

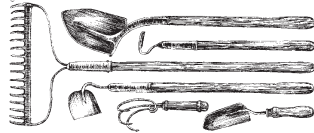


# COMMON GROUND

## ORGANIC GARDEN SUPPLY AND EDUCATION CENTER

WINTER/SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER

### Product Highlights!



#### Precision Secateur

High quality ARS pruning tool is light in weight with powerful and hard wearing blades excellent for pruning even thicker branches. It is ergonomically designed and safe to use with its non-slip grip, easy-to-use stopper and the shock absorbing spring.

#### How to Prune Fruit Trees

by R. Sanford Martin  
This pocket-sized book of A-Z fruit trees is the perfect guide for any home owner. It gives straightforward explanations for why each fruit tree requires pruning to help the gardener understand simple step-by-step instructions.

#### Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning

by Cass Turnbull  
This book offers excellent pruning advice for over 160 species of trees, shrubs, ground covers, and vines. It also covers the basics of pruning to give the new gardener a sound general knowledge.

#### Common Ground Planting and Gardening Guide

An excellent but simple month by month guide of which seeds to plant directly into the soil, which seeds to plant in flats and when to transplant these. It also gives helpful reminders to keep your garden in great condition!



#### Saboten Hedge Shear

This is an excellent value, an all-around hedge trimmer, with replaceable blades. The blades are made of high carbon steel, making them tough, strong and easy to clean, and the handles are chromium plated steel with bright orange resin plastic grips, making it easy to find!

#### 35th Anniversary Mug

Relax with your favorite hot beverage and show support for Common Ground with your very own special 35th Anniversary Celebration edition mug! Supply is limited, get yours before they're gone!

Make your garden unique. As you get your seeds, please remember our organic, open-pollinated seeds and plant starts – hundreds of edible, medicinal, native and ornamental varieties. Some of what makes Common Ground so good!

*"Though I am an old man, I am but a young gardener."*

— Thomas Jefferson

559 COLLEGE AVE.  
PALO ALTO, CA 94306  
650.493.6072

WEBSITE:  
CommonGroundInPaloAlto.org

### Volunteer Spotlight



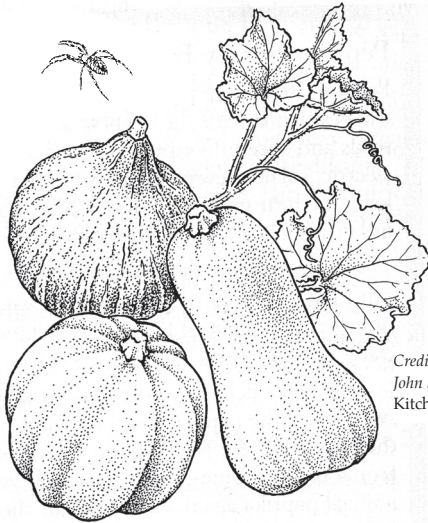
Kathryn Carleton

I moved to California in 1991, married my wonderful husband Jeff in 1992, served on the Palo Alto Art Commission from 1994 to 1998 and was chair of the commission in 1998.

I have been shopping at Common Ground for about 5 years. My lovely 7-year old daughter Melissa and I love to visit and pick out our plants, seeds and garden supplies. I have also just begun converting my daughter's first grade school garden to an organic garden.

What a marvelous time I had working on the silent auction for Common Ground! So many friends and local businesses came together to offer support with their generous donations. I had the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people who enthusiastically gave of their time, energy and talents. What an inspiration to be part of a community committed to the purpose of Common Ground. Their support inspires others to participate and is an affirmation of the importance of Common Ground and the need to continue in efforts to sustain its home and vision in Palo Alto.

