

Classes at the Center

Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m., at 2225 El Camino Real, in Palo Alto. Classes usually last until about noon. We ask a dollar donation from those who can afford it.

September 3 - Seed Propagation with Kevin Raftery

September 10 - Companion Planting with Kevin Raftery

September 17 - Insects with Kevin Raftery


September 24 - Cover Crops with Dave Duhon

October 1 - Mini-Greenhouses with Dan Torjusen, designer of Ecology Action's bed-sized portable greenhouses and designer of John Jeavons' home in Willits, CA.

October 8 - Fruit Tree Selection & Care with Kevin Raftery. Kevin will discuss the best varieties of fruit trees for this area and how to keep them healthy. (Pruning will be covered in a separate class during the winter.)

October 15 - Special Slide Shows "CARE for the Earth," produced by project CARE, is about environmental problems in the Third World and their various solutions. Some fascinating pictures of soil erosion control and reforestation projects are included in the show. We will also show the filmstrip "As Strong as the Land", produced by the Methodist Church, about the lives of rural women in the Third World, and their roles in agriculture. We'll follow up with some slides and information about our own work and how it is reaching out to parts of the world where there is soil loss and starvation. What we do in our own backyards can be a link to the struggles of people everywhere for self-sufficiency. Come and learn something about our human family of gardeners!

Love Those Letters!



Frank Lindahl writes from Sacramento: "In How to Grow More Veges... you recommend Burpee's Triple Treat Pumpkins. I grew them the first time I used the method in a heavy clay soil and averaged 24 pounds per plant, almost twice your estimated yield for an advanced gardener. I realize there are reasons for keeping your figures conservative, but this is ridiculous!" Also, "There is one additional column I have found useful to add to your charts. That is the actual measured diameter of the variety grown. This is helpful in spacing the following year."

Mold and Mildew on Squash?

The gardeners at Mother's Eco-Village recommend Equisetum Preparation #508 to build strength in the foliage. It can be ordered through Josephine Porter, RD 1, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Robin's Notes from Top of the World

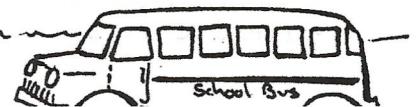
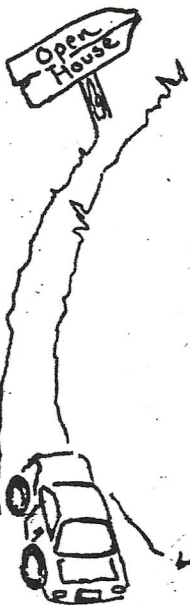
Things have settled down considerably here, though each week brings visitors and friends. Tommy Derrick and his daughter Lynne arrived for an intensive week with John before a trip to Kenya as Ecology Action's representative in negotiations on the Manor House project. We think we work pretty hard here, but Tommy and Lynne hit the garden like a whirlwind, digging and planting 11 garden beds in 6 working days and topping it off by scouring the house, even cleaning the drip pans in my stove. Tommy and Lynne are in Kenya now meeting with people. Part of his plan is to break ground on the first beds in his time there to emphasize Ecology Action's commitment to food raising as a first priority. We'll report more after their return.

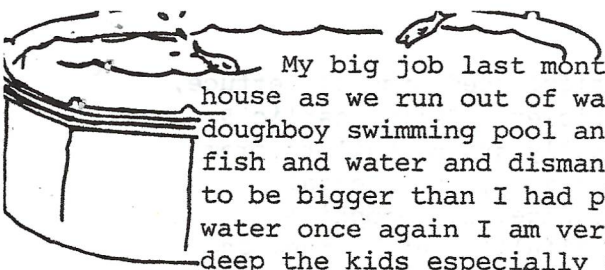
Mid-July we hosted the Ecology Action Board Meeting here at the Willits site with a surprisingly good turn-out considering the distance many had to come. We talked more about the project in Kenya, the new mail-order venture (Bountiful Gardens), publishing, and many other topics, but especially about progress at the West Virginia site of Steve and Judy Rioch. Kevin had just been there to teach several weekend workshops and had nothing but enthusiastic people. Kevin says they are the best bio-intensive growing beds he's ever seen! It looks like Steve and Judy's place will be an excellent place for people on the east coast to observe and learn mini-farming in action.

