



NORTH BAY HERITAGE GARDENERS

Community Spirit in Full Bloom



OUR NEW YEAR IN REVIEW

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**A PHOTO OF THE
BOARDWALK
FROM 2019**

**LOTS HAS
CHANGED SINCE
THEN!**

IMPORTANT DATES

February

- **Aging with Confidence Seniors' Information and Volunteer Opportunities Fair** - Friday, February 27th, from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM at The Village

March

- **Invitations to our Symposium distributed via email to Volunteers** - Monday, March 16th

April

- **Invitation Responses Due** - Monday, April 6th by 11:45pm
- **Annual Volunteer Symposium and Luncheon** - Sunday, April 19th

May

- **Team Leaders Meeting** - Date to be confirmed in April
- **Season Opening Week** - Date to be confirmed in early May

SAVE THE DATE

To our volunteers, the
**2026 Volunteer
Appreciation Symposium**
is just around
the corner!

Mark your calendars for
Sunday, April 19th 2026!
Invitations will be sent out
shortly!

SUMMER AT A GLANCE

As we prepare for the 2026 gardening season, our Education Team is excited to share a lineup of upcoming events. Dates will be announced once plans are finalized and shared with our mailing list and social media followers.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

May — Peony Hoop Workshop

Learn how to craft natural plant supports using foraged Virginia creeper vines. This hands-on workshop shows participants how to create sturdy hoops commonly used to support heavy garden plants like peonies. Event will be dependent on success in locating suitable vines (see next page).

July — Yoga in the Garden

Enjoy a relaxing yoga session, a guided garden tour, and an opportunity to have a picnic with fellow gardeners, friends, or family. A perfect opportunity to slow down and experience the gardens in a new way.

Saturday, August 8th 2026 — Pollinators in the Park

Held alongside the North Bay Farmers' Market and in partnership with the North Bay Museum, this event celebrates pollinators and the important role they play in our environment, building on the success of last year's Homecoming weekend event. This will be a great event for adults, children, and all of those looking for a fun afternoon.

Fall — Mushroom Walk with Lucy

Pending trail conditions, Lucy will lead a guided nature walk focused on identifying mushrooms and exploring the ecology of our local trails. If conditions are not suitable, an alternative guided hike will be offered.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORMS

As we prepare for another exciting gardening season, our online Volunteer Registration Forms **will be available online this March**. Volunteers will be notified by email when the forms are live, and we will also share the information with our mailing list to ensure everyone has the opportunity to sign up. We kindly ask all returning volunteers to re-register ahead of the start of gardening using this form, as it helps us keep our records accurate and prepare for the season ahead. If you're interested in joining us for the first time this year, we hope you will take this opportunity to register and garden with us!

CALLING ALL FORAGERS!

We're **looking for help from local foragers and anyone familiar with Virginia creeper** as we prepare for our upcoming Peony Hoop Workshop. For those who didn't attend last time, we use these natural vines to demonstrate how to craft sturdy rings that help support heavy plants like peonies in the garden. We're hoping to host the workshop in May, once the season is underway. However, if we're unable to gather a sufficient number of suitable vines, the workshop may need to be postponed until the fall. If you have Virginia creeper growing on your property, or know of a location where it's plentiful, we would love to hear from you. If you feel comfortable collecting vines yourself, we would also gladly accept them. **We're looking for larger vines, gathered before they begin to sprout in the spring.**



<
VIRGINIA CREEPER
SPROUTING

VIRGINIA CREEPER
VINES BEFORE
LEAFING
>

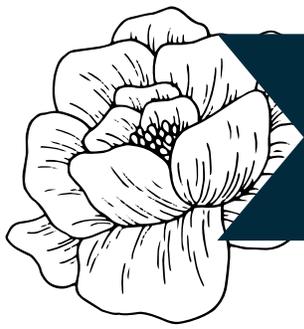


NEWSLETTERS AND MAILING LIST

For those in the community who may be interested in volunteering or learning more about our work and culture, we invite them to [visit our website](#) to join our mailing list. If you no longer wish to receive updates, you can easily unsubscribe at the bottom this email.

Stories from this past season you would like to share?

