

The Gardeners' Club

April 2011



Bring it on! Share, buy and trade plants and everything/anything garden. Don't miss our biggest & best-ever

SPRING PLANT SALE & SWAP

Thursday, April 14th, 7:00 p.m.

Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Drive

The rains seem to have stimulated bulb and perennial growth this year, and our sale this month is the perfect incentive to divide your clumps of plants, replace the ones you're tired of or have too many of and share them with others. If you've sown seeds indoors or in a greenhouse, bring seedlings to share.

Got extra pots, garden art, tools, books, seeds, shrubs, small trees, harvest bounty, garden crafts, bulbs, knick-knacks, stakes, markers, hoses and worm castings? You know where to bring them!



After you've finished thinning your perennial beds, dividing, and potting up plants, cleaning out your tool shed and making space on your bookshelves, you'll now have the space and desire for new low-cost plants and garden treasures. Our members offer a limitless variety, with new surprises at every sale.

You'll find plants you've never heard

of and plants you've always wanted to try.

If you don't have plants to trade, come to buy at bargain prices. Don't miss this exciting event! See the inside back cover for more details.

**Wilder Ranch Spring
Garden Planting Day -
Earth Day
Saturday, April 30
11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.**

Plant a seed for Earth Day at Wilder Ranch State Park. You'll get your hands dirty while helping plant a little history in the Wilder Ranch Heirloom Garden. Ranch Hands of all ages are welcome. Children can plant and bring home their own sunflower or heirloom bean. There will be living history demonstrations, composting information, and refreshments. The garden is part of the circa 1900 dairy ranch atmosphere of the park. Tools and seeds will be provided. The event is held on the grounds of the Wilder Ranch Cultural Preserve at beautiful, historic Wilder Ranch State Park. For more information, call (831) 426-0505. Wilder Ranch is located two miles north of Santa Cruz, on Highway 1.

PUTTING IN THE SEED



You come to fetch me from my work to-night
When supper's on the table, and we'll see
If I can leave off burying the white
Soft petals fallen from the apple tree.
(Soft petals, yes, but not so barren quite,
Mingled with these, smooth bean and wrinkled pea;)
And go along with you ere you lose sight
Of what you came for and become like me,
Slave to a springtime passion for the earth.
How Love burns through the Putting in the Seed
On through the watching for that early birth
When, just as the soil tarnishes with weed,

The sturdy seedling with arched body comes
Shouldering its way and shedding the earth crumbs.

*Sonnet by Robert Frost as printed in
"Mountain Interval" (1916)*



April 16th
10 AM - 4 PM
New Location:
Carmel Crossroads
Hwy. 1 at Rio Road

Smart Gardening
MONTEREY BAY MASTER GARDENERS

**Speakers,
Demonstrations, Food, Music,
Kids' Activities**

Come and enjoy this free colorful marketplace focusing on sustainable, water-wise practices. Gardening- and eco-related businesses will present a wide selection of goods and services. Non-profit groups, garden clubs and organizations will share their gardening knowledge and passions. A group of highly respected speakers will give talks and demonstrations.. For more information, go to www.smartgardening.org.

Honeysuckle Hokey-Pokey



Note: Those of you who get the black-and-white printed version of this newsletter might want to borrow a color copy from a friend, or go to our web site to see it in color. Otherwise, you'll have to work your imaginations hard!

Every year, Pantone, a company with a color matching system for the design industry, announces a color of the year. Describing itself as “the global authority on color”, this company does have hubris, but when they chose a color, everyone DOES pay attention. The 2011 color of the year is called “Honeysuckle”. It’s a pink, but don’t think plastic flamingos; it is a richer, more complicated pink. Read what the company has to say about it:

“Honeysuckle emboldens us to face everyday troubles with verve and vigor. A dynamic reddish pink, Honeysuckle is encouraging and uplifting. It elevates our psyche beyond escape, instilling the confidence, courage and spirit to meet the exhaustive challenges that have become part of everyday life. In times of stress, we need something to lift our spirits. Honeysuckle is a captivating, stimulating color that gets the adrenaline going – perfect to ward off the blues. Honeysuckle derives its positive qualities from a powerful bond to its mother color red, the most physical, viscerally alive hue in the spectrum. The intensity of this festive reddish pink allures and engages. In fact, this color, not the sweet fragrance of the flower blossoms for which it was named, is what attracts hummingbirds to nectar. Honeysuckle may also bring a wave of nostalgia for its associated delicious scent reminiscent of the carefree days of spring and summer.”