In August Mike and Pat DeMarco came for four days. They had written us earlier about gardening in Alaska, and had brought wonderful pictures and stories of their experiences. Compost initially took 2 years to decompose in the cold. In some areas digging down you can hit permafrost before getting very far. They built a wonderfully lush greenhouse for summer use, but winter brings not just freezing temperatures but nearly continuous darkness also. We enjoyed hearing about their adventures and their help in the garden and with the water line was appreciated!

The largest visit of the past month was the August garden tour. Sixty people (plus children of all ages) crowded the hillside. Cars, trucks and a huge old schoolbus from Oregon lined the dirt road for the day as people arrived. As people gathered John tried to find out a little about each person or group and we found a large percentage of people gardening and farming in a serious way. Many people stayed through the afternoon to share experiences in growing, marketing, networking and other self-reliance strategies for this area. We learned a lot and felt a refreshing support and fellowship from the people here.

The garden has now grown to its 1983 goal of 80 beds and some spring beds are being harvested and replanted for fall. We are marketing tasty lettuce, scallions, shallots, zucchini, and radishes in town twice weekly, testing the potential for a full-scale market garden next year. John will soon be working on timing for year-round lettuce which can be tricky. In cool weather it all grows so slowly we're never quite sure if we can fill the orders, then a heat-wave can send it to seed. We are working toward a steady supply. The biggest garden chore is watering. The entire garden often takes 2 people 2 hours to water, twice a day. In addition, newly planted beds and flats must be watered around noon and when the temperature soars above 100 F (as it did most of last week) we water some areas 3 times a day.





My big job last month was to secure water for the orchard up by the house as we run out of water up top during August. I purchased a used doughboy swimming pool and spent a day in the woods bailing out mud and fish and water and dismantled it to bring the pool home. It turned out to be bigger than I had planned for but now that it is up and holding water once again I am very pleased with it. At 15 feet across and 4 feet deep the kids especially enjoy having a swimming pool close by on the hot dry days. It did turn out to be a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, but we hope to solve that with some fish and have begun with 10 goldfish.

We've put Heather and Shawna (aged 10 and 6) to work this summer picking and weighing berries, cutting strawflowers, and cleaning shallots and garlic, but we sweetened the pot somewhat with horseback riding lessons. The thing they miss the most up here now is ice cream and pop-sicles. I think I probably miss a refrigerator most. Summer seems to be flying by and school starts in just one week. Only two rattlesnakes came close to the house this year and seemed small compared to last year's scares. They seem to travel most during a one or two month period. People say it's rare to see rattlesnakes after July 4th. We've sanded and stained most of the outside of the house; a job we should have done before last winter, but at least it will be finished before this year's rain. Next month we plan to get a tidy wood pile ready for winter.

We don't know yet what winter will bring. Brian and Anke, and baby Bjarne who now walks and talks, will be leaving in October for an exciting project in Brazil. Paka and Carol are going off to their palapa in Jalapa, Mexico in November to grow vegetables by the beach. Two potential apprentices will be coming in September to try out, and we are eager to meet and work with them. I myself am planning a cozy winter of sewing, canning applesauce, reading and planning for next summer.

We're Floored

The office area at the store has a rebuilt solid new floor, with many thanks to Jay Williams of Evergreen Woodworking who donated two days of hard work and entertained us with carpenter puns and a wry sense of humor. Jay does careful work, specializing in fine furniture building and repair, custom orders, and finish carpentry. He is also taking orders for mini-greenhouses built according to Ecology Action's plans. He has our hearty recommendation and can be contacted for estimates at 415-494-3969 from 9 to 12 a.m.

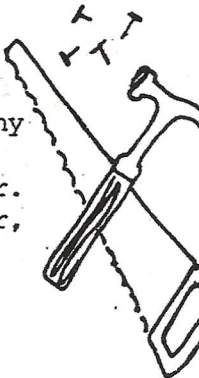
On Jay's floor we reorganized our office space, putting in a new stand-up work area to better handle our increased mail-order sales. We are very pleased with the results!

