



Ecology Action Newsletter - March 30, 1985

Classes

All classes are on Saturday morning at 10:30 at Ecology Action, 2225 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Each class is \$2 unless noted otherwise.

April 13 - Integrated Pest Management for Home Gardeners, with Ruth Troetschler

April 20 - Drip Irrigation, with Tom Bressan

April 27 - Soil Preparation, with Tommy Derrick

May 4 - Compost, with Robin Jeavons

May 11 - Seed and Plant Propagation, with Dave Packer

May 18 - Companion Planting, with Terence Welch

May 25 - It's Not Too Late To Plant! with Kevin Raftery

June 8 - Floral Work for Weddings, with Dee Dee Weir. Preregistration necessary, \$10.00 class and material fee, limited to 15 people.

June 29 - Integrated Pest Management for Home Gardeners, with Ruth Troetschler

July 13 - Food Preserving I, with Gloria Brown. \$6.00. Drying and freezing fruits and vegetables, making soup mixes, drying meats and fish, making canned breads, and jam.

July 20 - Food Preserving II, with Estelle West. \$6.00. A hands-on class on canning.

Please call or come by the store to pre-register for classes!

Store Report

Great changes have come over the store for the last 3 weeks. Carol, Judy and Dee Dee along with an army of very talented volunteers have given the store a much needed face-lift and floor-lift. From the bottom of our heart, we thank:

John Morris, Alan Selfridge and Tommy Derrick for rebuilding and cementing the floor,
David Vick for re-wiring and paneling walls,
Tommy Derrick for spray painting the entire store interior,
Dan Sarouhan for use of his paint sprayer,
Bob at California Paint & Wallpaper for donation of paint,
Peter Spitzer for removing the old air conditioner,
Gary Stoner and Tommy Derrick for hanging lath,
Our landlady, Roberta Yee, for donation of floor materials,
Gene & Mary Weir, Guy Mathews, Barbara Ingman, Kitzi Schweinsberger, Keith and Ian Barner, for their hard work and talent, AND
aforementioned store staff for feeding workers, clean-up, work and organization

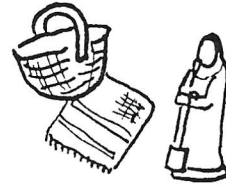
COME SEE THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR!!!!



Store Sale

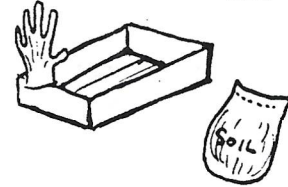
As a result of our house cleaning we are moving old stock out at sale prices.

Kenyan baskets, were \$23, are now \$19
Large macrame plant hanger, was \$35, is now \$25
St **Fiacre** Garden Statue, was \$25, now \$15
Handwoven African cloth, was \$13, now \$10
Plant Joy fertilizer, was \$7, now \$5



New items:

All leather gloves in 2 sizes \$6.25
Flat kits; boards, nails, instructions \$5.50
Potting Soil in ½ cu ft bags \$2.50
Codling Moth Pheromone Traps
New Books



New Seeds:

Vernandon, "Haricot Vert" French Filet bean
Baby French carrot
Scented basil
Edible flowers
Golden bell pepper
Salad Greens - radicchio, corn salad, sorrel, rockette, upland cress
Flowers - Baby's Breath, Forget-me-not, strawberry clover.



Coming soon:

Straw hats and Preying mantis egg cases



The spring has been warm, dry and inspiring to gardeners. Vegetable seedlings are arriving weekly, the California natives are blooming, cocoa bean hulls are stacked. We welcome your visit and are always here to answer questions.

Hooray For Our Side

The State of California designated 28 counties as "Emergency Pest Eradication Areas" in a recent action that gave the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture emergency powers to eradicate 7 pests while exempting Food and Ag. from having to follow environmental and constitutional guidelines.

