Experts offer tricks of the trade at gardening boot camp

By CHANDRA HAYS

APTOS — The third annual Monterey Bay Master Gardeners Boot Camp is back by popular demand.

This one-day gardening intensive accommodates gardeners of all experience levels, with more than 25 different one-hour classes to choose from, ranging from composting to edible landscaping. This year’s event will be Saturday, June 15, at Cabrillo College.

Denise Weatherwax, president of Monterey Bay Master Gardeners advisory board, said the now annual event has become a no-brainer for the gardening education group: “We have had very positive responses; last year 96 percent of participants said they would definitely or maybe return the next year.”

Upon registration, participants can choose up to four classes, one from each of four sessions, for $40. New classes this year include beekeeping, water conservation and pest control.

Instructors will include University of California Extension and Cabrillo College professors, as well as Master Gardeners and local professionals, such as India Joze chef Joseph Schultz and local rose expert Joseph Truskot. Steve Tjosvold, UC Extension farm adviser for Santa Cruz County, will present a keynote address, “Garden Myths and Legends” before classes begin.

For those who just want to pick up some new plants, there will be a plant sale during lunch, as well as food sold by the Cruz N Gourmet catering truck. At the end of the day there will be a raffle and silent auction, with many garden-related prizes.

All proceeds from the event will go to Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, the local chapter of a nationwide group that strives to educate the public about all things gardening, and the Cabrillo College Horticulture Department.