

Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County, California

November 2026

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Every Fence Has A Story. The Next Chapter: Found Art!









Our back fence was over 30 years old, and it was time to replace it. Decades of kids and adults painted murals on it, so we saved remnants with leftover paint to use as background pieces for making found art for the garden! Imagine a piece of our old fence decorating **your** garden fence, festooned with bottle caps, pieces of old toys, chicken wire, forks, colored mirrors, a few beads and buttons, and who knows what else? Come join me, Lise Bixler, and my son, Matthew Henne, at our next meeting, which will be a make-and-take workshop.

What we'll bring: my vast collection of bottlecaps from our travels, mirror tiles, broken pottery, kitchen "stuff" (flatware, old tools, strainers, steamers, whisks,etc.), old wooden toys and toy pieces, washers, nails, screws, miscellaneous hardware, rusty pieces of metal, wire coat hangers, and much more. We'll provide glue guns and glue in tubes, all sorts of craft wire, pliers, hammers, screw drivers, tin snips, etc. We may not have enough time to finish our projects, or you may prefer to gather makings to take home. We suggest you bring a cardboard box to take home goodies. We'll also bring some how-to handouts.

You can bring things for your own projects, or things to share with others—old costume jewelry, beads, buttons, coins, springs, spoons,saucers, keys, knobs, broken tools, bike chains, spigots, skewers, stakes, handles, driftwood...sky's the limit! Or you can just come junk-free...we'll have plenty to share!

Speaking of goodies, San Lorenzo Garden Center had a shipment of pots that broke in transit, and they donated to our club many shards and pot fragments. Those of you who do mosaic may want to take some home, and some of the pieces are large enough for path or bed edging.





Thursday, Nov. 12, 7:00pm

Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

Protect Your Soil in Heavy Rain: Actionable Strategies for Wet Weather

November 5 @ 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Free Virtual Event



With **El Niño** expected to bring significant rainfall this season, safeguarding your garden's foundation is more critical than ever. Join the **UC Master Gardeners** and the **UCSC Center for Agroecology** for a timely, practical workshop dedicated to protecting and preserving your garden soil during severe wet weather.

In this fast-paced, **FREE** online session, three experienced Master Gardeners will share practical strategies to help you manage your landscape. We'll cover key topics efficiently, with plenty of time for your specific questions.Core topics covered:

- **Improving Drainage:** Practical methods to prevent waterlogging and keep roots healthy.
- **Directing Water Flow:** How to safely channel excess runoff away from vulnerable areas.
- **Protecting the Soil Surface:** Effective techniques to shield your topsoil from heavy rainfall.
- **Preventing Erosion**: Strategic solutions to stop runoff from washing your valuable soil away.

The presentation will conclude with a live Q&A session, and all registered attendees will receive a curated list of online resources for a deeper dive into the material after the class. Register at https://ucsantacruz.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cYM36z3TgNNYyTY. Made possible by

UCSC Center for Agroecology and The Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden

UC Master Gardeners of Monterey, San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

Microgreens!/¡Microvegetales!



Grow fresh, flavorful greens in a surprisingly small space! Join UC Master Gardener volunteers for a hands-on introduction to growing nutritious microgreens at home. Learn how to choose seeds, prepare your growing tray, care for your crop, and harvest fresh greens for your kitchen. You'll plant your own tray to take home and grow!

No gardening experience needed. This class will be taught in English and Spanish.Class is free. Register at https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/microgreens-plant-a-seed-with-uc-master-gardeners

Date & Time

November 7, 2026 from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Venue

Freedom Library (Watsonville)

2021 Freedom Blvd

Freedom, CA 95019

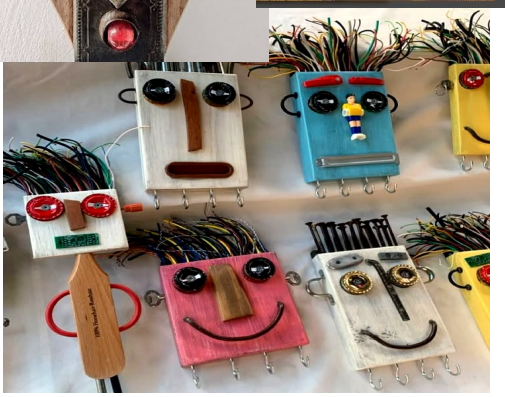
Here are some more found art face inspirations.













Turn off your drip irrigation systems. Next spring make sure you check for insects in the system that may have used these comfortable environs as a winter nesting place.

Make sure your hummingbird feeders are clean and restocked. This may be their only source of food during some winter months.

Make sure all of your succulent plants, which are normally drought proof, have proper drainage during the rainy seasons. If they tend to collect water around the root system during a rainstorm, cultivate the soil to aerate the root system.

Biennial seeds can be broadcast at this time with the promise of flowers next year. Hollyhocks and perennial foxgloves are good prospects.

