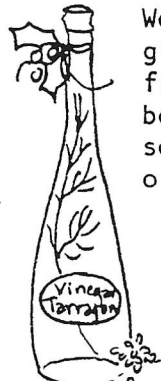


Free Classes will be meeting on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at the center. Classes usually last until noon or 1 p.m. We'll be printing a more complete schedule in January...so stay tuned!

- December 4 - Fruit Tree Selection - with Kevin Raftery
- December 11- Fruit Tree Pruning - with Kevin Raftery, to be followed by some hands-on workshops to be announced at the class
- January 8 - Pruning Roses - A lecture and demonstration with Judy and Tommy Derrick. This class will begin at the store and move a few blocks away to the Derrick's rose garden.
- January 15 and 22- Beginning Beekeeping - with Frank Wyatt. This will be a two-part class. This is a good time to begin getting set up and ready for bees in your backyard!


Store News



We have some wonderful gifts for gardeners and plant lovers - calendars, hyacinth glasses for growing these fragrant flowers indoors, handmade beeswax candles from Mark and Jill Jensen, herbal vinegars from the Saratoga Community garden, beginning gardener's gift sets, and much more. We have gift certificates, too, so your favorite gardener can come in and browse and choose something special - or blow it all on bone meal! Some other suggestions:


- Smith & Hawken tool
- handmade redwood flat
- Haw's watering can
- selection of vegetable, herb and flower seeds
- soil test kit
- membership in Ecology Action

- a U-bar digger
- enough fertilizer and seed for a 100 sq. ft. garden
- safe insect control supplies
- pruning tools
- books on gardening, herbs, edible landscaping, vegetarian cooking




Winter is our lean time -- when you purchase a holiday gift from us, you also support our non-profit work and help us survive until spring planting comes round again. You can help us a lot by posting the flier on the back page wherever you work, study, play or shop.

We're beginning to carry California native plants from Yerba Buena Nursery for drought-tolerant landscaping, and we'll take special orders. Potato sets will be arriving in December, and berry plants, asparagus, and artichokes soon after.



Between Thanksgiving and Christmas we'll have a pot of tea on the stove and goodies to share - come say hello and rest a while!

Board Meeting



Members of the current Ecology Action Board are Dena Mossar, president, Judy Derrick, Vice-President, Robin Leler, Secretary-Treasurer, Don Dilley, John Jeavons, Joe Kroeten, Betsy Jeavons and Kevin Raftery. The next board meeting will be Thursday, January 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Betsy's house, 1044 Maddux, Palo Alto. Anyone interested in the ongoing direction of Ecology Action and the store is welcome to sit in on board meetings.

Our store cats, Dandelion and Willow, have settled in contentedly, and our rat and mouse problem is completely gone. The cats have had many adventures already - Dandelion spent two days and nights at the vet, recuperating from his last night out, and chalking up a \$65 bill. In December we will be having them neutered. All this costs money so we've established a "cat fund"; cat lovers are needed to contribute!

Most important, we will need someone to care for the cats between Christmas and New Year's, when the store will be closed and we will be away. They could either go home with someone for the week, or be cared for here at the store twice a day. They are sweet and affectionate, and keep each other busy. We would provide food. Please call soon if you can help!

Robin's Notes from Top of the World

Winter is coming, and most amazingly, we seem to be ready for it. The first rains in October drenched our skeletal house, but by the time the next rains came 2½ weeks later, we were snug and dry and could enjoy watching the electrical storm over the hills. Dan and Paka put up siding and I got to nail down shingles while Shawna did a wonderful job of babysitting, day after day. It got tight for awhile, with some of us living in tents that were starting to seep rain and cooking for 10 or more people in the tiny trailer kitchen. The upper spring dried up in late September so hauling water from the main spring storage tank, which happens to be at the bottom end of the property, became another daily chore.

