



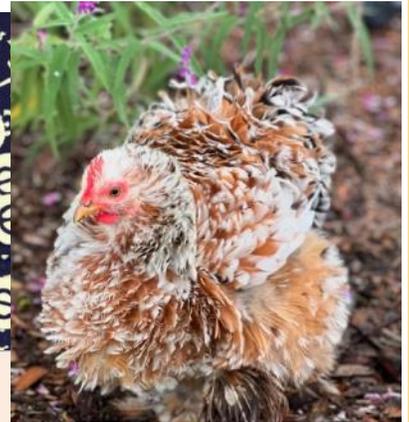
Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California
MARCH 2026
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JESSELYN REGO: MY JOURNEY CREATING AN URBAN HOMESTEAD MICRO-FARM



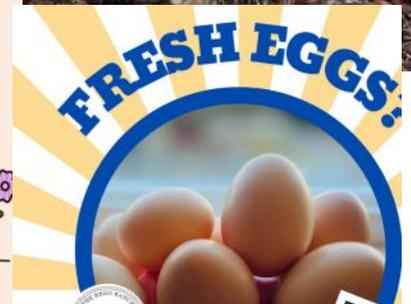
"I started with a coop and a lot of questions."



Jesselyn Rego is the creator of The Rego Ranch, a backyard micro-farm in Santa Cruz County that grew from a simple chicken coop setup and a few planter boxes, into a working system that now includes bees, raised beds, fruit trees, pollinator habitat, and a greenhouse. What began as a personal effort to grow more of her own food became a hands-on education in local resources, county regulations, mentorship, and realistic expectations — including the now-famous \$600 egg.

Jesselyn works with local mentors such as Laura Dant of 4 Acorns Farm and Ben Acosta of Believe Farms, and she openly shares what worked, what didn't, and what she wishes she had known at the beginning.

By day, she is a Santa Cruz real estate agent who helps clients understand land potential, zoning, and how to make the most of their property. Her talk is practical, honest, and encouraging — especially for anyone wondering, "Could I actually do this?"



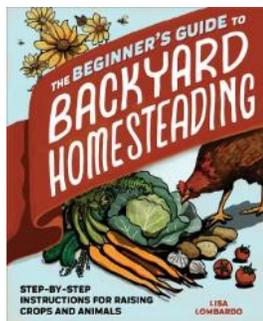
**THURSDAY,
MARCH 12TH 7:00 PM.
APTOS GRANGE
2555 MAR VISTA DR.**

Members are invited to bring garden books to the March 12th for a Free exchange and to take leftover books to add to a local little free library near their home.



SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY RECOMMENDED READINGS

Historically, homesteading involved cultivating a plot of land assigned by the government. In modern times, it has evolved to mean living a lifestyle that is self-sufficient and sustainable. Homesteading skills include growing and preserving food, raising chickens and other small livestock, and creating natural home products. Although true self-sufficiency may be difficult to achieve, striving to adopt a more natural lifestyle can reduce your environmental impact and improve your quality of life. Listed below are recommended readings that can help you create and maintain your own backyard homestead.



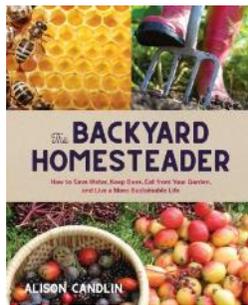
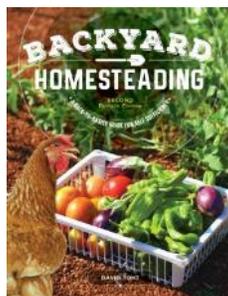
The Beginner's Guide to Backyard Homesteading by Lisa Lombardo

Learn how to create an action plan for your backyard homestead,

calculate expenses, and set accessible goals for every step in the process with easy-to-follow templates, checklists, tables, and step-by-step instructions. From testing your soil to figuring out how many crops you can plant in your backyard homestead, this is the most comprehensive guide for planning, visualizing your farming projects, and making the most efficient use of your space.

Backyard Homesteading: A Back-to-basics Guide for Self-sufficiency by David Toht.

Teaches readers how to raise and process their own homemade food and other goods, from vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees to eggs, goat milk, and soap. Includes tips for designing homesteads and building simple backyard projects.



The Backyard Homesteader: How to Save Water, Keep Bees, Eat From Your Garden, and Live a More Sustainable Life by Alison Candlin

The essential beginner's manual on living a greener, healthier, and more self-sufficient lifestyle. Easy-to-follow advice on planning, establishing, and maintaining a small-acre farm or a backyard garden. With step-by-step instructions, photographs, and illustrations, this book is a practical and comprehensive guide to living off the land.

