



The Gardeners' Club  
Santa Cruz County,  
California  
September 2022  
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# TIME TO GO-PHER THE GOPHERS

Most of the gardeners in our club are kind, gentle people who tolerate occasional pests in the garden with some degree of acceptance. We are willing to share our gardens with wildlife, to a reasonable extent. We try barriers, we try non-toxic deterrents, we try sure-fire companion plants guaranteed to repel pests. After a while, some of us get tired of sharing our carrots, prize dahlias and so much more with one particular pest: the gopher. It is hard not to become bitter when gophers no longer nibble politely but begin wantonly taking whole tomato plants and roses, and taunt us with ankle-endangering holes and mounds EVERYWHERE. We are good stewards of the ecosystem and so won't use poisons. So most of besieged by gophers finally face the inevitable: it is time to start trapping.

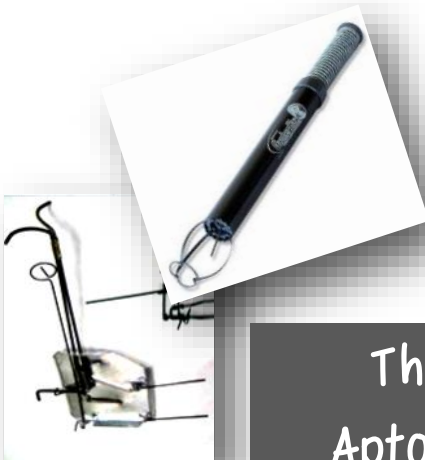


Where and how to start? Let's talk with an expert. Our speaker for the September meeting will be Morgan Louis. Morgan is an experienced gardener and licensed landscaper who plans to start a professional gopher

trapping service in the near future. In my garden, he has persistently hunted and caught scores of gophers over the years. Morgan is not only knowledgeable, determined, skillful, optimistic and enthusiastic, he has the most important ability of all: he can think like a gopher.

Morgan will answers many of our questions. What IS a gopher, and what is its role in our ecology? What's the difference between a gopher, mole and vole? How do they reproduce? How do we find the right tunnels to successfully combat them? Are traps hard to use? Are there tricks for us who have weaker hands to set the traps? What do we do with the ones we trap? Is there such a thing as a live trap? And...are there people who will catch gophers FOR me, hopefully affordably?

We can share our gopher stories at the Plant Table, and refreshments will be served.



Thurs., September 8, 7 p.m.  
Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.





## Kiddie Pool Anti-Gopher Raised or Sunken Beds

I have used plastic kiddie pools as gardening beds for many years—some of mine are over 10 years old and still functional. You can put them on top of the ground, or sink them partially like I do, which helps them not dry out so fast and last longer.

Make holes all over the bottom of the pool. I use a 7/8" or 1" spade bit on an electric drill, but



you can improvise with regular drill bits. Some people use a box cutter or solder iron to make the holes, which should be about 12 inches apart. I also put holes around the outside rim of the pool, also about a foot apart, starting 3-4" from the bottom. I bury mine so there is at least 4-6" lip around it...don't want the gophers crawling over it. If you are going to put yours flat on grass, you might want to line it with landscape fabric so the grass doesn't grow through. If your are going to

put yours flat on the ground, don't fill it until you have it in place—it will be heavy once you have potting or raised bed mix in it.

It is back-to-school time, so often you can find pools half-price. Or ask

on a group Facebook page or Nextdoor or Freecycle... you might find someone eager to give one away.

## Sunken Pot Anti-Gopher Gardening

I drill holes in upcycled black garden pots, using a drill bit or spade bit of 1/2-1" in width on the bottom and up the sides, an then sink them in the ground deep enough so the gophers don't go over them. I have some plants, particularly some old roses, that have been in such pots for almost twenty years! I plant them singly, or in a group, or in a line. Great way to up-use plastic pots and save on the expense of gopher baskets.



Arrows are pointing to holes, which you can also make square or rectangle if you would rather use a knife to cut them out.

You can always change course and play a gopher game to distract yourself. Many online versions available—sit in a chaise lounge in the garden and play one on your phone?







