



The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

January 2020

Writer/Editor: Lise
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Revival at the UCSC Arboretum

In barely three years at the helm of the UCSC Arboretum & Botanical Garden, Executive Director Martin Quigley has made a dizzying number of changes and improvements. After years of neglect due to retirements and funding limitations, renovation and growth has begun. And Martin and his team are just getting started—he's a man with vision and a mission of excellence. He will be at our January meeting to bring us up to speed on all of the projects, programs and improvements, and tell us about new and continuing goals. He'll also give us some history, and describe what's happening in continuing programs, such as the "Future Gardens" domes, new sculptures and art, parking lot plans, the Sinnikmatak outdoor classroom, and more.

Reviewing some of last year's goals as described in the Arb's Bulletin, this is what was planned:

Complete renovation of the nursery growing areas and greenhouses.

Launching a complete renovation of the unique South African Garden plantings, extensive pruning, recovering/reestablishing of old or lost rare specimens, and adding new plants for display. Four new specialty gardens highlighting fascinating plant groups from South Africa to be created. A Succulent Rock garden, featuring the juicy Aloes, gnarly Euphorbias, and other

fantastic succulents. A South African Bulb garden, with a field of seasonal bulbs, encircled by bright and vibrant amarillids, and highlighting the full spectrum of fire-adapted geophytes in mass bloom! A Maze garden, spinning 6-8 feet tall Restio species together in a traditional labyrinth, empowering a soul-searching time of fun and contemplation. A Grove of Silver Trees, glittering in the sunlight and growing among a colorful wave of heathers.. A wedding lawn composed of California native grasses. Pelargonium panels, a vertical display of spectacular geraniums. This plan for the renovation of the Arboretum's South African Garden is still evolving

Work on the California Conservation Gardens: re-opening old paths around the reservoir and in the oldest part of the garden, continued development of paths and beds in the upper garden, with new boulder fields and a lavish display of Dudleyas.

More and better signage, both for way-finding and for interpretation.

Plant sales area expansion at Norrie's gift shop to replace annual plant sales.

And so much more! Martin will save time for questions, so be sure to join us.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 7:00 P.M.
APTOS GRANGE, 2555 MAR VISTA DR.

Refreshments will be served. Thanks to Julie Williams for snacks, April Barkley for dessert and Janine Canada for beverages.

HEATHERS

SILVER TREES

CABBAGE TREES

WEDDING LAWN

**Message From The Gardener's Club
President, Cherry Thompson**

We had another great Gardeners' Club year, with wonderful speakers, refreshments, the Fall and Spring Plant Sale & Swap events, socializing at the July Ice Cream Social as well as the December Holiday Potluck White Elephant Silent Auction. One of the highlights was the meeting when we created bouquets from plant materials members provided. We are grateful to the presenters from the community who have taught and inspired us, and to you who suggested speakers and topics. I hope you have enjoyed our events and meetings as much as I have.

Our dues provided \$500 scholarships furnished to three college and high school students, to further their horticultural studies. It was heart warming to hear personally from the students and their teachers and families. Special thanks to our scholarship liaisons, Bill Patterson and Marcia Meyer. Without their passion and determination our giving program couldn't happen.

And our Club wouldn't happen at all without our Board of Directors. Many hands make light work, they say, and without each of our committed Board members, how would our Club happen? I once heard someone say the Board is like a club within the Club, and I find that is true—we learn from each other at Board meetings, potlucks and tours of our gardens about gardening, its joys and challenges, and about the community and its resources. We do make decisions, but our meetings are informal and enjoyable. I'd like to express my appreciation to Ilene Wilson (Vice President in charge of Programs), April Barclay (Secretary), Marge Gregory (Refreshments), Janine Canada (Hospitality), Lupe Allen, Allen Neymark and Jan Olafssen (Plant Table), Suzanne Mercado (Membership), Debbie Kindle and Joanna Hall (Members at Large), Pat McVeigh (Interim Treasurer) and Lise Bixler (Newsletter Writer/Editor).

Some of our Board members have been with us for years, and are moving on. Joanna Hall and Allen Neymark are resigning. Joanna has been a Member at Large, filling in as needed and Allen has helped at the Plant Table and was instrumental in obtaining our T-shirts. We thank them for their service. Pat McVeigh has been filling in as an Interim Treasurer this past year, but needs a replacement. Treasury duties are not hard, and it would take only minutes to explain them.