Through it all, we've been blessed with many hardworking friends and visitors. Gaye Carlson came up to nail the second level floor together. Don Dilley dug and rocked trenches uphill from the garden to divert rainwater. The fortieth growing bed went in last week with raspberries donated by David MacIntyre. Most of the beds have been planted now in winter cover crops. Most frequently used are frost tolerant white clover, winter hairy vetch and fava beans--often all three are interspersed in each bed. Two apprentices, Anke and Brian Hoeve, and their 8 month old son, Bjarne, arrived in late September. Brian is a Dutch-Canadian from De Kalb, Illinois. Anke comes from Dusseldorf, Germany. They met and married at Emerson College in England studying respectively in the Rural Development and Bio-Dynamic Agriculture programs. We are very pleased to have them here. They are both energetic and hard-working with a great interest in the same areas we've been working on. They bake bread and have taught me a lot about how to use and enjoy all the extra produce from the garden. They have decided to stay and moved into the house trailer for the year. Bjarne is a delight and a great companion for Annaliese.

The last two weeks of October brought Steve and Judy Rioch from West Virginia. Steve is a former airline pilot who moved with his family to a back-woods home. They are most interested in eventually setting up their working farmstead as an East Coast site for Ecology Action, doing research and education in intensive food production. It was an intensive work week. They arrived at the breakfast table each morning with notepads (plural) and pencils in hand ready to talk and plan with John until well after dark. Steve also went to work helping install the wood-burning stove after two days of cold rain and winds up to 50 miles an hour. Unfortunately in the week here there was only 1 day of sun. So much for California's winter weather! Their visit was both productive and enjoyable as we all shared common goals and anecdotes about country living. Steve and Judy are very energetic and are very aware of the importance of biointensive mini-farming.

Our house, though only 60% finished, is gorgeous and livable. It is rather like an oversize cabin with lots of south-facing windows and French doors to let in light, air and warmth (when it's not raining). The windows are covered with clear plastic for now. As winter gets nearer we have added a second inside layer to the coldest ones. Real glass will go in next year. The roof is very steep--a 45 degree pitch--so we could fit almost a second floor underneath. This loft will be the girls' room in about two weeks, as soon as

a safety railing is finished. A wood-burning Ashley stove heats the immediate area reasonably well. As soon as we can afford it, our next priority will be insulation and wallboard in the ceiling, walls and under the house. The floor is plywood and will remain so indefinitely. We have no bathroom yet and no running water. I did bring a gas range which is now hooked up to a small propane tank and stands proudly in the "kitchen". There are no inside walls. We've stacked boxes of belongings where walls will be someday. Next year's plans also call for a large stone wall to be built down the center length of the house to store heat.

Shawna rides the bus to school. It takes us 6 minutes to drive the two miles of dirt road to the bus which picks up at 7:45. You don't see many bicycles in front of Shawna's school, but it takes nearly ten school buses to pick up all the country kids. Halloween was a favorite event in town. Trick or Treating is not too practical but everyone dresses up for a big masquerade ball and school carnival.

November 8 we woke up to a big surprise - a light snow covered our house and the hillside below. The kids were enchanted and made a little snowman before it all melted in the afternoon.

Our invitation still stands. Anyone who wants to bring a sleeping bag and help out for a while is welcome. We'll provide food and fun. In addition, our most pressing current need is for a small trailer or other inexpensive housing so we can take on two or so more apprentices.

Place Opening

A small 8 acre farm that is also a non-profit center for art and ecology is looking for one person or two interested in developing the farm as a working example of bio-dynamic growing practices along with principles from Bill Mollison and Alan Chadwick. It is envisioned that the farm would be owned cooperatively as a community land trust after a trial period. Financial requirements are \$75 a month for maintenance. This could eventually be met through the offering of classes, workshops and so on.