In March, it poured for weeks, good for the garden but a challenge to the spirit. Willing to consider anything that might promote cheer and optimism, I went for a walkabout in my garden to seek this color. I quickly found it, in the blooms of a



‘Prairie Fire’ crabapple tree, and of a Correa ‘Dusky Pink’ shrub.

I was reminded of Keeyla Meadows’ advice for adding a

color to the garden in her inspirational book Fearless Color Gardens. She says to do a hokey-pokey dance with the color, putting a warmer color to the left and a cooler color to the right. “Hokey-pokey, turn yourself around. That’s what it’s all about with color”, says Meadows.



Did you ever consider that the luscious color of a Japanese maple was akin to the color of pink honeysuckle? Lillypondering.blog spot shares a photo that will make me think twice next time I call a Japanese maple “red”.

If you want to add this pink to your garden palette, there is just one thing you SHOULD’T plant: a honeysuckle, even a pinkish one. Most honeysuckles can be weedy, aggressive plants; Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) is listed in the U.S. of Agriculture's list of invasive species.

But there are plenty of other ways to incorporate this color in



your garden. For a California native garden, you can simply go to Larner Seeds (www.larnerseeds.com) and order seed for deep pink California poppy *Eschscholzia californica* ‘Carmine King’ by the half-ounce or by the



pound, and scatter it with abandon. There is always room for another salvia— consider hokey-pokeying with ‘Wendy’s Wish’. The contrast between the bright pink flowers and the red-bronze calyxes makes your eyes dance.

Having found plenty of the color-of-the-year in my own garden, I was not looking to buy more of it when I headed off to the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. But of course, I



was attuned to it, so everywhere I went, it found ME. For starters, look at this picture of the Annie’s Annuals booth—I am not making this up! (More on Annie’s on Page 8.)

Look below at the picture of the Monrovia display at the show. Breeders of heucheras have been busy the last few



years—they are easy to grow, textural as well as colorful, and how can I make room in my garden to plant some of each new one? “Peach Crisp’ or “Caramel’ coral bells? Either is yummy. Look how well they hokey-pokey with

‘Coprosma ‘Tequila Sunrise’ and Autumn Moon azalea.

continued

Honeysuckle Hokey-Pokey cont'd

Remember when coneflowers were purple with orange-y centers? Here's another plant that breeders have transformed, another plant I had to stop myself from buying one of each beguiling form.



Echinacea 'Secret Passion'



Echinacea 'Pink Double Delight'

I was already pondering which pink tomato to add to my vegetable garden, hoping someone will bring a pink one to the Club's spring plant sale before I go beserk at Love Apple Farm, when I wandered into Rosalind Creasy's Garden Show seminar on



designing with edibles. To my delight, Renee's Garden gave us free seeds for 'Scarlet Charlotte' chard.

That left me powerless to resist the 'Red Thumb' fingerling potatoes at the



Irish Eyes (www.irisheyesgarden.com) booth. After all, they are pink-red outside AND inside. If you are planting potatoes this year, Organic Gardening has a great article comparing seven different ways of growing potatoes at www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/7-ways-plant-potatoes. I'm going to try planting mine in straw this year. Straw-colored straw.



Okay, enough about honeysuckle pink. I have to end this so I can go to www.target.com and buy



my "Berry Sprinkle" clogs (they are only \$9.99), dip the free stirring sticks I have in paint to use as plant identifiers and spray an old planter with Rustoleum "Berry



Pink" paint. I wish you a rosy spring in your garden!

The SF Flower & Garden Show: What Did You Think?



What did you like?

Next month we'll have a couple of pages in the newsletter featuring commentary and photos of the SF Flower & Garden Show from those of you who braved the stormy weather to go. What did you think of the show? What were your favorite things? Did you get any new ideas of inspirations? I know

what Jerry and Robyn Williams liked—look at the great steel flower they found to take home to their garden! Cherry Thompson says she took over 200 pictures— I wonder what things caught her attention . Share what you thought of the show and the highlights for you by e-mailing me at lisebixler@sbcglobal.net (send photos by attachment) and we'll fit in as many of your responses as we can in the May issue.



