



# *Master Composter*

March 4th, 2024

## NEWSLETTER

Michael Cohen and Jenel Vincze take apart the aerated static piles at MCP

### Introduction

In this week's newsletter:

- Page 1: Week recap
- Page 2-3: Upcoming
- Page 4: important Links
- Page 5: March CE Speaker
- Page 6 MCP Updates
- Page 7-8: Food for thought: Compost (& related topics) in the news

### Week Recap

- Lovely DIY worm compost workshop at the Los Gatos Library featuring MC Michele Young
- The UCCE Team started the process of harvesting the ASP from last year
- Initial Training Schedule finalized and distributed to new trainees with security clearances

# Upcoming



## Mentorship Program for 2024 Initial Training **DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 8th**

Let me know if you want to participate in being a mentor for new volunteers!

[Here is the Signup Sheet](#)

[Find new Mentor Position Description on the  
signup sheet](#)

**THIS WEEK**



[March 9th](#)

[Silicon Valley Reads Green Career Fair](#)

[Needs 2 Volunteers](#)

- Please [Sign Up](#) and let me know if you can table at this indoor event
- 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- 1290 Ridder Park Drive San Jose 95131

**THIS WEEK**



[Volunteers needed to teach March 23rd  
Workshop at Los Altos Library](#)

Los Altos Library 13 S San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA 94022



# Upcoming: Kids Group Activities



## Stipe Elementary School

- **Presentation: vermicomposting**
- **Class: Kindergarten, 50 students**
- **Possible dates/times: March 27th at 10:15**
- **School Address: 5000 Lyng Drive, San Jose, 95111**

## Stratford School

- **Presentation: vermicomposting**
- **Class: Kindergarten, 120 students**
- **Dates/times: March 13th 12:30-2:15 \*Scheduled**
- **School Address: 890 Pomeroy Ave., Santa Clara, 95051**

## Campbell School of Innovation

- **Presentation: vermicomposting**
- **Class: 2nd Grade 100 students**
- **Possible dates/times: March 20th 8:30-9:00, 9:00-9:30 or 10:30-11:00, 11:00-11:30**
- **School Address: 295 Cherry Lane Campbell, CA, 95008**

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## Composting Advice for Homesteaders 4-H Ranch

We are a 4H ranch that would like to have a compost project to help educate our youth and parents on how to properly compost. We have garden waste and animal manure (chickens, turkeys, goats, sheep and rabbits).

**Are any MC's interested in providing technical assistance to the 4H ranch on setting up an ASP system?**

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## Composting Advice for Hester School

We are a special ed school for adults ages 18-22 years old. Most students are have severe disabilities. They attend weekly gardening classes with myself.

-Hosting Spring Seed Planting Event

-Want Volunteers to attend March 20th

-Also seeking advice about their own backyard school composting system

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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!
- You can find previous **recorded CE speakers** on the private Master Composter website.
- Looking for example presentations and other helpful resources? Check out our shared **Google Drive**.
- Bookmark & save the **Continuing Education Zoom** link
- Rot Crew Calendar:

[Log your volunteer hours here!](#)

[Watch the meeting recordings here](#)

[Explore the Google Drive here](#)

[Find the Zoom link here](#)

[Rot Crew Calendar Link](#)



## Signup Sheet Links



[\*\*WORKSHOP SIGNUP\*\*](#)

[\*\*CLASSROOM SIGNUP\*\*](#)



[\*\*EVENT SIGNUP\*\*](#)

# BIOCHAR AS A COMPOST AMENDMENT & CARBON SEQUESTRATION

*Austin Liu is an inventor, sustainability consultant, and has worked as a biochar researcher with All Power Labs since 2011, focusing on the intersection between carbon drawdown, soil fertility, and biomass energy.*

**\*Worth CE and Monthly Meeting Credit, so show up!**

## TOMORROW



Tuesday



March 5th  
at 7Pm - 8pm

[Join via Zoom Link](#)

[Cool biochar article by Austin](#)



**AUSTIN LIU**  
*CE Speaker*



# MCP Updates



## No Third Saturday Work Day!

- Work Days will Continue in April
- March 16th will be day 1 of Initial Training

## Wednesday Workdays

- 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

## The Farming Conundrum

Agriculture is a big contributor to climate change — is there a path to reinvention?

A new report found that the United States is spending billions of dollars to try to slash greenhouse gas emissions from farms, but many of the new practices are unproven. Credit...Tim Gruber for The New York Times

NY Times

## Tackling Historical Inequities in Urban Organic Waste and Composting

A recent commentary in Environmental Health Perspectives evaluates the equity and safety of US organic waste cycles in urban agriculture, and provides recommendations to promote safer compost production from urban organic waste practices.

Boston University



Victoria Roberts  
vrroberts@@ucanr.edu  
(408) 918-4641

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