

A Community Forum on The Gill Tract Farm: Laboratory for a Resilient Future

*Sunday October 13, 2013
10:00 am - 4:00 pm*

Welcome to the Gill Tract Farm! We are pleased that you are able to join UC College of Natural Resources, UC Cooperative Extension-Alameda and Gill Tract Farm Coalition for a day of family fun, food, music, education, and discussion at the Gill Tract Farm.

This kick-off event represents the launch of a budding partnership between the community and UC to explore how the Gill Tract Farm can be used as a place for collaborative research and educational programs on urban agriculture, food justice, youth development and sustainable livelihoods.

We invite you to explore the current season's community-based research project on Urban Agriculture and other hands-on activities and educational workshops. Then, after a farm-fresh lunch, join the open forum and share your ideas for how the UC College of Natural Resources, UC Cooperative Extension and the local community can expand projects at the Gill Tract.

Schedule

10:00 Opening Ceremony

10:10 Welcome!

Glenda Humiston, USDA Rural Development California State Director

Keith Gillless, Dean, UC College of Natural Resources

Daniel Cardozo, Community Farmer-Researcher & Albany Farm Alliance member

Miguel Altieri, Professor, Department of Environmental, Science, Policy, and Management

10:20 Intro to Community Agroecology Research Project - Professor Miguel Altieri

10:30-12:00 Ongoing Workshops & Activities

Plot 1: **Draw and color** with children of all ages. Walk through the rows and talk about the different vegetables that are planted, then draw and color what we see!

Plot 2 - **Bob** for apples and guided plot tours

Plot 3 - **Read** about the abundance of food produced on this plot since August 10th.

Plot 4 - **Harvest** squash and cucumbers for today's salad and **learn to save** the seeds.

Plot 5 - **Wander and search** through our plot in search of answers to clues. "nature" prizes for completing your loteria/bingo card

Plot 6 - **Plant** a patch of narrow leaf milkweed as a Monarch butterfly way station (habitat) + **giveaway** of seeds and information

Plot 7 - **Dig in the soil** and identify plants, both loved and misunderstood.

Plot 8 - **Plant** rainbow seedlings to take away, **adorn** scarecrows, and **paint** signs

Plot 9 - **Scavenge & hunt** for all ages

Plot 10 - **Dye** natural fabrics and yarns with flower dyes. **stamp** paper with handcut vegetable stamps. **Identify** - unusual and useful plants

Urban Ag 101

Joy Moore- Garden teacher and Community Food Activist

The further back we can look the further ahead we will see! This soil, this land is sacred as is all soil, all land! The future of urban agriculture is not new - it is a reflection of the past; or at least it should be. We are gathered here today to discuss what the future might be, what we may envision and realize will happen here on this soil, on this land. We must trust that the seeds we plant today in this soil, on this land may grow to be the future!

Plot 7, 11:15-12:00.

Kimchi making workshop

Phat Beets Produce

Make, taste and take home your own small jar of kimchi to watch ferment!

Phat Beets Table, 10:30-12noon

Cultivating Resilience in the Law: Policy Initiatives and Innovative Strategies for Just Local Economies

Chris Tittle, Sustainable Economies Law Center

Our food system is not well served by today's predominant food business models, which incentivize growth, shareholder profit maximization, absentee ownership, and exploitation of land and people. Converse with the Sustainable Economies Law Center about creative strategies for creating local wealth and community ownership, including food policy initiatives that remove legal barriers and models for community-owned food enterprise.

Little Circle 1, 11am-noon

Soil Sampling

Professor of Agroecology, Miguel Altieri

Take soil samples of the Area A for analysis of basic nutrient levels, pH and lead levels. Help spread lime and also sow winter cover crops that will help enhance organic matter levels necessary for spring 2014 plantings.

Area A, 11am-12noon

Master Gardeners - Plant Doctor Booth

Get Help from a Trained Master Gardener from the UC Cooperative Extension Alameda/Master Gardener Program!

Alameda County Master Gardeners help gardeners by answering questions about plants and plant/garden problems and extending the information they have learned through community events and projects, including seminars, demonstration workshops and newspaper articles. Volunteers answer gardening questions on a plant doctor hotline, through email, at local farmers markets, at our three demonstration gardens, and at various community events such as the Alameda County Fair.

Master Gardener's Booth, All Day

Kid's activity: Dig For Worms and Other Critters!

UC Cooperative Extension, Alameda

Kids and families CAN touch the soils and learn about worm anatomy and soils ecology together, and the role those decomposers play in healthy plant growth.

Area A, 10:30-12:00

Participatory Mapping Project

Adam Calo, PhD Student in Dept. of Environmental Science, Policy and Management

See how Local Ground—an innovative mapping technology-- can be utilized as a visioning tool to capture diverse perspectives on what the Gill Tract means to them & how it could be used in the future.

Big Circle, 11:15-12:00

Seed Babies Workshop

The Berkeley Student Organic Gardening Association (SOGA)

Make balls of seeds, clay, and soil that you can throw into empty plots of land to encourage life. The technique originated in the 1970's when the Guerilla Gardening Movement threw balloons filled with tomato seeds and fertilizer into empty city lots to beautify the streets. We will make clay capsules with moisture in them to encourage germination after landing. Come learn how to make your own seed baby with clay, compost, and other materials. You can take one home for your own garden, or maybe use it as a form of protest to beautify our Bay Area landscape.

SOGA space, 11am-12pm

Codornices Creek Walk!

Amy Merrill, Senior Riparian Ecologist, Stillwater Sciences

Explore Codornices Creek to discover what lives in urban creeks and their potential for restoration.

Welcome Table 11:30-12:00

Native California bees are everywhere, just look around your garden!

Professor Gordon Frankie, Dept. of Environmental Science, Policy and Management Little Circle 2, 10:30-12:00

Encouraging Pollinator Habitat and Conservation in Home Gardens

Professor Claire Kremen, Hillary Sardinias (grad student), Emily Kearney (grad student), Leithen M'gonigle (post doc), Kerry Cutler (lab manager) from the Dept. of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, UC Berkeley. Appreciate the importance of pollinators for food security; Discover some of the diversity of pollinators in our area; Learn how to support bee populations in your garden, through creating both nesting and floral resources for a variety of bees; Learn to make an Osmia colony in your backyard.

Big Circle, 10:30-11:15

12:00-1:00 Lunch - With vegetables from the Gill Tract Farm!

1:00-2:00 Storytelling Circle - Where We've Been and Visions for the Future

With storytellers from our community: Hank Herrera, Dig Deep Farms; Miguel Altieri, UC Professor, Agroecology; Jeff Romm UC Professor, Environmental Science, Policy & Management; Alexa Hauser, Albany Farm Alliance; Keith Gilles, Dean, UC College of Natural Resources; Joy Moore, Garden Teacher and Community Food Activist

2:00-4:00 Community Forum & Breakout Groups - Visions for the Future

Share your ideas about how the Gill Tract can serve the community as a center for education and research and connect with others who share your vision.

We thank you for spending your day with us and hope you will consider getting involved in future education and research projects at the Gill Tract Farm!

For more information, please contact:

Rob Bennaton, Director & Urban Agriculture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension – Alameda

rbennaton@ucanr.edu

Christy Getz, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, College of Natural Resources

cgetz@berkeley.edu

Effie Rawlings, Gill Tract Farm Coalition

srawlings@gmail.com