

# Garden fair to return to Scotts Valley

By Peter Burke  
Press-Banner

When it comes to hobbies, gardening is near the top of the list for many folks, and the fifth annual Garden Faire at Skypark aims to help improve that experience through education.

"We have a general interest in informing," fair co-director Tom Karwin said. "Responsible irrigation processes and plant selection leads us into native plants. ... It all ties into good gardening practices."

The Garden Faire — previously called the Smart Gardening Faire, before organizers simplified the name to encompass more aspects of gardening — has avoided straying into the oft-commercialized realm of "home and garden festivals" that focus on house-related projects and leave the garden behind, Karwin said.

Instead, it collects an array of presenters and speakers for the free festival to provide a low-key environment where festival-goers and sellers can interact.

What should a garden fair-goer come away with?

"A new skill and just a sense of community," said co-fair director Sheryl McEwan of Scotts Valley.

Presenters include Pam Pierce, the "Golden Gate Gardener," who writes gardening books and a column for the San Francisco Chronicle. She will join Denise Ritchie, who will speak about biodynamic gardening; Shiloh Ann Boss, how to create a thriving system in the garden; Thomas Wittman, nontoxic gopher control; Vai Campbell, water conservation; and Angela Stuart, drainage management.

Karwin said a solar power source will be set up to power a laptop and digital projector in the speakers' tent. Bauman College, a holistic nutrition school in Capitola, will provide eats.

Throughout the day, there will be expert demonstrations of sustainable garden practices and exhibits by local groups, activities for children and families, vendors selling garden plants and services, and entertainment.



### At a glance

- **WHAT:** Garden Faire
- **WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 26
- **WHERE:** Skypark, 361 Kings Village Road, in Scotts Valley
- **INFO:** [www.thegardenfaire.com](http://www.thegardenfaire.com)

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\* Approximate costs (Actual cost depends on options)

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