The campaign was to start in tiny Felton, with the spraying of Carbaryl and Bacillus Thuringiensis to control the gypsy moth. Predictably, the town of Felton and the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors sued the state March 13, 1985 to stop the scheduled spraying, arguing the case on 7 separate issues. In a heartwarming upset, the Superior Court judge ruled in the citizens' favor, declaring that the state had a mandate to follow Food and Agriculture Code, Section 14006, which declares that a restricted substance (such as Carbaryl), may be used only when a non-restricted substance (in this case, B.T., which affects only caterpillars) would not be effective. The judge declared it "patently unreasonable" to choose a dangerous pesticide over a benign substance when both are effective. His feeling is that Environmental Impact Reports need to be filed in these types of actions, as required in CEQA (California's Environmental Quality Act).

The State of California has appealed the case. A good move, as all 7 points will be heard again at a higher level. The decision made on the appeal will set a precedent state-wide. The judgement so far is binding only in Santa Cruz County. Remember, the state action included 28 counties (including most all of you who read this). The citizens spearheading the action in Felton can be contacted through: People For A Safe Felton, Karen Van Schaack, P.O. Box 740, Felton, CA 95018. Legal fees have been substantial already; they need financial and moral help to continue through the appellate court. They will also share information with anyone facing similar action.

Robin's Report From Top of the World

The last few months have been just gorgeous - warm sunny days for many weeks, though fear of drought is ever growing. Two winter months without a drop of rain was finally broken by a week of snow which relieved the parched earth and left us briefly snowbound. We've had some rain since and sure hope we get more through the next 2 or 3 months.

The nice weather has dictated long days in the garden though we're justifiably chary of planting anything that can't take the unexpected like snow and/or frost through April and May. On the other hand, if we are in a drought it seems important to get as much planted as possible while there is still sufficient moisture.

Staff and apprentices are working together convivially. Peter has been enticed into cooking totally vegan meals twice weekly with great results. Gary is practicing Spanish in preparation for working in Mexico and moonlights each night after a day in the garden, tending to the goats. Dave and Cindy are busy finishing work on One Circle and expecting their first child this fall.

Take a look at the March, 1985 issue of Horticulture if possible. The Willits site is featured in a dazzling centerfold and well-written article. Over half the article is about digging and the author has painted it with such beauty, you want to go out and dig for the sheer exhilaration of it - never mind that you could also raise food this way. The Willits News also just printed a two-part feature, that has made John somewhat of a local celebrity.

1985 is going so much better than last year. Our only problem is with cash flow. Foundation funding has been difficult for Ecology Action to obtain because of our research and development focus. Foundations prefer to fund an already successful program with high replicability, a large well-defined target group or audience, and a one-time rather than ongoing need. As always, we need an expanded support group and full-time energy is going into developing a better long-term strategy for funding. Book sales and memberships continue to cover basic expenses like printing, postage, seeds and tools, but John has not been paid for 6 months and I am driving a bus to meet our immediate living expenses. Ecology Action's financial needs are modest. Five commitments from businesses or other organizations for \$500/month would fill in basic funding for the project, including staff salaries, apprentice housing and training and other needs. Let us know any ideas you have and

Many MANY THANKS to all of you who renewed membership with Ecology Action. The support is greatly appreciated!



Another Quotable

"What I stand for is what I stand on". Wendell Berry

Livestock Genetic Pool

The C.S. Fund is looking for breeding pairs of minor livestock breeds for their Calif. Coastal property, especially those animals under threat of extinction. Additionally they seek information on others interested in minor breeds. For more information about their Genetic Diversity project contact Hans Jorgensen, 469 Tohemian Hwy, Freestone, CA 95472 3


Thank-you

Many thanks to the CS Fund, that made a contribution of \$15,000 to the mini-farm project in 1984.

Thou Shall Not Despoil the Earth


An environmental slide show based on the "Eleventh Commandment", "The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, thou shall not despoil the Earth, nor destroy the life thereon." (Psalm 24), will be featured Fri, April 26, 1985 at 8pm in Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. The address is 2515 Fillmore (corner of Jackson). Admission is free, donations are welcome. For more information contact Robert Kime, Box 14727, S.F., CA 94114.

