

Classes

Classes are taking a winter break and will resume in January, when we will do a pruning workshop. In the meantime...

Wreath Workshop Saturday, November 19, 10am to 4 pm.

Make a unique and beautiful wreath to take home for the holidays - and all year 'round! We'll work together, using a wide variety of materials we've collected, to create our own individualized wreaths, out of cones, pods, branches, leaves, moss, lichen, bark, herbs, flowers, grasses, feathers....the list is as endless as your imagination. We'll be charging \$15 for the day and some materials; pre-registration is necessary because class size is limited. Participants will be sent instructions about what to bring. If you plan to come, start collecting materials now. We can also use extra dried materials if anyone has some to donate.

Store News

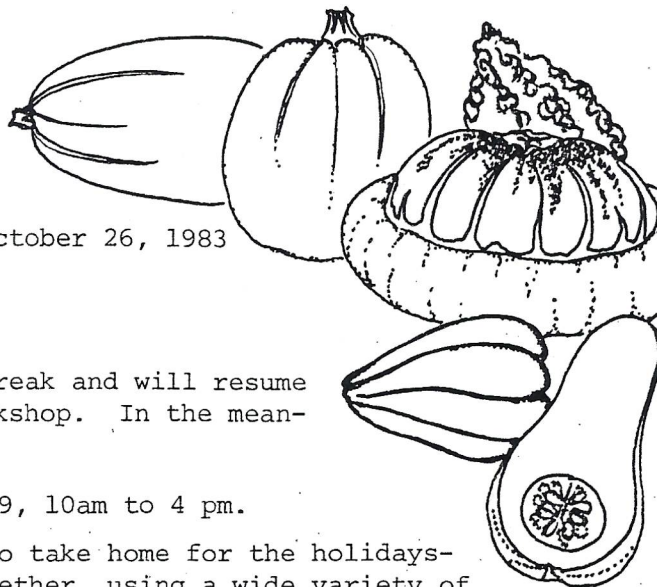
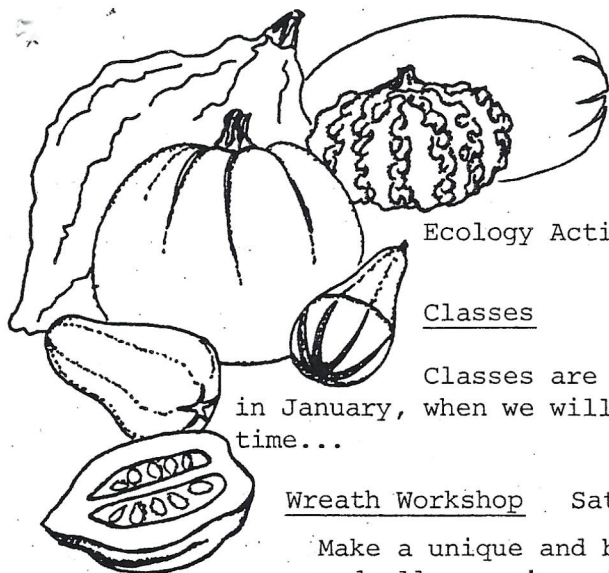
Our bulbs are disappearing fast - they make beautiful holiday gifts! How about a pot with a few daffodils planted in it, ready to pop up in spring? Or a beautiful amaryllis that will bloom spectacularly indoors in the middle of winter? We have delicate glass hyacinth vases, specially shaped for indoor forcing of those scented flowers, and a special fritillaria that's repellent to gophers! As the gift-giving season nears, remember us for unique and practical surprises for the gardeners on your list - gift certificates, too!

We've all enjoyed toting our stuff to work in sisal bags that Tommy Derrick brought back from his visit to Kenya, where one of our future projects is located. The bags are strong, beautiful, and spacious, and come in a variety of shapes and colors...and we'll be selling them in the store soon! Our former apprentice and store worker, Beth Pinckney, who lives in Kenya with her husband Coty and newborn daughter Erin, will be buying them there and shipping them to us. We're excited about them and pleased to be able to have some of Kenya in our store, as our connection grows with that beautiful country.

