



# Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club  
Santa Cruz County,  
California  
September 2025  
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## TENDER LOVING CARE FOR TOOLS Master Gardeners Presentation

Join us when Anastatia Foster of the Master Gardeners of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties tells us how to give TLC to our gardening tools.

Learn how to care for your tools: the new, the well cared for and the not so well cared for...

Tool maintenance and rehabilitation will be covered with a demonstration of proper tool sharpening. A handout will be provided.

Anastatia Foster has been with the Master Gardeners of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties

since 2016. She enjoys teaching classes on a variety of topics

including container gardening, tool maintenance and integrated pest management.

Anastatia has lived and gardened in Santa Cruz county for many years.



Join us! Thursday  
Sept. 11, 7:00 pm  
Aptos Grange Hall  
2555 Mar Vista

## Non-Invasive Butterfly Bushes



Some of us are crazy about butterfly bushes (*Buddleia davidii*.) Although it is a non-native, It is fragrant, colorful, and attracts insects to its flowers in droves. But it is a bully, seeding so easily it has been declared invasive in some states, including Oregon, where it was taken off the market in 2008

This stimulated research and production to find a “Buddleia” that is seedless. Several varieties of seedless butterfly bush are the result of this research, with each year bringing more great selections. In Oregon, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has approved all available varieties, with one caveat: they can't call it Butterfly Bush any more. In their view, Butterfly Bush is synonymous with the seedy type (*B. davidii*). So there, when you're shopping for the new seedless forms, look for plants with the common names Summer Lilac, Nectar Bush or Seedless Butterfly Bush. These are less invasive than the species.

But in California, where the original *davidii* has naturalized invasively in some coastal areas, when you are looking for less invasive Buddleias, you can still find them under that name. Some sterile (seedless) varieties of Buddleia are excellent choices for California gardens. These sterile cultivars are bred to produce few or no viable seeds, preventing unwanted spread while still attracting pollinators.

Popular seedless Buddleia series include:

**Lo & Behold series** These compact, sterile varieties were specifically bred for smaller gardens and containers.

\*'Blue Chip': Offers lavender-purple flowers and a spreading, mounding habit, typically reaching 2 to 3 feet tall and wide.

\*'Blue Chip Jr.': A slightly smaller version of 'Blue Chip', growing up to 2.5 feet tall with the same lavender flowers.

\*'Pink Micro Chip': Features light pink flowers

on a compact plant, a good choice for groundcover or low borders.

"Ice Chip" A dwarf variety that grows 2 to 3 feet tall with pure white flowers.

**Miss series** This line of medium-sized, sterile butterfly bushes is known for vibrant, long-lasting blooms that don't require deadheading. They thrive in heat, making them a good option for warmer California regions.

\*'Miss Molly': Produces unique sangria-red to pinkish-purple flowers.



\*'Miss Pearl': Offers fragrant white flowers.

\*'Miss Ruby': A mid-sized variety with vibrant, fuchsia-red flower spikes.

### Other notable sterile varieties

\*'Grand Cascade': A large, 6-foot-tall and 7-foot-wide butterfly bush with giant, cascading flower panicles in lav-

ender. It is a sterile variety that makes a great backdrop or hedge.

\*'Purple Haze': A sterile variety with a low, arching, and spreading growth habit, great for use as a ground cover.



**Flutterbye Grande.** You can buy Flutterbye Grande® Butterfly Bushes, also known as Nectar Bushes, from online garden centers like American Meadows, ForestFarm, Sooner Plant Farm, and The Tree Center. These sterile, non-invasive butterfly bushes are known for being a favorite of butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds, blooming prolifically with fragrant flowers all summer.