The Home-steader's Herbal Companion by Amy Fewell

This is a beautiful guide for the modern day homesteader. From learning how to incorporate herbs and essential oils around your home, to learning how to enhance your family's health and well-being, this book is the go-to resource for

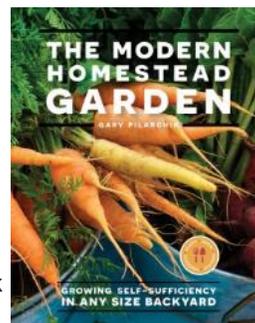


those wishing to live a more natural homesteading lifestyle.

The Modern Homestead Garden by Gary Pilarchik

Filled with easy-to-employ ideas and lessons for improving your food self-sufficiency no matter how much land you have, The Modern

Homestead Garden focuses on planting, growing, harvesting, and preserving food.



NON-TOXIC GOPHER CONTROL WORKSHOP

March 14 @ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

SLIDING SCALE

Hay Barn 94 Ranch View Road, Santa Cruz



Gophers! Every backyard gardener's nemesis. Join Thomas Wittman for this informative class on effective gopher control methods that are safe for humans and the environment. Gophers and other vertebrate pests take a huge toll in agriculture as well as your own backyard; as much as 10 to 50% of crops can be lost to animal pests. Instructor Thomas Wittman has been working on this issue for over 35 years and has come up with innovative methods and tools to reduce crop damage by managing pest populations in several ways. The most effective lethal traps and techniques will be presented along with exclusion barriers, integrating pest predators, and crop rotation.

Sliding scale fee based on your ability to pay. Workshop fees go to support the Center for Agroecology. Register at <https://center-for-agroecology.company.site/products/Non-Toxic-Gopher-Control-p815500609>.

UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties: Event

DISCOVER PINTO LAKE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

March 7, 2026 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. 757 Green Valley Road

Watsonville



Join a free spring tour! Explore veggie, flower, fruit, bog, succulent and native plant demonstration gardens. Master

Gardeners will share proven planting and tending techniques, plus sustainable practices from bio swales to mound gardening.

Recommended for adults. Registration required as there is limited space. Specific driving and parking instructions will be sent to all registrants. Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/discover-pinto-lake-demonstration-garden>.



DROUGHT TOLERANCE: THE MYTH & THE SCIENCE

Free Class—March 14, 2026
9:30am to 11:30am Cabrillo



College Horticulture CSoils 101 - Soquel Dr., Aptos

Join the next class in the Home Gardener Days series, presented in collaboration with Cabrillo College Horticulture and led by instructor Nicky Hughes. In recent years, more nursery plant tags have begun to read “drought tolerant.” Learn what that term really means and explore the fascinating ways plants adapt to survive with less water.

The class includes a 45-minute lecture followed by hands-on learning activities in the Cabrillo Horticulture gardens. Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/drought-tolerance-the-myth-and-the-science>. Made possible by



“I garden because I cannot help myself,” says Margaret Roach, who has written the New York Times “In the Garden” column since April 2020, books such as *A Way to Garden*, and creates the award-winning website/podcast *A Way to Garden*. This is the second year she is also offering webinars, which you can purchase as a series or individually for \$29. You can watch them at your leisure for 3 months after you buy them. Here’s the link to them, and a description of the next one coming up. <https://margaretroach.podia.com/winter-class-series> !

"The Science Behind Leaving Your Leaves (and More Garden-Care Insights)" with Max Ferlauto

What You'll Learn in This Class: Long-held garden-maintenance practices are evolving as we learn more about their impact on ecology, so what’s “best practice” now in caring for our yards? In March 2025, Maryland’s state entomologist, Max Ferlauto, and Karin T. Burghardt, an ecologist and associate professor at the University of Maryland, published results of two years of research about the impacts of fall leaf removal—offering hard numbers to back up the Cleanup 2.0 call to “leave the leaves” we’ve heard in recent years. This webinar will expand on the research results, and also go into depth on topics such as yard biodiversity and soil health. Max has studied additional factors in the “leave the leaves” question—such as alternative planting and management strategies beyond fall-cleanup tactics, and even show us how our yard-biodiversity planning efforts can be tied to the larger conservation goals of



Max Ferlauto

Schedule of Hummingbird Month Special Events at the UCSC Arboretum:

Saturday, 3/07 **First Saturday Garden Tour** – Hummingbirds and some of their favorite plants at the Arboretum – 11am-12:15pm

Sunday, 3/08 **Bilingual Bird Tour with the Bird School Project** (beginner & family-friendly) – 10am-12pm

Sunday, 3/08 **"Jewels in the garden – A Darwinian Natural History of Humming Birds" with Bruce Lyon** – 1-2:30pm

