



# WEEKLY WEEDER

July 27, 2023

1. Help Accessibility Garden & Enjoy Breakfast!
  2. Purple Martin Event
  3. Meet a Member
  4. Need Rocks? Help a Gardener
  5. Vegetable Poetry
  6. Garden Education by Ila Falvey
  7. Sunshine Notes from Marsha Riti
- 



*Image by Iris Slevin*

## Help at Sunshine Saturday: Accessibility Garden

Look at the progress we've made (see photo above)! Earn your hours early! We have dirt to move THIS SATURDAY!

This Saturday (8:00-10:00am) we will be doing some additional soil removal and leveling in the accessible bed area in prep for putting down the decomposed granite. The area where soil will be removed is a 3-4' strip along outside border of east end where the three current beds are located. I estimate work is about 1/4 to 1/3 of what was done last Saturday.

If you are available and willing to help this Saturday, please let me know. Iris is bringing juice and bagels.— *Submitted by Jim Willmann*

---



*This bird may be there! Photographed with Paige at Sunshine by Walter Kuhl*

## Purple Martin Event

Travis Audubon will be hosting its Purple Martin Parties where hundreds of people congregate to watch hundreds of thousands of Purple Martins “swirl” into their roosting site. Birders and non birders alike will be entertained by the show, so bring your family, friends and neighbors and join us for an evening of fun. Party Dates are July 14-15, 21-22, 28-29, August 4-5 \* 8:00-9:00 PM at La Frontera Shopping Center near Old Navy and Petco. Travis Audubon will be set up near the Petco. Free to attend, no registration required.

Purple Martins begin roosting together by the thousands in early summer, as soon as their chicks leave the nest, in preparation for their migration to South America, where they live during our winter.



Onlookers from previous performances described it as, “ a hurricane of birds,” “way cool”, and “ better than the bats!”

Binoculars are optional, but lawn chairs, cameras, and hats are highly recommended! Please bring drinking water- it will be hot! — *Submitted by Dana Kuykendall*

---



## Meet a [New] Member!

Jessica Morse (pictured above) and her husband, Larry Morse, are new gardeners. Jessica took a minute to email Marsha:

I'm so excited to be starting a garden at Sunshine Community Gardens. I retired after 26 years with the state of Texas on June 30, 2023, and started my new plot on July 1st. My husband, Larry Morse, who is a retired Austin fire fighter, is also

gardening with me.

Here are some things to know about us:

- We have two teenage sons, ages 15 and 18. The eighteen-year old was just accepted to the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Austin Community College, and we couldn't be more proud of him.
- Larry spends much of his time repairing motorcycles and wishes he lived closer to a motocross track.
- We have quite a few pets: Apollo, our border collie; Jessica's mean 45-year old parrot, Miguel; six backyard chickens; and a fish tank.
- We live in Skyview neighborhood just over a mile from the garden.

Here's a photo of me with my favorite new tool. I have loved getting to know other gardeners and am learning so much from all of you. Please come say hi! —

*Submitted by Marsha Riti*

---

## Need Rocks? Help a New Gardener



New Sunshine gardener Marcia Kiger's plot came with an arrangement of beds edged with rocks, and the many rocks have become a safety and mobility issue. She needs assistance removing the rocks. Please help her by taking as many free rocks as you would like from her plot, 12-7.

Marcia's plot is near the front gate, in Zone 4. Please see the photos for reference. Thank you for helping a fellow gardener, and welcome to Sunshine, Marica! — *Submitted by Maria Beach.*

---

## Vegetable Poetry

First Tomato by George R. Pasley, July 18, 2023 of Martin, TN  
(former student of a Sunshine member!)

The first tomato

Always takes forever to ripen –  
The second one, not so long.

But after that, everything  
Seems to ripen in the blink of an eye.  
One moment, there are blossoms  
On the cucumber vines  
And the next day,  
The cukes are too big to eat  
And get tossed on the compost.  
Tomatoes ripen by the bucket full  
And every pass yields some rotting,  
On the vine.  
Beans must be picked,  
Squash dare you,  
Beets jump out of the ground  
And chase you to the car.  
God laughs, the earth is good  
And life is very,  
Very lush.

— *Submitted by Bill Gaventa*

---

## Garden Education by Ila Falvey

A timely blog post from Central Texas Gardener's Linda Lehmusvirta:  
[Scalding Heat and Sunburned Plants](#)

---

## Garden Notes from Marsha Riti

*The lovely icons for this section were created by Marsha Riti*



### Heat Advisory

Summer is here so please take caution when working in the garden. Stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, and a hat. Also, remember we have a "cool room" in the trailer where the AC is running, and there are popsicles in the freezer. Please read this article from the CDC about [Heat Stress Related Illness](#).



### Service Hours are Due

Sunshine Community Garden and TSVBI service hours are due at



the end of this month. If you are unsure how many hours you have left to work please check the [Green Binder](#).



### **General Workday**

Details coming soon



### **Beautification Committee Workday**

Need service hours? There is always a workday every Sunday (9-12pm) in the flower beds around the trailer. Hosted by Matthew Johnston.



### **Kid's Garden!**

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](#) for further information.



### **OMG, Cars, slow down!**

Please drive slowly (3 MPH) in the garden. There are cats, kids, and gardeners who use this space, and we need it to be safe for everyone.



### **Mowers and Weed Whackers**

Don't know how to use the gas or electric grass cutting equipment? Please contact:

[Steve Camp](#) (electric mowers / weed wackers)

[Ray Porter](#) (gas mowers)



### **More grass than garden?**

Please clean up your plot. If you have health issues that are keeping you from working on your plot contact your Zone Coordinator or the Vice President for assistance. Also, if you'd like to fallow your plot for the rest of the summer, posted below is how to do that (taken from page 28 of the Handbook). Please make sure your Zone Coordinator or Vice President knows you are fallowing your plot.

## Fallow Season or Cover Crop

Occasionally, members may choose to leave a plot fallow for a season. This is a good practice to provide the soil a break. Fallow plots should be cleared of plants and weeds, then covered completely with compost and then cardboard, a thick layer of leaves, or other material that allows water to permeate. Avoid using plastic as it creates a good environment for fire ants underneath, and water pools on top. An alternative to a fallow season is to plant a cover crop to serve as green manure; this can be turned under at the end of the season to condition the soil. Consult the literature or local garden center for details on this technique for soil improvement.

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](#).