OPEN: Monday- Friday, 10:00 - 5:30; Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 - 5:00



Credit: Artist Bobbi Angel,  
John Scheepers\*  
Kitchen Garden Seeds

## \* INTRODUCTION TO GROW BIOINTENSIVE

Dan Royer-Miller                      Saturday, January 5  
10:30-12:30                              \$25

GROW BIOINTENSIVE is a whole-system approach to gardening and farming 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 as sustainable as possible. Learn the principles of double-digging, composting and soil-building, intensive planting, companion planting, carbon-farming (compost crops), calorie farming, and open-pollinated seeds. *Dan is a third-year apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA. (1.5 CEUs)*

## \* COMPOSTING

Margo Royer-Miller                      Saturday, January 5  
2:00-4:00                                  \$25

GROW BIOINTENSIVE composting is the basis for growing the healthiest, most nutritious, and most disease-resistant plants. Besides being the easiest and most effective way to compost, it is so fun and satisfying that we must warn you composting can become addictive! We will go to the Common Ground Demonstration Garden and build our own compost pile. **YOU BRING:** a five-gallon bucket of "green material" (grass clippings, weeds, and/or non-meat kitchen scraps). *Margo is a third year apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA. (1 CEU)*

## FRUIT TREE PRUNING

Kevin Raftery                              Saturday, January 12  
10:30-2:00                                  \$39

Learn how to maximize tree health, fruit production and to identify dead wood. Espalier care also discussed. Meet at Common Ground, then proceed to a local orchard – rain or shine. **YOU BRING:** pruning shears, bag lunch and a notebook. *Kevin is a Certified Arborist with a degree in horticulture. He teaches at Foothill College and has been associated with Common Ground for over 30 years. (1.5 CEUs)*

# WINTER/SPRING 2008 CLASSES

Please register by calling Common Ground at 650.493.6072. Seniors and low-income persons may request a \$4 discount on classes.

## ROSE PRUNING AND CARE

Carole Kraft                                      Saturday, January 19  
10:30-1:30                                      \$35

Encourage beautiful profuse flowering with winter pruning and proper care. Learn about the very best soil and amendments for healthy happy roses. Mulches also discussed. The class will go to a nearby garden for a demonstration and some hands-on. **YOU BRING:** a snack, pruning shears optional. *Carole is an energetic and articulate horticulture consultant with 24 years of experience. (1 CEU)*

## GRAFTING FRUIT TREES

James Kern                                      Saturday, January 19  
1:30-3:30                                      \$26

Grafting allows you to have the variety of fruit you want on the appropriate rootstocks and to graft more than one variety onto new or existing trees. You will learn the plant physiology involved in grafting, different techniques available, and the steps needed to produce a grafted fruit tree. Scion wood included. Please purchase grafting knives before class, available at Common Ground. *James is a Master Gardener, a member of the California Rare Fruit Growers, a landscape contractor, and a teacher at Foothill College. (1 CEU)*

## FRUIT TREE VARIETIES

Nancy Garrison                              Saturday, February 2  
10:30 -12:30                                  \$25

Learn which varieties of peaches, nectarines, plums, pluots, apricots, apples and pears are the delight of connoisseurs. You will be introduced to the best of the best-tasting deciduous fruits that grow in this area and learn where to source your own plants. *Nancy has been conducting and attending fruit tastings for the last 26 years in her diverse home fruit garden and research facilities around the state. She has collaborated with Andy's Orchard, Dave Wilson Nursery, and oversees the rare fruit plantings at Prusch Farm Park. (1 CEU)*

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

## USING NATIVE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN - A Deeper Perspective

Del McComb

Saturday, February 9

10:30-12:30+

\$25

Explore using California native plants not only for their beauty and appropriateness in our Mediterranean climate, but also to restore our respect of nature and our place in it. Included is an overview of how Native Americans shaped the landscape of California using their viewpoint and plants; from creating and restoring habitats for local wildlife to using natives for potential sources of food, dyes, medicines, and fiber. A list and description of natives that work well in the Bay Area will be included along with cultural information on how to work with these very special inhabitants of our state. *Del has a degree in Ornamental Horticulture and currently designs and manages large private estate gardens locally. In addition, he is a certified Permaculture designer and a Biodynamic gardener. We are very excited to welcome Del to his first class as a new teacher at Common Ground.* (1.5 CEUs)



## \* SEED PROPAGATION

Dan Royer-Miller

Saturday, February 16

10:30 - 12:30

\$25

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

## \* DOUBLE-DIGGING and BED PREPARATION

Margo Royer-Miller

Saturday, February 16

2:00 - 4:00

\$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 the Common Ground Demonstration Garden. *Margo is a third year apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA.* (1 CEU)