Glenwood House

April 30th

10:00 a.m. to noon

Come join us for our second workday at the gardens of the Glenwood House, 11 Glenwood Drive, Scotts Valley. Glenwood is an assisted living home in Scotts Valley for adults with traumatic brain injuries, and this is an ongoing public service project for our club. It will be a fun and rewarding day for everyone who takes part. Bring water and favorite tools. For more information, contact Sim Gilbert at 475-8162.

Save the date! The Hidden Gardens of Bonny Doon Returns!

Last year the Bonny Doon garden tour was an enormous success, both for visitors who came from all over the Bay area to our Santa Cruz Mountains neighborhood, and to see unique, eclectic and winsome gardens, and as a fundraiser for the Bonny Doon Elementary School Club Member Nancy Lambling has again been hard at work organizing the 2011 tour, with two new gardens added to the roster of favorite gardens from last year. The tour will be Saturday and Sunday, May 21-22, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. More information next month!

Pea Tendrils & Pea Shoots



One of Dirt du Jour's recent daily emails (www.dirtdujour.com) informed gardeners that it takes a lot of pea plant energy to make those little twirly tendrils that grab on to whatever you provide for your

peas to climb on, energy that could be used for more peas. If you want a bumper crop, you can pinch off the tendrils that the plant doesn't need. And then...eat them!

Pea tendrils and pea shoots (the young, tender vine tips of pea plants) can be eaten fresh, added to salads, used as a garnish, or steamed or stir-fried. They are a good source of potassium and fiber, and are high in Vitamins A, K and C. And, best of all, they taste wonderful, a cross between a mild pea pod flavor and spinach.

When plants are 6 to 8 inches tall, pinch or clip off the growing points plus one pair of leaves to encourage branching. These clippings are your first pea shoot harvest of the season. Keep clipping the top 2 to 6 inches of each plant after regrowth – about every three to four weeks. Harvested pea shoots can include the top pair of small leaves, delicate tendrils and a few larger leaves and blossoms or immature buds. You can keep harvesting them until they taste bitter. Some people have found that if you clip the plants down to 2 to 4 inches in July the plant will regrow and produce a fall crop of pea shoots. A detailed and informative free publication on growing peas and pea shoots is available at <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/pnw0567/PNW0567.pdf>.

Over at Matt Bites (<http://mattbites.com>), a food blog created by Matt Armendariz, enthusiasm for pea tendrils reigns. Here Matt shares a recipe for sautéing them that will get you out in your garden pinching those peas, or buying pea shoots at the farmers' market.

Sauteed Pea Tendrils



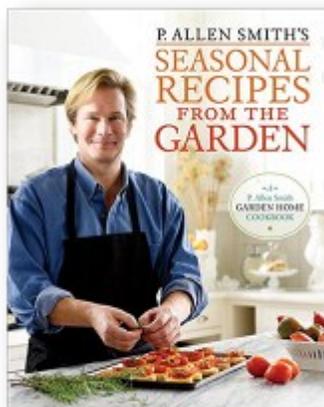
Photo by Matt Armendariz
(What color is the background, do you think?)

This is my favorite thing to do with these little babies. And by "do" I mean "not much". You'll only need a few ingredients and because it's so simple I'll leave the measurements up to you. I like to add a hint of garlic to the pea tendrils but because their flavor is so subtle I try not to overpower them.

- Pea tendrils, a handful or so, rinsed and chopped into 2 inch pieces or so
- Some olive oil
- Garlic clove, cut in half
- A sprinkle of sea salt

-Chili flakes, if you like heat

Rinse and chop the pea tendrils. I like a rough chop as I like to see the little curlies in the final dish. In a skillet heat a little bit of olive oil and the garlic halves until the aroma and essence of the garlic is released; remove the garlic clove from the pan and save for later if you'd like. Add the chopped tendrils and sauté until they cook slightly, how long will be up to you. But for pete's sake, don't overdo it, you want them barely wilted and still flavorful and crunchy! Serve with a tiny sprinkle of sea salt and maybe chili flakes if you want a little bit of heat. But like the garlic don't overdo it!



