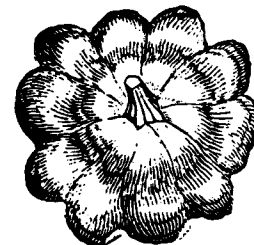


Local Dirt

March 24, 2000

The Newsletter of the Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative



Member Gardens

Berkeley High School
Environmental Studies
Institute
Berkeley Booster's
Project Sunflower
Berkeley Youth Alternative's
Community Garden Patch
The Edible Schoolyard
Franklin Elem. School
Karl Linn Community
Garden
Northside/Peralta Gardens
LeConte School
Farm & Garden
Malcolm X School Garden
Ohlone Community
Garden
Oxford School Garden
Peoples' Park Garden
RISE Urban Farm
Spiral Gardens
Strong Roots Gardens
Willard Greening Project

Affiliates and Supporters:

Alameda Co. Food Bank
Americorps
American Community
Gardening Assoc.
Berkeley Ecology Center
CCC
Berkeley Food Systems Proj.
CALCorps
Center for Eco-Literacy
City of Berkeley
Occidental Arts
& Ecology Center
UCCE Alameda Co.
Youth Dev. Program
West Berk. Neighborhood
Development Corp.

P.O. Box 2164
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 883-9096

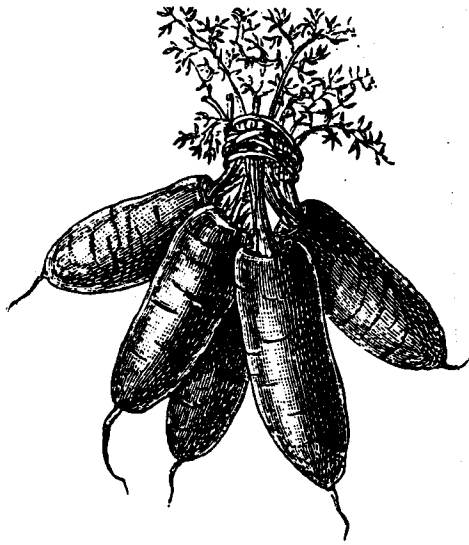
Next Meeting:
Monday April 3 @ 6:30
1718 9th Street, Berkeley
Potluck

ATTENTION: U.C. STUDENTS & OTHERS

There will be a referendum during student elections April 11, 12, & 13 about People's Park. Students will be asked "Do you think the People's Park should remain a park, as opposed to having U.C.B. explore alternative uses for the space/land?" After 30 years of Berkeley citizens and students creating and protecting this green space, we feel it should remain a park. U.C. attempted to build a volleyball court eight years ago, which was rejected by the community and was a failure. We hope that students will realize how important this park is to our history and as the only open space in a densely populated Southside. Please encourage students to vote "yes" to save the Park! Call Terri at 658-9178 for more information.

School Gardeners

Alameda County Waste Management Authority is holding it's 4th annual school recycling contest. Any school from K-12 can enter by sending a one page description of your school's recycling program. Prizes are: \$500. \$250. and \$100.! Deadline: May 2, 2000
More information: (510) 614-1699.



"Farms, In Berkeley?"

In collaboration with "Berkeley Partners for Parks" and Berkeley's "Parks & Waterfront," the "Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative" is inviting Oliver Ginsberg, Educational Advisor to Berlin's farm and adventure playgrounds, to come to the Bay Area to speak. We are going to set up lectures and panel discussions, introducing farm pets into urban community gardens.

In Europe, Ginsberg has found that enriching community gardens with farm pets especially deepens the childrens' bond with nature. Some Berkeley community gardens and schoolyards have expressed interest in this. Almost ten years ago, LeConte School Farm and Garden incorporated small farm pets (such as rabbits, ducks, minature goats, and chickens) into it's courtyard space. The Children's Day School in San Francisco has also has small animals as part of it's program. We think this could be an exciting addition to some of our community gardens, where there is a high participation of adults and children. Please call Karl Linn if you have further questions: 841-3757.