Chili Peppers



Craig Dremann of Redwood City Seed Co., Box 361, Redwood City, CA 94064 offers a great booklet, Chili Peppers in California, with detailed information on 19 different chilis, including drawings and a "hotness scale". \$3.25 including postage. Ask also for his catalog supplement offering seeds of several Zapotec Indian varieties.

Seaweed Product




Peter Tonge reported in the Christian Science Monitor, (Feb., 5, 1985) about a new fertilizer of processed seaweed, fish waste and rock powders. It is a rich nutrient blend and also seems to reduce pest problems. The product is unique and timely. Says the developer, "I see a dozen different people selling milled peat at trade shows but no one selling milled seaweed". For more information write to Sea Harvest Company, 47 Winston Grove, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M8Y 2L1

More Research into Organics Favored

"The Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, in a surprising result, found that nearly half of Iowa's farmers favor allocating more government research money to assess the feasibility of organic farming methods. The survey, conducted last fall by the Iowa State Univ. Cooperative Extension Service and the ISU Agricultural Experiment Station, included responses from 1,585 randomly selected farm families. 47% favored more funding, 26% were uncertain, and 27% were opposed."

Reported in the Alternative Agriculture News

Tax Break for Trees



"Wind is the main cause of soil erosion in South Dakota and shelterbelts are one of the best ways to reduce wind erosion. To encourage farmers to plant and maintain shelterbelts, the South Dakota legislature has exempted from property tax land on which trees have been planted."

Reported in the Land Stewardship Letter

Food Reserves

"If all the farmers stopped producing food today, (the world's stockpile of food would last) two months maybe. When the ready supply exceeds more than two months' need, prices drop drastically". From the S.F. Chron. Grab Bag

New Film on Recycling

Bullfrog Films, Oley, PA 19547, offers a 29 min. film on recycling. Recommended for classroom or community use. Rental is \$55.

Job, People, and Apprenticeship Opportunities

Terence Welch, who worked with Ecology Action for several years is back in the Bay Area after 5 years running a tree nursery in Hawaii. He and his small family are looking for a caretaking position in a rural area within a 3 hour drive of Palo Alto. He is a wonderful gardener with an extensive working knowledge of trees and their care. Write him at Box 60836, Palo Alto 94306 if you know of any possibilities. Or call 851-4527.

Apprenticeship on New England area farms is coordinated by NEWOOF (New England Worker on Organic Farms) of The New England Small Farm Inst. (NESFI). Experiences can include work with vegetable farming, livestock, maple sugaring, draft horse logging, and more. Contact NEWOOF Regional Coordinator, NESFI, Box 937, Belchertown, MA 01007.

The Saratoga Community Garden is looking for a Head Gardener for their 3-acre non-profit instructional garden. Salary is negotiable; experience in organic gardening a must. Write them at Box 756, Saratoga, CA 95071 or call 408-354-8648. They need someone immediately!

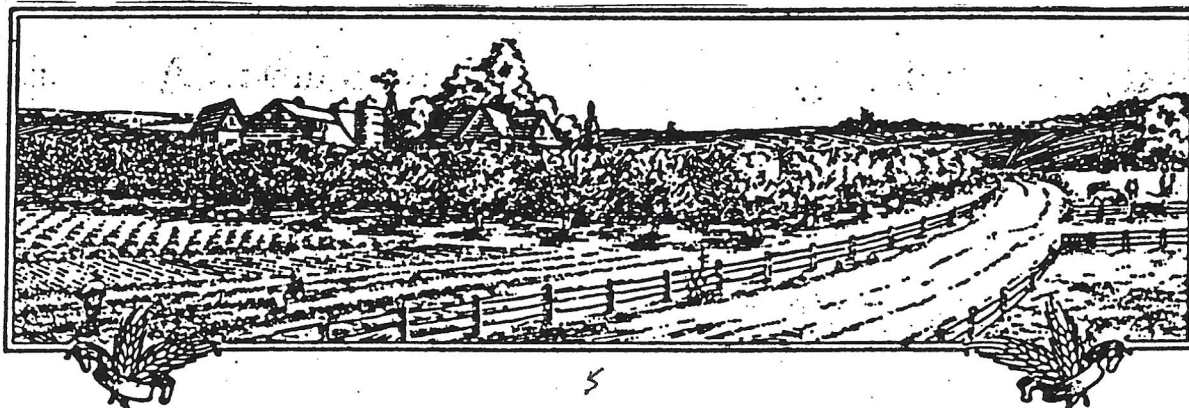
A Farmhand is needed at the White House Ranch in Colorado Springs, 30 hours a week from May 1 through September 30. The ranch is part of a "living history" program demonstrating gardening and lifestyles of the late 1800's. Contact Ward Cheney, The Urban Farm and Garden Institute, 1931 North Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80907. Phone (303) 471-9037, 578-6640, or 578-6891. Deadline says March 15 for this.