## \* COMPOST CROPS and ROTATIONS

John Jeavons

Saturday, February 23

10:30-12:30+

\$25

Learn how to grow the most food, calories, and soil nourishing compost materials for this summer's garden with a dynamic plan for the health of your garden over the next 3 years. *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 CEU)

## \* INSECT LIFE FOR A HEALTHIER GARDEN

John Jeavons

Saturday, February 23

2:00-4:00+

\$25

Learn how to maximize the eco-system diversity that produces the best garden, as well as simple steps to take if an insect challenge occurs. *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.* (1.5 CEUs)

## BLUEBERRIES AND OTHER SMALL FRUITS

Nancy Garrison

Saturday, March 1

2:00-4:00+

\$25

You will learn how to select, plant, and maintain blueberries and other wonderful small fruits for home growing. Nancy will cover her favorite delectables such as Chilean guavas, mulberries, autumn olives (*Eleagnus multiflora*), raspberries and white sapote. Included in the instruction will be special soil preparations, best varieties for the Peninsula and South Bay, and trellising techniques for raspberries. *Nancy has a vast knowledge of growing blueberries and raspberries locally based on years of research with the University of California Cooperative Extension and in her home garden.* (1.5 CEUs)

## GROWING TERRIFIC TOMATOES

Nancy Garrison

Saturday, March 8

10:30-12:30+

\$25

Learn which tomatoes have really great flavor, reliable production and the ability to hold up under regular garden conditions. You will learn her favorite trellising methods, soil preparation and what NOT to do, and how to avoid the brown crispy-foilage-blues so a bountiful harvest will be yours until frost. Tomatoes featured will be the result of her 25 years of hands-on tomato research. *As the University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor and the Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Nancy has been and continues to be involved in tomato variety evaluations.* (1 CEU)

## \* COMPANION PLANTING

Carol Cox                      Saturday, March 15  
10:30-12:00                      \$22

Discover how to enhance your garden's health and productivity while attracting a beneficial insect population. Learn how to make efficient use of your garden space and the plants' natural properties by using methods that have been used for centuries. *Carol is an excellent teacher as well as a co-author of The Sustainable Vegetable Garden, and Garden Manager at the Ecology Action Research Garden in Willits, CA. (1.5 CEUs)*

## \* PLANNING YOUR GARDEN

Carol Cox                      Saturday, March 15  
1:30- 3:30                      \$25

Learn to use the charts in *How To Grow More Vegetables*. Getting seedlings started at the right time and in the right quantities can help you make the best use of garden space. **YOU BRING:** a copy of *How to Grow More Vegetables* 7th edition (always available at Common Ground), a sharp pencil and a calculator. *Carol is an excellent teacher, co-author of The Sustainable Vegetable Garden, and Research Garden Manager at the Ecology Action Research Garden in Willits, CA. (1 CEU)*

## SPRING GARDENING IDEAS

Adrienne Duncan                      Saturday, March 22  
10:30-12:00                      \$22

Come explore this most fascinating of endeavors, growing veggies year-round. You can grow many wonderful plants, both edible and ornamental, with a little bit of practical know-how and observation of your own growing conditions. *At 84, local artist Adrienne and her husband eat a diet of homegrown vegetables and fruits grown on their one-fifth of an acre in Palo Alto. (1 CEU)*

## STARTING YOUR SPRING GARDEN

Drew Harwell                      Saturday, March 29  
10:30 - 12:30                      \$25

Be inspired to grow vegetables and herbs all year round. Learn exactly what plants thrive now, and how to grow them. Many seeds are eager to germinate at this time of year. You will get plenty of ideas and instructions on direct sowing, transplanting, creating healthy soil, and harvesting. *Drew is the Common Ground Demonstration Garden Manager, Garden Manager for Jesse Cool's Seeds of Change Garden, the former manager of the Stanford Community Farm, and is well versed in Permaculture methods. (1CEU)*





*At the 35th Anniversary Celebration, Kathryn Carleton and her daughter (left) and party participants (below) look over the many silent auction gifts offered by contributors.*



## Many Thanks to Our Supporters and Contributors

Common Ground thanks its 2007 outstanding financial supporters (\$500 to \$5000).

