



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

March/April 2022

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

Letter from President Cherry Thompson

Good news – welcome back! We are having our first in person meeting at the Aptos Grange next month.

We've missed two solid years of meetings, so we'll see if we remember how to get together in person. The Board met at April Barclay's on February 28th and made the decision to have the first general meeting on Thursday, April 14th. For this first meeting, we'd like to do a round robin chat about what's going on in your garden and what you've missed about The Gardeners' Club. Please bring a bouquet or clipping from your garden to share. We'll have the Plant Table, but no refreshments this time.

Ilene Wilson is unable to continue as Vice President (in charge of Programs, so we welcome any and all questions and suggestions. This is a great opportunity for someone who would like to lead us in exploring new topics, skills and resources.

We have a new Treasurer, Dena Gonsalves, and want to thank Pat McVeigh for her "filling in" service these

WE'RE BACK!



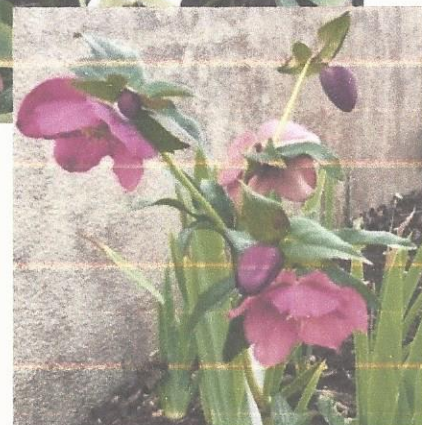
last few years. Pat has also generously volunteered to fill in as Hospitality Chair, as Janine Canada has finished serving that position (thanks, Janine).

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, March 28th, 6pm, at my house, 3315 Putter Dr., Soquel.

The meeting in May will be a Plant Exchange, so now is a great time to divide plants and plant seedlings to share.

If you haven't paid your dues for this year, please do so now. There is a form at the back of this newsletter.

The Board was amazed at April's garden at the Board meeting, and we particularly entranced by her many hellebores. Do go to our website, thegardenersclub.org, to see a slide show of her garden.



THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 7:00 P.M.
APTOS GRANGE
2555 MAR VISTA DR., APTOS

GARDENING AND THE PANDEMIC

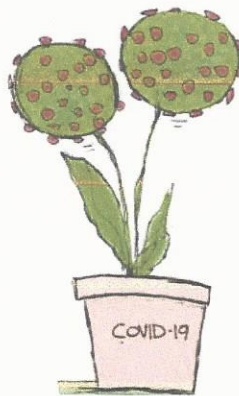
The Covid years have given many of us time to reassess our relationships with our gardens, to examine our priorities and to use the increased time many of us had at home to garden more, garden differently, or maybe cutback on gardening altogether. For some of us, the grief, loneliness, and uncertainty this pandemic has brought has helped by gardening. Perhaps it provided a small sense of control in uncertain time. It could give us the chance to be in nature when many parks were closed and trips canceled; distraction from life's anxieties: a sense of serenity in the place where we now spend more of our time; food security and nourishment: the sense of well-being that comes from nurturing living things; the experience of being able to dive deeper into our passion, or to explore new passions. And now we have the challenge of reviving friendships and renewing social connections via groups and meetings, which can be challenging for many of us after so much social isolation.

I would love to hear from all of you on how Covid times changed or influenced your gardening. Here are some questions to stimulate your thinking - email me your thoughts at lisebixler@sbcglobal.net. Photos are welcome! Hoping to have lots to share in the next newsletter.

Questions: What have you been up to? What has changed in your garden? Has anything changed in the way you garden? Has anything changed about your feelings about gardening? What do you feel, what do you look for, when you are in your garden?

April Barclay gave me her update:

"We have been on this property for over 26 years. There were originally only oaks and grass. The oaks have gone from juvenile trees to fully mature. In the past two years we have had the trees tended by an arborist who has raised the tree canopies. This was done for tree



Mike Luckovich

health, but also for fire safety. The result is a lot more light in most areas.

I've always loved being outdoors in the garden, but as so many people discovered, with the pandemic isolation it has been a godsend. The pandemic did change a few things. For the first year, it was a major event to do any sort of shopping, including rare visits to the nursery. I tended to order a few more plants online than before. We all missed the social garden events. Can't wait

to resume the two garden clubs that I'm part of and all of the public events; orchid shows, the Cabrillo hort experience, and the California flower shows."

