

# The Gardeners' Club

November 2011

## THE UN-TOUR



Haven't you always been curious about what becomes of the plants people buy at the Plant Table and take home? When someone shares a particularly bounteous arrangement at the Blossom Table, don't you wish you could visit the garden it came from? Here's your opportunity --- come tour the gardens of fellow members of The Gardeners' Club without leaving the "comfort" of your Aptos Grange folding chair. Lise Bixler has assembled a Powerpoint presentation of photographs from members who graciously shared pictures. Come and enjoy the show---you'll leave with lots of new ideas and inspirations.

**Thursday, November 10th, 7:00 p.m.  
Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Drive**

Thank you to Marie Beckham for snack, Dianna Nunn for juice and Pat McVeigh for dessert.

## Nothing New Under the Sun...

### Uncle Sam Expects You To Keep Hens and Raise Chickens



#### Two Hens in the Back Yard for Each Person in the House Will Keep a Family In Fresh Eggs

**E**VEN the smallest back yard has room for a flock large enough to supply the house with eggs. The cost of maintaining such a flock is small. Table and kitchen waste provide much of the feed for the hens. They require little attention—only a few minutes a day.

An interested child, old enough to take a little responsibility, can care for a few fowls as well as a grown person.

Every back yard in the United States should contribute its share to a bumper crop of poultry and eggs in 1918.

In Time of Peace a Profitable Recreation  
In Time of War a Patriotic Duty

For information about methods of Back-Yard Poultry Keeping suited to your location and conditions, write

Your State Agricultural College  
or  
The United States Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.

## Things to Do in the November Garden

The best time to divide many succulents is when they are dormant, in fall or winter. Let the divisions callus over, then plant them in a cactus mix and give just a little water until new growth starts. This is a good time to divide many perennials, too, such as heucheras.

As chrysanthemums finish blooming, cut them back to a few inches above the soil so that they get a stronger start in spring.

Last call to plant early spring blooming bulbs! Still time to plant cool season vegetables and cover crops in vacant beds.

When not much else is happening in the late fall/winter garden, look at ornamental grasses for drama.

Throughout the cold weather, they continue to add texture, movement, vertical elements, structure and sound. Now is a great time to plant them. If you already have grasses, instead of cutting them back in fall, allow them to stand tall in your winter landscape. They'll

attract birds to your garden providing them with shelter and food.

Speaking of birds, keep your feeders, including hummingbird feeders, clean and full. Enjoy watching fall butterflies such as the West Coast Lady flitting around plants such as buddleia, yarrow, hollyhock, malva and borage, and resolve to plant more natives. Also, you can plant wildflower seeds, and seeds of biennials such as hollyhocks and foxgloves.



In case you think raising chickens is just a fad, look at this 1918 flyer.

By the way, November is an excellent month to work in a generous addition of chicken manure around your fruit trees. Winter rains will allow it to penetrate deeply into the ground.

This is the best month for coastal gardeners to plant strawberries. Favorite varieties are the ever-bearing 'Sequoia', 'Fort Laramie' and 'Quinalt'. Plan on ten plants per person, and use a slow release fertilizer about one inch beneath the roots when you plant.

## "Ergonomics"



Green Heron Tools is a company specializing in garden and farming tools especially designed for women. This is the "HERS™" – they say it is the world's first shovel-spade hybrid designed scientifically and specifically for women. Every feature of HERS™ is based on women's bodies and digging and shoveling styles, from the shape and diameter of the handle to the three shaft lengths to the angle and enlarged step on the tempered steel blade.

For more information on this tool and other equipment, and articles on ergonomics and ways to keep safe and healthy while gardening, go to [greenherontools.com](http://greenherontools.com).



## Fall Santa Cruz Orchid Show and Sale

Saturday, November 12, 2011, 9 AM to 5 PM  
Sunday, November 13, 2011, 10 AM to 4 PM

At Soquel High School, 401 Old San Jose Road, Soquel

Free Parking  
Free Admission

Disa Foam

Presented by the Santa Cruz Orchid Society and the Soquel High School FFA/ROP

- American Orchid Society judged show, featuring rare and beautiful orchids

For more information, contact the Santa Cruz Orchid Society by e-mail at:  
[info@santacruzorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@santacruzorchidsociety.org)

- Cultural advice available  
- Exotic yet easy to grow plants for sale  
- Potting demonstrations  
- Raffle

# ARBORETUM ANNUAL WREATH SALE!

Don't miss the sale this year—lots of new and exciting changes.

