

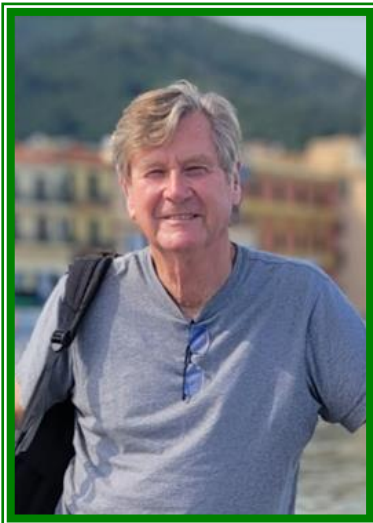


Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California
November 2024
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(lisebixler@sbcglobal.net)

DEMYSTIFYING DRIP IRRIGATIONS SYSTEMS

Talk by Club Member
Dave Somerton



Although I have been a gardener for many years, I only started using drip irrigation systems since I retired from my job as a fish biologist and moved with my wife from Seattle to Aptos 9 years ago. After hand watering my gardens for the first year, I realized that if I really wanted to travel in my retirement I needed to invest in a drip irrigation system, especially for the times I was gone. Initially I thought that these systems are “plug and play”, but I soon learned that they need constant maintenance and tuning. My talk will describe the components and functioning of the irrigation system I now have, focusing on the many issues I encountered not discussed in most irrigation guides.

**Join us! Thursday
Nov. 14, 7:00 pm
Aptos Grange Hall
2555 Mar Vista Dr.**

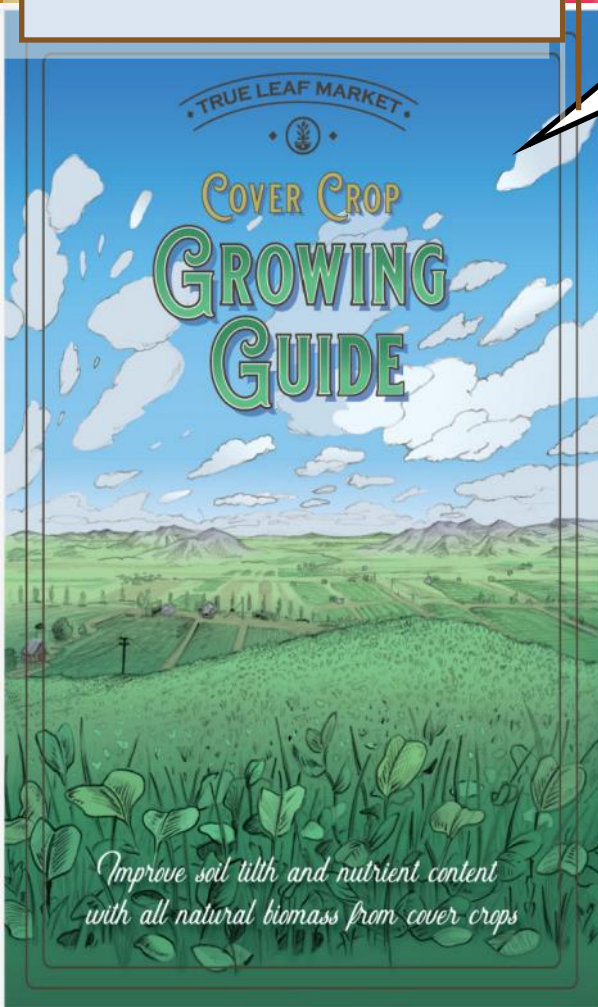
Grow Cover Crops! Cover crops like rye grass and crimson clover will help suppress weeds, prevent erosion and become rich soil conditioners when they die back in freezing weather. If they don't die back, you can simply cut down the crop and till it under the ground before planting your new spring garden a few weeks before planting season. Cover crops are also recommended for attracting beneficial insects into your garden which help control unwanted pests.

Why Should You Use Cover Crops? Simply put, they improve your soil and positively influence the local environment. Growers not only use cover crops to protect their soil and to keep their soil healthy but to also attract beneficial pollinators to the region. During the colder months, cover crops protect against winter erosion, prevent soil compaction, and feed the soil by leaving behind biomass in the spring. This leftover biomass is widely known as "green manure" because it feeds the soil with organic matter the way traditional livestock manure does. You don't need to have a huge plot to benefit from cover crops. The smallest piece of land can benefit from even one or two cover crops. Using cover crops gives your future crops the advantage from the moment they're sown. We all want a stunning, bountiful garden, right? Well, that all starts from the ground up!