As for me, your Editor, the ash from the fires here in Bonny Doon apparently served as fertilizer, and the garden seems to have doubled in size. It is certainly an exercise in letting go, since there is no way I can keep up. I've also spent much of my time doing art of all kinds—lately I've been making art from discarded books. Here's an example:



Late winter or early spring is breeding season for gophers in nonirrigated garden areas, March through June, but in irrigated areas they can have 3 litters a year! As you probably



know, a single gopher can ruin a garden in a short time, and gopher gnawing can damage irrigation lines and sprinkler systems. In lawns, their mounds are unsightly and interfere with mowing. Early detection is critical to prevent damage. Use both traps and underground fencing to manage gopher problems. Toxic baits are available but can pose threats to wildlife, pets,

and children, especially in backyard situations.

Look for mounds of loose dirt that are half circles or crescent-shaped with a plugged hole that is off to one side of the mound.

Fresh mounds are the sign of an active gopher. A single gopher can create several mounds a day.

In contrast to gopher mounds, mole mounds are circular with a plug in the middle, and ground squirrel holes are unplugged without a mound.

Protect plants with underground fencing or wire baskets. Lay hardware cloth or 3/4-inch-mesh poultry wire under raised beds before planting. Wire baskets can be installed at planting to protect individual shrubs or trees, leaving enough room for roots to grow. They come in many sizes.

Use gopher traps to reduce the gopher populations. The most common types are pincer and box traps. Gopher traps are placed underground inside the gopher burrow, so it is helpful to use a gopher probe to locate the burrow. Be sure to place traps in active burrows as indicated by fresh mounds.

Set traps in tunnels in pairs facing each other. Cover the hole so light doesn't get in. Check traps often and reset as necessary. Keep trapping until no new mounds are formed. Gopher traps don't require food baits. Minimize the use of pesticides that pollute our waterways. Use nonchemical alternatives or less toxic pesticide products whenever possible.

Gopher Control in the Home Garden and Small Farm - VIRTUAL EVENT

Learn how to control gophers, moles, and ground squirrels in the home garden, landscape, and on the small farm using non-toxic techniques that focus on exclusion and trapping. This Zoom workshop will be taught by Thomas Wittman, founder and owner of Gophers Limited and an expert on vertebrate pest control.

Tuesday, April 5 at 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Sign up at https://commerce.cashnet.com/cashneti/static/storefront/UCSC_CASFS/catalog/CAS_WRKSHOPS/item-details/CASFS-GOPH



Hands-on Gopher Trapping Clinic - IN PERSON

Companion to the virtual class on Gopher Control in the Home Garden and Small Farm, Thomas Wittman of Gophers Limited, will show and tell about different types of traps, show how and where to set them in gopher runs on the UCSC Farm.

Cost: Minimum \$40 with the ability to contribute more, 10% off for current members of the Friends of the Farm & Garden. Pre-register only, class size limited to 30 people.

Saturday, April 9 at 10:00am to 12:00pm

UCSC Farm, Farm Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Sign up at https://commerce.cashnet.com/cashneti/static/storefront/UCSC_CASFS/catalog/CAS_WRKSHOPS/item-details/CASFS-GOPLIV

Spring Garden Pests - FREE online class

March 31, 2022
PM - 6:30 PM

5:00



Zoom,

Contact: Delise Weir

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz

Details:

Spring is the time to set out tender seedlings and plant sprouting seeds that can be quickly decimated by slugs, snails and birds. Gophers are especially active in spring, their breeding season, looking for roots to nibble and pull whole plants underground.

Using the Integrated Pest Management approach, Master Gardeners Delise Weir & Trink Praxel will discuss methods to prevent damage before it happens and minimize the damage after an attack. Join us for this FREE virtual class on Zoom.

Reserve your space at <https://springpest2022.bpt.me/>

Much more information at:

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7433.html>

Honoring Black Women Who Influenced Botany, Horticulture and Gardening

We missed Black History Month in February and here we are smack dab in the middle of Women's History month. Here are a few of the many Black women who influenced garden history.