## PIE RANCH

2080 GREEN OAKS WAY, PESCADERO, CA 94060

OFFICE (650) 879-0995 | FARMSTAND (650) 879-0996

In 2003 Nancy Vail and Jered Lwson found 14 acres of land on the San Mateo County coast that was from the Quiroste tribe. On the parcel, shaped like a slice of pie, they co-founded an educational nonprofit named Pie Ranch.

Before, Nancy farmed and taught for over a decade at UC Santa Cruz's Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems. She is passionate about the intersections of justice, history, land, food, and farming and, among other things, oversees key partnerships with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Land Trust and Be Present Inc. Jered's dream was to start an educational farm rooted in love and justice, with one foot in daily practical production and one foot in community level social change work

Thousands of people a year, including school and corporate groups, have experienced farm life at Pie Ranch since 2005. Vail and Lawson are carving a pathway for local farmers of the future, especially women, Black, indigenous, people of color and others who've historically been denied land ownership.

Over the years, Pie Ranch along with its partner organizations have given about 100 apprentices land, capital and mentorship to start their own small farms on a 400-plus acre Cascade Ranch nearby.

Jered says that they firmly believe that a food system that has producers and ranchers that are directly linked to the community eating their food builds a healthier food system.

That system has fed struggling families, especially early in the pandemic when Pie Ranch bought local farmers' organic produce to give hundreds of free food boxes to people in need.

## Join us at The Whole Pie 2022!

Sat., Sept. 17

Join us we come together for the first time in three years onsite for our Farm Feast and Fundraiser, The Whole Pie! Pie Ranch is thrilled to be able to invite you to celebrate the different components of a healthy food system with us once again! The Culinary Team from [Just Fare](#) will collaborate with Pie Ranch on a fabulous feast featuring the best the farm has to offer, paired with wine from local vineyards. Don't miss this unforgettable farm-to-fork dining experience and help support our efforts to educate the public about where their food comes from, create farmer pathways and teach Bay Area youth

about positive food systems change. Enjoy wine, music, and feasting under the sun... You'll work it all off at the Barn Dance after the meal!

### SCHEDULE

3pm Welcome to Pie Ranch! Enjoy drinks and appetizers in the event meadow while guests arrive.

4pm Farm Tour: Join Pie Ranch co-founders Jered Lawson and Nancy Vail as we walk through the 27 acres of farmland and talk about our work practicing fire-resilient regenerative agriculture.

5pm To the Table: Take your seat and enjoy a farm-to-table meal prepared by chefs from [Just Fare](#), as well as a presentation from Pie Ranch about the work being done to bring food justice, farm education, and farmer pathways to the coastside.

7pm Barn Dance: Join us as we make our way down to the Roadside Barn to round off the evening with a barn dance and live music from the HomePie String Band!

There will be a special space for children to play, do activities and make salve for the first 2 hours, then they can join adults when we start eating.

Tickets for this important fundraiser are \$225. Buy them at <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/PieRanch/thewholepie2022tickets.html>





# A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

*See thriving gardens  
unirrigated in summer*

*Get plant recommendations  
in time for fall planting*

*Connect with a network  
making change in our  
regional landscape*

**SEPTEMBER 17 2022**

Join us for an afternoon of  
plant focused learning on the  
Central Coast followed by an  
unforgettable dinner party

UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden  
2-7 pm | Tickets \$200.

**PACIFIC  
HORTICULTURE**



**\*Renee's Garden\***

The Garden to Table Seed Company

**Monterey Bay Nursery**



**GREENLEE  
MEADOWS**

**Sierra Azul**  
NURSERY & GARDEN



**Sante Arcangeli**  
FAMILY WINES

Please join Pacific Horticulture and The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden for an afternoon of unapologetically plant focused free choice learning opportunities followed by an unforgettable dinner party.

