.



Small garden space with eight of the five gallon mums squeezed in. Transplanted 1 gallon to 5 gallon in August probably, using tomato cages to support some and bamboo poles to stake others.

The mums were such a delight! We enjoyed them blooming for 6-8 weeks before the rains came and they faded. Would highly encourage you to grow them and Lise and I will try to bring some propagated plants for the plant table. I'm looking forward to experimenting more with them this year amf attending the Bay Area Chrysanthemum plant sale in San Jose in June.





Mentioned in the writings of Confucius, the chrysanthemum stands as one of the most revered plants in the Asian world. In China, the species has a long history as a culinary herb, useful in making salads and teas. So prized by the Japanese that it came to adorn the emperor's imperial crest, the "kiku" or chrysanthemum is today that country's national flower. There are about 40 species and countless florist cultivars. Whether you choose an 'irregular incurve,' 'spider mum,' 'football,' or 'quill' type, you can't go wrong with these dazzlers in the fall garden.

King's Mums is THE place to buy rooted chrysanthemum cuttings. Both their paper and their online catalogs have much information on the how-to's of growing both garden and exhibition chrysanthemums. <https://www.kingsmums.com/>

Nikolara mentioned the article from Floret Flowers that inspired her, and here is the link to it: <https://www.floretflowers.com/chrysanthemums-rediscovered-2/>

photography and practical design techniques, this book illustrates beautiful seasonal bouquets that anyone can make and everyone will enjoy.

Each seasonally-inspired chapter engages and encourages readers to observe the colors and textures of the natural world around them and incorporate locally-grown ingredients while creating centerpieces, posies, and other floral arrangements.

Mystery Solved! Last month I brought cuttings to the Club for help identifying an unnamed shrub I've had for years. Thanks to Scott Dunbar-Jansons for finding its ID. It is *Chorilaena*



quercifolia, commonly known as karri oak, endemic to Western Australia. It is the sole species in its genus. I'm trying to strike cuttings for the plant table.



Our Board of Directors



We are still needing someone to serve as Treasurer. It is not a hard position; we hope someone volunteers THIS MONTH.

The Board welcomed Dena Gonsalves as a new Member-at-Large. Yey, Dena!



The Board approved the purchase of a new digital projector for our meetings.

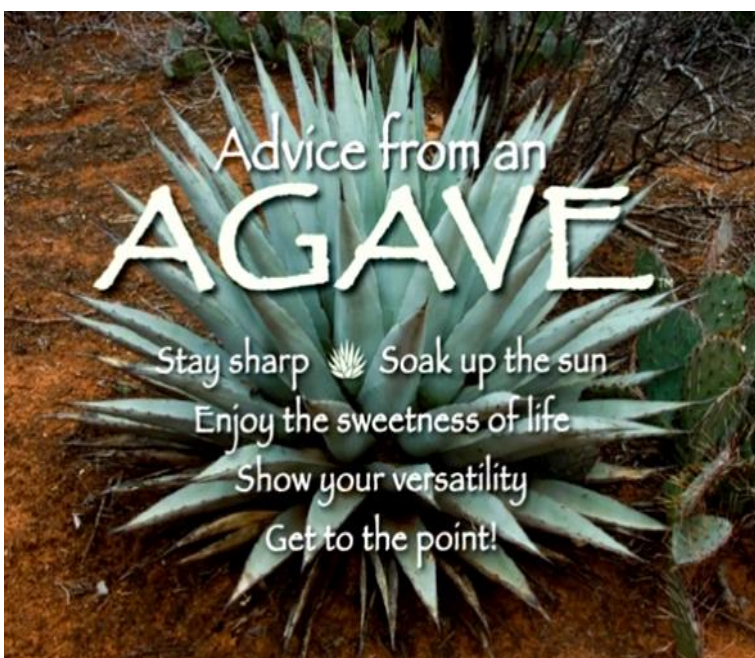
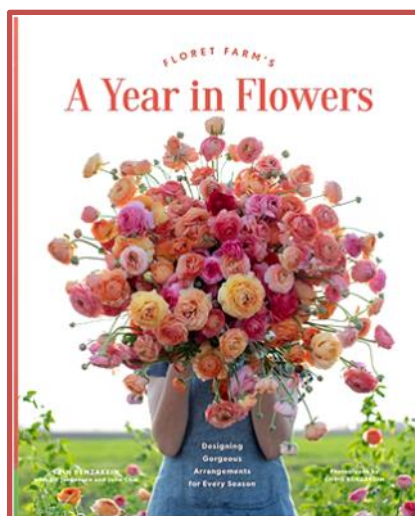
The next Board meeting will be on Monday, February 24th at 6:00. It will be at the home of Cherry and Joe Thompson, 3315 Putter Drive, Soquel. You don't have to be a member—join us!