Anne
Spencer,
Poet



(1882-1975) The first African-American woman to be published in the renowned Norton Anthology of Poetry, Anne Spencer was a true poet of the garden. Many of her poems explore the mythical and symbolic power of flowers and the natural world, as well as the sheer joy of gardening. Her home garden in Lynchburg, Virginia served as an informal social space for leading African-American thinkers of her time; Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, and Martin Luther King all found moments of peace there.

*Peace is here and in every season
a quiet beauty...
what is pain but happiness here
amid these green and wordless patterns,
indefinite texture of blade and leaf...*



Marie Clark Taylor, Botanist

(1911-1990) Marie Clark Taylor was the first African American woman to gain a PhD in botany and the first woman of any race to receive a PhD (cum laude) from Fordham University. She also served as the department head at Howard University for many years. During her career, Taylor created science institutes for high school teachers to share new ways to teach science. She encouraged teachers to adopt her innovative methods, such as using real botanical material and light-microscopes to study living cells. Her research was in photomorphogenesis, the influence of light on plant growth.



Ethel Clark, Leader and organizer

Ethel Earley Clark became the first president of the Negro Garden Clubs of Virginia in 1932. Blossoming from just seven chapters to sixty-five in less than a decade, the organization brought thousands of Black gardeners together to compare growing tips and beautify local neighborhoods. While little is yet known of Clark's personal contributions, she represented and organized a growing number of Black women who used garden clubs as a means of civic engagement.

Mary Seacole

1805 – 1881



- Mary Seacole was a **herbalist** and nurse (or 'doctress') who used traditional African and Caribbean remedies made from plants to treat illnesses and injuries.
- She was born and grew up in Jamaica where she learnt her herbal skills from her mother.
- In 1854 she travelled to the Crimean War to use her **botanical** and nursing skills to treat sick and injured soldiers, of which there were hundreds.
- Mary was a pioneering and charismatic woman who helped to save the lives of many. However she was not properly recognized for her bravery or contribution to the war until after she died.
- In 1991 she received the Jamaican Order of Merit and in 2004 she was voted **greatest Black Briton**.

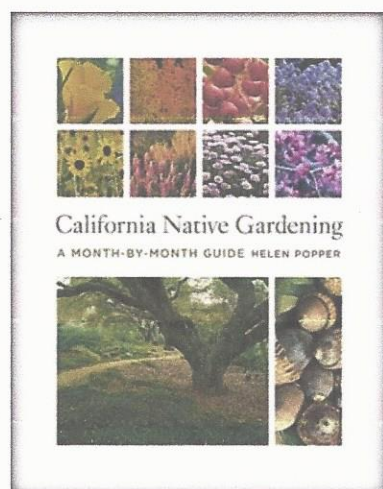


Once a doctor, Juliet Sargeant learnt quickly how important the natural world can be for healing. She made history in 2016 when she became the first black woman ever to exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show. Her Modern Slavery Garden was awarded a Gold Medal and the People's Choice Prize. This was the show's first ever social campaign garden. She is on the panel for show garden selection at Chelsea and was made a fellow of the Society of Garden Designers in 2017 for her contribution to garden design

Learn more at <https://gardens.si.edu/learn/blog/eight-women-to-know/> and <https://blackbotanistsweek.weebly.com>.

California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide

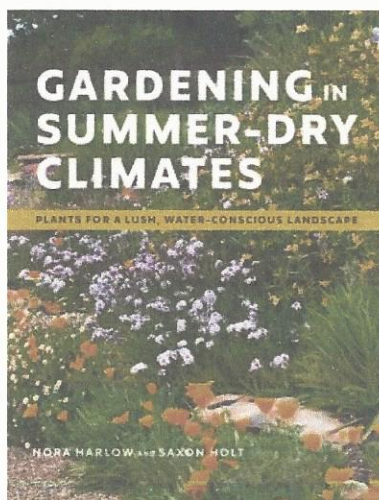
By Helen Popper



This is the first month-by-month guide to gardening with native plants in a state that follows a unique, nontraditional seasonal rhythm. Beginning in October, when much of California leaves the dry season behind and prepares for its own green "spring," Helen Popper provides detailed, calendar-based information for both beginning and experienced native gardeners. Each month's chapter lists gardening tasks, including repeated tasks and those specific to each season. Popper offers planting and design ideas, and explains core gardening techniques such as pruning, mulching, and propagating. She tells how to use native plants in traditional garden styles, including Japanese, herb, and formal gardens, and recommends places for viewing natives. An essential year-round companion, this beautifully written and illustrated book nurtures the twin delights of seeing wild plants in the garden and garden plants in the wild.

Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates: Plants for a Lush, Water-Conscious Landscape

By Nora Harlow and Saxon Holt



Selecting plants suited to your climate is the first step toward a thriving, largely self-sustaining garden that connects with and supports the natural world. With gentle and compelling text and stunning photographs of plants in garden settings, *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates* by Nora Harlow and Saxon Holt is a guide to native and climate-adapted plants for summer-dry, winter-wet climates of North America's Pacific coast. Knowing what these climates share and how and why they differ, you can choose to make gardens that maintain and expand local and regional biodiversity, take little from the earth that is not returned, and welcome and accommodate the presence of wildlife. With global warming, it is now even more critical that we garden in tune with nature.

In the 308-page paperback, Harlow, a landscape architect known for water

conservation, and Holt, a gardener and well-known photojournalist, delve into the science of climate zones, climate trends, water supply, storage and drainage.

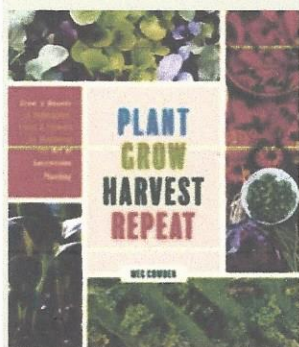
Information is also provided on planning and planting in wildfire regions, carbon capture and encouragement of wilderness. The bulk of the handbook is a compendium of plants that thrive without summer water. Most are accessible to gardeners. For each plant, there is a brief description of size, growth patterns, leaf shapes, flowers and needs.

More from Harlow and Saxon-Holt

They have a wonderful blog and newsletter. The blog is at <https://summer-dry.com/>, where you can sign up for the newsletter.

WE BELIEVE

Gardening Where You Are
The Summer-Dry Garden
Drought Tolerant is Irrelevant
A Summer-Dry Aesthetic
Water for summer-dry gardens



Discover how to get more out of your growing space with succession planting—carefully planned, continuous seed sowing—and provide a steady stream of fresh food from early spring through late fall.

Drawing inspiration from succession in natural landscapes, Meg McAndrews Cowden teaches you how to implement lessons from these dynamic systems in your home garden. You'll learn how to layer succession across your perennial and annual crops; maximize the early growing season; determine the sequence to plant and replant in summer; and incorporate annual and perennial flowers to benefit wildlife and ensure efficient pollination. You'll also find detailed, seasonal sowing charts to inform your garden planning, so you can grow more anywhere, regardless of your climate.. This book will inspire you to create an even more productive, beautiful, and enjoyable garden across the seasons—every vegetable gardener's dream.

Featured Plants

Your editor's latest favorite plant is Popcorn Ceanothus AKA Ceanothus maritimus 'Popcorn' (Popcorn Mountain Lilac)

This white-flowered Ceanothus cultivar is a special white-flowered form of a very rare species from Hearst Castle in San Luis Obispo County. This rugged groundcover ceanothus reaches up to 3 ft tall and spreads to 5 ft wide, an excellent candidate for parkway strips and drier borders. It is low-growing, dense, mounding evergreen shrub. It blooms in late winter to early spring, producing profuse clusters of white, fragrant, star-shaped flowers with red-orange 'eyes'. It is endemic to San Luis Obispo County, introduced by UC Davis and in its natural habitat is found on coastal bluffs, ridges, hills, and slopes. It is a host plant to several butterfly species, and attract bees and hummingbirds. The dense branches provide cover for birds and small animals.



Don't wait until July to try to make up for a dry winter. Plants adapted to summer-dry climates need wintertime moisture to carry them through the dry summer months. Not sure how to water mature trees?

- Use a soaker hose or root waterer.
- Apply water in concentric circles starting several feet from the trunk and extending out at least to the edge of the canopy.
- Water as long as needed to dampen but not saturate the soil at least 8–12 inches down.