A sense of place. We knew right away that walking tours in a landscape that is thriving but completely unirrigated in summer would be inspiring, and a perfect setting for understanding what our gardens can look like now and what gardening will be like on the Central Coast 50 years from now. The Arboretum's Executive Director Martin Quigley's apparently limitless plant knowledge is conveyed in bursts of witty, often outrageously funny banter. It will be a treat to hear his perspective on the next trajectory for the Mediterranean plant collections including the development of a North African garden. If you are enthusiastic about California natives, don't miss UCSC Native Plant Program Director Brett Hall's perspective after 30-years of stewardship of this program's collection. Learn more—a complete detailed list of activities, opportunities, speakers and schedules—and register at <https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/events/a-feast-for-the-senses/>.





# SKETCHING IN THE GARDEN:

A GUIDE TO FIELD SKETCHING AND JOURNALING  
Tina Fuller Somers

**Saturday, September 17 at 9:00am to 1:30pm**

**UCSC Farm, Farm Road, Santa Cruz**

Santa Cruz artist Tina Somers will guide participants with composition, technique, and direction at this in-person workshop presented by the Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden. This session will focus on sketching techniques, materials, and things you need to know to get started. All levels of experience are welcome. Students will meet at the Louise Cain Gatehouse on the campus farm. Prep for this class by watching a recording of last year's Sketching in the Garden recording at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL2EkQkeYAM!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL2EkQkeYAM!)

Materials Needed: Sketch journal with paper suitable for wet and dry media, at least one of the following: watercolor kit/water brush, pencil/eraser, and/or fine-tipped ink pens such as micron Pigma. The Instructor will provide an array of sample materials if students want to try out/experiment with different media during the class. Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden members receive 10% off registration price. Email [agroecology@ucsc.edu](mailto:agroecology@ucsc.edu) for more information. [https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/sketching\\_live\\_on\\_the\\_farm#.Yww0YIHMLXB](https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/sketching_live_on_the_farm#.Yww0YIHMLXB)

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

**UCSC Farm - Sun., Sept. 25 at 11:00am to 4:30pm**



Save the date for our annual Fall Harvest Festival! We're excited to partner again with Life Lab to host our first in-person festival for the broader community since 2019. The 2022 Harvest Festival will feature live music, an apple pie baking contest, apple pressing, hands-on workshops, tractor rides, with food vendors and hydration stations to keep you nourished.

\$5 admission / Free admission for kids under 12, UCSC and Cabrillo College students with a student ID, and Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden members.

The Harvest Festival is presented by the UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology and Life Lab. Contact [agroecology@ucsc.edu](mailto:agroecology@ucsc.edu) for more information or to request accommodations

[https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/harvest\\_festival#.Yww0xIHMLXB](https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/harvest_festival#.Yww0xIHMLXB)

UCSC Farm  
Farm Road, Santa Cruz, California 95064



# FREE FELTON LIBRARY GARDENING WORKSHOPS

6121 Gushee St, Felton

The Felton library continues its FREE gardening workshops for teens and adults! An amazing local gardener and nursery manager at Scarborough Gardens, Jet Van Ausdall, leads the workshops. Thank you, Jet!

September 14- Container Gardening: for everything from small table-top pots to planters large enough for a tree, there are all sorts of tricks for making the most of small spaces.

October 12- Gardening Basics: Fertilizing, Pruning, Gophers and more! There are so many different elements to creating and protecting your garden, this presentation and Q&A session will help answer some of those concerns.

Registration is required—maximum of 25 people per session. .Question? Please contact, Iván Llamas at [llamasi@santa-cruzpl.org](mailto:llamasi@santa-cruzpl.org) or 831-427-7700 ext 7752.

More info at <https://santacruz.pl.libcal.com/event/9331162>



Fall is a great time to propagate roses. It may take 'til next year for them to be ready to plant in the ground, but what a reward for patience. Visit The Gardenologist to learn how to do it at <https://gardenologist.org/fall-propagate-roses/>



## Plantful Possibilities Garden Micro-Tours by Love Gardens

Sun, September 11  
2:00 PM – 5:00

Tours at private homes, Westside Santa Cruz. Addresses will be provided upon registration. **FREE! Prepare to be inspired by myriad possibilities for creating and maintaining vibrant, fruitful gardens with wise water and Earth stewardship!**

Water is an abundant natural resource. Even in times of scant rainfall in our drought-prone Santa Cruz area, there is enough water. The problem isn't the quantity of water available, but our stewardship of what we have, or lack thereof. By employing some simple technologies, we can create gardens that thrive, even during times when little water is falling from the sky. And we can do so in ways that enhance sustainability, recharge aquifers, and have many additional benefits!

