

Growing Solutions' Seedling Dispatch

Winter 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR! GREETINGS FROM DON AND KAREN

We hope you are surviving and thriving through what the media calls these “challenging economic times”. Here at Growing Solutions we are working to turn crisis into opportunity through our expanded mission of hands-on sustainability and community self-reliance for the people of Santa Barbara and beyond. Ready access to tools is what we are all about whether it’s a cultivator or a computer. But even the finest tools can be rendered useless, or worse counterproductive, unless backed by skill, expertise and an understanding of the bigger picture. Our short-term goal for 2010 is to create a working model of sustainability through courses in green-collar jobs. We will soon be offering workshops in bio-diesel manufacture and use (see details below), home solar, wind power, rainwater collection and organic food production. This is an exciting project with far-reaching potential and we would love for you to be part of it at the seedling stage. Thank you for your continued ongoing support and hope to see you at one of our courses soon!

—Don Hartley and Karen Flagg, co-founders of Growing Solutions.

GROWING SOLUTIONS' NEW E-NEWSLETTER!

Leave One Tree. Plant One More...

Growing Solutions has found an elegant solution to combining timely communication with our supporters with resource conservation in the Information Age...going paperless! Our hope for the coming year is to bring our members and volunteers an easy-access newsletter that is simple, concise and informative, keeping readers in touch with our latest news and events. We are a small organization with a big impact on our community, but we are always looking for ways to reduce our planetary footprint. Our new paperless publication will bypass the paper loop and divert more of our resources to what we do best—growing! We realize that most people’s inboxes are flooded with ads and infomercials daily. Realizing this, the following E-letter is meant to highlight our happenings for quick read. If you wish to delve deeper, simply click on the handy links that will take you to the Growing Solutions main site for details, photos, video and further useful links. Your feedback wanted and much appreciated! holly@growingsolutions.org

SCORPION ROCK SEABIRD HABITAT RESTORATION

Growing Solutions staff and volunteers, in conjunction with Channel Islands National Park, the Nature Conservancy and Santa Cruz Island Restoration, worked a nonstop three days last October helping to restore critical seabird habitat on Scorpion Rock off Santa Cruz Island. The project, headed by National Parks’ David Mazurkiewicz and Laurie Harvey, has invested more than two years replanting the remote barren rock with native-plant species that provide cover and nesting material for the endangered Cassin’s Auklet, among others. Over 50 volunteers (which included Don Hartley’s SBCC Environmental Horticulture class) planted more than 3000 island natives in the thin, guano-encrusted soil. Each plant was painstakingly grown from native seed collected on Santa Cruz Island and, grown on the island nursery, shipped via flatbed, boat and skiff before being hand-carried up Scorpion Rock’s steep rocky face.

More? Click: <http://www.growingsolutions.org/Scorpion%20Rock.html>

COUNTY CAMPUS FOOTHILL OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Despite the recent heavy rains, Growing Solutions’ main county nursery and adjoining restoration site have survived in good shape with minimal erosion. Our volunteer Gavin Feiger has rallied an outstanding crew of students from UCSB’s Bren School of Environmental Science and Management to help with all facets of restoring and maintaining the site. *More:* <http://www.growingsolutions.org/Projects.html>

GRAND CANAL PROJECT FILLS IN

Last November Growing Solutions staff oversaw installation of more than 1000 native wetland plants at the Grand Canal restoration project in Venice, California. Ballona Institute, who worked tirelessly over the summer to make this project a reality, salvaging the project and organized the planting over two weekends. They rallied over 140 people from diverse groups that included neighborhood volunteers, Cub Scout Troop 97, UCLA community service students, Go-EcoKids and students from the Westside Leadership Magnet School. As the project fills in along the canal it will provide a beautiful, aesthetic link to Venice’s remaining natural heritage as a species-rich wetland. *More:* <http://www.growingsolutions.org/Grand%20Canal.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

SBCC SANTA CRUZ ISLAND FIELD TRIP

Santa Barbara City College class will be going to Santa Cruz Island to work on rare plant recovery at our island nursery. The class work will focus on *Malacothamnus fasciculatus*, Island Bush Mallow a federally listed endangered plant. Dates: March 6th and 7th.