Most roses will give their last spurt of flowers this month. A final addition of alfalfa meal or pellets will soak into the ground to prepare them for a burst of growth next spring.

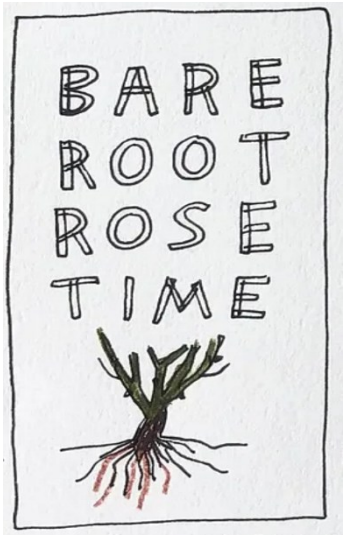
Fruit trees will benefit from a generous addition of chicken manure worked into the ground at this tie. Winter rains will allow this material to penetrate deeply into the ground. Continue to feed citrus trees throughout the winter. If you have yellow leaves, add liquid iron and zinc to the soil.

Are you eager to do some propagation? Hardwood cuttings can be taken at any time during dormancy, but just after leaves have fallen is an excellent time. Taking cuttings from leafless shoots is advantageous because water loss due to transpiration is minimal. You can bury the cuttings in moist sand or perlite, , put them in a sheltered area, and plant next spring. Ensure that they do not dry out.

Dormant-spray fruit trees with horticultural oil after they have lost their leaves to control fungal infections and kill overwintering insect eggs.

Whether using your own shredded leaves or purchased material, make sure your garden is amply mulched for the winter. Mulch will insulate roots and retard weed growth. Winter weeds grow prolifically in the rainy season.

Plant any remaining spring-blooming bulbs. Sow wildflower seeds.



Actually, it is bare-root anything time. Considering adding fruit trees or roses to your garden? Winter is an ideal to shop. While you won't find apples hanging from the trees or roses in full bloom, you will find a large assortment of plant varieties to choose from, usually at lower prices than those in pots.

What is a bare root plant? Bare root plants are dormant plants with all foliage and soil removed. The plants are harvested in the fall and are full of starch reserves that provide energy as they emerge from dormancy. They are light and transportable, making them easier to handle and plant. Shop early for the best selection. This is the time there is a wide variety of plants available and usually lower cost per plant. Shipping weight of a soilless plant is considerably lower, and nurseries have far more space to accommodate a variety of neatly packaged roots than rows of 5-gallon containers filled with soil.

Most local nurseries will display the canes or trunks with colorful photos of a mature plant in its full glory. They will also keep the root section in damp peat moss or other mulch. When selecting a plant, feel it for weight. A well-hydrated plant will feel heavy for its size. Beware lightweight, heavily packaged plants with no visible signs of moisture. Dried out roots may compromise your plant's ability to mature. Also, avoid any roses with canes coated in paraffin. Some suppliers feel that this thin layer of wax protects the canes, but it can also slow the development of the bud eyes.

Be prepared to care for your bare root plant once you have it at home. Do not let the roots dry out or freeze. Keep the roots moist (but not wet) by wrapping them in damp paper towels, moist sawdust, or other similar material. Store them in a cool, dark place like a garage or basement until you are ready to plant them.

Roses! With so many varieties of roses, do a little homework before you shop. Where do you want to plant the rose? Are you looking for a climber, an upright bush, or a container-size miniature? How much room do you have for the rose to grow? Study the websites of the American Rose Society or our local group https:// montereybayrose society.org/index.html. Be informed before you shopl Ask Club members to recommend their favorites! My favorite will always be Sally Holmes, given to me by Sirleen and the first rose to survive in my garden. A hedge of Sally Holmes roses can be grown from bare root plants this winter, but I will stop myself.



Hedge of Sally Holmes

The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden hosts its
Annual Gift & Wreath Sale Fundraiser
Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026.



Hours: 9am–10am Members Hour (Bring Arboretum Membership Card)(staff available for new member sign-ups starting at 8:45 am)

10am–4pm General Public

The Arboretum is located at 120 Arboretum Rd., Santa Cruz, midway between the entrances to the UCSC Campus

Featuring handmade holiday gifts and decorations unlike anything you've seen! Arboretum artists have been busy for months creating stunning succulent and dried flower wreaths and works of art for this enchanting Arboretum fundraiser. This is the only collection you will find that draws from the Arboretum's rare and extraordinary collection of amazing plants!



These items make the perfect gifts and decorations that will last throughout the holidays. In addition to beautiful wreaths and fantastic centerpieces made from Arboretum blossoms and foliage, offerings will include succulent and tillandsia driftwood pieces and terrariums; stunning items created by local artisan woodworkers, dish gardens of all sizes, and more!