At Love's Gardens, we celebrate our many customers who wisely invest in systems that conserve the precious resource of water. This type of stewardship is becoming even more important in these times of climate crisis, as water conserving features can increase resiliency in times of long-term drought. Our Plantful Possibilities Micro-Tours highlight the water-conserving techniques of two pairs of customers.

Micro-Tour #1: Rick and Violet Boyle, Swift Street, 2–3 PM

Rick and Violet Boyle have a vast array of native plants watered with an in-ground

rain harvest system. They also have an incredible edible landscape watered by two 1600-gallon rainwater tanks. The tanks are artfully disguised by a cascade of Frederick passionfruit vines that bear delicious fruit. Rick

has decided to never water their native plants with drinking water. That is why he asked Love's Gardens to install popup emitters from his downspouts to water the front garden, exclusively landscaped with beautiful native plants.

Micro-Tour #2: Tia Christianson and Anthony Rice, Laurent Street, 4–5 PM

Tia and Anthony have delightful native plants, a complete permitted Aqua2use greywater drip system, and an in-ground rainwater harvesting/storage. In our current era, a grey water system is a crucial tool for everyone who wants to water their gardens. Anthony and Tia's is powered by one shower; other possibilities for abundant water reuse include water from laundry, bathtubs, and bathroom sinks. Tia and Anthony's garden is impeccable and beautiful and is sure to inspire.

### Planned Activities.

Golden Love of Love's Gardens will provide an explanation of the various water conserving features of each garden and answer your questions. The homeowners will also be on hand to respond to your questions. Additionally, there will be free raffles at both locations. And Snacks! Beth Love will be on hand with tasty organic snacks and information about Eat for the Earth, an organization that encourages healthy, environmentally sustainable diets.

Register for one or both micro-tours, and be sure to let us know how many will be in your party. We look forward to celebrating Plantful Possibilities with you! Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/plantful-possibilities-garden-micro-tours-registration-403258816977>



# The Gardeners' Club Membership

Now that we are starting up Club activities, it is time to pay annual membership dues, if you have not done so this year. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$15.00. 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. Gift memberships are available— 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.



As we ease back into less restrictive Covid concerns, we will stay alert to changing conditions, and emerging opportunities. We are grateful to retain our access to the Grange—now we'll also resume rent and insurance costs.

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 as we meet we will discuss how our giving program will proceed. Renew now so you don't miss anything—you'll be glad you did. Thank you!

## YOUR 2022 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 \$15 per member, plus any additional contribution to our scholarship fund, made out to The Gardeners' Club. Mail to:

**The Gardeners' Club % Suzanne Caron**  
**P.O. Box 3025**  
**Ben Lomond CA 95005**

**Membership Dues:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift Membership(s):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**DON'T**

**FORGET**



**ARE YOU DIVIDING PLANTS, BULBS, TUBERS? COLLECTING SEEDS? POTTING PLANTS TO GIVE AWAY? SORTING POTS, BOOKS, TOOLS, GARDEN DÉ-COR, ETC.? DON'T FORGET— OCTOBER IS OUR BIG PLANT SALE AND SWAP!!**

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Join us at 6 p.m on Sept. 26th at

Dottie Lechtenberg's

275 W. Phillips Rd., Watsonville We'll tour her garden, have a potluck, and discuss club business and ideas. You don't have to be a Board Member to attend. join us!

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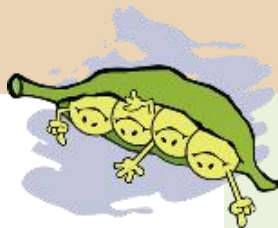
Plant Table

[poppy-54@live.com](mailto:poppy-54@live.com)

Debbie Kindle

Members-at-Large

**It's easy-peasy to join our club!**  
Dues are \$15 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



[www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern](http://www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern).

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