A reception, unusual succulent creations, guest artists, a silent auction and more!

Fifteen Santa Cruz County artists have joined forces with over 20 Arboretum volunteers to produce some dramatic and creative wreaths and other artwork for the Arboretum's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Dried Flower and Succulent Wreath Sale November 12 and 13th. There are so many artistic pieces that the Arboretum is hosting an artist's opening, as if it is an art show in a gallery, on the Friday night before the Sale. The Friday preview will allow people to see the wreaths in leisurely surroundings, rather than the bustle of the hectic first hour of the sale. On Saturday, from 10 am – noon, some of the pieces will be part of a silent auction, in order to forestall any friendly tug of wars over the most popular items.

Styles vary from delicate to bold, from traditional to avant garde. In each case, succulents or dried materials from the Arboretum's unusual collections will decorate at least part of the wreaths. With the largest collections of Australian plants outside of Australia and a good collection of South African proteas, there is a lot to choose from. All proceeds benefit the Arboretum, an incredible resource which needs our continued support. The Arb is on High Street, halfway between the main and west campus entrances. For more information, call 427-2998 or go to <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu>. Here's the schedule:

## FRIDAY, NOV. 11, 5 -7 PM. OPENING

Browse the artwork which will be for sale during the next two days. Though this is a preview, **NO PURCHASES OR SETTING ASIDE WREATHS** is allowed during the preview. A number of wreaths are being created by about 15 artists who participate in Open Studios and who typically work in other fields: painting, ceramics, found objects, etc. Some of these wreaths will be for sale and some will be part of the Silent Auction.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 12, 10 AM – 4 PM. SALE AND SILENT AUCTION.

Silent auction for selected wreaths will be held from 10 a.m. noon. Here's your chance to get something really special! Need not be present to win. In addition to the auction, there will be the regular sale with all sorts of wreaths, swags, centerpieces, candle rings, decorations, etc. The Arboretum volunteers have been hard at work, and the variety and quality are quite amazing. There will also be potted succulents and cacti, landscaping plants, cut flowers and dried plant material at the sale.

## SUNDAY NOV. 13, 10 AM- 2PM . SALE.

The sale continues, with a vast collection of creations to choose from.



Volunteers are making many types of lovely creative new succulent displays. Many will be unlike any we have had before. These are planted in Manzanita burls.



## Board News

The November 28th Board meeting will be at the home of Debbie Kindle at 3320 Putter Drive, Soquel. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. You don't have to be a member of the Board to come—all are welcome. Bring your ideas, suggestions and enthusiasm! Contact Debbie at 462-6296 or [poppy-54@live.com](mailto:poppy-54@live.com) if you need directions.

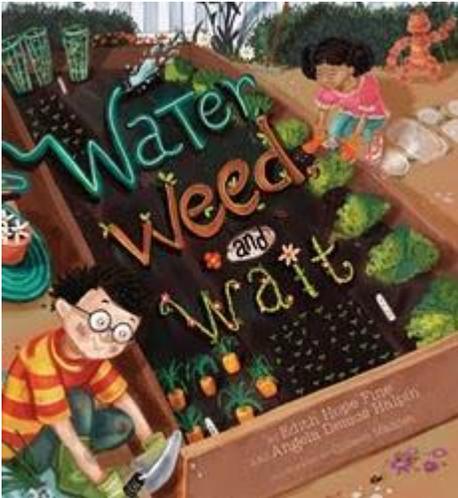
The Board made two donations of \$200 each from our treasury last month, one to the Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries and one to the Cabrillo College Horticulture Department Library.



# Growing Good Kids 2011 Book Awards

Each year, this award by the American Horticultural Society recognizes a select group of children's books that are especially effective at promoting an understanding of, and appreciation for, gardening and the environment.