Saturday visitors to the store will be meeting our newest staff member, Dee Dee Weir. Dee Dee is a home gardener who has been using bio-intensive methods for several seasons and has struggled with the clay and the snails as much as the rest of us. She also brings to us considerable experience in the business world, and we're hoping she can help us streamline some of our admittedly funky procedures! She's also helping us with publicity, press releases and posters, and will be helping to schedule classes in the new year. It's wonderful to have her here as a Saturday "regular".

Bountiful Gardens

Attached is our latest flier for our mail-order branch, Bountiful Gardens. We feel very proud of its professional look, and are grateful for the creative eye and hard work of Sahnta Pannutti and Bill Bruneau, who put it together. We're really excited about our big catalog, including organically grown seeds from Chase, that will be coming out soon--Bill and Sahnta are working on it now!



## Wes Jackson visits

Wes Jackson, director of the Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, and author of New Roots for Agriculture, will be speaking at Stanford on Wednesday evening, November 16. For more information, call Jennifer Kreger at 328-8433 or 497-4723. The Land Institute is an excellent organization doing research and teaching, especially in the field of perennial grain raising.

## Robin's Notes from Top of the World

Oh, the simple life! . . . but how doggone complicated it is. I seem to spend most of my time driving (or avoiding driving, or recovering from driving). Each dawn finds Shawna scrambling through breakfast so we can drive the 2 miles to the bus stop. Every morning I think longingly of a horse (or even a small dirt bike). Then there are also trips to town for groceries, laundry (thank goodness Anna is almost out-of-diapers), building supplies and other errands. Soon we'll start nursery school ("I need a friend", says Anna, now 2½). Not too surprisingly the summer has been marked for me by car trouble. John's vintage VW bus is telling us it can't last forever and each month we coax it into going a few more trips. Now after having been towed to a garage 3 times and replacing a few vital organs each time, we may be somewhat reliable for awhile.

The days at home are much cherished. Deer are quite common now. A family of grouse made their home in the garden. We find droppings from fox and hear them yapping at night. John and Brian got a lovely crop of dried statice in beautiful hues from rose through lavender, blue and violet. They look so nice hanging from the ceiling, but are disappearing now as we sell bunches in Willits and Palo Alto.

Our second goat, Dusty Moonwalker, had two babies in July, both cute and wise and lively as little goats are. Unfortunately they were both males and we had long traumatic discussions with Shawna about why they could not be kept forever. Finally they were butchered and the meat used while Shawna was away at school. It was quite a treat after a year of beans, rice and potatoes.

We are delighted with our new apprentice, Laurent Gaudreau, who arrived from Pittsburgh wearing a "Happiness is a Hot Compost Pile" T-shirt. He is experienced in backpacking and wilderness living, so he took to our steep hillside like a fish to water. He is teaching us French and learning to square dance in his spare time. Laurent is skilled at working with people and will spend 3 years here learning in-depth gardening and mini-farming.

The project in Kenya is moving along. The land is almost secure. A working plan is nearing completion. Staff is slowly lining up. Mark Zimsky, a friend of Brian and Anke's from Emerson College is very interested in going to Kenya to teach bio-intensive food raising. He is already experienced in gardening and will spend 6 weeks at the Willits site starting next week.

Willits is growing; a McDonald's is going in by Christmas, right across 101 from the old A&W stand. Willits recently got some bad press coverage on 60 Minutes, depicting it as a town of police brutality, dope growers and bad water. I don't see it that way. There is a lot of community spirit, lots of kids, animals, families, neighborliness. While other districts are closing schools, Willits has the largest elementary school in California. It is overcrowded, but there is not money to build more schools. Much to everyone's relief the school board decided this year to enroll two alternative schools in the district so they could receive public funding; but the State of California stepped in and denied the decision. In spite of limited funds, there is a lot to be said for the school. An outstanding music program starts in kindergarten and they've managed to attract an arts grant to utilize local artists of all kinds in the school program.

That's about all the news. John, Brian and Laurent are getting the garden ready for winter rain; strengthening steps, harvesting crops, shelling endless amounts of beans and grains. We're enjoying beautiful fall weather and looking forward to a cozy winter.