Saturday, 3/14 **UC Master Gardener's Pop-Up "Planting for Hummingbirds"** – 11am-2pm

Saturday, 3/14 **"Wildlife photography from Hummingbirds to Elephants" slide presentation – with Kevin Lohman** – 1-2:30pm

Saturday, 3/21 **Early Bird Members Hours** (members only) – a great time of day for practicing bird photography! – 7-9am

Saturday, 3/21 **The Arboretum will be CLOSED** from 12pm-5pm for a private event

Saturday, 3/28 **Hummingbird Photography Workshop – with Kevin Lohman** – 9-11am

Sunday, 3/29 **Bilingual Bird Tour #2 with the Bird School Project** (beginner & family-friendly)



March is Hummingbird Month at the UCSC Arboretum!



Where Plants, People, and Possibilities Grow

Folks at the Arb have put together some fun and informative Bird Walks, Bird Talks and Bird Photography

Tips & Tricks that all celebrate the tiny and mighty hummingbird!

Hummingbirds LOVE the Arboretum year round and the migrating Allens are already here in the gardens. Learn more

about our resident and seasonal hummingbirds

on our Birdwatching webpage here: <https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/visit/birding-at-the-arboretum/>

Make sure your membership is up-to-date for free daily Arboretum Admission throughout the year. If not an Arboretum member, all Hummingbird Month activities are Free with PAID Daily ADMISSION to the garden.

Norrie's Gift and Garden Shop will be stocked with all things Spring and hummingbirds, including a whole host of plants that will attract and nourish hummingbirds in your garden! In Santa Cruz is a month-long celebration of f

For a full run down on the events, go to <https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/visit/events/>.

Here are some highlights (see next page).



Sunday, March 14, 11am – 2pm in the patio at Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop

Would you like to attract hummingbirds to your garden? Join us on the patio at Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop where UC Master Gardeners will host a pop-up information booth to offer advice and answer questions about the best Arboretum plants to attract hummingbirds.

Flowers really are the best hummingbird feeders and these tiny birds are attracted to many of the Arboretum's high-nectar-producing blossoms. We will provide handouts about which Arboretum plants are best to make your garden buzz year-round. We'll also have fun facts about these aerial acrobats and will raffle off a beautiful plant from our nursery – a nectar producer that is a favorite of hummingbirds. Come celebrate the wonders of our local hummingbirds and stock up on plants for your home garden.

Jewels in the garden: A Darwinian natural history of hummingbirds— lecture & slideshow by Bruce Lyon

Sunday, March 8, 1:00 – 2:30pm in the Arboretum's Horticulture 2 Meeting Hall



This presentation promises to be a super fun exploration of hummingbird natural history, evolution and social behavior full of fascinating scientific information and colorful images

of local and exotic hummingbirds from here and abroad. During his rich career teaching and conducting research, Bruce's work continues to include the Lyon Lab's 18+ year-long project studying golden-crowned sparrows at the Arboretum.

Bruce will give his entertaining presentation and slideshow in the Arboretum's Hort 2 Meeting Hall and then take interested folks outside to one of the Arboretum's "hummingbird hotspots" for an informal (humming)-birdwatching session and Q&A

Wildlife Photography from Hummingbirds to Elephants – a photo presentation by Kevin Lohman



Saturday, March 14, 1:00 – 2:15pm in the Arboretum's Horticulture 2 Meeting Hall

Kevin Lohman is an award-winning wildlife photographer based in Santa Cruz, California. One of his hummingbird photographs taken at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden is among several of his images featured locally on a Santa Cruz METRO wildlife bus as part of the "One Ride at a Time" conservation campaign. His work has been published by National Geographic (online) and Outdoor Photographer, and recognized in major competitions including the Audubon Photography Awards and Nature's Best International Photography Awards. Lohman actively supports conservation organizations through the donation and use of his photography.

Join Kevin for "Wildlife Photography from Hummingbirds to Elephants" at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden. He will offer tips for photographing hummingbirds,

share beautiful images taken at the arboretum, and present highlights from his wildlife photography across Monterey Bay and from his travels around the globe.

Family-friendly, Bilingual Tour with the Bird School Project



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Sunday, March 8, 10:00am – 12:00pm AND
Sunday, March 29, 10 am-12:00 pm

Join the Bird School Project as they help kick-off the celebrations for Hummingbird Month. This bird walk is beginner and family-friendly. Bring binoculars if you have them, if not, binoculars or a monocular will be provided for you during the walk. The group will meet up at the entrance of the Australia Garden right next to the large cypress tree in the middle of the parking lot. A Bird School Instructor will be leading the walk and will alternate speaking English and Spanish as needed. We encourage you to arrive at least 15 minutes early if you need to borrow binoculars. hummingbird!

