



JOIN US

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In honor of Halloween, here are some weird and spooky items from the garden.

House & Garden magazine's Stephen Orr stopped by *The Early Show* a couple of years ago to demonstrate some unusual but beautiful plants perfect for the season.

Most people decorating for Halloween plop the predictable orange pumpkin on their porch. Orr has an alternative - gourds. But the gourds he recommends are two feet long. The gourds are covered with warts, they're twisted, they're skinny, they're squat and they have names like Caveman's Club, the Goose Gourd, the Bottle Gourd and Autumn Wings Gourds.



Gourds are from the same family as pumpkins and squash, but they are mostly inedible. Orr says they are very easy to grow and look great arranged in groups on a table, or on their own.

Orr says because the gourds are unusual, they don't need a fancy bowl or anything else to make them look decorative. He also says making a gourd tree is another option for a Halloween garden. Simply wedged small gourds and white pumpkins into the gnarled fingers of an old branch. You can hang gourds from a more traditional looking tree, too. (taken from

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/halloween-garden>)

Whatever you choose to do remember to have fun and include new friends who could become new members. Remember that your membership helps with scholarships. Our youth need our support and GCG needs our support,

Encourage Creative Writing

How can your club involve youth and the community? It is fall and it is time to consider working with your children, grandchildren, and school children to encourage participation in the high school essay contest, the poetry contest, Woodsy Owl, and Smokey Bear.

✦ 2016-2017 Theme: "We Three: Bees, Butterflies and Me"

Excite and encourage our Youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry. NGC's Poetry Contest enables our Youth to embrace their creativity through the art of writing.



🦋 Poets on Poetry

Poetry heals the wounds inflicted by reason. ~ Novalis

Poetry is all that is worth remembering in life. ~William Hazlitt

Out of the quarrel with others we make rhetoric; out of the quarrel with ourselves we make poetry.

~W.B. Yeats

Breathe-in experience, breathe-out poetry. ~ Muriel Rukeyser

There's no money in poetry, but then there's no poetry in money, either. ~Robert Graves

Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words. ~Robert Frost

Poetry is a mirror which makes beautiful that which is distorted. ~Percy Shelley,



In The Garden. By Emily Elizabeth Dickinson (public domain)

A bird came down the walk:
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angle-worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew
From a convenient grass,
And then hopped sidewise to the
wall
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all abroad, --
They looked like frightened beads, I
thought;
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,
I offered him a crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, splashless, as they swim.

Remember to check out the resources on
the National Garden Club Website:
Resources

[Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant](#)

[Container Gardening Resources](#)

- [NGC Pollinator Power Book](#)

- [University of Illinois Extension](#)

["Successful Container Gardening"](#)

- [The Top 30 Flowers For Bees](#)



Note: All graphics and poetry are from public domain sites.

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