You'll want to eat your way through this cookbook, page by delicious page. Organized by the seasons, 30 for each one, it will inspire you to grow more edibles, and to try new ways to prepare them. P. Allen Smith includes a short how-to guide for setting up a small garden and selecting plants. His enthusiasm, stories and clear instructions make this a joyful cookbook. But it's his recipes, many Southern-influenced, that make this a must-have. Those of you with chickens might want to try the Poached Egg and Spinach Salad or Red Pepper Frittata. With spring comes asparagus, and the recipe for Salad of Asparagus, Edamame, Arugula and Cheese is very appealing. Thumb through recipes for Chile Jam, Savory Grit Cakes with Oven-Smoked Tomatoes, Blue Cheese and Onion Cornbread, Broccoli with Lemon and Hazelnuts, Pear Sorbet, Fig Tart—where to start is the dilemma!

Totally Tomato Extravaganza Day



Saturday, April 30
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

To ensure you get a bumper crop of tomatoes this year, Love Apple Farm is holding a free-to-the-public totally tomatoes educational day. From 10 to 5 on Saturday, April 30, they will have rolling tutorials teaching you exactly how to spot and eradicate pests organically, make a proper tomato cage, fertilize for higher yield and better taste, grow great tomatoes in containers, prune for health and climate challenges, water based on science not guess-work, deer proof your tomatoes, teach those gophers a lesson, seed save your favorite varieties, reduce diseases, and plant your tomatoes using their widely renowned tomato planting techniques. Wow!

Love Apple Farm is has a brand new retail location this year, a gigantic greenhouse at the Knox Garden Box showroom located at 46 El Pueblo Road in Scotts Valley. They have 100 varieties for sale—you can get those pink tomatoes there, or red, black, purple, orange, yellow or striped. They are open every day through June. Go to their website to view the varieties (www.growbetterveggies.com) available. While you are there, subscribe to their fantastic newsletter. Bonus time—if you are a subscriber, you can get 25% off your tomato plants! Really! Simply say the secret phrase: "We're true tomato freaks" when you check out. There is a double-your-money back guarantee for 2011 plants.

You can also check out Knox garden boxes in action at the tomato sale. Knox will donate 10% of their April proceeds to the Wheelchair Foundation. Since Knox boxes are elevated and portable, they are the perfect garden bed for folks with mobility challenges.



You might want to protect your tomato investment by taking the Gophers Limited intensive 3-hour workshop on non-poisonous methods of dealing with gophers, moles, voles and ground squirrels. Cost is \$35. It will be held at Love Apple Farm, 2317 Vine Hill Road, on April 30th from 9 to noon. For more information, go to the web site or call 588-3801.



Pickelberry Farm Flower Starts Sale



Saturday, April 2, 10 a– 2 p.m.
515 National Street (off of Bay Street)

Helen Englesberg provides Monterey Bay gardeners with annual and perennial flower starts that are organically and sustainably grown and are well suited for our climate zone. This is her first plant sale of the year - don't miss it! Her specialties are plants that attract butterflies and pollinators, or are fragrant or drought tolerant, unattractive to deer and make good cut flowers. Most plants are in 3-4" pots. Her little nursery is located at her home in rural northern Monterey County so she brings her plants into Santa Cruz to set up sales in front of friends homes about three times during the spring. She is a plant propagator and nursery grower by profession. If you would like to hear about her plant sales or request an availability list, contact her at pickelberry@cruzio.com or (831) 76809837.

Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

Annual Root Sale, April 9, 2011!
9:00am at Deer Park Center, Aptos
Outside the Red Apple Cafe

Desalination vs. Alternatives: A Subject for Debate

Thursday, April 14—7 p.m.

As citizens and as gardeners, we are all concerned about water. Desalination is a complex and contentious topic, and evaluating the pros and cons can be overwhelming. If you'd like to learn more, you'll want to attend the debate on building a seawater desalination plant on Thursday, April 14, 7-8:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 900 High Street in Santa Cruz. This event is sponsored by The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County. Teams representing the SCWD² Desalination Program and Santa Cruz Desal Alternatives will engage in an interactive debate regarding the issues surrounding the proposed seawater desalination project and present opposing views on how best to balance water supply and demand.