Flutterbye Grande Vanilla



Buddleia Flutterbye Grande® Tangerine Dream Nectar Bush





**FREE PARKING  
FREE ADMISSION**



**One free plant for  
everyone  
while supplies last!**



**MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY PRESENTS**

# **Fall Show and Sale 2025**

**Saturday, September 13 - 9AM - 5PM**

**Sunday, September 14 - 9AM - 3PM**

**Experts on Hand  
to Answer Your  
Questions**

**Large Variety of Cacti,  
Succulents, Pottery, Books,  
Utensils for Sale**

**Vote for Your Favorite  
Plant/Pottery/Photo at  
the Peoples Choice Show**

**Portuguese Community Hall 124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville, CA**



**[mbsucculent.org](http://mbsucculent.org)**

# Who's interested in getting *On Board?*

There is a monthly board meeting held on the fourth Monday of each month. We rotate where we meet so that we can tour different gardens each month. The garden tour is followed by a potluck dinner and the meeting. These meetings are a lot of fun—somebody once described them as being “a club within a club”! You are

Dear Garden Club Members,

The Board of The Gardeners' Club is writing to ask for your help. We are in need of some new volunteers. The club only functions because of volunteers—there are no paid positions. Some of the present board have been working hard to keep the club running for several decades and at present have had to take on more than one role.

We desperately need to fill 2 vacancies. Neither of them requires a whole lot of time.

## **Vice President**

This person organizes the speakers and presentations for the meetings. This is a group effort—at Board meetings we all brainstorm the topics and who to ask. The Vice Prez calls or emails possible speakers and confirms when they can present. The good news is that we have programs/speakers through February.

## **Treasurer**

This person is responsible for making deposits, writing checks and keeping a record of all the monies.

Please consider helping us. The club will not be able to continue longterm without more support from the membership.

always welcome to attend a Board meeting to see how this works.

If you might consider hosting a Board meeting, it is an easy deal, Board members provide the potluck dinner. President Cherry takes photos of your garden for the “featured garden” on our website ([www.thegardenersclub.org](http://www.thegardenersclub.org))—what a great way to gather and sustain memories of your garden! We have hosts scheduled through October and then we'll be into the time of year it is too dark to do garden tours.

If you would like more information about either position, please speak to any Board member at a meeting, or email or phone one of them (contact information is on the last page of this newsletter).

Lastly— can we all brainstorm to come up with topics and speaker contacts for future meetings? Our club is most vibrant when we can respond to your ideas and needs. New resources and contacts are always popping up in our community, and we love to hear about them. If anyone has an idea please, please let one of us know.

Thanks in advance for your responses,

***The Garden Club Board***







## A Good Time Was Had By All at Renee's

We had a grand time and a big turnout at our last Board meeting at Renee Shepherd's extravagant garden and grounds. Those of us who've attended past meetings, or hosted meetings, relish the photographic memories we can look back on. Thank you, Cherry!

The next Board meeting will be a treat, too, up in Bonny Doon at Lise Bixler's "Bixlerville" out-of-control garden. Hopefully there will still be lots of heirloom tomatoes for you to harvest and take home, and BBQ in addition to the potluck. There is a lot of garden to tour! Cherry will organize

carpooling for those who want—email her at [cherrylea@comcast.net](mailto:cherrylea@comcast.net). Those of you who drive yourselves may want to print out directions before you leave since cell phone service is spotty around there.

September 22  
6:30 p.m.

91 Country Estates Drive  
Bonny Doon



## Speaking of Renee's ... A Message



One of the earliest flowers to bloom in spring, daffodils lift the spirits and light up the garden! Choose from ten perennial mixes including our four new standout varieties, offered in generous 25-bulb bags. Easy to plant and reliably perennial, these daffodils will fill your beds, borders and vases in an array of colors, forms and sizes. [Shop Now >](#)

More mixes at

<https://www.reneesgarden.com/collections/daffodil-mixes>



DAFFODIL BULBS  
Artisan Extra Fancy Mix



DAFFODIL BULBS  
Sunny Daze Naturalizing Mix



DAFFODIL BULBS  
Pink Lemonade Mix



DAFFODIL BULBS  
Golden Hour Mix

“

## Plant a Bulb Meadow

Have you substituted a meadow for your lawn, or have a meadowey like lawn? Try Longfield Gardens' suggestions for planting a bulb meadow, as shown in the video illustrated here. Although they only use daffodils and alliums here, you can add other spring blooming bulbs as well. Click on the link below to watch.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOsz\\_xfMqJg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOsz_xfMqJg)