If you haven't discovered Floret Flower Farm specialty seeds, don't delay! They are a family run flower farm in the Skagit Valley of Washington specializing in growing unique, uncommon and heirloom flowers. Their seed selection is unique. Their website has lots of articles and another information for growing the garden of your dreams. My only complaint is the number of seeds per packet is rather small.

Erin Benzakein is Floret's founder, and is one of the nation's leading "farmer-florists"—a term used to describe those who specialize in both growing and designing with seasonal flowers. She is the author of The Cut Flower Garden,

Her new book, A Year in Flowers: Designing Gorgeous Arrangements for Every Season, will be released on February 11. Brimming with gorgeous



Sowing Seeds: Starting a Successful Spring Garden

February 9 —9:30 am 12:30 pm
Cowell Ranch Hay Barn, UCSC



A seed is a powerful resource. In this workshop led by UCSC Farm & Garden Staff, we'll discuss best practices for sowing, cultivating seedlings and transplanting. We will also explore strategies for planning and timing a successful warm season garden in this region. During the hands-on portion of the workshop we will sow seeds and work with seedlings, which you can take home and cultivate in your garden. Whether this is your first time to sow seeds or you have been stewarding your garden for years this will be a great way to spring into the growing season.

Instructor: Kellee Matsushita-Tseng is a graduate of the Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture and joined the staff in 2016 to help manage the handworked garden areas at the CASFS/UCSC Farm. She is especially interested in seed conservation and preservation, and the links between genetic biodiversity, cultural diversity, and collective liberation.

Cost of the workshop is \$30 general admission (pre-registered) or \$40 (at the door); \$20 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members and current members of the Monterey Bay UC Master Gardeners (pre-registered) or \$30 (at the door). \$5 for UCSC students with ID.

Caring for Roses

Sun., Feb. 15 —9:30 am 12:30 pm
Alan Chadwick Garden, UCSC

Roses are a celebration! In our climate, they can offer you almost year round beauty and flowers in the garden and as cut flowers in a vase for the house. And, while roses are one of the most popular plantings in the home garden, they can be challenging; challenging, but doable. FEAR NOT, help is on the way!

Workshop instructor Orin Martin, manager of the Alan Chadwick Garden at UCSC, will go over site selection/soil improvement, selecting rose varieties, fertilizing, pest and disease control, the yearly growth cycle and attendant care. The workshop will also feature a demo on winter pruning and planting bare root roses, plus how to take cuttings and propagate your own roses.

The focus will be on modern bush roses (hybrid teas/grandifloras/floribundas) plus the stunning David Austin roses, but heirloom and climbing roses will be covered as well.

Cost of the workshop is \$30 general admission; \$20 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members, and certified UC Master Gardeners; \$5 for UCSC students. Or pay at the door (cash or check only): \$40 for general public, \$30 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members, UC Master Gardeners, and \$15 for UCSC students. Rainout date is Saturday, February 22; full refund if you cannot attend on the rainout date.