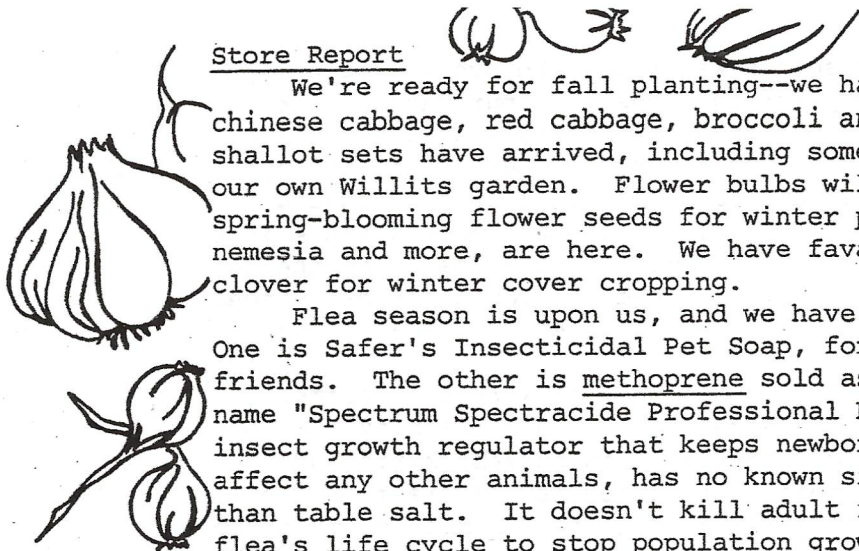
Apprentice Openings

The Saratoga Community Garden has 4 openings for apprentices -- in addition to gardening there are opportunities to work with various community education programs and garden oriented small business projects. For more information, write to the Saratoga Community Garden, Apprenticeship Program, Box 756, Saratoga, CA 95070.

Sati a is a non-profit networking organization which arranges temporary work and lists educational opportunities in organic farms and homesteads -- primarily in the Midwest. They can be contacted by writing to Sati a Opportunities Directory, c/o Mark Boudreau, 1245 E. Dayton, #1, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

THANKS





Store Report

We're ready for fall planting--we have beautiful seedlings of lettuce, chinese cabbage, red cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower. Onion, garlic & shallot sets have arrived, including some organically grown shallots from our own Willits garden. Flower bulbs will be here soon, and special spring-blooming flower seeds for winter planting, nigella, nemophila, nemesia and more, are here. We have fava beans, alfalfa, vetch, rye, and clover for winter cover cropping.

Flea season is upon us, and we have two new safe flea-control products. One is Safer's Insecticidal Pet Soap, for killing adult fleas on your furry friends. The other is methoprene sold as an indoor fogger under the brand name "Spectrum Spectracide Professional Flea Control." Methoprene is an insect growth regulator that keeps newborn fleas from growing up. It doesn't affect any other animals, has no known side effects, and is less toxic than table salt. It doesn't kill adult fleas, but works by breaking the flea's life cycle to stop population growth.

Mail order sales have been increasing due to our Bountiful Gardens flyer, the Gardensong PBS TV special, and many other references to our work in the media. Each week we mail books, research reports and information to several different states (we've mailed to all 50) and foreign countries. Yesterday's mail went to Honduras, Chile, Denmark, England, India, Sweden, Australia and Uganda, plus Connecticut, Minnesota, New Mexico, Washington, Maine, Virginia, New York, and, of course, California.

