



# COMMON GROUND

## ORGANIC GARDEN SUPPLY AND EDUCATION CENTER

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### FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER

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## 35th Anniversary Party

In the midst of the hi-tech world of Silicon Valley, Common Ground has provided organic, sustainable gardening supplies and classes since 1972. This September we celebrate our 35th Anniversary with a fundraising garden party. The party will be held in the garden of a stunning Woodside home, with food prepared by JZ Cool catering. We're planning a lively silent auction with very unique items. It's going to be fun!!!

Our programs continue to reach a growing number of people. Last year we had a total of 700 students in the 46 workshops offered at our center. Your constant support of Common Ground over the years has kept us a steady presence. Please continue to tell your friends, forward our e news, share or post the current newsletter, make a tax deductible donation, and/or volunteer. We want to be here for the decades to come for YOU!

## Product Highlights!



### California Native Wildflowers and Grasses – from Lerner Seeds

Choose from a variety of hand-harvested individual flowers and special landscape mixes. Select from native bunch grasses, native wildflowers, and a variety of California poppies. Sow the richness of California flora in your landscape.

### Tricho-Gramma

Beneficial insects provide safe and effective control of 200 kinds of caterpillars. Easy to release into your garden, these do their work by laying eggs inside the eggs of their prey.

### English Hand Tools by Burgon & Ball

These classic, great looking, stainless steel trowels, forks, weeding tools, and scoops have elegant hardwood handles. They are durable, functional tools and are a Common Ground customer favorite.

### Local Wildflower Honey

Untreated and unfiltered in pint and quart jars. We have been selling the smooth, popular Double J Apiaries honey for decades.

### Golden Gate Gardening by Pam Peirce

A complete guide to year-round food gardening in the San Francisco Bay Area and Coastal California. The definitive reference to local gardening principles, vegetables and herbs, fruit trees and shrubs, edible and cut flowers, rooftop gardens, soil amendments and fertilizers, watering and mulching, drought gardens and more. A must have reference book. A bestseller!

### Insect Repellent

Liquid Net Pleasant Scent "Guaranteed to Work" All Natural for repelling mosquitoes, gnats, ticks, no-see-ums and other biting insects.

## We Love Our Volunteers



Anne Ercolani has been volunteering her accounting skills once a month for 7 years! Anne is a "get-it-done" reliable, delightful woman. She often bicycles to Common Ground and around town as she does her errands. She is Treasurer of the Board of the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation; former board member, current auditor, and book club participant of the Palo Alto Woman's Club; and a gardener at the community garden behind the main library. She likes to read (her other book group, Another Chapter, is a group of moms whose children graduated together two years ago). Anne also likes to exercise at the YMCA and walk at the Stanford dish. She is on the 35th Anniversary party planning team. "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person" seems to be true with Anne. We appreciate her including us in her busy life.

**559 COLLEGE AVE.  
PALO ALTO, CA 94306  
650.493.6072**

WEBSITE:  
[CommonGroundInPaloAlto.org](http://CommonGroundInPaloAlto.org)

OPEN: Tues. - Fri., 10:00 - 5:30; Sat. and Sun., 10:00 - 5:00



## FALL CLASSES 2007

Please register and pay in advance by mail or in person. Seniors and low-income persons may request a \$4 discount on classes.

### MEDITERRANEAN FOOD GARDENING

Pam Peirce

Saturday, Aug 25

10:30 - 12:30

\$25

Getting the most from your Bay Area food garden means adapting to our mediterranean seasonal rhythms. Learn some of the best crops you can grow year-round even in a small garden. You can garden through fall and winter as has been done for centuries in the Mediterranean Basin. Recipes offering new ideas for using your fall to spring harvests will be provided. *Pam is author of Common Ground's best seller Golden Gate Gardening, a must-have book for Bay Area food gardeners, and Wildly Successful Plants: Northern California. Pam writes a weekly column for the S.F. Chronicle and offers private garden consulting services.* **1 APLD CEU**