Cane Berries and Blueberries for the Home Garden and Small Farm

Sun., Feb. 23 —9:30 am 12:30 pm
Cowell Ranch Hay Barn, UCSC

Join CASFS Farm Garden Manager Christof Bernau as he covers the fundamental information you need to know to successfully grow and harvest blueberries, blackberries and raspberries in the home garden. Beginning in the UCSC Hay Barn, Christof will discuss a brief history and origin of these crops, their primary cultural requirements, site selection and soil preparation, trellising systems, varietal selection and sourcing.



The group will then walk up to the farm and look at each of these crops in three dimensions, using the living plants to illustrate key terminology and plant physiology and discuss seasonal care requirements and the specifics of winter pruning.

Participants will experience guided, hands-on pruning of blueberries and cane management for the blackberries at the UCSC Farm at this lecture and demonstration workshop. Things to bring: Gardening gloves, pruning shears, layered clothing and rain gear depending on the weather. This event takes place rain or shine.

Online registration costs: \$30 for general public, \$20 for Friends of the Farm & Garden members and members of the UC Master Gardeners and \$5 for current UCSC students.

PLEASE NOTE: Add \$10 dollars to the prices above for day of class walk-ins. Cash and check only. I



Pruning Small Trees, Shrubs & Perennials -

Sunday February 23rd
Quail Hollow Ranch, Felton
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
UC Master Gardeners of
Monterey & Santa Cruz

The goal of pruning is to maintain strong, healthy, attractive plants. Join Carol Nickbarg, UC Master Gardener and landscape consultant, to learn how to evaluate your plant's pruning needs, how to make proper cuts, and techniques for size reduction, thinning and other commonly encountered issues. Participants will receive handouts to provide guidance at home. Dress for weather as we will spend part of our time in the Ranch gardens. Hat, sunscreen and layered clothing are advised.

Please arrive 15 min early to check-in or register, walk-ins are always welcome!

Cost \$5.00. Contact: Denise Pinard, denisep@mac.com

Winter is a busy pruning season. it is an ideal time to trim woody shrubs to keep them from becoming leggy during the growing season. It is also a good time to prune shrubs that bloom in late summer and fall. This is the month to prune butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*), which you can cut down very low if you wish, California fuchsia (*Zauschneria californica*) and, of course, finish pruning your roses.

Need Tools? Garden Loaner Tools Available:

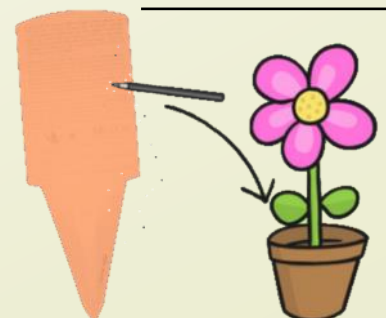


Bill Patterson is willing to be a source of gardening equipment loaners as all of his are in his outdoor shed. Includes many battery powered tools, hedge trimmers, pole trimmers, three blowers, spray rig (battery-operated!), as well as a wide assortment of hand tools and gardening aids. Call Bill at 479-3729.



Pruning buddleia

Start seeds indoors to plant out after last frost. This is a good time to divide overgrown plants such as Cannas, Gerberas, mums, ornamental grasses, Shasta daisies, daylilies, yarrow, and more. Then our plant table will be overflowing. Please be sure when bringing plants to share that you label them. Please put your NAME on the label as well, so the buyer can ask what growing conditions are best. Thank you!






Photo Editing Workshop

February 29, 2020
9am-12pm

Learn to edit, crop, color correct, lighten, darken, haze removal, shake reduction, and other editing tools using Photoshop Elements Software. This workshop is for beginners and those who want to enhance their skills in photo editing.


The workshop will be taught by demonstrations on our 55" Monitor in the Arboretum Library. Feel free to bring a laptop with Photoshop already installed or a JPEG photo on a flash drive, but a laptop is not necessary to learn these skills.

Arboretum Members cost is \$10 and Non-Members \$20.




Original Picture





Corrected Picture



Register online at
arboretum.ucsc.edu

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	\$ _____

The Gardeners' Club

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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

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.

