



WEEKLY WEEDER

April 20, 2023

1. First Tomato?!?
2. Mark Your Calendars: All-Gardener Meeting
3. Please Consider Joining the Board: 2023 Sunshine Elections
4. We are Ready for the Kids!
5. Adopt-A-Fence Program Needs More Gardeners to Participate
6. Fire Ant Education by Ila Falvey
7. Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

[View this email in your browser](#)



First Tomato?

Jim Willmann caught John Lee "red handed" picking his first tomato of the season!

Does anyone else have varieties that are ready to pick? Please send in your garden photos!

Mark Your Calendar: Annual Membership Meeting Saturday, May 13, 10:00am

Sunshine's annual membership meeting will be Saturday, May 13 at 10:00 am. The agenda will include election of president, vice-president and treasurer, ratifying some site rule amendments the board has adopted, review of the Adopt-A-Fence Panel program, and annual reports by the president and treasurer. More detail will be provided in future Weeders and all-gardener emails. Refreshments will be served.

So join your fellow Sunshine gardeners on Saturday May 13 to socialize, enjoy some breakfast tacos, and take care of some Sunshine business.

--Submitted by Jim Willmann

Please Consider Joining the Board: 2023 Sunshine Elections

So far no-one else has entered their name in the race!

The Sunshine Gardens Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for President, Vice President and Treasurer for our spring 2023 elections to take place in May. The description of those positions is included below. If you are interested in being a candidate, please submit your name, contact information and role you are interested in to the members of the nominating committee via email by 5/5.

It is important to the future of Sunshine Gardens to have qualified, involved candidates and officers filling our executive slots. If you have any questions about the roles, please contact the current role holder or members of the nominating committee. Everyone who is a dues-paying member in good standing is welcome to apply for these important

positions in our community

If you are interested, we plan on putting your bio write-up and photo in the Weeder the on 5/4 and 5/11. Please send the nominating committee this content.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Polly Porter pollymporter@icloud.com
Steve Uecker steven_uecker@hotmail.com
Shannon Cunningham sdlt96@gmail.com
Matthew Johnston matt.superstar@yahoo.com
Marsha Riti marshariti@gmail.com

President

A. Responsibilities Set Out in Bylaws

1. supervise and control the affairs of the Initiative.
2. perform all duties incident to such office and such other duties as may be provided in these Bylaws or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.
3. preside at all board meetings and exercise parliamentary control in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
4. serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees, unless otherwise provided by the Board of Directors or these Bylaws.
5. with the Vice President and advice of the Directors, appoint or accept volunteers for public representation, coordinators, and committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee.
6. with the advice of the Board of Directors and in accordance with the requirements of these Bylaws, set the agenda for each meeting of the Board of Directors.
7. serve as liaison to the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, or any other landlords or governmental agencies.

B. Other Responsibilities

1. Preside at all-gardener meetings

Vice President

A. Responsibilities Set Out in Bylaws

1. act in place of the President in the event of the President's absence, inability, or refusal to act
2. exercise and discharge such other duties as may be required by the board.
3. serve as parliamentarian and interpret any ambiguities of the Bylaws.
4. coordinate the work of the Zone Coordinators, which includes their training.
5. support the process of Plot Compliance/Non-compliance as stated in the Site Rules, which may result in notifying a member of Termination of Membership.

6. perform the functions of the Secretary In the case of the absence or disability of the Secretary, or the Secretary's refusal or neglect to fulfill the duties of Secretary *[set out in Bylaws provision relating to secretary's responsibilities]*

B. Other Responsibilities

1. Playing role of grounds/physical plant supervisor by identifying needed repairs and projects and helping organize work groups to accomplish. Examples: leaf/wood chip satellite station, repairing porch roof *[This responsibility tends to depend on interests of individual VP.]*
2. Other?

