



WEEKLY WEEDER

August 3, 2023

1. Help with the Accessibility Garden
 2. Micah 6 for July
 3. Meet a [New] Member
 4. More than Veg: Melons at Sunshine!
 5. Garden Education by Ila Falvey
 6. Sunshine Notes from Marsha Riti
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Image by Iris Slevin

Help with the Accessibility Garden

Volunteers Needed:

Decomposed Granite Arriving THIS WEEK!

WE NEED YOU!

We will be spreading this huge pile of decomposed granite for the expansion of the raised beds this SATURDAY!

8 AM - 10 AM

Breakfast Tacos will be provided for the volunteers. Join us as we make a huge difference for our community. Our goal is to finish this expansion within the next 2 weeks. With your help, we can accomplish this and our accessibility beds will be ready for fall planting. — *Submitted by Iris Slevin*

July and Year to Date Sunshine Donations to Micah 6 Food Pantry

July / Year to Date

- Sunshine Produce -- 618.5 lbs / 1939.25 lbs
- Dry Goods & Non-Sunshine Produce -- 60.5 lbs / 448.25 lbs

Despite the heat, produce donations in July have continued to be impressive, both in quantity and quality. I am so impressed by your generosity. I wished I had taken a picture to share in the Weeder of the carefully labeled bags of shelled cream peas that someone donated to Micah 6. That was a lot of work! Wonderful donation.

That said, for the last couple of weeks the amount of produce from both our Micah 6 garden and donations have been decreasing. **In August we will return to one delivery to the food pantry per week -- Saturday morning at 9am. No Thursday delivery.**

Fresh Produce Donations:

Please consider donating excess harvest to the Micah 6 Food Pantry. Donations of fresh produce (from your garden or purchased) may be left in the cool room (south

end of the trailer) or in the trailer refrigerator.

Dry Goods Donations:

Micah 6 Food Pantry is struggling to keep up with demand. Please consider donating non-perishable items in addition to produce. Leave your donations in the cool room at the south end of the trailer.

Non-perishable donation suggestions:

- Canned meats such as tuna and stew (pop-up tops preferred)
- Canned vegetables and soup
- Dry beans and rice
- Healthy cereals
- Peanut butter

Once again - Thank You for your generosity!! — *Submitted by Walter Kuhl*

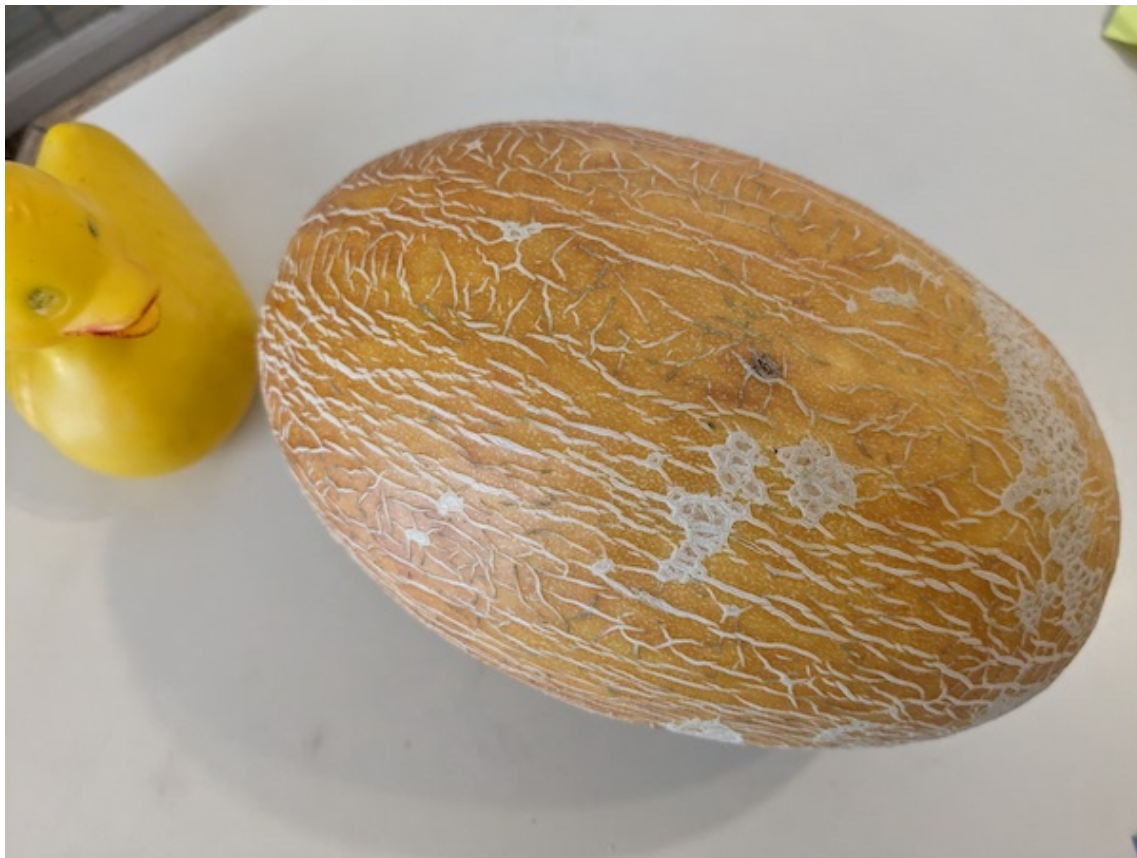


Meet a [New] Member!

Featured New Gardener, George Castle!

"I grew up in Baton Rouge, and studied physics at LSU. I moved to Austin in 1987 for graduate school at UT to pursue nuclear fusion research. After a postdoc stint in the UK, I returned to Austin and eventually settled into my current job. I'm currently a Technical Fellow at CACI working on signal processing and related problems.

I learned to cook growing up in Louisiana and have a keen appreciation for fresh ingredients. I've always had some crop of herbs and vegetables growing when I had the space for them. After my daughter went off to Wisconsin to study I downsized and moved to an apartment and then a condo - so I needed some place to grow things again. I had several friends who gardened at Sunshine Gardens, and it was also on my dog walking route so I thought I should apply and see if there were any plots available. The pandemic increased the wait but finally I've got my plot. The first things I'm trying are southern peas and a couple kinds of squash (until later in September)." — *Submitted by Marsha Riti*



More than Veg: Melons at Sunshine!

Susan Hoberman photographed a great addition to her plot this summer ... a melon

over five pounds! Yum.

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

From Sheryl Williams: [What's Happening in August in your Austin Garden](#)

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 were due at the end of July. 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.



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