# Native Plant Sale

## 2025 FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY  
**Sept. 27**  
9 AM – 3 PM  
HIGHLANDS PARK  
BEN LOMOND



A program of the  
Valley Women's Club of SLV



**REPLACE YOUR LAWN  
WITH LOW-GROWING  
CALIFORNIA NATIVES**

**September 27, 2025  
10:30am to 12:00pm  
at Live Oak Library  
Annex, 979 17th Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062**

**Support Environmental & Art Grants for Teachers and Save the Pollinators!**

### —Valley Women's Club of SLV Native Plant Sale Returns—Now Bigger Than Ever

Expanded to 1,500 plants after last year's success, this event supports local ecosystems and teacher grants. The San Lorenzo Valley Native Habitat Restoration Program announces the return of the annual Native Plant Sale Fundraiser—now with an expanded inventory of 1,500 California native plants! Join us Saturday, September 27, 2025, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Highlands Park Senior & Community Center, 8500 Highway 9, Ben Lomond.

This isn't just a plant sale—it's a chance to transform your habitat garden with native plants selected to thrive in the unique San Lorenzo Valley ecosystem. These plants add beauty while supporting biodiversity, attracting pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects, as well as providing food and shelter for birds.

Profits benefit graduating SLV High School seniors through the Valley Women's Club STEM Scholarship Award and the Valley Women's Club Cabrillo Scholarship Award. They also support SLV teachers with the Fred McPherson Environmental Education Grant and the Art Education Grant for SLV Teachers, resources that make it possible to bring nature, science, and creativity into their classrooms.



### Plan Before You Plant

Plan for the best experience at our sale. Arrive early for the best selection. Download the printable Native Plant Sale Checklist ( <https://slvhabitatrestoration.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-9-27-native-plant-sale-list.pdf> ) and explore the online checklist with photographs t ( <https://slvhabitatrestoration.org/native-plant-sale-list/> ) to see which species will thrive best in your habitat garden. Remember to prepare your garden for new additions—check out our Planting Native Flora: A Step-by-Step Guide ( <https://slvhabitatrestoration.org/how-to-plant-a-native-plant/> )

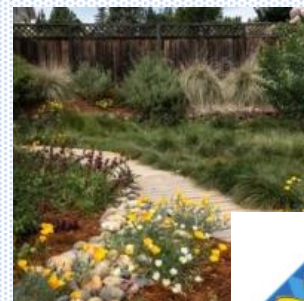
for tips on creating a space that supports local biodiversity! Be sure to join our email list for plant descriptions, gardening tips, and updates on future habitat restoration events.

For more information, contact Linda Skeff, Chair of the SLV Native Habitat Restoration Committee, at (650) 207-5258 or [info@slvhabitatrestoration.org](mailto:info@slvhabitatrestoration.org).

It takes a lot of water, fertilizer, and time to maintain a lush green lawn. At this workshop, learn how and what to replace your lawn with to improve your soil, reduce your water use and provide habitat for native plants and animals.