Treasurer

A. Responsibilities Set Out in Bylaws

1. have charge and custody of all funds of the Initiative,
2. oversee and supervise the financial business of the Initiative,
3. render reports and accountings to the Directors as required by the Board of Directors
4. perform in general all duties incident to the office of Treasurer
5. such other duties as may be required by law, by the Certificate of Formation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors.
6. S/he and the staff of the Initiative shall devise a plan providing for the acceptance and disbursement of all funds of the Initiative which shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
7. with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall set up all checking, savings, and investment accounts of the Initiative and deposit all such funds in the name of the Initiative in such accounts.
8. Treasurer's signature shall be the authorized signature for all checking, savings, and investment accounts of the Initiative unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Directors, designates another member of the Board of Directors or employee of the Initiative as the authorized signatory for a particular type of disbursement.
9. prepare a monthly report for the Board of Directors, providing an accounting of all transactions and of the financial conditions of the Initiative.
10. keep all financing records, books, and annual reports of the financial activities of the Initiative at the principal office of the Initiative and make them available at the request of any Director or Member of the Initiative

B. Other Responsibilities

1. Dues billing
2. Managing sales at annual plant sale
3. Preparing tax return
4. Together with Secretary, make initial decisions about requests for waiver of service hours

5. Other?

C. NOTE: Board-adopted Financial Policies provide for the appointment of an Assistant Treasurer and adoption of a memorandum of understanding delineating the respective responsibilities delegated to the Assistant Treasurer.—Submitted by Polly Porter



Pam Kirby in the Children's Garden

We are Ready for the Kids!

Thanks to the volunteerism of Sunshine gardeners, Sunshine is ready to get young members of the community gardening. While there is more to come, in terms of tools for the kids and shade areas, the beds are ready for the kids to start planting!

Gardeners who made contact about sponsoring a child aged 5-11 will be contacted soon by the Children's Garden Zone Coordinator, Pam Kirby.

We still have some available beds for children. If you are a garden member in good standing and wish to sponsor a child who would enjoy gardening in his or her own 3x3 bed, contact Pam: pkirby125@gmail.com for further information.

We look forward to our youngest garden members joining the garden community! -- *Submitted by Kerry Drake*

Adopt-A-Fence Program Needs More Gardeners To Participate

A majority of Sunshine gardeners prefer having vines on the new fence but a fence with vines requires more maintenance than one vine free. The Adopt-A-Fence Panel program was created to address this issue.

Gardeners adopting a panel (or panels) would maintain that panel(s) – keeping weed, rock and trash free, removing hackberries, etc. The snail vine and clematis vines on the previous fence will regrow naturally, so maintenance does not involve planting vines. However, some gardeners may prefer another type of vine on the panel and a benefit of adopting a panel, is the gardener can have input on the type of vine on the panel as long as it is a native vine.

Only slightly over one-third (30) of the total fence panels (81) have been adopted. To address maintenance of the 50 unadopted panels, the board has decided unadopted panels would be kept free of vines and other vegetation. The easiest way to do this is to periodically weed whack along the unadopted panels. The exception will be the fence line along the compost area which will continue to have vines and those panels will not need to be adopted.

Since a majority of gardeners prefer vines on the new fence, the policy of maintaining unadopted panels vine free will not be implemented until mid-May. The hope is that gardeners preferring vines on the fence will adopt most of the currently unadopted panels, and the policy may not need to be implemented.

So if you prefer a fence with vines and have not adopted a fence panel, now is the time to do so. The fence panels each have a numbered metal tag and adopted panels are marked with a blue ribbon. To adopt a panel(s) just find a panel(s) without a blue ribbon, note the panel(s)

number and email Jim Willmann (jhwillmann@gmail.com) you want to adopt that panel(s). Also, here is a link to a diagram of the Sunshine fence line showing panels currently available for adoption: [Teams and Adopt-A-Fence.xlsx](#) (sunshinecommunitygardens.org)

In selecting panels, it is helpful if newly adopted panels are adjacent to already adopted panels. --Submitted by Jim Willmann

Garden Education by Ila Falvey



Fire ant, unknown

Fire ants both sting (posterior end) and bite(mouth parts).. To give you their dose of venom, they curl like a "C" . If I suspect that the mound is a fire ant mound, I let one ant crawl on my finger and watch what it does. If it forms the "C", I knock it off.before it attacks. If the ant behaves differently, I ignore the mound. Also, the fire ants in the colony are of different sizes.

We use a drench to control fire ants at Sunshine. The drench is made from molasses and orange oil- both organic products. For the drench to be effective, **it has to come in contact with the ants**. Unfortunately, it will harm other organisms it comes in contact with.including your plants and earthworms.

The other way to control fire ants is with bait. "Come and Get it" contains Spinosad and is organic. It needs to be properly applied and takes time to work (weeks). It costs more than \$25 per pound. Sunshine has used this bait in the past with moderate success..

One year Sunshine gardeners did the great boiling water experiment. We had many camp stoves to boil water but the windy conditions at Sunshine kept blowing them out. Boiling water will kill ants on contact.

