



Master Composter

February 5th, 2024

NEWSLETTER

MC Megan Swift gives a mini compost pile demo to a packed houses at Rose Garden Library

Introduction

In this week's newsletter:

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- Page 7: Food for thought:
Compost (& related topics) in
the news

Week Recap

- Megan Swift and Victoria R taught the first workshop of the year in San Jose!
- Jack and Victoria M volunteered at the Pomeroy Elementary Community Garden Fair in Santa Clara!
- We got some awesome drone footage of the Martial CottlePark Plot

Upcoming



February CE/Monthly meeting

TOMORROW

Tue, February 6th



- Virtual Meeting over zoom that counts for BOTH CE and Monthly Meeting Volunteer Credit
- Catch up the program and join us for a lively discussion
- Have questions about Bokashi research? Ask our guest speaker, Dr. Michael Rodriguez
- Kids Group 6-6:30 pm, general meeting 6:30-7, CE speaker 7-8 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/91930880896>

Meeting ID: 919 3088 0896



Mentorship Program for 2024 Initial Training

- Let me know if you want to participate in being a mentor for new volunteers!
- Required March 16th Training attendance at the park and 6 month check in

[Here is the Signup Sheet](#)



Upcoming

Teaching Opportunities



Louise Van Meter Elementary, 16445 Los Gatos Boulevard Los Gatos, 95032

The 5th grade classes at Van Meter Elementary School are starting a PBL unit about waste, and compost will be a huge component of it! We are hoping to tap into your expertise during this project. One of our 5th grade teachers has just started a compost bin and a worm bin at our school.

Presentation: vermicomposting

Class: 5th grade, ~100 students

Possible dates/times: **Any morning from 8:30-9:30 the week of February 12th or 26th**



Discovery Charter School, Falcon Campus, 762 Sunset Glen Drive, San Jose, CA 95123

- Presentation: vermicomposting
- Class: k-1 (20 students), third grade (17 students).
- Possible dates/times: **February or March, flexible**

Two coordinators submitted requests and I've only heard back from the one in charge of coordinating for a class of 20 k-1 students.



Please sign up for a kids classroom activity by filling out your name on the [Kids Composting Google Sheet](#) under the Master Composters column and I will confirm with the schools that we have at the minimum two volunteers confirmed to teach

Important Resources



- **Log your hours** continuously throughout the year so you don't get stuck in the June **reappointment** slump!

[Log your volunteer hours here!](#)

- You can find previous **recorded CE speakers** on the private Master Composter website.

[Watch the meeting recordings here](#)

- Looking for example presentations and other helpful resources? Check out our shared **Google Drive**.

[Explore the Google Drive here](#)

- Bookmark & save the **Continuing Education Zoom** link

[Find the Zoom link here](#)

- **CE ideas?** Email them or fill out this survey:

[Continuing Education suggestions](#)

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

CLICK LINKS BELOW

***2024 WORKSHOP, KIDS ACTIVITIES
AND COMMUNITY EVENT SIGNUPS ARE LIVE!***

2024 WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP SIGNUP

SCHOOL REQUESTS

CLASSROOM SIGNUP

2024 COMMUNITY EVENTS & SPECIAL LECTURES

EVENT SIGNUP



Continuing Education Guest Lecture

TOMORROW



Applications of Bokashi Fermentation as a Sustainable Food Waste Management Practice

Dr. Michael Vincent Rodriguez **Postdoctoral Scholar, UC Merced**

Michael's research focuses on the impact of sustainable agricultural and organic waste management practices on environmental quality and climate change. Michael earned his B.S. in Chemistry at UC Davis (2016) and Ph.D. in Environmental Science at UC Riverside (2023).

Michael's dissertation researched greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from dairy manure management and manure land application. Michael was also a fellow for the UCOP Carbon Neutrality and Global Food Initiatives and researched bokashi fermentation and digestion by insect larvae as organic waste management strategies to foster soil health and reduce trace gas emissions.

His current work collaborates with community organizations to research the potential, implementation, and impacts of community scale composting in the San Joaquin Valley.



Come join!

- ✓ February 6th First Tuesday Meeting
- ✓ Kids Group Meet 6-6:30 pm
- ✓ Master Composter Meeting 6:30-7:00 pm
- ✓ Guest lecture begins at 7 with Questions & Answers until 8:00 pm

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MCP Updates



Wednesday Workdays are back!

- Join us at Martial Cottle Park from 10-12
- Weather permitting
- check the rot crew google calendar for more information

Remember to post **scan the QR code by the worm CFT** any time you come to Martial Cottle Park to let us know what you've done there!

- (food scrap drop off, workday tasks, if you've taken compost, etc.)
- You can also do this [via the volunteer hours log](#) linked above
- **Bring newspapers and unused bamboo chopsticks to Martial Cottle Park!** (chopsticks are for worm demos)



COMPOST

in the

NEWS

*Articles are hyperlinked at the bottom of each box

Atmospheric river lashes California with heavy rain and wind

A powerful atmospheric river-fueled storm is moving at an agonizingly slow pace across Southern California, directing a firehose of moisture at deluged cities for hours at a time.

CNN

Ancient Humans Created Super-Fertile “Dark Earth”

Researchers now hope to use the environmental engineering success to combat climate change.

By JACKIE APPEL

Popular Mechanics



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