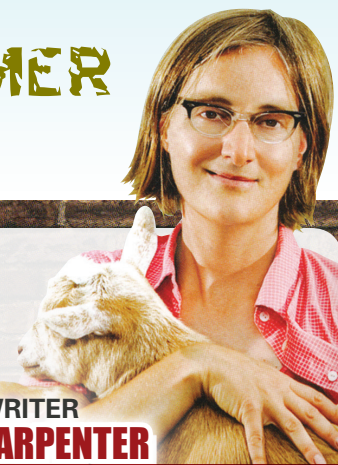
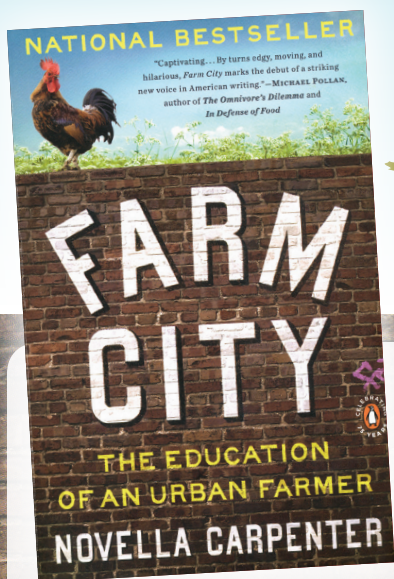


# FARM CITY

## THE EDUCATION OF AN URBAN FARMER

BY NOVELLA CARPENTER



**Cuesta College is proud to present** writer Novella Carpenter on April 6 and her enchanting book that chronicles with grace and generosity her experiences growing crops in one of the toughest neighborhoods of the Bay Area. Her squatter's vegetable garden evolved into further adventures in bee and poultry keeping in a quest for manna: home-harvested honey, eggs and home-raised meat. "Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer" has resonated with readers across the nation and closer to home inspired 10 days of films, talks, demonstrations, tours and more that we hope will motivate you.

**WHAT:** Lecture by author **Novella Carpenter**, book signing and reception  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 6, 2011 • 5 pm-7 pm  
**WHERE:** Cuesta College's Cultural & Performing Arts Center Cuesta's SLO Campus

**FEATURED WRITER  
NOVELLA CARPENTER**

Novella Carpenter grew up in rural Idaho and Washington state. She studied under noted author Michael Pollan for two years while attending UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. Her writing has appeared on Salon.com and sfgate.com (the San Francisco Chronicle's Web site), and in Mother Jones and Food & Wine. She lives in Oakland.



## CALENDAR

### MARCH / APRIL

**Thursday, March 31 • 3 pm - 9 pm**

**Films and Discussions:**

Three compelling documentaries showcasing people who have found inspiration and salvation in their relationships with the soil kickoff this year's Book of the Year celebration. At 3, "The Garden" chronicles the 2006 battle to prevent a 14-acre community garden in a blighted area of Los Angeles from being turned into a warehouse. "Dirt! The Movie," which screens at 5, tells the story of humans trying to re-connect to dirt. At 7, "The Real Dirt on Farmer John" examines the tale of a maverick Midwestern farmer who bravely stands amidst a failing economy, vicious rumors and violence.

*Cuesta College, North County campus, Room N2401*

**Saturday, April 2 • 10 am - Noon**

**Cooking Class and Discussion**

Join local chef Brenda Hock who'll teach "I Grew it, Now What: Creative Recipes for Backyard Gardeners." Hock, who is on hiatus from her SLO Cooking with Brenda Hock radio show on KVEC, writes a weekly food column for SLO City News. Class is \$50 or \$45 for SLO Botanical Garden members. To preregister, call (805) 541-1400, ext. 301.

*SLO Botanical Garden, located across Highway 1 from Cuesta College SLO campus*

**Saturday, April 2 • 1 pm - 3 pm**

**Author talk: Sharon Lovejoy**

Join award-winning and bestselling author Lovejoy for "The Practical Magic of Diversity: How an Edible Landscape, Native Plants, and a Worm 'Farm' Can Transform Your Yard Into a Personal Paradise." The talk includes a photo journey and demonstration where you'll learn how to plan, plant and organically tend your garden. She'll also share design ideas for a functional and beautiful landscape and answer questions about pest and disease control. Refreshments, a book signing and garden tours will follow.

*SLO Botanical Garden, located across Highway 1 from Cuesta College SLO campus*

**Sunday, April 3 • 10 am - 7 pm**

**North County Sustainable Agriculture Tour**

Spend the day touring three North County properties to see what it means to grow sustainably — from a Melinda Forbes' farm-home in Atascadero, to the Kiler Canyon organic family farm that uses Community Supported Agriculture techniques near Paso Robles, to Castoro Cellars, a winery off Highway 46 West that uses solar power at its winery and sustainable ag practices at its certified organic vineyard. Relax at the end of the day with a glass of wine and a barbecue dinner and listen to a Cuesta College jazz band. Cost is \$25; proceeds benefit Cuesta Book of the Year, Cuesta Children's Center and Cuesta Jazz Studies.