The Santa Cruz Desal Alternatives group is advocating alternatives to the seawater desalination project being proposed by the City of Santa Cruz Water Department in collaboration with Soquel Creek Water District (SCWD²).

Their debate team will include Rick Longinotti, co-founder of Santa Cruz Desal Alternatives and James Bentley, retired Superintendent of Water Plant and Production for the City of Santa Cruz.

The team promoting a desalination project will include Mike Rotkin, former mayor of the City of Santa Cruz and Toby Goddard, Santa Cruz City Water Department Conservation Manager.

The event is free and open to the public. The format will provide time for questions from the audience. Kirsten Liske, Vice President of Pollution Prevention and Zero Waste Programs with Ecology Action will be the moderator. Doors open at 6:15 pm. Parking is available at the Church with overflow parking available at the school next door or on the street. For more information, visit the League's website at lwwscc.org.



UCSC Arboretum Happenings



This month is we have California Native Plant Week, and in recognition the Arboretum has several events.

California Native Plants for the Garden

Sunday, April 10, 2011—11:00am.

Rick Flores, *Curator of the California Native Plant Collections*

Meet at Norrie's Gift Shop at the Arboretum.

Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs

Tuesday, April 12, 2011—6:00pm potluck, 7:00pm talk

Talk and Book-signing by Carol Bornstein, who co-authored the new book, *Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs*, (Cachuma Press) with Dave Fross and Bart O'Brien.

California Native Plant Conservation and Horticulture Lecture Series.

Arboretum & California Native Plant Society Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 17, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

The sale will take place at the Arboretum's Eucalyptus Grove near the intersection of High Street and Western Drive. A wide variety of plants will be available at the sale, including California natives and exotic selections from Australia and South Africa. Knowledgeable Arboretum staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. The Arboretum's sale is held in conjunction with the spring plant sale of the California Native Plant Society. Both sales are open early (from 10 a.m. to 12 noon) to members of the Arboretum Associates and the California Native Plant Society, and to the general public from noon to 4 p.m. For more information about the sale, contact the UCSC Arboretum at (831) 427-2998.



Annie's Annuals Grows Better and Better

Annie's now has a blog, and a very fine one it is. Go to <http://blog.anniesannuals.com/> and you can learn a lot of wonderful things. The latest entry features the Melissa Bee Garden in Healdsburg, which is quite inspiring. The creator of this garden, Kate Frey, will be giving a presentation on "How to Create a Pollinator Paradise in your own Garden" at Annie's spring party.



Annie's Annuals was recently featured on the PBS show "Growing a Greener World", and you can watch the full episode by going to www.growingagreenerworld.com/episode110. It's a pretty fantastic show. We know that Annie's specializes in rare and



unusual annual and perennial plants, including cottage garden heirlooms & hard to find California native wildflowers, and that they only sell them in 4" pots. But did you know what happens to the

plants that don't get sold? Annie donates the plants to local community organizations, local schools and Urban Tilth. Urban Tilth is a Contra Costa County organization dedicated to teaching children the skills they can use to grow their own food. They have agriculture programs for youth from kindergarten to twelfth grade and offer free workshops to the community on gardening and sustainability. Located along a bike path nearby these gardens are tended by the children but the harvest is open to anyone in the community.



Part of Urban Tilth's Mission Statement is the belief that "environmental restoration is inextricably connected to economic and social restoration". Learn more at www.urbantilth.org.



Okay, Richmond is a bit of a drive. But you have to make a pilgrimage to Annie's at least once, to see her unbelievable crazy wild garden. To see what those little plants look like when they are all grown up. And what better time to do it than at one of her parties? I went to one a couple of years ago and had the time of my life. And the plants that I brought home! Don't ask...

The schedule for the upcoming party, on April 9th and 10th, includes costume contests, gardening Olympics, prizes, facepainting, speakers, free plants, a supermarket sweep raffle (more free plants!), refreshments and more, more, more.