Will you consider joining our team? Board meetings are at 6 pm the 4th Monday of each month, except May and December. Weather permitting, there is a garden tour, then a potluck and a short business meeting. If you have any interest or want more information, please speak to any Board member or come to our next meeting January 27th at April Barclay's, 7158 Freedom Blvd, Aptos.



New Year Resolutions

1. Come to a Board meeting potluck and see what it's like!
2. Get more involved with The Gardeners' Club!

Scion Exchange 2020

January 12 @ 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Cabrillo College Horticulture Center

Warmer winters have lessened local fruit harvests the past few years, leaving Santa Cruz County's backyard orchardists with some disappointing harvests. But the Monterey Bay chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers group believes it can give you the means to bump up your yield at its annual Scion Exchange, where members offers grafting material — essentially, different fruit varieties you can attach to existing trees — that will provide you with varieties likely better suited to the Central Coast's generally mild winters.

The exchange features heaps of cuttings of 100s of varieties, from mild-weather cultivars that can be grafted onto your under-performing fruit trees, whether you're growing apples, peaches, plums, apricots, persimmons or something else. Admission is \$5, which buys you all the scions you can use. Root stalk will also be available for sale.

This is the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay area's major exchange of dormant propagable fruit material. There are usually also cuttings of fig, pomegranate, grape, and other, as well as various exotic cuttings, seed, and seedlings that are seasonally appropriate for propagation. If you're new to propagating fruit, There are also tutorials at this event on how to graft trees.



Free Fruit Tree Q&A Session

Join Orin Martin, manager of the Alan Chadwick Garden at UCSC, and Matthew Sutton of Orchard Keepers for a free talk and Q&A session on fruit trees. Orin will give a brief overview of his new book, Fruit Trees for Every Garden, before moving into a lively Q&A session with attendees. Copies of Orin's book will be available for sale.

This free event takes place on Saturday, January 4, from 10 am - 12 pm at San Lorenzo Garden Center at 235 River Street in Santa Cruz. It is repeated on Saturday, January 25, from 10 am - 12 pm at the Garden Company in Santa Cruz. RSVP to the Garden Center at 831-429-8424. Heavy rain cancels.

Getting Started with Fruit Trees

Saturday, January 11
9:30am to 12:00pm
Hay Barn, 1008 Ranch View Road,
Santa Cruz 95064

Alan Chadwick Garden manager Orin Martin will show you how to select, plant, grow and manage healthy, productive deciduous fruit trees organically. Planting a fruit tree should be a considered act, and yet it's common for people to simply grab a tree, grab a spade, dig a hole and plant the tree. Most mistakes made with fruit trees are a result of poor, or even no planning.

This workshop will review the prerequisites required for healthy trees: Site selection [microclimate]; Soil [assessment and improvement]; Sourcing quality trees; Chill hours; Choosing size controlling rootstocks; Reliable fruit tree varieties for the santa cruz area and more...

After going over the basics, we will walk to the orchard for a hands-on demonstration covering: Planting; Fertilizing /cover crops; Watering; Pruning and training young trees; A review of the growing season and what to do when.

You will go home with a series of informative handouts and Orin's new book, Fruit Trees for Every Garden, will be available for sale. Visit <https://www.brownpaper tickets.com/event/4439860> for more info.

Pruning Deciduous Fruit Trees



Saturday, January 18
9:30am to 12:00pm

Hay Barn, 1008 Ranch
View Road, Santa Cruz
95064

When growing a fruit tree, most gardeners spend more time pruning and training their trees than any other single activity. It's no wonder that most "pomology" texts devote 15-25% of their content to these considerable underpinnings.

On the other hand, most home gardening fruit tree books are lacking in both depth and detail when it comes to the topics of pruning and training. Although studies have shown that trees in the landscape have a calming effect on people, the average backyard grower may feel anxious, overwhelmed, confused, and even defeated by the seemingly daunting task of pruning.

Fear not! This workshop, led by Alan Chadwick Garden manager Orin Martin and former CASFS apprentice Ryan Silsbee, will enable you to select, plant, grow and manage healthy, productive deciduous fruit trees organically.

Students will leave with confidence about the basic concepts of fruit tree care as well as the do's and don'ts of pruning; large and small, young and old. You will have an opportunity to see a live winter pruning demonstration focused on pome fruits (apples and pears) and stone fruits (prunes, plum, pluots, apricots and apriums, peaches and nectarines).

Orin will explain "how to" using a methodical walk through of how to prune and shape trees as well as the "whys" with a little of the science thrown in.