Tips & Tricks for Photographing Birds – an informal workshop with Kevin Lohman

Saturday, March 28, 9:00 – 11:00am
in the Arboretum's Horticulture 2 Meeting Hall

Another opportunity to learn from award-winning photographer Kevin Lohman, this time hands-on. Bring your camera and join him for an informal, "getting started" wildlife photography field workshop in the gardens. Designed for anyone with an interest in hummingbird photography, this relaxed session will cover practical tips for finding, observing, and photographing these fast-moving

birds, along with guidance that applies to wildlife subjects more broadly. The workshop will take place outdoors and will run up to two hours.



SPRING CLASSES AT MOUNTAIN FEED & FARM SUPPLY! 9550 HWY. 9, BEN LOMOND



Sunday, March 8th ~ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

FREE TALK ~ KEEPING BACKYARD CHICKENS

Free Class- Please RSVP

RSVP HERE!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSei_DGf4c0qQF8WDMJaU0uDKNnNN66DNiOqTh_Y9ItPj6itA/viewform

Come join us here at Mountain Feed & Farm Supply for a free talk about keeping backyard chickens.

This Year Mountain Feed Will (Hopefully) Have Baby Chicks Available Starting in March. More information to come!

HANDS ON SEED STARTING CLASS WITH KARLA

**Saturday, March 14th—
\$3510:00 am-12:00 pm—\$35**

This is an in person class. Rain or shine!

Join us for a class on the basics of seed starting focused on your Spring garden. We will discuss seed varieties that are suitable to start now, equipment and tools, growing conditions and answer all your seed starting questions.

Each person will be able to leave with 8, 6packs of spring vegetables, herbs and flowers that they will sow themselves. Includes: Solid tray; 6 packs; Seed starting mix; Seeds like peas, lettuce, kale, broccoli, spinach, chamomile, calendula, dill, fennel, parsley.

<https://www.mountainfeed.com/cart>



Free Talk – Establishing & Maintaining A Drought Tolerant Native Plant Garden

Saturday, March 7th from 10:00 am – 11:00 am.

Join us here in the outdoor classroom at Mountain Feed & Farm Supply, for an informed and experienced take on establishing a native plant garden in the cool winter months. Now is the very best time to get native plants established, while the soil is still moist and cool. Native plants support pollinators, birds, and other native species, as well as being adapted to dry summers and low soil fertility. There are so many fragrant, lovely cultivars available! We'll cover planting and watering, pruning and management, of annual and perennial species. Come with your questions and your curiosity! We look forward to seeing you. RSVP below to confirm your spot.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecxwvJjqvtebw7pzv8N1d3-7J70xMVrIsEzGGB_QS1rqvxUg/viewform



Saturday, March 28th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm @Mt. Feed
Saturday, April 18th 10:00am - 1:00 pm @ Karla's Apiary

BEGINNING BEEKEEPING INTENSIVE SERIES WITH KARLA!

\$75.00 For more information and to register, go to <https://www.mountainfeed.com/products/copy-of-beginning-beekeeping-intensive-series-3-23-and-4-14?pos=1&sid=c2d8e8e0d&ss=r>

This is a beginning class geared towards the beekeeper planning on obtaining and starting a new hive this Spring! We are offering a two-part series to help prepare you to be a successful beginning beekeeper.

Part One: Lecture 3/28, Mountain Feed & Farm 10:00am-2:00pm

Part Two: Apiary 4/18 or 4/26 @ Karla's Apiary, 10:00am-1:00pm

It is membership renewal time! Annual dues, which include all benefits, are only \$20.00, due by January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2026. 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. 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!

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. We have a history of giving to the community. Because our dues are so low and we’d like to be able to support the community, we are giving you the option of making an additional gift to the with your membership.

Thank you!

Renew now so you don’t miss anything—you’ll be glad you did.

Your Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

How would you like your newsletter? E-mail (FULL COLOR!!!) THE GREEN OPTION...SAVE TREES!

OR

Paper (Black & white; postal service)



Gift Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

Gift Membership Newsletter — Check ONE:

E-mail (FULL COLOR!!!) (the green option...save trees)

OR

Paper (Black & white; via Snail Mail)



Membership amount	\$ _____
I would like to make an additional gift	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Enclose check for \$20 per member, plus any additional contribution, made out to The Gardeners’ Club. Mail to:

The Gardeners’ Club c/o Suzanne Caron
P.O Box 3025
Ben Lomond, CA 95005



The Spring Equinox (Vernal Equinox) is on Friday, March 20, 2026. This marks the first day of spring, at last!



The Gardeners' Club

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Dues are \$20 per calendar year. Make check to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

It's easy-peasy to join our club!

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 www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

