In 2004, two Cabrillo College horticulture instructors looked at an il- acre unkotted lot at the campus that was popular with dirt bikers and saw potential for something much more exotic. Today, that lot is a botanical garden that holds one of the largest institutional collections of salvias in the world.

At a Glance
CABRILLO COLLEGE BOTANICAL GARDENS
Where: 4500 Bay Blvd., Aptos
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends
Fee: Admittance is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors age 62 and older and $3 for kids ages 5 to 11. College students and staff can get in for $2. Kids under 5 are admitted free.

Gems
The highlight of the 4-mile walking trail is an array of unique plants from the Mediterranean, which are watered by a series of fountains. The gardens are designed to be viewed from a certain angle, which allows the plants to be seen at their best.

At the 2-acre beech grove, look for the potential of something much more exotic. Today, that lot is a botanical garden that holds one of the largest institutional collections of salvias in the world.

AT A GLANCE
CABRILLO COLLEGE BOTANICAL GARDENS
Where: 4500 Bay Blvd., Aptos
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends
Fee: Admittance is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors age 62 and older and $3 for kids ages 5 to 11. College students and staff can get in for $2. Kids under 5 are admitted free.

Gems
The highlight of the 4-mile walking trail is an array of unique plants from the Mediterranean, which are watered by a series of fountains. The gardens are designed to be viewed from a certain angle, which allows the plants to be seen at their best.

At the 2-acre beech grove, look for the potential of something much more exotic. Today, that lot is a botanical garden that holds one of the largest institutional collections of salvias in the world.

AT A GLANCE
CABRILLO COLLEGE BOTANICAL GARDENS
Where: 4500 Bay Blvd., Aptos
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends
Fee: Admittance is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors age 62 and older and $3 for kids ages 5 to 11. College students and staff can get in for $2. Kids under 5 are admitted free.

Gems
The highlight of the 4-mile walking trail is an array of unique plants from the Mediterranean, which are watered by a series of fountains. The gardens are designed to be viewed from a certain angle, which allows the plants to be seen at their best.

At the 2-acre beech grove, look for the potential of something much more exotic. Today, that lot is a botanical garden that holds one of the largest institutional collections of salvias in the world.