Anne Green	Barbara Ryan
Hewlett-Packard	Ron Labetich
Foundation for Global Community	Susan Rosenberg
- Jim and Welita Burch	Jean and Paul Garrett
Luz Chambers	Cindy Russell
Lyngso Garden Materials	Adrienne and Gene Duncan
Lerch Construction Company	Anonymous
Jan Sterling	

We also express our appreciation for our generous contributors for our 35th Anniversary Celebration and Silent Auction.

Avalon Yoga Studio	Country Sun Natural Foods
Community for Green Foothills	Darren Huckle Herbalist LIC.
Kepler's Books	Don and Susan Larson
Birder's Garden	Don't Agonize, Organize
Bistro Elan	Down To Earth Distributors
Bob Griffin	East West Bookstore
Buck's of Woodside	Anne Ercolani
Café Borrone	Emily Rosen
Café at Printer's Inc.	European Cobblery
Café pro Bono	Food Fairie Nutrition &
Create It!	Wellness Services
Collin Stone, Cogneo Print Design	

## Common Ground Breaks Ground!

In our vision to promote the growth of edible gardens in neighborhoods throughout the San Francisco Mid-Peninsula, our new Demonstration Garden at Palo Alto Christian Reformed Church near Gunn High School has begun!

Just-seeded cover crops of buckwheat, fava beans and rye sprout in newly prepared beds. Neighboring double dug beds fill with garlic, kale, peas, cauliflower and other delicious and nutritious vegetables. Music resonates from the visiting Golden Crowned Sparrow joining resident Chickadees and Towhees.

Parents and kids from the nearby pre-school drop by, excited about the future. The kids faces were smiling with glee as they collected their pumpkins and jumped on straw piles during the recent pumpkin patch event.

Students enjoy hands-on classes at the garden while volunteers dig in on Thursdays.

You too can dig in! To become a financial donor for this important new Garden project please call Patricia Becker: 650-493-6072. To donate materials and volunteer contact Garden Manager Drew Harwell at [drewharwell@yahoo.com](mailto:drewharwell@yahoo.com)

Food for the Soul	Nancy Lewis
Fox Farm	Palo Alto Weekly and
Frey's Winery	Palo Alto On Line
Full Belly Farm	Patagonia
Garden Court Hotel	Patricia Becker
Gerard T. Lum, Website Design	Peninsula Macrobiotic Community
Hobee's Restaurant	Phillip Browne
Hotel Drisco	Push Therapy
James Holloway	Rani Naik
Jaquelyn Aldana	Rebecca Palmer
Jesse Cool	Remona Murray
Thomas Fogarty Winery	Roudon-Smith Winery
Hidden Villa- Josephine's Retreat	Seeds of Change
Katherine Bliss-Jones	Smith and Hawken
Randy Jones	Special Gardens
Kathryn and Melissa Carleton	Superior Fruit Equipment
Keeble and Shuchat	Susie Mader
Kim and Kevin Raftery	Terrebonne
Leaf and Petal	The Klutz Store
Linda Lenore	Theatre Works
Lyngso Garden Materials	Todo es Posible
Marc Hellmann	Toyota of Palo Alto
Melanie and Peter Cross	Tranquil Spaces
Metro Sports	Urban Farmer
Motio	Village Stationers
Music for Families, Inc.	Watercourse Way
Miklane Janner	Wendy Harrison
Meryl and Bob Selig	Whitcraft Winery
Nancy Cassidy's Band	Wild Bird Center
Nancy and John Klimp	World Centric
Nancy Garrison	Yerba Buena Nursery

## 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

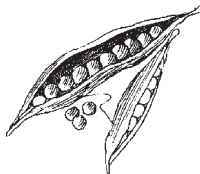
[www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org).

With abundant gratitude we thank you!

*This illustration from The Cook's Garden, 2005*

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**Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center**  
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Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650.493.6072



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