### CONTAINER GARDENING

Susie Mader

Saturday, Sept 8

10:30 - 12:30

\$25

Would you like to put in a garden in a small space? We have the easy solution for you. Get some color, fresh sweet herbs, vegetables and edible flowers in your life with container gardening. We have everything you need to get started and maintain one or more containers of lovely plants. *Susie is a long-time friend and supporter and a landscape consultant and contractor specializing in ecologically complete systems.*

### \* WINTER COMPOST CROPS and DIET

John Jeavons

Saturday, Sept 15

10:30 - 12:30+

\$25

John Jeavons will explain the selection and rotation of cool-/ cold-weather crops and their part in the design of a complete annual diet. *John is the Executive Director of Ecology Action and author of How to Grow More Vegetables, now in its 7th edition and used in over 130 countries around the world.*

### \* ECONOMIC MINI-FARMING

John Jeavons

Saturday, Sept 15

1:30 - 3:30+

\$25

Learn the concepts, techniques and crops that can lead to successful economic mini-farming, beginning right in your own backyard. Recommended reading: *Backyard Homestead* and *Ecology Action's Self-Teaching Mini-Series Booklets #18 and #26* available at Common Ground. *John Jeavons is the Executive Director of Ecology Action and author of How to Grow More Vegetables, now in its 7th edition and used in over 130 countries around the world.* **1 APLD CEU**

### \* INTRODUCTION TO GROW BIOINTENSIVE

Margo Royer-Miller

Saturday, Sept 22

10:30 - 12:00

\$22

Learn the principles of double-digging, composting and soil-building, intensive planting, companion planting, carbon farming (compost crops), calorie farming, and open-pollinated seeds. We emphasize a whole-system approach that builds soil fertility in a relatively short time, so that fertilizer inputs (other than compost) become unnecessary, or almost so, thereby making the garden and farm sustainable. *Margo is in her second year as an apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA.* **1 APLD CEU**

### \* SEED PROPAGATION

Dan Royer-Miller

Saturday, Sept 22

2:00 - 4:00

\$25

It all begins with a seed! Learning the GROW BIOINTENSIVE seed propagation techniques will help you have a more productive and efficient garden. This class will explain the advantage of using flats and your own soil, transplanting, pricking out seedlings from flats, proper watering, and planting by the phases of the moon. *Dan is in his second year as an apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA.*

### STARTING A WINTER SALAD GARDEN

Jody Main

Saturday, Sept 29

10:30 - 1:30

\$39

Grow bountiful crops of sweet buttery lettuce, spicy scallions, peppery radishes and other crispy greens throughout the fall, winter and spring. A small bed can keep a family of four in bountiful salads and braising greens. Class includes easy planting, harvesting, and kitchen preparation instructions, dressing demonstration and snack from Jody's Garden. Everyone takes home a planted 6 pack of salad veggies. Recipes included. *Jody is a local organic food and garden writer, educator, and consultant. Her specialty is designing gardens that include vegetables, herbs and berries.*

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\* A GROW BIOINTENSIVE® class  
APLD CEUs are Continuing Education Units

## \* DOUBLE-DIGGING and BED PREPARATION

Margo Royer-Miller      Saturday, Oct 6  
10:30 - 12:30      \$25

Double-digging is the first step in a GROW BIOINTENSIVE garden. Learn how easy, fun and productive this method can be. Loosening the soil 24 inches deep will help to build essential soil structure. Plants will grow much better and need less water; weeds will come out easily. This ever-popular class includes a hands-on demonstration at a nearby garden. *Margo is in her second year as an apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA. .5 APLD CEU*

## \* COMPOSTING

Dan Royer-Miller      Saturday, Oct 6  
2:00 - 4:00      \$25

Composting with GROW BIOINTENSIVE methods is the basis for keeping your soil strong and healthy to grow the healthiest, most nutritious, and most disease-resistant plants. Learn the easiest and most effective way to compost. It is such fun and so satisfying that we must warn you, composting can become addictive! We will go to a nearby site and build our own compost pile. Bring a five-gallon bucket of "green material" (grass clippings, weeds, and/or non-meat kitchen scraps). *Dan is in his second year as an apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA.*