FOOTHILL OPEN-SPACE WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Join us for a fun-filled Saturday morning meeting interesting people while we turn a landfill into a park by planting native plants. 9 am till noon – snacks provided by long time supporter Second District Supervisor Janet Wolf office. Dates: Feb 20, March 13, April 17, May 22.

FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

One-day native-plant seminar taught by Bruce Reed (of the SB Botanical Garden) and Karen Flagg. Come spend the day at Puma Canyon Ranch hiking the springtime rich hills learning to recognize our local native plants. Limited to 15, fee: \$100. For more information contact Karen Flagg at: karenflagg@cox.net
Date: To be announced

EARTH DAY

Growing Solutions will have a booth at the 40th anniversary of the Santa Barbara Earth Day held in Alameda Park on Dates: April 17 and 18th
For more information:
http://www.cecsb.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=110

BIODEISEL WORKSHOP

IS BEING DEVELOPED AND WE ARE SEEKING FUNDING. IT WILL BE A 3-PART SERIES FOCUSING ON FUEL CROPS, BIODIESEL PRODUCTION AND DIESEL MECHANICS. INSTRUCTORS WILL BE DON HARTLEY, RUSS TEALL, AND JOE BITGOOD

NATIVE-PLANT SPOTLIGHT

Weed's Mariposa

Calochortus weedii var. *vestus*



Spotted on a windy knoll in the foothills above Goleta following the July 2008 Gap Fire, *Calochortus weedii* is a rare treat for enthusiasts of the genus. Listed with the California Native Plant Society as 1B.2 plant, meaning it is a fairly rare endangered California endemic. *Calochortus weedii* is one of over 40 species of *Calochortus* in our state. California seems to be the center of diversity for this species with the range for the other 30 or so species being from Guatemala to British Columbia and east to South Dakota. *Calochortus weedii* tends to grow singularly and not in masses in the grasslands and chaparral presenting after a fire. This individual was 3ft tall with a spectacular flower full of interesting markings and hairs. It is thought that the flower markings are nectar guides for insects searching the hillsides for their next meal.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

This issue we spend a bit of time with our non-profits' coordinator Danielle Neuhauser who is making a strong link between healing the land and healing ourselves. *More:*

<http://www.growingsolutions.org/Intern%20Spotlight.html>

GS IN THE NEWS

Check out the latest on Growing Solutions on the web and in the media world at large:

Noozhawk: “Growing Solutions Cultivates Sustainability”

http://www.noozhawk.com/karen_telleen_lawton/article/011110_karen_telleen-lawton_growing_solutions_cultivates_sustainability

Santa Barbara Magazine’s “Giving Back” column”, February 2010

“Growing Solutions—Restoring Santa Barbara’s Natural Habitat One Plant At A Time” http://growingsolutions.org/Media%20Features_files/sb%20mag%202010.pdf

DONATIONS

Our members’ donations are the lifeblood of Growing Solutions. Your ongoing financial support make it possible to pay our employees, grow the plants and implement the many programs that you feel of value. As a small organization we are able to maximize the impact of each dollar to fund hand’s-on education and to collect, grow and put viable healthy plants in the ground. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. You can make donation by check or instantly via PayPal:

By check:

Growing Solutions

P.O. Box 30081

Santa Barbara, CA 93130

By PayPal:

<http://growingsolutions.org/Ways%20to%20Donate.html>

You have received this newsletter because you are on the list to receive news and updates from Growing Solutions. To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please send an email to: holly@growingsolutions.org and note: “Unsubscribe GS Newsletter” in the subject line. For more information about Growing Solutions please visit www.growingsolutions.org

The Seedling is the official publication, published quarterly of Growing Solutions, a registered 501(3)c California non-profit corporation.