Cordornices Creek Community Garden

The gardeners at this community garden have had a 5 year lease to cultivate the soil, but this lease is over March 31, 2000. Then Temple Beth El will claim the whole site between Oxford and Spruce Streets, and begin the process of building their new house of worship and school. At present there is an Environmental Impact Report (E.I.R.) being made, and then the architectural plans have to be approved by the city of Berkeley, and at some future date they will begin construction. The future of the creek, and some of the beautiful old oak trees, has yet to be determined, although it does not look promising. Many neighbors and garden organizers would like to see alternative plans that would put the parking underground, and bridges over a day-lighted creek.

BERKELEY'S

Food Policy Council

April 12, 7 pm

Center for Eco-literacy

A Soil Workshop



Carl Rosato, from Woodleaf Farm in Oroville, has offered to give us two hours of his time to do a workshop on soil and soil testing. He comes to Berkeley for the Farmer's Markets in the summer, and could arrange a time convenient for us and himself. If you cannot make the April meeting when we will discuss this, please contact Beebo Turman at 510-527-3773 to express your interest in attending the workshop.

MALCOLM X SCHOOL GARDEN NEWS

Malcolm X Elementary School, at Ashby and King Streets, will be holding a Work Week-End on April 29 and 30th to build a fence and raised beds! Please join us! This is the moment we have been waiting for, for over a year now; when Rivka Mason's vision of a larger garden for the school will finally materialize. There will be tools, food and drinks, as well as someone to watch the younger children. You have heard of a Barn-Raising, well, this is a Garden-Raising! PLEASE COME!

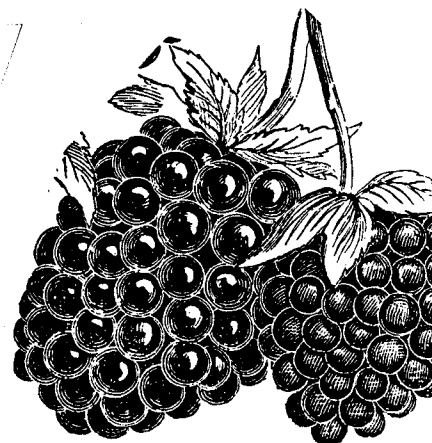
Malcolm X School will celebrate Malcolm X's birthday on May 19th, Friday. There will be a reception with music performed by the students and Eddie Marshall's Band (his children went to the school), food and drinks, a garden ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Mayor, and awards recognizing the parents. Call the school for more information: 644-6313.

**"California Hunger Action Coalition's 2000 Regional Forums
Featured Speaker: A. G. Kawamura, Farmer & Anti-Hunger Advo**

Oakland: Tuesday April 4, 9 am-12:30 pm
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Avenue
Contact: Jessica Bartholow. (510) 834-3663

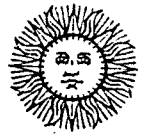
Kitchen Gardening, Organically
Saturday, April 8, 2000 10AM to Noon

Come learn how to fill your backyard with a cornucopia of vegetables, fruits, herbs and edible flowers. Kathi Colen, co-owner of an organic garden and landscape design business in the East Bay & Marin, will present this hands-on kitchen gardening class featuring the means and methods of growing your own edible garden. Topics will include: assessing your garden site, soil analysis, how much space you need to grow what you want (& vice versa), appropriate watering techniques, seeds and starts, variety selection, planting times and techniques, design styles & culinary themes, growing culinary herbs in containers, and more. 10 AM - Noon



Classes held at the Ecology Center,

People's Park presents



SPRING SUNDAYS

Composting Workshop

April 9th 1-4PM

Composting Workshop. Learn more about the magic and mystery of composting with Master Composter Kim Caler! This is a hands on workshop! We will both learn about composting, and maintain the park's current piles.

Heirloom Bean Gardening

April 23rd 1-4PM

Help create a diverse heirloom bean garden to celebrate Earth Day!

Anniversary Faire & Concert

April 30th 1-5PM

Party in the garden! At the Anniversary party we will dance and plant the new pergola with vines, flowers, edibles and scrubs! We will need volunteers to help work with participants. Please call Colette if interested 601.8643.

History/Storytelling Day

May 7th 1-4PM

Come, and share your stories of the Park's rich history of activism. Bring ideas for creating a People's Park Archive.