Each student will go home with a series of informative handouts and Orin's new book, Fruit Trees for Every Garden, will be available for sale.

Visit <https://www.brownpaper tickets.com/event/4439888> for more information and to register.

In our mild climate, roses never really go dormant. However, even if your roses are still blooming (mine are!) it is important to remember that roses do need rest, and pruning them this month and next is important for their vitality and longevity.

Every rosarian has a different opinion on rose care, and depending on the type of roses you have and your personal taste, how you go about pruning your roses will vary. For instance, to strip off all the leaves or not, and before or after pruning? I always strip off all of mine, after pruning, to minimize disease and insect infestations carrying over. To spray or not to spray? This year I'm going to use dormant oil; some years, because I have so many roses, I don't.

If you are new to rose pruning, take advantage of one of the rose pruning clinics offered by the Monterey Bay Rose Society.

January 11-12 • 10:00 a.m. • Pruning Class • MBRS Display Garden • Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds • 2601 E Lake Ave, Watsonville

January 18 • 10:00 a.m. • MBRS Pruning Class • San Lorenzo Garden & Nursery Center • 235 River St, Santa Cruz 95060

January 25 • 10:00 a.m. • MBRS Pruning Class • Alladin Nursery & Gift Shop • 2905 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville

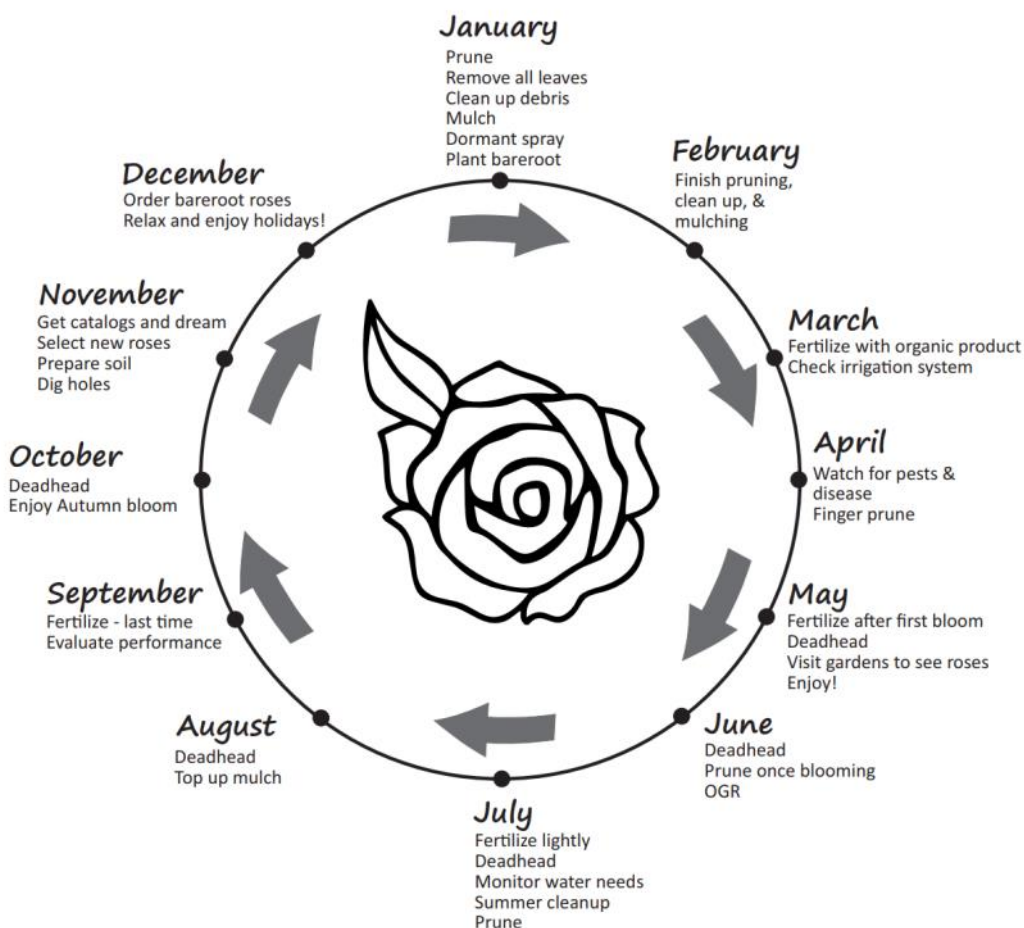
February 22 • 10:00 a.m. • MBRS Pruning Class • Alladin Nursery & Gift Shop • 2905 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville

Here is an illustration of one common method of rose pruning →

HEALTHY GARDEN TIPS

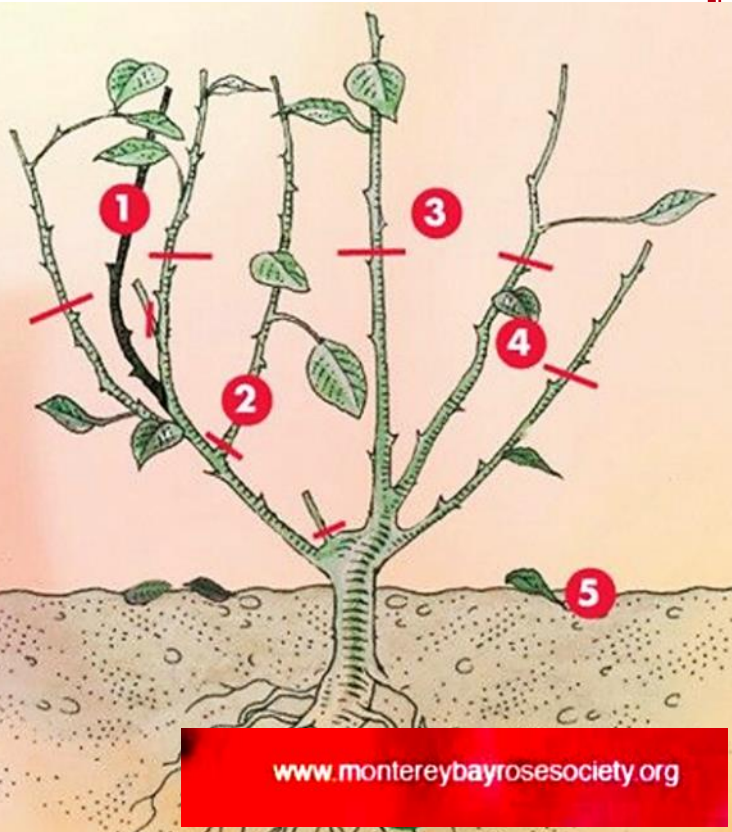
UC Master Gardeners of Napa County • 707-253-4221 • <http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu>

THE ROSE CYCLE



5 Easy Steps

1. Remove dead or damaged canes as well as small, twiggly ones.
2. Remove canes that are growing towards the center of the shrub to create an open "vase" shape.
3. Cut back remaining canes by about two-thirds. Make cuts just above an outward-facing leaf node.
4. Remove all leaves from the remaining canes.
5. Gather up all leaves and canes and place in garbage.



The Forever Stamp Collection: Horticulture Options for 2020

Wild orchids, a garden corsage, American gardens and more will be featured at post offices this year.

Wild orchids stamps



This collection features orchids with 10 new stamps in booklets and coils. Each stamp features a photograph of one of nine species that grow wild in the United States.

Contemporary boutonniere stamp

This stamp can be used for wedding RSVP cards and is also perfect for party invitations, thank-you notes, announce-ments, birthday cards, Father's Day cards and other occasions when a beautiful stamp is fitting. The stamp features a photograph of an arrangement of a burgundy mini-cymbidium orchid bloom, a succulent and a touch of green hydrangea, accented with loops of variegated lily grass.



Garden corsage stamp

This new 2-ounce stamp, can accommodate the weight of heavy invitations for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and other celebrations, oversize greeting cards for all occasions and mailings such as small gifts that require extra postage. The stamp features a photograph of a corsage containing a spray of peach roses and a pink ranunculus, accented with deep-pink heather and seeded eucalyptus.



American gardens stamps

This pane of 20 stamps celebrates the beauty of American gardens and features 10 different photographs of botanic, country estate and municipal gardens taken between 1996 and 2014. The gardens include: Biltmore Estate Gardens (North Carolina); Brooklyn Botanic Garden (New York); Chicago Botanic Garden (Illinois); Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (Maine); Dumbarton Oaks Garden (District of Columbia); The Huntington Botanical Gardens (California); Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park (Florida); Norfolk Botanical Garden (Virginia); Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (Ohio); and Winterthur Garden (Delaware). Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with existing photographs by Allen Rokach.