Free cover crop growing guide from True Leaf Market! Amazingly informative booklet, 59 pages of really valuable information. Get it at <https://www.trueleafmarket.com/pages/cover-crop>.

Ed. Note: I haven't ordered from True Leaf Market yet, but check them out. Besides offering free information resources, they've got a tremendous selection of Asian seeds and organic choices. <https://www.trueleafmarket.com/>

UNDECIDED ABOUT WHICH COVER CROP TO PLANT? GO TO TRUE LEAF MARKET TO BUY A MIX!



Don't Farm Naked
Plant Cover Crops

PRACTICAL FARMERS of Iowa

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT .org



Bringing Learning to Life in the Garden
Since 1979!



"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

-Rachel Carson



Join Us for a Garden-Inspired
Afternoon of Creative Gift-Making!



Gifts from the Garden

Sunday, November 17th, 2024
1:00-4:00 PM

at the Life Lab Garden Classroom, on the UCSC Farm



Crafts Available:

- Flower BookMarks / Greeting Cards
- Veggie Print Wrapping Paper / Greeting Cards
- Succulent Cork Magnets
- Family Tea Bags
- Leaf Rubbing Cards
- Seedy Mosaics / Ornaments
- Painted Rocks or mini pots
- Burlap Wrapped Seedlings

Join Life Lab to celebrate the beauty of nature by crafting unique gifts from the garden at this free, family-friendly event.

Everyone will leave with the crafts they create and you will also get a sneak peek of the activities we typically offer during our Summer Camps.

Please **RSVP Here**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLrtUp8pQm_msDnHuCQEZHa_3YWD58Tum1BYubCMn-BTWVRw/

Donations are appreciated and will help support this event and our programs.

We can't wait to see you there!

UCSC ARBORETUM

Annual Holiday

**Gift &
Wreath
SALE**



Some of our volunteer's hand-made items:



Saturday, November 23, 2024

9am-10am Members Hour

10am-4pm General Public



Looking for the perfect gifts and decorations for Thanksgiving and the holiday season? Come to the **Arboretum's Annual Gift & Wreath Sale** for a great selection of locally hand-made gifts and more!

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

Please park in the Visitor Parking Lot and walk to the sale in the Hort 2 Meeting Hall. Regardless of the weather, we'll have doors and windows open to let in plenty of fresh air.

Ready for a pear-fectly spectacular pear gathering? We've got something exciting for you. Join your fellow MBCRFG members on Sunday, November 3rd to hear **C. Todd Kennedy** speak about fall's wonderful fruit – PEARS! To be followed by a Pear Tasting and one of our wonderful potlucks! (See registration link below.) If you haven't already heard about Mr. Kennedy, he has been a

set-up can arrive at 2:30, or stay after 6:00 to tuck everything in and sweep up. This is a members-only event.