Then, we tried the bait and switch. We used white ceramic tiles placed strategically around the garden. We bought the cheapest hot dogs, sliced them, and put them on the white tiles and waited for the ants to come. The ants were attracted by the hot dogs and in an hour or so, the slices were covered with ants. Then we removed the hot dog slices and put them in a bucket of water and replaced the hot dog slices with "Come and Get It". The ants were not attracted to the bait. The only ants we killed were the ones drowned when we put the hot dog slices in the water.

I remind everyone that Sunshine practices organic methods. Gardeners are not allowed to use toxic baits. Bait products like "Amdro" can not be used at Sunshine. The only organic bait available contains Spinosad and "Come and Get IT" is the best to use.

In summary, You are allowed to use the orange oil drench, "Come and Get IT" , and/or boiling water to treat fire ants at Sunshine. These methods have moderate success.

Wizzie Brown, the county entomologist, is presenting a [free webinar on fire ants on April. 28](#) starting at 10am.

Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

Howdy SCG Gardeners!

Again, we can't thank you enough for volunteering and helping with our successful plant sale!

NEXT SCHEDULED WORKDAY - TBD

Workdays often evolve into social events! SCG is a fantastic place to meet new friends and learn both new and old gardening techniques. There's a wealth of knowledge here and experienced people that love to share it.

NOTE

The North & East fenceline now have a number assigned to each panel. It is on a brass ring hanging on the panel. Please, either you or a small group please sign up for 1 or more I that you will work to keep clean and neat looking. It may have certain vines on it if you wish. Check with staff about which vines will perform the best. Contact Jim Willmann jhwillmann@gmail.com for assignment options.

Thanks!

NEW GARDENERS

There are several new gardeners at SCG! Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and y'all get to know each other a little and share garden knowledge and tips. Let's emphasize the COMMUNITY in Community Garden.

ROADS AND PARKING

- Speed limit is 3 MPH. (Primarily for safety, but also to keep the dust down.)
- Sunshine's roads provide access to plots and common areas. Gardeners should not 1) park on roads except to unload a heavy load from vehicle, 2) drive on roads when wet, 3) drive around barriers, 4) drive into another gardener's plot, or 5) put plants or other items in the road.
- Cars may not be left idling while at the garden.
- Park only in the front parking area or your common area. On weekends there are parking spaces on Sunshine and 49th Street.

Handbook and Site rules specifically state that **PARKING ON GARDEN ROADS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Park in the parking lot or common areas only. When the emergency vehicle enters SCG, they may (I hope not) be coming to assist YOU. How inconvenient it would be for them to have to wait for folks to move cars.

PRIORITY TASKS

- Mowing and Trimming everywhere but especially Fenceline and lawn on either side of fence. With the recent rains and more to come, mowing has become a primary task.
- Khaki Weed Season is Upon Us! For the uninitiated, Khaki weed is an invasive plant that infects the garden in late spring, summer, and fall. We are determined every year to eradicate it as much as possible. To this end, we are allowing digging up khaki weed to be counted as TSVBI hours until further notice.
- Maintaining common paths and common areas. If you have plants extending into common paths, trim them. The common paths are designed to allow the biggest wheelbarrows that we own to traverse them unimpeded.

TSVBI

- Weeding paths in TSVBI garden and wood chip areas on west side. (This is normally needed. Try to get out roots. Be sure to smooth out paths after weeding to facilitate TSVBI students moving around garden). Mowing between fence and street along 49th St. and Sunshine Dr. along and 10' inside fence.
- Picking up trash wherever you see it.
- Cleaning the street curb gutters of dirt and debris buildup. (At places in the curb gutter along Sunshine Dr. And 49th St. soil has built up and grass is beginning to grow. Scrape off with shovel and put in wheelbarrow. If debris is gravel it can be put in low places in the parking lot, otherwise, destination is dumpster.
- Note: TSVBI hours can also count as regular hours.

REGULAR

- Maintaining common paths. (Gardeners are required to maintain a 2' strip of common paths adjacent to their plot.
- Mowing and cleaning up overgrown/messy places in common areas.

Your Zone Coordinator may have more tasks than are listed here. Contact them or campinthegarden@yahoo.com if you feel that you have run out of things to do.

Slow Down (3 MPH!) You're on Garden Time! Enjoy!

Contact both [Kristin Phillips](#) & [Maria Beach](#) to contribute the Weekly Weeder.



Copyright © 2023 Sunshine Community Gardens, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

