

ECOLOGY ACTION NEWSLETTER - JUNE 3, 1982

Classes Scheduled for Summer and Early Fall

All classes meet at 10:30 a.m. at Ecology Action and are free with no preregistration necessary.

- June 12 - Safe Control of Insects with Bernice Giant Valley
- June 19 - Summer Gardening with John Jeavons
- June 26 - Food Drying

- July 10 - Canning and Freezing Foods
- July 17 - Herbs
- July 24 - Seed Collection with Craig Dremann
- July 31 - To be announced




- Aug. 7 - Safe Control of Insects with Bernice Giant Valley
- Aug. 14 - Fall Gardening
- Aug. 21 - Soil Preparation
- Aug. 28 - Compost

- Sept. 4 - Fall and Winter Gardening
- Sept. 11 - Greenhouses
- Sept. 18 - Fall Perennials and Bulbs

Classes scheduled for this summer are focusing on using the harvest, and as fall nears we'll talk more about planting for the winter season.


During the winter we'll be concentrating on classes that stress planning and preparation for the busy main growing season--both in plants and in animals. We welcome suggestions for classes and also volunteer teachers. If you have a request, or some special skill to share, talk with Carol at the store.

Store News



We've been inundated with whitefly questions, and have developed a new handout sheet with all our best answers...pick one up next time you're in the store. We have a fresh supply of Tack Trap and Insecticidal Soap, and we're in the process of setting up a bulk order of Encarsia formosa, the insect that parasitizes whiteflies.

We've been especially lucky this spring to find some new people to help in the store: Jill Kaplan, Bernie Pareno, Sally Shores, Gerry Long and Jackie (who's been with us before) have cheerfully taken on the Saturday-morning-at-Common-Ground-in-the-Spring madness, and will be filling in this summer whenever Carol, Judy, or Betsy are away.



The store needs paper grocery bags of all sizes for fertilizers and yoghurt-type containers for seedlings to be carried home in. We also need a volunteer plumber to fix the ancient workings of our toilet tank. (Can an ecology group have a toilet that runs all the time??)




### More News from Kenya

An editorial in The Standard, Nairobi, Kenya for April 19, 1982, starts out; "Kenya could save a great deal of foreign exchange if her farmers adopted the bio-dynamic (French Intensive) method of food production, Kenya's High Commissioner to London, Mr. Bethuel Kiplagat, was told. Mr. Kiplagat, who recently visited Emerson College in the U.K. was informed that the new method calls for less use of artificial fertilizers commonplace in modern scientific farming, and relied instead on a method which is ecologically safe, more labour intensive, low cost and high yielding. It also utilizes locally available materials and simple hand tools."

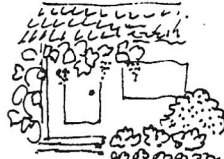
### Ecumenical Hunger Project

What to do with that extra zucchini? Sadly, there are still people going hungry in Paio Alto...the Ecumenical Hunger Project thankfully accepts donations of garden produce. Food can be brought to the First Congregational Church, Louis & Embarcadero any weekday, preferably Mondays. From there it is distributed to neighborhood Food Closets, to be given to people in our community who have nothing to eat. The Hunger Project also needs donations of canned and packaged food, and can always use "just plain" money.

### New Books



How to Grow More Vegetables--the 3rd Edition--contains much new material including some improved soil preparation approaches, water consumption information for natural rainfall and drought growing, corrected and updated yield and planning data, added data for grain, fodder, cover, and tree crop growing, and a greatly expanded bibliography. We sell it in the store for \$7.95 plus tax. Anyone wanting to order it through the mail should send us a self-addressed envelope in which we will return the pricing information.



The Survival of Civilization describes the "Hamaker Thesis", a new view of the relationship between the depletion of the earth's vegetation and climate. The book tells "how to remineralize the earth, reverse the carbon build-up in the atmosphere, stabilize the weather . . . and save the world." \$8.00 postpaid from Hamaker-Weaver Publishers, P.O. Box 1961, Burlingame, CA 94010.

The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping, by Rosalind Creese. A long-awaited, excellent, and well-done book! \$14.95 at the store.