Fruits and vegetables stamps



These stamps feature the beauty of still-life paintings in a booklet

of 20 stamps featuring 10 different portraits of fruits and vegetables. Each stamp features a collection of one kind of fruit or vegetable: red and black plums, heirloom and cherry tomatoes, carrots, lemons, blueberries, red and green grapes, lettuces, strawberries, eggplants and figs.



Gardening—Things to Do in January

It's that time of year to use dormant sprays on deciduous fruit trees to help prevent insect and disease issues in the spring. It should be noted that these sprays are intended for fruit trees that lose their leaves and are dormant in the winter, not for evergreen fruit trees like citrus or avocados. Take advantage of the dry weather to get the first application done before it rains. Monitor the weather forecasts and look for a two to three day dry period. This will allow enough time for the products to be effective.

Ideally, three applications are made roughly coinciding with early December, early January and early to mid-February. Spraying should be timed to avoid rainfall within 48 hours. It is helpful to apply the spray from a couple of different positions to achieve thorough coverage of all surfaces of the branches and trunk including small furrows in the bark and crotches between branches. These protected areas are where insects often deposit their eggs, and fungus spores collect. It's not always possible to get to all three applications, but do what you can, when you can.

There are two different products that are generally applied during the dormant season.

Bonide All Seasons and Master Nursery Pest Fighter are highly refined mineral oils that are approved for use in organic gardening. When sprayed on the branches and trunk, the oil smothers any over-wintering insect eggs before they have a chance to hatch.

Bonide Copper Fungicide is a copper soap approved for use in organic gardening. It is sprayed to neutralize over-wintering fungus spores to help prevent early season disease issues, including peach leaf curl.

CUT BACK AND DIVIDE PERENNIALS

Winter is a good time to cut back some of your perennials and bunch grasses. Perennials such as hummingbird sage and most kinds of hummingbird fuchsia can be cut back all the way to the ground. Perennials



like daylilies and chrysanthemums can be divided. Bunch grasses such as purple needle grass (official California state grass), Idaho fescue and deer grass, and some perennials like douglas iris, alum root, seaside daisy and yerba buena, can be propagated by division now..

TIP: WASHING SOIL OFF OF ROOTS OF ROOT BOUND PLANTS

Conventional wisdom is to disturb the roots as little as possible when transplanting or dividing plants, saving as much of the surrounding soil as you can. I'm having a lot of luck with a more ruthless method—taking a plant out of its pot and soaking it overnight, then washing all of the soil off the roots, then root-pruning or dividing it. At the distressed plants section of nurseries, I find lots of bargain perennials that seem hopeless, but using this method I've been able to divide them into multiple plants that should thrive next spring..

BARE ROOT PLANTS

Visit local nurseries for bare roots plants—fruit trees, roses, many kinds of berries and more. These are sold without any soil clinging to the roots making them easier and less expensive to transport; they'll do just fine in the garden as long as you don't let them dry out before planting. Buy and plant early in the month while roots are still fresh.

The bare roots should be soaked from an hour to overnight (large plants) in a bucket of water before planting. Trim roots of broken, dead or spongy bits and carefully pull the roots apart. Dig a hole that is fairly shallow and wide.

Spread the roots



out sideways and have the crown of the plant several inches above the soil level. This is necessary as the plant will settle down over time. Water in well but don't fertilize until you see new shoots growing. Water regularly if we don't get rain.

Trees and roses aren't the only plants that are sold bare root. You can also plant bare root asparagus, artichokes, rhubarb, berries, kiwifruit, horseradish, rhubarb, grapes, strawberries, and iris in January.

PLANT NATIVES

This is a good month to plant most California native plants. They like to be planted in the cool fall and winter months, which is the beginning of their growing season. It is also a good time to plant wildflower seeds such as California Poppy. Scatter and tamp them down with your feet, and wait for the spring show.

PROPAGATE NEW PLANTS—ROOT SEMI-HARDWOOD AND HARDWOOD CUTTINGS

If you've never tried cloning your favorite plants by rooting their stems, why not try it this winter? A good explanation of some techniques can be found at <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/files/53420.pdf>. Think of all of the plants we can share at the plant table if all of us start rooting now! Rooting hormone helps, although it is not always used.



JANUS: ROMAN GOD OF BEGINNINGS

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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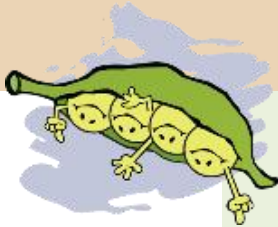
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It's easy-peasy to join our club!

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.