Standout Native Hydrangeas



Margaret Renkl at Away to Garden (<https://awaytogarden.com/standout-native-hydrangeas-with-mt-cubas-sam-hoadley/>) recently interviewed Sam Hoadley, who is the manager of horticultural research at Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware, a longtime native plant garden and research site. The native plant experts at Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware have just released a report on the results of a five-year trial, that focused mostly on an important native species, *Hydrangea arborescens*, and what both gardeners and pollinators have to say about its range of cultivars. Those of us who favor Asian species and/or mopheads pink or blue might be interested to find out that it is the flat topped ones, the lace caps, that are most attractive to bugs.

Sam favors "conservation by addition" - even by adding one plant to your home landscape, and no matter how you're doing it, you are moving the needle in a good direction. The plants that are on the

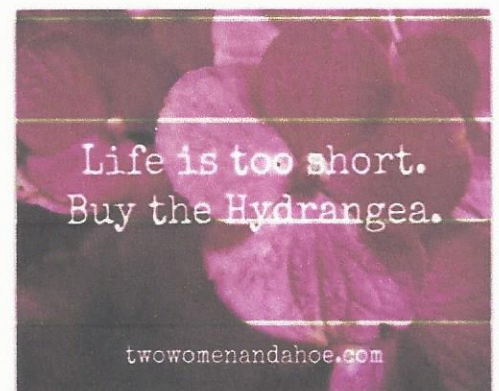
top in terms of garden performance are not necessarily the ones that are on the top in terms of insect appeal. More wild-

type plants that are more typical of species that you would see in wild populations, exhibit a lacecap flower inflorescence. So essentially that lace inflorescence is much more flat, and the center is comprised primarily of fertile flowers. And these are offering benefits like pollen and nectar to pollinators. And on the perimeter, the outer ring of that inflorescence, you're seeing some sterile flowers, but relatively few and in some populations, not at all.

Sam says, "But that's where we expected to see the most pollinator visitation. And when we actually went through our pollinator observations, here in the trial garden, it was very clear cut that pollinators were going to lacecap hydrangeas, not exclusively, but in much, much higher numbers than the mophead selections and cultivars."

Lacecap flowers are the predominant flower form in wild *H. arborescens* and contain hundreds of fertile flowers, usually surrounded by a ring of showy sterile flowers. Mopheads contain masses of sterile flowers in large, often dome-shaped flower heads, with relatively few fertile flowers.

H. arborescens 'Haas' Halo', the top performer in the trial, is a cultivar offering both horticultural excellence and pollinator value. This cultivar produces exceptionally large and showy lacecap inflorescences that have proven to be highly attractive to insect pollinators. White Flower Farms has it in their online catalog. View the entire report here: mtcubacenter.org/trials/wild-hydrangea-for-the-mid-atlantic-region.



The Gardeners' Club Membership

Now that we are starting up Club activities, it is time to pay annual membership dues, if you have not done so this year. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$15.00. 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. Gift memberships are available— 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.



As we ease back into less restrictive Covid concerns, we will stay alert to changing conditions, and emerging opportunities. We are grateful to retain our access to the Grange—now we'll also resume rent and insurance costs.

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 as we meet we will discuss how our giving program will proceed. Renew now so you don't miss anything—you'll be glad you did. Thank you!

YOUR 2022 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 a check for \$15 per member made out to
The Gardeners' Club. Mail to:

The Gardeners' Club % Suzanne Caron
P.O. Box 3025
Ben Lomond CA 95005

Membership Dues: \$ _____

Gift Membership(s): \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____



GROWING NATIVES GARDEN TOUR APRIL 2-3

Visit California native gardens for free in
Santa Clara Valley & the Peninsula
North: Sat. 4/2/22 10am - 4pm
South: Sun. 4/3/22 10am - 4pm

Register early at gngt.org



Hosted by Santa Clara Valley Chapter of
California Native Plant Society and
UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County



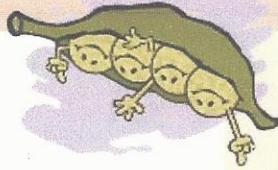
The San Francisco Bay Flower & Garden Show is a one of kind event. Nowhere else will you find such Beautiful Floral Arrangements, Informative DIY - Hands-on Workshops, over 75 Free Seminars and Workshops from some of the top experts in the world! and hundreds of vendors with everything for your garden and outdoor living.



<https://norcalgardenshow.com/the-show>

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.

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



The Gardeners' Club

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