Three titles in a new series from HP Books:

Citrus and Western Fruit, Berries and Nuts, give an excellent coverage of old and new fruit varieties. They are especially written for California and the West. Herbs, How to Select, Grow and Enjoy is also excellent. All three books have lots of beautiful color pictures throughout that are very helpful for both identification and selection purposes. They are available at the store for \$7.95.

### Pass It On

Help us publicize our excellent summer free classes...please post the flyer on the last page of this newsletter wherever you work, study, play, or shop. Don't forget to read the other side of it first!

## Farmer's Market





The Palo Alto Farmer's Market will be open on Saturdays from 8:00 to noon beginning June 19, at the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot at the corner of Hamilton and Waverly. Visit them for fresh-from-the-grower fruits and vegies! If you have produce to sell, call Mary Bay at 857-0684. They have asked for someone from Ecology Action to help with the coordination of the market, especially to help make connections with local farmers. If you'd be interested, talk to Betsy at the store.

## Robin's Report


Two and a half years of looking for a new research garden site are finally over and we feel we've landed on a perfect 20 acres near Willits in Northern California.

Since everyone asks "Why Willits?" I'll have to start with a description of the town. Willits is the place most people have driven through; the main street is Highway 101, with homes extending a few blocks east and west from there. Travelers see about a mile of motels followed by 3 or 4 blocks of small town shops and a high school and movie theater built in the late 20's. We have found it a great place to live. There are 3 natural food stores, a great bakery, a cool green city park with huge old Maples, and several ice cream parlours. Most of all the people are really friendly--I have yet to be asked for an ID when cashing a check. The phone book for this area is half the size of Palo Alto's even though it covers all of Mendocino and Lake Counties. Partly there are not many people but also I would guess close to half consider it a matter of lifestyle not to have a phone or they live too far from phone service. It's easy to live without when no one else has it either. Instead of an address, someone lives "on Pine Mountain" or "behind the Post Office".

Our official address is 5798 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490--that gets you to a row of mail boxes 2 miles down the road. Our 20 acres is along the ridge of a ring of hills surrounding this lovely valley. It is quite steep, mostly wooded with Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine, White Oak, Madrone, Buckeye and Bay Laurel, and commands an impressive view of the entire area. Local kids called this place "Top of the World" and there is even an old kissing bench where they came and carved their initials. The 20 acres contain many hidden glens and there are 3 good southwest facing meadows. In the first month here John and Paka hauled cement and posts down to the lower meadow and fenced in an acre and a quarter for the research/demonstration garden. Dan Torjusen built a storage/animal building that perches on the hillside like an alpine chalet. The garden building and the entire garden are visible from the Highway seven miles away and from about half the valley, so of course we're considering all sorts of colorful designs for the garden beds. This week the main work has been getting a water line into the garden from the spring, which unfortunately is almost at the farthest bottom corner of the parcel. Work is also proceeding on a cableway into the garden, a composting privy, and a grey water filter. The first few garden beds should go in very early this month. I've mostly been busy with the kids, but do manage to cook for this small crew on a propane stove and oven. I'm trying to set up a housekeeping routine for washing dishes, etc. and am putting together a solar oven from the plans mentioned in a earlier newsletter.



Living without utilities has so far been a great adventure, though we do have a propane cooking set-up until the solar oven is ready. No refrigeration is a bit difficult in hotter weather. So far we keep milk from the two goats and beer cold in the spring, but as the days get hotter we think more and more of a propane refrigerator for using part of the year. Several people think the gas refrigerators should be able to convert to solar energy; does anyone know of any plans? It should be an ideal application because it's needed only when the sun is shining. We use candles after dark for light, finding the tapers light up a room much better than the big round candles. We are still going to town weekly for laundry and sometimes hot showers, but only because we have not had time yet to set up running water or solar heaters. We're finding each of these projects are not too difficult or expensive but you can't do them all at once--one thing at a time. The toilet is still al fresco; one of this week's projects is a compost toilet and a lovely site with a view was chosen this morning.




The move went well, thanks to lots of help from everyone: all the neighbors who babysat Shawna and Annaliese, Tommy Derrick who generously offered use of his van to tow the 28-foot house trailer, Mario Vaughngg who drove it, Bill Bruneau who showed us how to pack more stuff in the smallest possible space, and everyone who loaded the moving vans. It took two U-haul moving vans--one for household belongings and furniture and another for all the garden supplies such as greenhouses, garden flats, wheelbarrows, tools, seeds, gates and even two rather large almond trees! A highlight of the trip was bringing all the animals in a Volkswagen bus: 4 people, 2 goats, 2 cats and 1 dog!