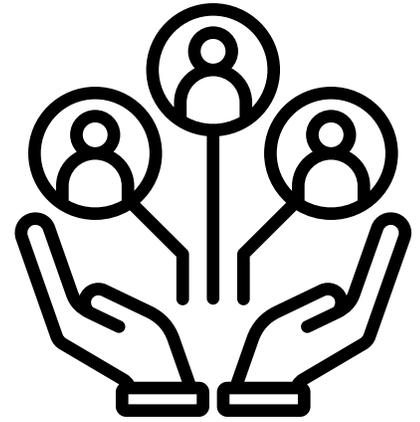
Please email us!



INSIDE THE ORGANIZATION

NEWS & UPDATES

As we approach our Annual Volunteer Symposium and Luncheon, it is the perfect time to shine a spotlight on our **Executive Committee!** This team is the driving force behind our organization, taking charge of everything from event planning and budget reviews, to designing our beautiful gardens—and so much more! While serving on the Committee requires a time commitment and responsibility, it's also an exciting and fulfilling opportunity to make a real impact. **If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee or one of our sub-committees—such as Design, Education, or Sponsorship—we would love to hear from you! We are always looking to have more passionate people on board to help shape our future.**



**INTERESTED?
EMAIL US
FOR MORE
INFO!**

New Horticultural Assistant Role

We recently shared with our volunteers and the community that we were looking to fill the role of Horticultural Assistant. This position was created to bring extra hands into the gardens and provide added support to Lucy and our dedicated volunteers in keeping their beds healthy and beautiful.

After interviewing many wonderful candidates, including some from our own volunteer community, we are happy to share that we have found someone eager and excited to join our team. She will introduce herself in the Spring Newsletter, and you will all have the chance to meet her as soon as we are back in the gardens!

Because our gardens are filled with hardy perennials suited to Zone 4, many plants can actually be started outdoors during the late fall and early winter through a method called winter sowing. This simple technique uses the natural freeze-thaw cycle to help seeds germinate at the right time in spring.

At our February 1st Winter Crafting Workshop, we highlighted several plants that can be started this way, including Lanceleaf coreopsis (coreopsis lanceolata), which you'll see throughout our garden beds.

To try winter sowing at home, collect a container (such as a yogurt tub), poke a few holes in the bottom, fill it with triple mix soil, and place a small group of seeds into it. Water it, set it outside, and let it be covered by snow over the winter. As temperatures warm in spring, you will begin to see seedlings emerge. At that point, you can gently separate the young plants and transplant them into their own containers to grow stronger before adding them to your garden.



POETRY CORNER

Retired Heritage Gardener Lorna Jackson has been kindly sending in some of her poetry to be included in our newsletters! The following is her latest creation, dedicated to all of our wonderful gardens!

Six More Weeks of Winter

Six more weeks of winter,
Does that mean a lot more snow?
Will the flower gardens survive all this?
Right now...we don't know.
But let's think positive!
When the snow will finally go
Our faithful Volunteers
Will prepare for the flowers to grow!

Lorna Jackson, 2026

ASK A GARDENER

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We're excited to introduce a new newsletter feature: *Ask a Gardener*. Our organization is home to many knowledgeable and experienced gardeners, and we know there are always questions worth asking - whether you are brand new to gardening or have been at it for years.

Maybe you're unsure how to prune a plant, looking for the perfect companion for your peonies, or trying to identify something unexpected growing in your garden. Whatever you are curious about, we would love to hear from you.

Please send your questions by email to Kyra, our Office Administrator. She'll gather them and work with our gardeners to share answers in upcoming newsletters. While we can't promise every question will be featured, we will do our best to make sure they all receive a response.



STRUGGLING FOR INSPIRATION?



Winter is a wonderful time to find inspiration for your gardens. Use this season to explore gardening websites, browse books from the library, and gather ideas for both the waterfront gardens and your own at home. Below are a few websites we recommend if you'd like some winter reading:

PROVEN WINNERS

[HTTPS://WWW.PROVENWINNERS.COM/GARDENING-IDEAS](https://www.provenwinners.com/gardening-ideas)

GARDENIA

[HTTPS://WWW.GARDENIA.NET/PLANTS-BY-REGION/NORTH-AMERICA/CANADA](https://www.gardenia.net/plants-by-region/north-america/canada)

GARDEN DESIGN

[HTTPS://WWW.GARDENDESIGN.COM/PERENNIALS/](https://www.gardendesign.com/perennials/)