Tally Sheet & Instructions for Plant Sale & Swap



You can take plants home by either paying bargain prices in cash, or by bringing plants and other items for trade tickets to use instead of cash. Fill out this form before the meeting if you are going to trade.

You may bring plants, seeds, bulbs, harvest bounty, books, tools and any other miscellaneous items of use or interest to gardeners. This is what you'll get for what you bring:

- 2", 3" & 4" pots: 1 ticket each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 1.5 ticket each
- 1 gallon pot: 2 tickets each
- 2 gallon pot: 3 tickets each

Miscellaneous items are priced at the meeting.

Label your plants with their common or botanical names, and put your name on them in case purchasers have questions.

Please don't bring loose, dirty plants that would make a mess, or plants you wouldn't be proud to put your name on.

We appreciate all of you who come early to help set up – it's a lot of work! And if you can, plan on staying to help with clean-up.

We'll start accepting plants at 6:40 p.m. The purchase prices are:

- 2", 3", or 4" pots: 2 tickets or \$1 each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 2 for 3 tickets, or \$1..50 each
- 1 gallon pot: 4 tickets or \$2.00 each
- 2 gallon pot: 6 ticket or \$3.00 each

When there are multiples of the same plant available, please take only one until other members have had a chance to buy one. If there are multiples left over, then you can grab them! Plants that don't get sold or given away go home with the person who brought them.



Please complete this form at home and bring it with you to the meeting.

Number of 2, 3 or 4" pots: _____ X 1 = _____ tickets

Number of 6" pots or 6-packs: _____ X 1.5 = _____ tickets (round up to whole number)

Number of 1-gal. pots: _____ X 2 = _____ tickets

Number of 2-gal. pots: _____ X 3 = _____ tickets

Miscellaneous items (to be priced at meeting): _____ tickets

TOTAL: _____

SPECIAL EDITION

First of April, 2011

All Board Members to Quit Gardening



At the March 28th Gardeners' Club Board meeting, all Board members announced they would no longer be gardeners effective April 1st. Because loud exclamations of "My knees hurt!" and "My back hurts!" drowned out discussion, the Board was unable to conduct any other business. One member is quitting gardening because overspending at nurseries has caused serious financial crises; another was advised to quit by her psychotherapist due to anger management issues involving snails and gophers. Two members are joining a 12-step program for recovering plant addicts. The President's decision

to quit gardening was influenced by a 50%-off sale on hammocks at a local hardware store and an astrological reading telling her the stars were aligned for her to stop and smell the roses.

The April Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 25th at the home of Debbie Kindle, 3320 Putter Drive, Soquel. People who still garden are encouraged to come to replace the ex-gardening Board officers. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., unless you want to come at 6:15 for a last tour of Debbie's garden before contractors pave over paradise.

The Gardeners' Club

1633 Quail Hollow Road, Ben Lomond CA 95005

President

Cherry Thompson, 475-0991
cherrylea@comcast.net

Vice President

Ilene Wilson, 724-4609
mygardensup@aol.com

Secretary

April Barclay, 688-7656
AABarclay@aol.com

Co-Treasurers

Sim & Bob Gilbert, 475-8162
simgilbert@baymoon.com

Membership

Suzanne Mercado, 609-6230
Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com

Hospitality

Debbie Kindle, 462-6296
poppy-54@live.com

Newsletter Writer/Editor

Lise Bixler, 457-2089
lisebixler@sbcglobal.net

Members-at-Large

Bill Patterson, 479-3729
wilderwill@comcast.net
Pat McVeigh, 475-9357
pmcveigh@baymoon.com
Joanna Hall, 662-8821
jhavelock@sbcglobal.net

Plant Table

Patty Connole, 335-4134
pattyconnolerltr@aol.com
2nd position—vacant
3rd position - vacant

Refreshments

Dey Weybright, 426-3028
DEENART@aol.com

PSAs/Glenwood

Monica Pielage, 460-0215
mpielage@yahoo.com

Website

Kerry Skyles, 728-5076
KerrySkyblue@cruzio.com

www.thegardenersclub.org



It's easy-peasy to join our club!

Dues are \$12 per calendar year. Make check to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to 1633 Quail Hollow Rd., Ben Lomond, CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Aptos Grange Hall, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos.

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