

Local

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So it grows

By Elizabeth Schilling



Santa Cruz planning farmers' market

PLANS for a new farmers' market in downtown Santa Cruz are in the works. The project is one of many efforts being undertaken by the Downtown Association and the city of Santa Cruz to get people back to the earthquake-damaged downtown.

Tentative plans call for the produce sale to be held Wednesday afternoons through the early evenings this spring and summer. Weekly entertainment may also become part of the event, Corrine Farner of the Downtown Association said.

The Santa Cruz event would be run as a Certified Organic Farmers' Market, similar to those held weekly in Felton and Saturdays at Cabrillo College.

A public meeting to discuss the proposal is planned for Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Room 7 at the Loudon Nelson Center in Santa Cruz. More information is available by calling the Downtown Association at 429-8433.

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Agriculture becomes art in a new photography show by Fred Chamberlain. His show "Field Workers and Labor Camps" was shot mostly in the Pajaro Valley. Fans will remember Chamberlain's collection of photos about the now demolished businesses of lower Main Street in Watsonville.

His new collection is on exhibit at the Pacific Grove Art Center, 568 Lighthouse Ave. The show will run through Saturday with hours daily from noon to 5 p.m. Chamberlain says he hopes to bring the show to the Watsonville area sometime in the future.

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Everyone from farmers to kids to environmentalists will find something of interest in one of the special events coming up at UC-Santa Cruz.

A tour of the garden and its bio-intensive raised beds will be the focus of a Saturday morning tour April 21. On Earth Day, April 22, the campus will be organized for children to visit and participate in workshops.

A Life Lab garden tour is set for June 9, when participants will visit a Santa Cruz elementary school where the living laboratory program is in place. The Life Lab curriculum, developed in Santa Cruz 10 years ago, is now used by teachers nationwide to teach science and nutrition.

Also in June, a one-day conference titled "Conceptualizing Agricultural Sustainability" will be hosted by the Agroecology Program. This June 30 event is designed to bring together people involved in diverse aspects of the food and agriculture industries. The conference will follow a two-day meeting of researchers involved in sustainable agriculture research.

More information on all these programs is available by calling 459-4140.

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Increasingly, California fruit growers don't mind being bugged — that is, using good bugs to eat bad bugs. A recent article in *Sierra* magazine details the tactic that began in China as early as 324 B.C.

Chinese farmers placed ant nests in citrus trees and the ants got rid of caterpillars and boring beetles. The growers even went to the trouble of linking each tree with tiny bamboo bridges to make the patrolling ants' job easier.

Today China is the world's leading practitioner of biological control, the article said. Growers there rely on beneficial insects to manage pests on more than 21 million acres of cropland.