White Oak Farm is looking for a minimally-paid intern to help grow and manage an organic farm. Room also provided. Write Roland Barl, White Oak Farm, Box 937, Belchertown, MA 01007.

Work-exchange apprenticeships are available in the mountains of NW Wyoming near Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Instruction on organic intensive vegetable production emphasizing high altitude techniques will be provided along with room and board. Sessions are from June 1 to July 15 and Aug. 1 to Sept. 15. Contact Judy Allen, Fall Creek Gardens, Box 20332, Jackson WY 83001 or call 307-733-3152.

Wendy Berry is starting a small childrens' education program in a village in North India in the foothills of the Himalayas. She is looking for someone interested in working with children and villagers on a community educational biodynamic/Fr. intensive garden. It would be a 1 or 2 year commitment. This is in association with a Hindu temple. You can write her at 5 Elm Court, Woodacre, CA 94973 or call (415) 488-0238.

Apprenticeships are available at Timberleaf Farm in W. Virginia with Steve and Judy Rioch. Steve and Judy are going all out to make their site a successful bio-intensive economic mini-farm and research and testing center similar to the Common Ground Mini-Farm in Willits. Write for more information on apprenticeship at Timberleaf or Common Ground: Ecology Action, 5798 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490.



News From Bob Gow's Farm

Bob writes the past season welded them together as a farm/market garden/business. Two acres of beds prepared with a combination of rototiller, Guatemalan hoe and biointensive approaches grossed somewhere between \$27,000 and \$30,000. Primary crops were Spinach (7000 lbs), parsley (40-50 lbs.), basil (600 sq. ft. planted - sold fresh and preserved), and flowers (one acre planted - both fresh cut and everlasting). Flowers are proving to be an economic mainstay. They sell about \$200.00 a week of fresh flowers and market dried flower arrangements all winter at shows. Apprenticeships are available starting April 1. They charge \$150 a month for housing for the first 4 months and then pay \$200.00/month for the last 3 months of the season (with room and board free). Bob stresses hard work and a driving interest in real market gardening. Write him at Rt 2, Box 51, Zionville, NC 28698.

News From Brian and Anke Hoeve

Brian writes from Brazil: "Over here we are also in the rainy season. A mere 40" in two months, plus the fact that the garden is in a low spot, creates quite some slop . . . We have finished the first 21 beds with a 3' deep drainage ditch above and below them. The ditches are filled with bamboo covered with twigs and then soil. The beds drip their excess water into the bamboo. . . Now we've planted carrots, cucumber, lettuce, eggplant, green pepper, peanuts, tomatoes, radishes, melon and sunflowers. Still there only exists one type of each vegetable seed which comes from the government of Brazil. They are all overbred hybrids.

"The school, about 7 km from here really wants me to get something started there, and since the children eat lunch there, it would also be good to help with cooking because malnutrition is a bad problem here. All starch and no veggies. We'll probably begin there next school year."

Brian and Anke's second child, Matthias, was born happily at home December 31, 1984. Congratulations and many good wishes!!!!

Ecology Action/Common Ground
5798 Ridgewood Road
Willits, CA 95490

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