There will be open house on the new site June 26 and July 24. Bring food to share, and especially welcome are those who can help with painting, hauling, childcare and other chores. Get a map and further details at Ecology Action in Palo Alto.

#### Garden Workshops

John Jeavons will be giving two separate 4-hour workshops, at the new Willits site, on Bio-Intensive Food Raising. The workshops will meet at 10 a.m. on the openhouse days, June 26 and July 24. There is a fee of \$25, and preregistration with prepayment at least a week ahead of your preferred date is necessary. Participants should also bring food to share.



John will discuss the basics of Bio-Intensive techniques--bed preparation, starting plants, composting, and watering methods. There will be time for questions on techniques, and about an hour will be set aside for questions about preparing to mini-farm. All participants should have read the third edition of How to Grow More Vegetables and booklet #4, Food from Your Backyard Homestead. Those who are interested in mini-farming should have also read booklet #6, Beginning to Mini-Farm and #8, 10-Crop Learning and Test Booklet. Booklets 0, 9, and 10 are optional recommended reading.

There is space for 20 people in each workshop. Please bring or mail your registration fee to Betsy at the store/center at least a week ahead of time, so we can give you a map and more details--also let us know if you are interested in carpooling.

#### Garden Project Needs

The folks in Willits are searching for a 10,000 gallon water tank--any leads will be appreciated.

Funding is difficult right now, with the work just beginning, and the garden project's biggest expense is staff salaries. John, Robin, Dan, and Paka are all working very hard up on the land and financial support from friends "in town" means a great deal--and remember, it's tax deductible!



\* free \*

# gardening classes

Learn to grow your own vegies...  
and how to Keep the harvest!

Saturdays - 10:30 am

June 19 - Summer Gardening

June 26 - Food Drying

July 10 - Canning and Freezing

July 17 - Herbs

July 24 - Seed Collecting

August 7 - Safe Insect Control

August 14 - Fall Gardening

at **ECOLOGY ACTION**

2225 EL CAMINO REAL

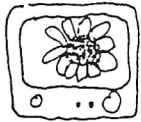
Palo Alto

328-6752

\* we also sell safe \*  
insect controls

### Biodynamic Slug Control

Henry Doubleday Research Association (Convent Lane, Bocking, Braintree, Essex, CM7 6RW, England) is asking its members to help test a slug control method originally developed by Maria Thun. It involves collecting slugs, of the various types that you have in the garden, and adding them to water in a gallon container and leaving the mixture to ferment for a month. The solution is then diluted and watered onto susceptible plants such as seedlings and transplants. Both collection and watering are meant to be done when the moon is in Cancer, and have to be repeated several times. Write for full instructions if you want to participate in the experiment.



### Gardensong

The video on Alan Chadwick's work (and ours) will be released for broadcast on Public Television Stations July 13. It is up to individual stations whether they will show it then. Check your local listings and write your PBS station and encourage them to show it.

### Chocolate Addicts Please Note

Since 1972 we've sold about 16 tons of cocoa hulls per year at Common Ground. This year for the first time a dog who was especially attracted to them ate a very large amount of hulls and died of theobromine overdose. The dog's stomach was completely full of hulls. Theobromine is a caffeine-like stimulant, naturally present in cocoa beans and in all chocolate products. This is a rare occurrence--but please watch your chocolate-loving pets and babies. Don't let them "pig out" on hulls!

### Peninsula Conservation Center

One of our members, Paul Manley, has put in a Bio-Dynamic vegetable garden at the Peninsula Conservation Center. There is also a drought-resistant garden emphasizing California native plants. Visitors are welcome! The address is 2253 Park Blvd, Palo Alto.

Ecology Action/Common Ground  
2225 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Palo Alto, CA  
Permit No. 286

Here's a newsletter - it lacks Robin's touch--  
we all wrote parts. I'm a little upset about the  
insect class being called "Safe Control of Insects" instead  
of "Insect Life" but oh, well -- we're not perfect!