**Book Title and Credits Age Synopsis**

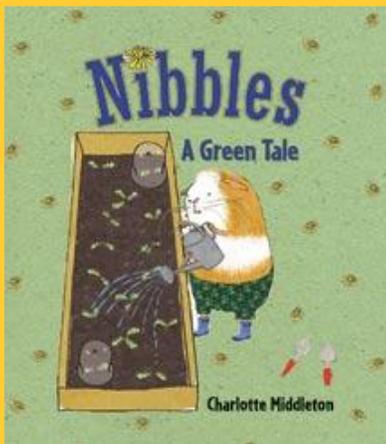


## Water, Weed and Wait

*Edith Hope Fine & Angela Demos Halpin*

*Illus. by Colleen Madden*

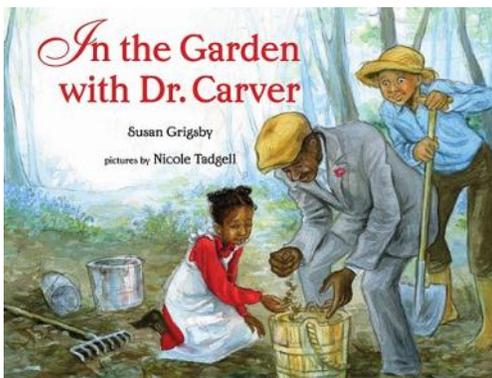
8-12 When Miss Marigold challenges the kids at Pepper Lane Elementary to turn an unpromising patch of their schoolyard into a garden full of fruits, flowers, and vegetables, they know they'll need all the help they can get. Soon everyone in the community is lending a hand—including an unlikely neighbor with a soft spot for gardening—and it isn't long before peppers, zucchini, sugar peas, snapdragons, zinnias, and much more are growing and blooming. Back matter includes photos of students gardening in real school gardens and information on how readers can start their own school or home garden project.



## Nibbles

*Charlotte Middleton*

4-12 The guinea pigs of Dandeville love munching dandelion leaves so much that slowly but surely dandelions are disappearing all over town. Soon there is only one dandelion left! A little guinea pig named Nibbles finds this last dandelion right outside his window. What should he do? Nibbles finds a way to save the day—and the dandelions—in the green tale, which is captured in unique mixed-media art.



## In the Garden with Dr. Carver

*Susan Grigsby*

*Illus. by Nicole Tadgell*

8-12 Sally is a young girl living in rural Alabama in the early 1900s, a time when people were struggling to grow food in soil that had been depleted by years of cotton production. One day, Dr. George Washington Carver shows up to help the grownups with their farms and the children with their school garden. He teaches them how to restore the soil and respect the balance of nature. He even prepares a delicious lunch made of plants, including "chicken" made from peanuts. And Sally never forgets the lessons this wise man leaves in her heart and mind. Susan Grigsby's warm story shines new light on an African American scientist who was ahead of his time.

# Rituals & celebrations

“Would it be preposterous to add at the end of the shopping list, after the turkey and the sweet potatoes, a packet of California poppy seeds?” - *Katherine Grace Endicott*

I am inspired by Endicott’s proposal in Northern California Gardening to use Thanksgiving as a time for giving back to this good earth. She suggests finishing off the Thanksgiving meal with a stroll through the neighborhood with California poppy seeds in hand and a few acorns plucked from local oak trees. We gardeners can look for desolate spots that can use a little help.

Sowing seeds of the California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) is easy. If they grow where you live, you can collect local seeds from your yard. Find a vacant lot or a parking strip or a freeway margin or even a scruffy urban or suburban lawn. If you feel like it, yank out some of the weeds in the dirt to lessen competition. Then just scatter the seeds and scuff them in with your shoes to work them in a little.

To plant oaks, Endicott suggests following the example of a scrub jay; plan an acorn just below the soil surface, and then protect it with a few dried leaves or a small leafy branch.

I’m pleased with the thought of adding the ritual of preserving wild California beauty with the celebration of giving thanks. If you want to plant swaths of poppies, go to Lerner Seeds ([www.lernerseeds.com](http://www.lernerseeds.com)), where you can buy seeds in bulk, even by the pound.



Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.