*For ticket information, visit <http://library.cuesta.edu/book>.*

**Monday, April 4 • Noon to 1:20 pm**

**Film and Discussion: "Dirt! The Movie"**

(80 minutes, 2010) An astonishing, humorous and substantial look at the glorious and unappreciated ground beneath your feet. Narrated by Jamie Lee Curtis, it tells the story of humans trying to re-connect to dirt — the living skin of the Earth. Traveling from the vineyards of California to the plains of Kenya, it reveals how repairing our relationship with soil can create new possibilities for all life on earth.

*Cuesta College Library, SLO campus, Room 3219*

**Monday, April 4 • 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

**Film and Discussion: "Mad City Chickens"**

(78 minutes, 2009) A sometimes serious, sometimes whimsical look at the people who keep urban chickens in their backyards. From experts and authors to a rescued landfill hen or an inexperienced family that decides to take the poultry plunge, the film offers a humorous and heartfelt trip through the world of backyard chickendom. Followed by Q&A with Cambria chicken expert and author Christine Heinrichs.

*Cuesta College, North County campus, Room N2401*

**Tuesday, April 5 • Noon - 1:20 pm**

**Film and Discussion: "The Real Dirt on Farmer John"**

(82 minutes, 2008) The epic tale of a maverick Midwestern farmer — and community outcast — Farmer John bravely stands amidst a failing economy, vicious rumors and violence. By melding the traditions of family farming with the power of art and free expression, this powerful story of transformation and renewal heralds a resurrection of farming in America.

*Cuesta College Library, SLO campus, Room 3219*

**Tuesday, April 5 • 5 pm - 5:50 pm**

**Compost Demonstration**

Join Allison Merzon for a practical demonstration of backyard compost-worm bins, which cost less than \$100, and fit in the snuggest of yards. Transform raw fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and tea bags into excellent plant fertilizer with the help of composting worms, typically Red Wigglers (*Eisenia foetida*).

*Cuesta College, SLO campus, Room 1100*

**Wednesday, April 6 • 11 am - 2 pm**

**Sustainability Fair**

Grassroots, Cuesta's environmental club, which promotes positive changes on campus and strives to teach sustainable living habits to Cuesta and the greater community, hosts a fair offering info on sustainable gardening, a workshop of herbs, demonstrations on solar ovens and OneCoolEarth's Garden Matchmaking project that unites SLO County gardeners with underutilized gardening spaces.

*Cuesta College's CPAC courtyard, SLO campus, near Room 7120*

**Wednesday, April 6 • 5 pm - 7 pm**

**Novella Carpenter, lecture and Q&A**

The author of "Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer" will share colorful tales of her life as a gardener-turned city farmer in the wilds of a gritty Oakland industrial neighborhood. Refreshments and a book signing will follow.

*Cuesta College's CPAC main stage, SLO campus*

**Thursday, April 7 • Noon to 1:20 pm**

**Film and Discussion: "The Garden"**

(80 minutes, 2008) A 14-acre community garden in South Central Los Angeles started as a form of healing after the 1992 L.A. riots and grew into one of the largest urban gardens in the nation. But in 2006, bulldozers were poised to level this oasis amid the blight by a selfish landowner bent on building a warehouse. This Academy Award-nominated doc focuses on the growers' dignity, determination and fight to preserve their garden — and what they've done in the aftermath. With Danny Glover and Daryl Hannah.

*Cuesta College Library, SLO campus, Room 3219*

**Friday, April 8 • Noon to 1:20 pm**

**Film and Discussion: "A Man Named Pearl"**

(78 minutes, 2008) The inspiring story of Pearl Fryar, a self-taught topiary artist, who transformed his once-average yard into a wondrous garden. Offers an upbeat message that speaks to respect for both self and others, and shows what one person can achieve.

*Cuesta College Library, SLO campus, Room 3219*

**Saturday, April 9 • 1 pm - 3 pm**

**Lecture and Q&A**

Join Cuesta biology instructor John Veres for a talk titled "The Structure and Diversity of Fruits." The event is part of SLO Botanical Garden's "Saturday at the Garden" lecture series. Suggested donation: \$10 or \$5 for SLO Botanical Garden members. For info, call (805) 541-1400, ext. 301.

*SLO Botanical Garden, located across Highway 1 from Cuesta College SLO campus*

**Saturday, April 9 • 8 am - 1 pm**

**San Luis Obispo County Master Gardeners' Landscaping Symposium**

Find creative alternatives in conservation and preservation of water on your property, whether it's a 100-acre ranch or a small city lot. Author Brad Lancaster will share principles of water harvesting and simple strategies to turn water scarcity into water abundance. Morning sessions include gardening practices that promote energy conservation and the use of native plants. Cost is \$45 and includes a continental breakfast. Registration is required; visit <http://ucanr.org/symposium>.

*Paso Robles Culinary Arts Academy, 1900 Golden Hill Road*

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### ONLINE

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INFORMATION: call (805) 546-3100, ext. 2287

EVENT UPDATES: <http://library.cuesta.edu/book>

Parking permits are required for all events on Cuesta College campuses:

\$2 permits are available at kiosks in campus parking lots. For maps and directions: [www.cuesta.edu/maps/direct.htm](http://www.cuesta.edu/maps/direct.htm)



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