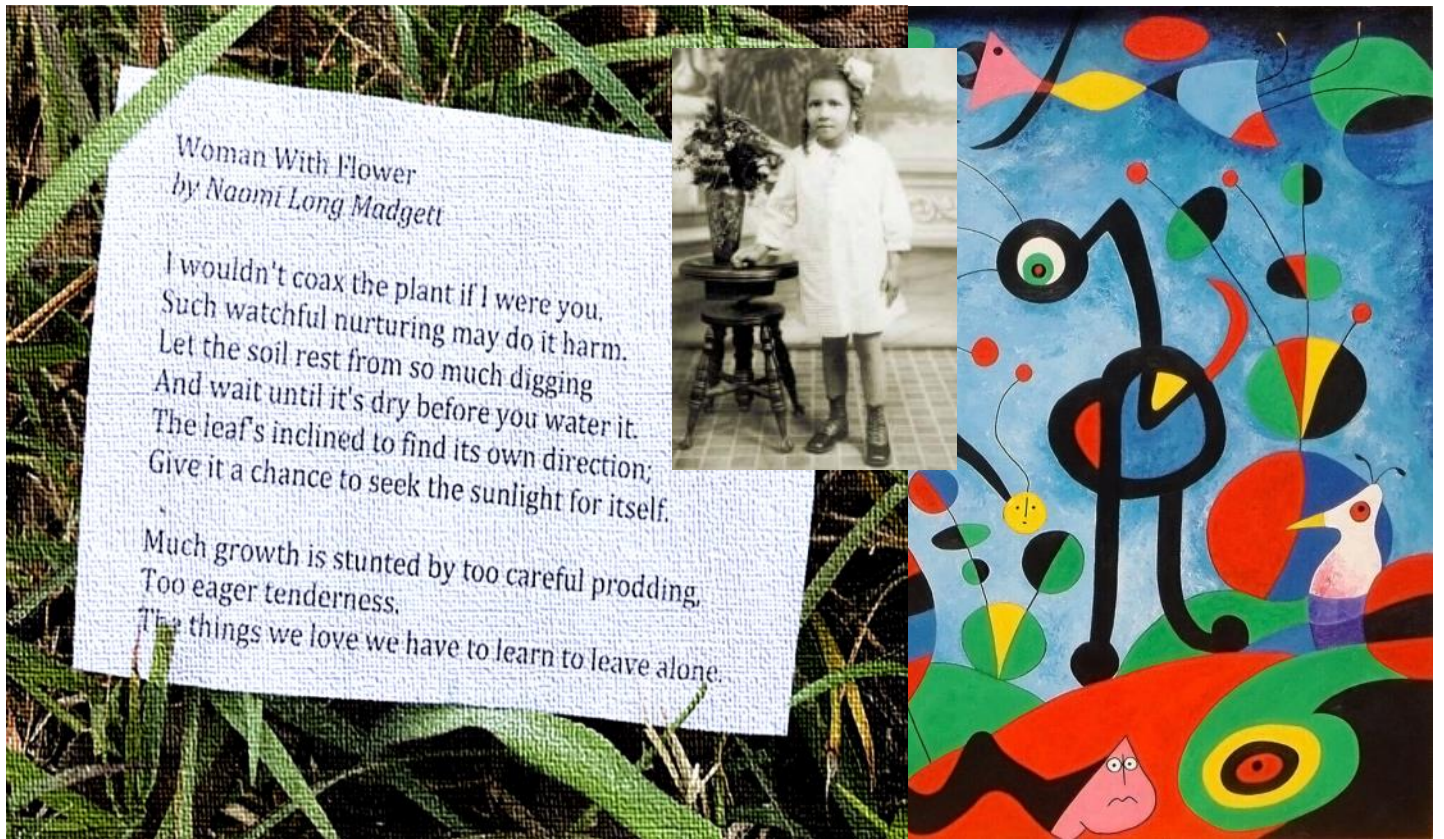
Join Master Gardener volunteers as we share tips and techniques for removing and replacing your lawn.

Space is limited. Registration is required. Register by contacting Lorena Lopez, the Live Oak branch librarian: [lopezl@santacruzpl.org](mailto:lopezl@santacruzpl.org), 831-427-7711



**UC Master  
Gardeners of  
Monterey &  
Santa Cruz  
Counties**





Joan Miro, The Garden

## The Gardeners' Club

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[www.thegardenersclub.org](http://www.thegardenersclub.org)

[www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern](http://www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern)

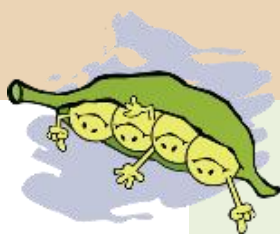
Our front page logo is graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop

each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of

Dues are \$20 per calendar year. Make check

to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond,



It's easy-peasy to join our club!