## WORM COMPOSTING

Alane Weber      Saturday, Oct 13  
10:30 - 1:30      \$35

Everything you always wanted to know about worms . . . but were afraid to ask. Come join us and learn all about this tidy and very efficient way to turn all your kitchen scraps into botanical gold. Hands-on opportunities apply! *Alane, "the worm lady of San Mateo," has been nurturing compost worms for 16 years and teaching vermicomposting. She teaches the educational program of RecycleWork's Master Composting Program for San Mateo County and sends her students to Common Ground.*

## TREE SELECTION and CARE

Kevin Raftery      Saturday, Oct 27  
10:30 - 1:30      \$35

Learn the basic principles and concepts that will help you choose the most appropriate trees for your growing conditions. The pros and cons of popular trees will be discussed. The rationale behind where and how one prunes will be covered, featuring bits of tree biology and architecture. Learn how plant placement and pruning techniques can promote successful, beautiful and low maintenance landscapes. Selection of proper pruning tools will be reviewed. *Kevin is a Certified Arborist with a degree in horticulture and helps us select the best tools to stock. He has been associated with Common Ground for almost 35 years! 1 APLD CEU*

## WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Jody Main      Saturday, Nov 3  
10:30 - 1:00      \$30 + \$15 materials fee

Join us in celebrating the harvest by creating a wreath, swaths, miniature herb pillows and other gifts. You will be guided and can choose from beautiful baskets full of organically grown wildflowers, herbs, seed pods, grains (like millet, amaranth, quinoa and Job's Tears), Native American crops and everlasting flowers from Jody's garden. Learn the best herbs and flowers to plant now to be used later for decoration and everlasting qualities. You will take home your handcrafted gifts, many good ideas and a plant list of useful plants for your garden. *Jody is a local organic food and garden writer, educator, and consultant. Her specialty is designing gardens that include vegetables, herbs and berries.*



## SOIL FOODWEB

Alane Weber      Saturday, Nov 10  
10:30 - 12:30      \$25

The soil foodweb consists of all the beneficial micro- and macroscopic soil critters that function harmoniously in our garden soil. They are responsible for nutrient cycling, soil production and immune system boosting. Understanding the soil foodweb will give you greater ability to surf with nature's wisdom and make better compost. *Alane is an advisor for Soil Foodweb, Inc. She runs the educational program of RecycleWork's Master Composting Program for San Mateo County. Her approach is animated with humor and suffused with the integrity of sustainable care for our lands. 1 APLD CEU*

## GROWING CUT FLOWERS

Nancy Garrison      Saturday, Nov 17  
10:30-12:30      \$25

You will be introduced to the best of the easy-to-grow flowers with staying power. Learn which specific varieties do well in arrangements. Save money and have more joy in growing your own flower bouquets. Purple orach, colorful amaranths, 10 different Alstromerias, purple millet, peonies, and long stemmed roses will be discussed. Common plant foliage will compliment and add wonderful effect. A slide show is included. *Nancy will share 20 plus years of knowledge on selecting and growing local cut flowers. She has been involved with the UC Cooperative Extension, trialing over a hundred kinds of flowers to find the most beautiful. Her work with sunflowers has been featured in Sunset magazine. 1 APLD CEU*

# Common Ground Organic Garden Supply and Education Center



## Our center offers:

- Hands-on classes and events in organic gardening and sustainable lifestyles
- Seeds and plant starts – hundreds of edible, medicinal, native and ornamental varieties
- Organic composts, fertilizers and mulches – a broad selection
- Tools and natural disease and pest control products – the highest quality
- Books, magazines, cards, and gift items
- Volunteer opportunities and new friends

Common Ground is a community supported project of Ecology Action, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We invite you to be a part of a 35-year tradition of sustainable gardening by joining our ever growing circle of friends. Please make your **tax-deductible donation** by calling 650.493.6072 **or** visiting our center **or**, for secure on-line donating, go to [www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org).

With abundant gratitude we thank you!

G J D L  
L O E A  
E N S Y  
N E I O  
D S G U  
A N T

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**559 College Ave.**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94306**  
**650.493.6072**



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