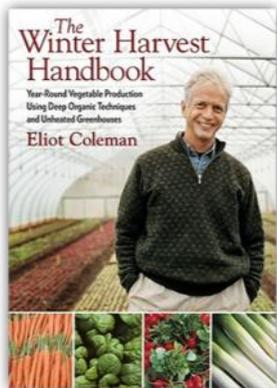
~Henry Ward Beecher



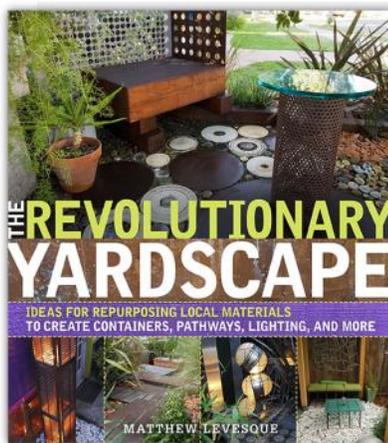
I’m grateful that my friend Susan told skeptical, carnivorous me about Café Gratitude (103 Lincoln St., Santa Cruz), a New Age restaurant where they serve all vegan, all organic food for your body and soul. She met me for lunch there, and it was cozy and delicious experience. I’ll never scoff at vegan food again, having thoroughly enjoyed my “I Am Fulfilled” salad and my “I Am Grounded” garlic-roasted potatoes with spicy cheesy cashew sauce. Equally important, the café is a source of great “What are you grateful for?” totes and T-shirts. You can also shop for them and more items at [cafegratitude.com](http://cafegratitude.com). Although “raw food” recipes seem a little more time intensive than conventional cooking, their Sweet Gratitude dessert cookbook is mighty tempting, especially with the holidays coming up.



Dyeing your own fabric, yarns, and garments can yield gorgeous colors. Harvesting Color by Rebecca Burgess identifies 36 plants that make beautiful natural shades and shows how easy it is to make the dyes. Pokeweed creates a vibrant magenta, while a range of soft lavender shades is created from elderberries; coyote brush creates stunning sunny yellows. Burgess explains where to find plants in the wild (and for those that can be grown in your backyard, how to nurture them) and the best time and way to harvest them. For the dyeing itself, the book describes the simple equipment needed and provides a master dye recipe. Harvesting Color is organized seasonally; each section contains a knitting project using wools colored with dyes from plants harvested during that time of the year.



Celebrated farming expert Eliot Coleman's new book, The Winter Harvest Handbook, outlines innovative, highly successful methods to raise crops throughout the coldest of winters. Coleman explains how to grow produce in customized unheated or, in some cases, minimally heated, movable plastic greenhouses. Here is a detailed practical model for growing over 30 crops.



If you are an avid junker and repurposer, as I am, you'll want to add this book to your library. A master of using reclaimed items, expert Matthew Levesque covers the basics of hardscaping, garden construction, and outdoor decor using local materials. He includes essential techniques and step-by-step guidance for transforming unconventional salvaged materials into pathways, decking, fences, screens, containers, seating, and more. The Revolutionary Yardscape also shows readers how to see the beauty and possibility in salvaged materials.

Levesque gives tips on how to think outside the garden box — from imagining a pile of old keys becoming a rain chain to seeing the infinite possibilities in scrap metal and piping. This new set of skills embraces the idea of finding an object first and letting the design plan follow.

It's a rather industrial aesthetic, not for everyone, but gives lots of food for thought. The possibility of using tumbled pottery shards as a replacement for gravel is an interesting idea. There are dozens of garden design projects and inspirational ideas for taking advantage of salvaged materials found in the home, junkyard, or thrift store. By the way, Levesque is the program director and master of recycled art at the nonprofit San Francisco company Building Resources and the Red Shovel Glass Company, worth a field trip, even if you just want to stock up on recycled glass mulch at a good price.



*"You filled an old tire with marigolds. I never said a word. You planted petunias in a potbellied stove. I kept my mouth shut. You put geraniums in the birdbath. I didn't say anything. This morning, you filled that damned old white enamel washing machine with morning glories, and now, by God, I'm going to say something."*

# The Gardeners' Club Membership

Time for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$12.00, due by is January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2012. (If you aren't a member yet and you join this month, we'll toss in November and December of this year at no charge!)

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.



*When gardeners garden, it is not the plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves.—Ken Druse*  
**Come grow with us!**

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. Renew your membership now so you won't miss a thing...you'll be glad you did.

And...with gift-giving season fast approaching, 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!

## 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 \$12 per member made out to *The Gardeners' Club*. Mail to  
The Gardeners' Club c/o Suzanne Mercado, 1633 Quail Hollow Rd., Ben Lomond, CA 95003.



late  
autumn  
- the emptiness between  
words

<http://poemshape.wordpress.com/>

Go to PoemShape (<http://poemshape.wordpress.com>) for writings evocative of the seasons in the garden by New England poet Patrick Gillespie, and to admire (and if you wish, enquire about purchasing) block prints by his talented wife Tracy Gillespie.



in  
one window; out the other ~ harvest  
moon

<http://poemshape.wordpress.com/>

# The Gardeners' Club

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3rd position - vacant

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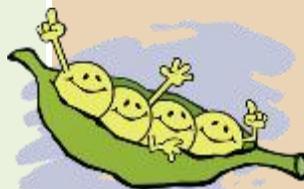
## PSAs/Glenwood

Monica Pielage, 460-0215  
mpielage@yahoo.com

## Website

Joe Thompson

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