FREE MEMBERS ONLY EVENT

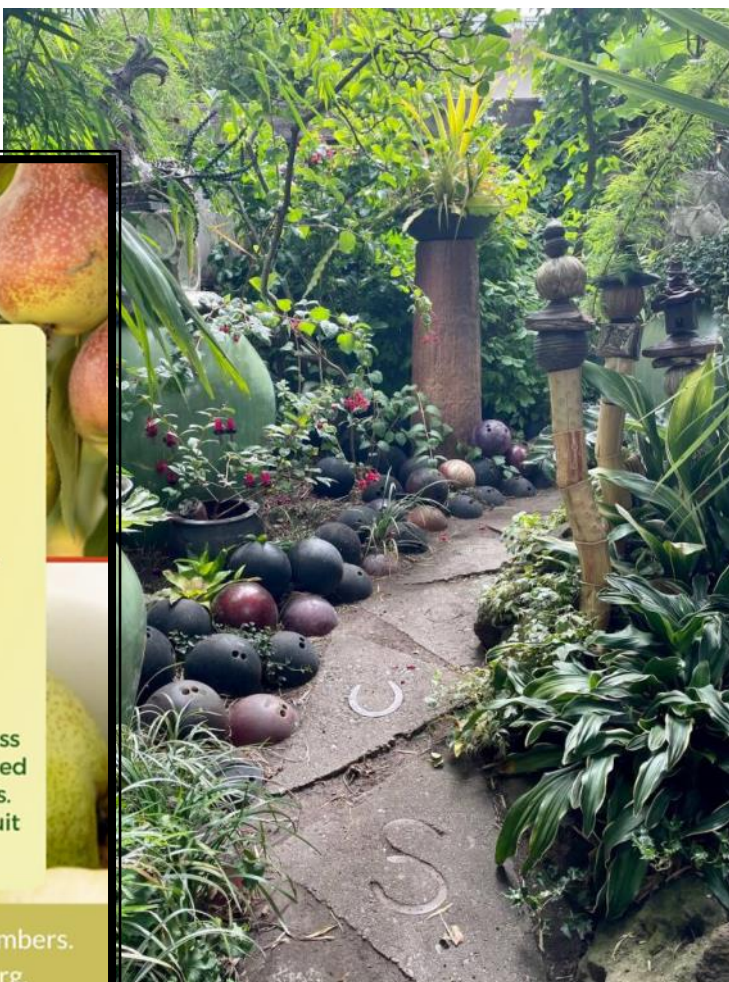
PEAR SPECTACULAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
3:00PM - 6:00PM

SC Live Oak Grange - 1900 17th Ave, Santa Cruz

Get ready to be inspired by rare fruit pioneer C. Todd Kennedy at our pear gathering! Known for saving countless heirloom fruits from extinction, he's bringing his unmatched passion and expertise about selecting and growing pears. Don't miss this chance to learn from a true guardian of fruit diversity. Pear tasting and potluck to follow.

This is a FREE members-only event for current MBCRFG members. It's not too late to join our awesome chapter at: mbcrfg.org.



fruit adventurer extraordinaire for years, and is responsible for bringing hundreds of varieties of fruit to America and sharing them with the USDA repositories. He is reputed to have brought to America about half of the country's stone fruit collection. And also those Italian figs with numbers (instead of names) that you see at the scion exchange? Yep, you guessed it, Mr. Kennedy brought those here too. He also established The Arboreum Company and grew and distributed fruit trees through that company, all while maintaining a busy career as an agricultural attorney working with farmers on labor and land use issues. He's going to share with us his lifetime of knowledge about growing and selecting exquisite pear varieties.

Our members Freddy Menge, Lizzie Gray and Zea Sonnabend will be bringing a selection of pears for our tasting. And YOU, our wonderful members, are asked to contribute a dish for our potluck. In addition to a dish (and serving tool), please make sure to bring your own plate, utensils, napkin, etc. to make it light lifting for us all. Please bring organic food whenever possible. We also welcome you to bring any fruit you'd like to share that you're harvesting now. It's so joyful to share the fruits of our labor with each other.

The afternoon's fun will begin at 3 p.m. and continue until 6:00 (or until the food is all eaten!). Volunteers wishing to help with

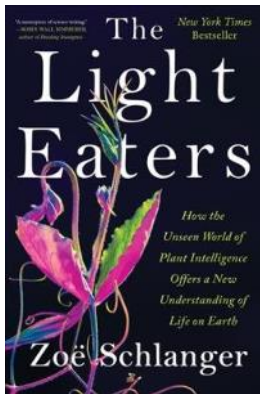
MARCIA DONAHUE'S BERKELEY GARDEN

I've read about Marcia Donahue's amazing sculptural garden for many, many years, but it wasn't actually until the Garden Conservancy Open Gardens that I finally went to see it for myself. Absolutely amazing! The diversity of plants and art, and found objects, and how everything relates to everything else was just astounding. Often I would have to stop and ponder if what I was looking at was a plant or an art piece! I was further astounded to find out that her garden is open to the public almost EVERY Sunday afternoon from 1-5 p.m.! It is not that far for a day trip—the address is 3017 Wheeler Street in Berkeley. Call



ahead to make sure she'll be open open to visitors most Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 pm. Call ahead before visiting just to confirm (510-540-8544). Don't wait decades like I did to visit!

Thanks to Club Member Sirleen for bringing this book to a meeting and recommending it to us! It would be great to discuss it together at a future meeting.