The site is situated in the Endless Mountains, just west of the Poconos in northeast Pennsylvania. The farm has been maintained organically for the past ten years and includes a small orchard, fields, pond, wood and several buildings. If you are interested in exploring this offer, contact Hann Rucquoi, R.D. 2, Box 141, Dalton, PA 18414.

New Book

Desert Harvest: A Guide to Vegetable Gardening in Arid Lands, by Jane Nyhuis. We have not read this book yet, but it will be of definite interest to those gardening in the American Southwest. Available for \$6.00 from Meals for Millions/Freedom from Hunger Foundation, P.O. Box 42622, Tucson, AZ 85733.

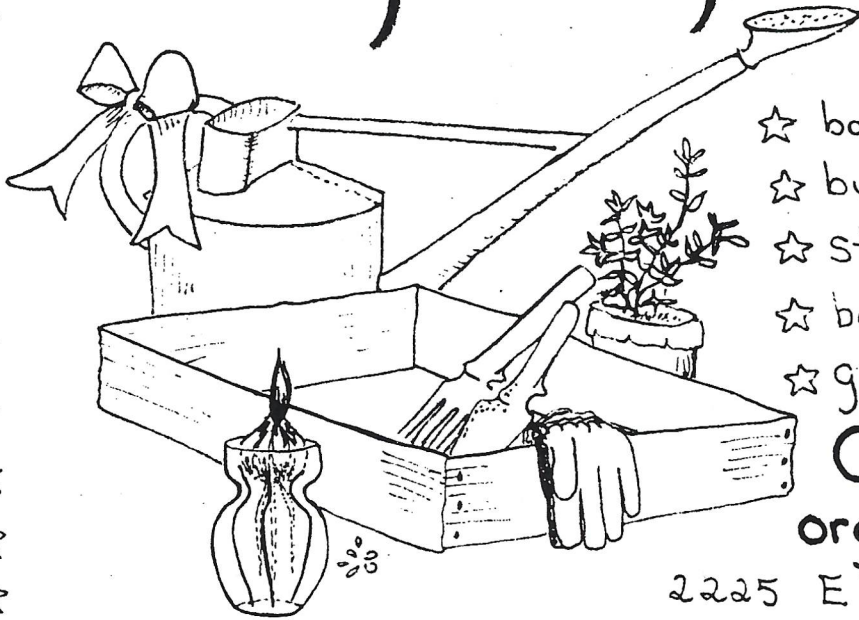
Thank You Ted

Many thanks to Ted Grosser, head of Volunteers in International Service and Awareness, and surely the most dedicated individual we've ever met. In spite of being swamped with VIISA's needs, he saw that we were loaned four good tents for the summer, sent a volunteer carpenter, and continues to mention our program to his many contacts.

Gardeners Looking for a Home

Nana Simone, manager of the Saratoga Community Garden Project, will be leaving Saratoga December 15. She and Penny Houghland, Counselor, are seeking a housing situation, preferably a cottage, in exchange for caretaking, gardening, landscaping or animal care. They can also pay some rent. Nana is a skilled gardener and has put in long hours of hard work keeping the Saratoga project going. Their number is 408-741-1860.

Gifts for Growing



- ☆ botanical calendars
- ☆ bulbs; herb & flower seeds
- ☆ strong hand tools
- ☆ books on gardening
- ☆ gift certificates

Common Ground
organic garden supply

2225 El Camino - Palo Alto
Tu - Sat 10-5 328-6752
non-profit

Come enjoy a cup of
herb tea & some goodies

Handicapped Gardeners Magazine

Growth Point, an excellent publication for disabled gardeners, is available for £8 (eight British pounds) a year, £10 for airmail delivery, from Horticultural Therapy, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset BA11 3DW, England.

Master Gardeners

The Master Gardener Program needs people who would like to become teachers, working in the community on a volunteer basis to spread enthusiasm and knowledge about gardening. If you would like to become a Master Gardener, contact Nancy - Garrison at the University of California Cooperative Extension - her number is 408-299-2635.

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