



WEEKLY WEEDER

August 17, 2023

1. Remembering Bob Easter
2. Sunshine Notes from Marsha Riti

Remembering Bob Easter: A Gardener Who Cultivated Generosity



Robert "Bob" Easter Collins, Sr. was born on November 18, 1941 in Waco, TX, and passed away on August 11, 2023, surrounded by family in Austin, TX. According to Bob's obituary, his family and his gardening were the two things for which he would most like to be remembered. Many Sunshine gardeners and Micah 6 food pantry clients have been the beneficiaries of Bob's gardening knowledge, green thumb, and remarkable generosity.

Bob Easter grew up helping on a family farm and later became a certified Texas Organic Gardener. A Sunshine gardener since 2006, he was known to many for the meticulous care he took to repair and maintain Sunshine's tools. He often passed along gardening tips to others, either in person or via pieces he submitted to the *Weekly Weeder*. Sunshine gardener John Braziel recalls, "When Ila [Falvey] called 12 years ago that she had an open plot, I was the lucky one because the plot was close to Bob Easter's plot. I knew nothing about gardening so I watched the Master gardeners around me. Bob was one of them. When he realized I needed help, his mentorship began. He never failed to compliment my garden when his garden was so superior. He believed that service to humanity was the best work of life." Bob Easter not only planted crops, he sowed kindness and helped grow community.

Bob Easter's gardening techniques were extremely effective, producing abundant harvests. He often shared his bounty with the Micah 6 food pantry, cleaning and packaging his produce fastidiously. Sunshine gardener Walter Kuhl, who is also one of the people leading Sunshine's Micah 6 garden, observes that he "could always identify Bob's donations. His produce donations were always perfect. For example, when he donated green onions, the onions were cleaned, the roots and tops were trimmed, and they were already bundled with rubber bands –all ready for the food pantry clients. His gifts to people struggling in life demonstrated what a kind and considerate person he was." Bob's donations were not only high quality, they were astounding in quantity. Kuhl notes that Sunshine gardeners donate approximately 3000-4000 pounds of produce per year to the Micah 6 food pantry. He estimates the portion of that total from Bob was at least 25%. In March 2022 Bob Easter gave over 50 heads of lettuce he grew to Micah 6, and in 2021 he donated at least 184 pounds of eggplant to the food pantry. Last fall he was excited to share the profuse tomatoes he was still harvesting from some of his spring-planted tomatoes, and was especially tickled by the lavish crop a volunteer tomato plant provided.

Bob Easter spread his generosity around. For example, last September he wrote about his success growing tatume squash (often known locally as calabacita) and offered seed to any Sunshine gardeners who wanted to grow some themselves. In October Bob had copious amounts of end-of-season basil that was still tasty but no longer picture-perfect, so he invited Sunshine gardeners who wanted to make and freeze pesto to glean basil from his plot.

Bob Easter was a big-hearted gardener whose gifts will be missed. Sunshine gardeners may continue his legacy by sharing their own harvests with friends, family, and Micah 6.

Cards or memories of Bob may be sent to:

**The Easter Family
7711 Shadyrock Drive
Austin, TX 78731.**

Bob's online obituary may be read here:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/austin-tx/robert-easter-11406683>



Above: Some of Bob's amazing volunteer tomatoes, neatly packaged for Micah 6, and one of over 50 heads of lettuce he grew and donated one season.

Below: Sunshine's tools were kept in fantastic shape thanks to Bob's efforts.



--Article submitted by Maria Beach, with input from many others.

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

This feature will return next week. Stay tuned!

Garden Notes from Marsha Riti

The lovely icons for this section were created by Marsha Riti



Stay Hydrated

With temperatures in the hundreds it is of great importance to stay hydrated. There are electrolyte packets in the cool room. Also, it would be best to not work during the heat of the day. Here's a link to the CDC heat related illness guide: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/heatreillness.html>.



Help Needed!!!

Our community garden needs help with:

- A Silent Auction Volunteer for the 2024 spring sale. If interested contact marsha@marshariti.com
- An Entertainment Volunteer for the 2024 spring sale. If interested contact marsha@marshariti.com
- Volunteers for the Plot Helpers crew. This team of people help gardeners who are sick or are caretaking. The work is rewarding and fun! If interested please contact **both** Bill Gaventa: bill.gaventa@gmail.com and Bill Cason: Wccason@gmail.com
- A Volunteer to help put the Sunshine Community Gardens newsletter (the Weekly Weeder) together. If interested contact marsha@marshariti.com

Volunteering for these roles counts towards your SCG service hours in 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](#).