The Light Eaters

How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth

by Zoë Schlanger

"It takes tremendous biological creativity to be a plant. To survive and thrive while rooted in a single spot, plants have adapted ingenious methods of survival. In recent years, scientists have learned about their ability to communicate, recognize their kin and behave socially, hear sounds, morph their bodies to blend into their surroundings, store useful memories that inform their life cycle, and trick animals into behaving to their benefit, to name just a few remarkable talents. *The Light Eaters* is a deep immersion into the drama of green life and the complexity of this wild and awe-inspiring world that challenges our very understanding of agency, consciousness, and intelligence. In looking closely, we see that plants, rather than imitate human intelligence, have perhaps formed a parallel system. What is intelligent life if not a vine that grows leaves to blend into the shrub on which it climbs, a flower that shapes its bloom to fit exactly the beak of its pollinator, a pea seedling that can hear water flowing and make its way toward it? Zoë Schlanger takes us across the globe, digging into her own memories and into the soil with the scientists who have spent their waking days studying these amazing entities up close. What can we learn about life on Earth from the living things that thrive, adapt, consume, and accommodate simultaneously? More important, what do we owe these life forms once we come to understand their rich and varied abilities? Examining the latest epiphanies in botanical

research, Schlanger spotlights the intellectual struggles among the researchers conceiving a wholly new view of their subject, offering a glimpse of a field in turmoil as plant scientists debate the tenets of ongoing discoveries and how they influence our understanding of what a plant is. We need plants to survive. But what do they need us for--if at all? An eye-opening and informative look at the ecosystem we live in, this book challenges us to rethink the role of plants--and our own place--in the natural world."

"At the end of the day, whether or not plants are intelligent is a social question, not a scientific one. Science will continue to find that plants are doing more than we'd imagined. But then the rest of us will have to look at the data and come to our own conclusions. How will we interpret this new knowledge? How will we fit it into our beliefs about life on earth? That is the exciting part. Perhaps we'll decide it no longer makes sense to hold so tightly to our old beliefs about what plants are, given all this new information about their nature."

"But plant personhood itself is a concept as old as human culture. As we've already learned, Native philosophies from all corners of the globe often understand plants as relatives, or ancestors, or otherwise persons in their own right. It's not that plants are human, but that humans are just one kind of person, as are animals. Personhood means one has agency and volition, and the right to exist for their own sake."

"It's that lack of faith in the public that always results in an erosion of the level of public discourse. A faithlessness in the public is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Remove complexity, and the capacity for complexity degrades farther. I think people can be trusted to handle a complicated truth. Plants are not omnipotent, otherworldly creatures. They are also not just like us. But neither are they neither of these things. There are elements of reality in both images, and fallacy in both too. This is hard stuff: one needs to welcome ambiguity and delight in the lack of easy tropes. Complexity is the rule in nature, after all. Thinking through this requires occupying a mental space of in-betweenness rarely tolerated in our contemporary world concerned with linear narratives and known entities. Báyò Akómoláfé, a Yoruba poet and philosopher, wrote about this in-betweenness, contemplating the way all creatures are in fact composite organisms. The state of nature is one of interpenetration and mingling that defies easy categorization. It occupies a middle place, both in the material reality of the world and in our understanding of it. "The middle I speak of is not halfway between two poles; it is porousness that mocks the very idea of separation," he writes. Akómoláfé outlines our collective biological reality as a state of "brilliant betweenness" that "defeats everything, corrodes every boundary, spills through marked territory, and crosses out every confident line." It reminds me of Trewavas, telling me in his living room outside Edinburgh that scientists don't know enough about plants to say anything dogmatic about them."

The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are only \$20.00, due by January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2025. 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 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.

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 \$20 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	\$ _____

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November birth flower



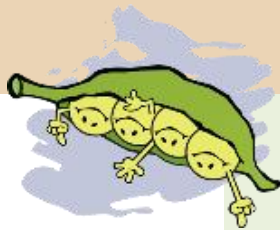
Image: Kawarazaki Shodo

Before the white chrysanthemum
the scissors hesitate
a moment.

-Yosa Buson. 1716-1783-

“Be present in all things,
and thankful for all things.”

- Maya Angelou



It's easy-peasy to join our club!

Dues are \$20 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.