QuickBooks

The California Agricultural Lands Project is developing a series of QuickBooks designed to acquaint journalists with complex agricultural issues. We have not seen it yet, but the first one is on Genetic Engineering of Plants. For more information write or call CALP, 227 Clayton St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Phone 415-751-3144

Also Received in the Mail

A sample issue of Culture and Agriculture, a newsletter of the anthropological study group on agrarian systems was sent to us. The four-page issue is on Amazonian Agriculture and Ecosystems and is a careful review of the topic including past research and topics for future work. The cover letter says the newsletter is sent charge-free and subscribers usually donate a small amount to cover printing and mailing costs and articles/news items for inclusion. For more information write to Culture and Agriculture, Anthropology 317A, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721

Project Life Lab

A hands-on classroom learning program in science, nutrition, and gardening has been developed by the Live Oak School District in Santa Cruz and available through the UC Garden. For more information call Life Lab, 408-476-0319

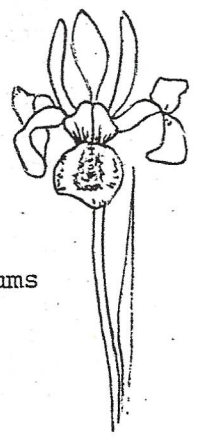
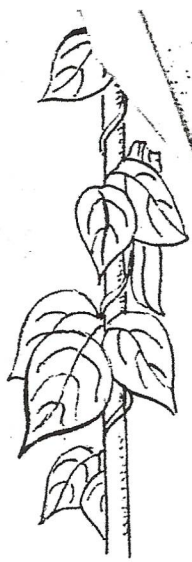
Farmers' Markets

Local Farmers' Markets are open all summer with berries, fruit, organically grown vegetables and greens each weekend. In San Jose, the market is on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Emma Prusch Park, on King Road at the Intersection of Highways 101, 280, and 680. For more information call 926-555. In Palo Alto the Farmers' Market is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon behind the downtown Post Office at 380 Hamilton Street. Information is available at 326-6573 or 327-2811. You can sell your own produce, try someone else's, or just enjoy the scene.

Willits Crops

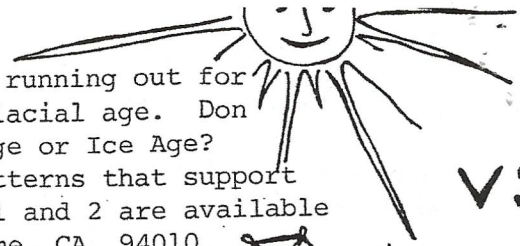
Many people have asked us what we're growing at the Willits site... when it's all written down, we ourselves are amazed at the variety! Here it is:

Cody Alfalfa; Almonds; Grain and Leaf Amaranth
Apple - Arkansas Black, Belleflower, Cox Orange Pippin, Golden Delicious, Gravenstein, Mutsu, Northern Spy, King David, Sierra Beauty
Asparagus; Barley
Beans - Pinto, Black Turtle, Blue Lake Bush, Yellow Eye, Red Peanut, Cranberry, Soldier, Great White Northern, Tepary, Fiskby Soybeans, Altoona Soybeans
Berries, Black, Boysen, Thornless Logan, Cascade, Young, Rasp.
Cabbage - Red, Surehead Green
Cantaloup - Emerald Gem, Hero of Lockinge, Cantalun
Carrots - Red Cored Chantenay, New Red Intermediate
Chard - Fordhook Swiss
Clover - Yellow Sweet, Medium Red, White, Crimson, Alsike, Crimson Medium
Collards - Tree & Georgia
Corn - Stowell Evergreen, Field's Yellow Dent, Hickory Tortilla, Early Sunglow, Teosinte, Strawberry Popcorn, Luther Hill Field, Broomcorn, Hopi White, Hopi Yellow, Norfolk Market Field, Hopi Blue, Black Mexican, Blands Extra Early
Cucumbers - West Indian Gherkins, Burpee Pickler, Armenian, Sigma Dew, Sunnybrook
Oriental & Long Purple Eggplant; Flax
Flowers - Calendula, Zinnia, Penstemon, Aster, Stock, Statice, Cosmos, Flowering Tobacco, Strawflower, Myosotis, Dianthus, Marigolds, Portulace, Alyssum, Iris, Tiger Lily, Rock Rose, Marguerite, Phlomis, Lychnis, Candy Lily, Gladiolas
Garlic; Short Handled Dipper Gourds
Herbs - Lemon Verbena, Salvia Gregii, Lemon Thyme, Lavender, Santolina, Pineapple Sage, Chives, Golden Oregano, Comfrey & Scented Geraniums (lime, lemon, strawberry, apricot, chocolate mint, apple & rose)
Honey Locust; Broad Leeks; Lentils; Bibb, Prizehead, & Romaine Lettuce
Lima Beans - Hopi
Melons - Banana Cantelop Oval, Saudi, Nanaskaana, Nes-Can, Navajo
Pearl & Proso Millet; Mustard; Oats
Onions - Early Mild Bunching, Bedfordshire Champion, Southport Red, Ailsa Craig, Southport Globe, Beltsville Bunching, Red Winter Storage
Parsley - Italian Flat Leaved
Peas - Shumway Cowpeas, Whippoorwill Improved Cowpeas, Alaska Split, Wando
Peanuts - Spanish, Spanish Improved
Peppers - Serrano Chili, Large Bell, Yellow Belle, Pimento, Jalapeno
Potatoes - Red Lasoda, Rose Fir Apple, Kennebec, Irish Cobbler, White Rose
Sugar Pumpkins; French Prune
Pears - Bosc, Comice, Bartlett, Seckel, Flemish Beauty, Turnbull Giant
Radishes - French Breakfast, Comet, White Icicle, Round Black Spanish, China Rose, Burpee's White
Calrose Rice; Roses; Rutabagas, Cereal Rye; Sanfoin, Safflower; Sesame
Shallots; Burpee's Longstanding Spinach
Squash - Spaghetti, Butter Bush, Zucchini, Pink Jumbo, Table King Bush, Acorn, Crookneck, Patty Pan
Strawberries - Ogallala, Tioga
Sunflowers
Tomato - Sweeties, Cold Set, Sunray, Golden Sunrise, Indian River, Long Keeper, Best of All, Ace 55, New Early Red, Cherry, Red Cherry
Connecticut Cigar Leaf Tobacco; Narrowleaf Trefoil; Hairy Vetch
Watermelon - Bush Baby, King and Queen Storage, Sugar Baby
Wheat - 907R Hard Red Spring Utah, Einkorn Hornmani (Early Stone Age)



Solar Age or Ice Age?

Don Weaver sends an urgent alert that time is running out for remineralizing the earth and averting the coming glacial age. Don prints and distributes a bulky newsletter, Solar Age or Ice Age? citing impressive evidence of worldwide weather patterns that support some incredible and urgent predictions. Issues #1 and 2 are available for \$1.75 each from Don Weaver, Box 1961, Burlingame, CA 94010.

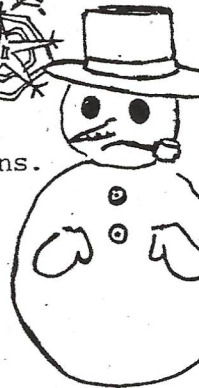


Ecology Action Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Ecology Action Board will be Monday, September 19, at 7:30 pm at 1044 Maddux in Palo Alto. in Palo Alto. All are welcome to attend. Phone us if you need directions.

Nominations and Elections for New Board Members

Each year, at the Fall Equinox, board members are elected to Ecology Action. Current members are John Jeavons, Robin Leler, Judy Derrick, Betsy Jeavons (4 staff members), Joe Kroetin, Kevin Raftery, Dave Smith, Dena Mosser, and Don Dilley (5 community members). Board meetings are held four times a years. The Board acts as an important sounding board for the ongoing and new activities of Ecology Action. Nominations for board members will be accepted by phone, mail, or in person, until Friday, Sept. 16, 1983. The annual meeting will be held Saturday, September 17, 1983, 5:30 P.M., at Ecology Action in Palo Alto. All current members are invited to come and vote for board members from the nominations received.



Mountain Grove Intentional Community

"We are looking for accomplished (or enthusiastic) student-teachers of eco-farming and herbal healing; people of all ages and varieties who are committed to education as a lifelong process and who wish to live simply in earth-oriented community." For more information write Howie Woodwind, 5251 Coyote Creek Road, Wolf Creek, OR 97497.

ECOLOGY ACTION/COMMON GROUND

2225 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94306
U.S.A.

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

John Jeavons
5798 Ridgewood Rd.
Willits, CA 95490