The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum is a 60-year-old treasure and beloved destination for the central coast and local community that seeks to inspire stewardship of the world's biodiversity through research, education, and the conservation of rare, endangered, and extraordinary plants. arboretum.ucsc.edu

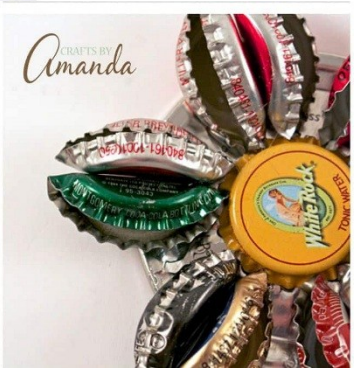
DIY Resources for Found Art Skills

https://deniseonawhim. blogspot.com/ 2013/03/ make-your-own-wire-flowers.html?m=0



How to make folded bottlecap flowers: https://craftsbyamanda.com/bottle-cap-flower/





It is membership renewal time! Annual dues, which include all benefits, are only $20.00, due by January 1st. The member-ship year lasts through the end of December, 2027. 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. And...with gift-giving season almost here, consider sharing your passion for gardening, and supporting our club, by giving your favorite gardening enthusiast an



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, and have focused this giving in the last few years on scholarships for Cabrillo College students who are working towards careers in horticulture. Because our dues are so low and we’d like to be able to continue to give scholarships as needed, we are giving you the option of making an additional gift with your membership. Thank you!

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)

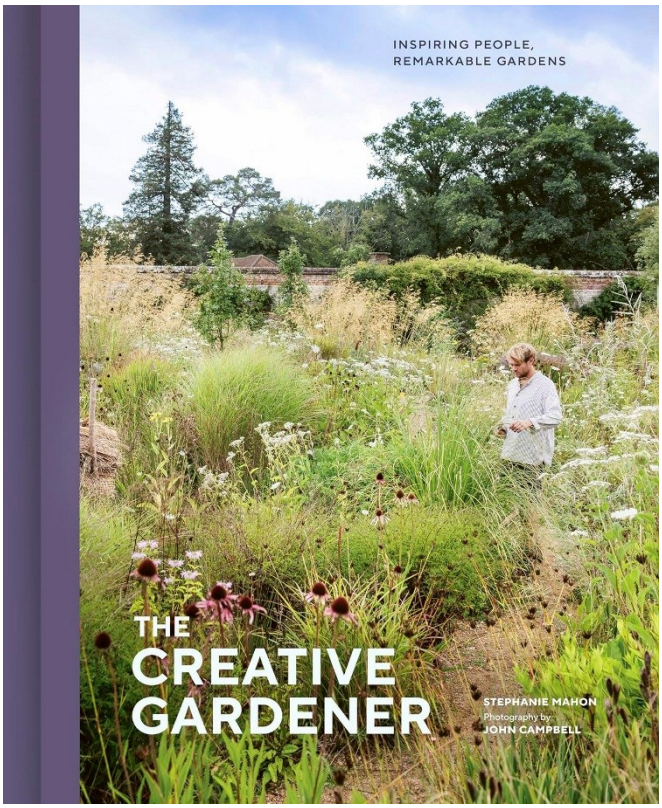
OR

☐ 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 to our scholarship fund, made out to The Gardeners’ Club. Mail to:

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



A new book just came out, and this one is very exciting. "The Creative Gardener: Inspiring People, Remarkable Gardens is a journey through gardens that marry imagination with nature – **a book for anyone who loves gardens, artistry and the stories that connect them**." Celebrate Britain and Ireland's most imaginative gardens – and the remarkable people who created them.

Stephanie Mahon, editor of Gardens Illustrated, and award-winning landscape photographer John Campbell step inside the private worlds of artists, writers, designers and makers whose gardens are as distinctive as their work. Included are:

Nigel Slater, whose layered Highbury garden offers woodland calm in the heart of London.

Matthew Rice, the artist who carved a moat around his medieval Oxfordshire home and grows vegetables with theatrical flair.

Sarah Price, the celebrated designer whose Welsh garden is both experimental and deeply personal.

Pioneering professionals pushing boundaries in design and ecology, from Charlie Harpur at Knepp to Jonny Bruce at Prospect Cottage.

From city courtyards to wild country plots, formal spaces to naturalistic retreats, each garden reflects a unique vision shaped by its creator's passions. Discover how these outdoor sanctuaries feed creativity, and how artistry and horticulture combine to produce spaces of extraordinary beauty.

The Gardeners' Club

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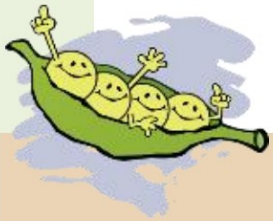
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www.thegardenersclub.org



It's easy-peasy to join our club!

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., A*ptos*

Our front page logo iis graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Za-dor. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.