



WEEKLY WEEDER

August 31, 2023

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**Save the Date:
Fall Plant Sale and All-Gardener Meeting on Saturday
9/23**

The Squeaky Frog Farm (former Sunshine gardeners Jen Woertz and Jeff Monks) fall plant sale for Sunshine gardeners will be Saturday 9/23 from 9 AM to 2 PM in the GardenPort greenhouse. Plants available will be broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, leafy greens (kale, Swiss chard, etc.), and some herbs and ornamentals. The specific varieties available can be found at:

http://www.squeakyfrogfarm.com/2023_Fall_Plant_List.pdf

The price of plants for Sunshine gardeners will be \$2.00 each and not the \$2.25 shown on the website. Gardeners will select and pay for plants on the day of the sale, there is no pre-ordering. The sale is limited to Sunshine gardeners.

The Sunshine Fall All-Gardener Meeting is also scheduled for 10 am on September 23, so that will be a day for Sunshine gardeners to get their fall plants, socialize with fellow gardeners, and take care of Sunshine business. The plant sale will start at 9:00, close during the all-gardener meeting, and reopen when the meeting adjourns.

—Submitted by Jim Willmann

Meet a New Gardener: Katherine Carls

My name is Katherine Carls. I moved to Austin in 1992 after getting married. I finished my accounting degree at UT while working full time. I have recently retired from a company I worked at for 30 years.

In 2020, I decided to start vegetable gardening right before COVID hit. We had built some raised beds that were finished in March. Talk about perfect timing! Even though I was terrible at gardening, I loved spending time in my garden. Even though nothing I planted produced, I didn't give up. Funny lesson learned that season . . . In August, I realized water wasn't penetrating the top crust of the soil. I found this out when I removed a rain gauge with 2" of rain in it, and the crust broke in a way that revealed the situation. Once I got the water situation resolved, my garden took off. My fall garden that year was beautiful. I have faced many other garden challenges over the next couple of years. I like the challenges. They keep me on my toes.

One of my challenges is, my beds are a bit sun challenged. This is why I joined the waitlist for a plot at Sunshine Community Gardens. I am excited to have a plot that receives full sun. I am also excited to share a space with a community of gardeners. I have already met several of you, and I look forward to meeting more.



Here's a bad selfie of me and my zone coordinator Kerry. I hope I'm better at gardening than I am at selfies. (Photo by Katherine Carls)

—Submitted by Katherine Carls

Micah 6 Donation Totals for August

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

August / Year to Date:

- Sunshine Produce -- 119.5 lbs / 2058.75 lbs
- Dry Goods & Non-Sunshine Produce -- 65.5 lbs / 513.75 lbs

No surprise, Sunshine produce donations decreased in August. Actually, I'm pleased that despite the furnace-like weather we've endured, almost 120 pounds of produce were donated this past month.

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

Delivery to the food bank will be once a week for the rest of the year. -- Saturdays at 9am.

Thank you for your generosity!

—Submitted by *Walter Kuhls*

Meet the New *Weeder* Co-Editors

The *Weekly Weeder* team is changing. Kristin Phillips, who put out most issues of the *Weeder* since March 2022, is stepping back from the newsletter. Thank you Kristin for your service to Sunshine!

Maria Beach is staying on as Co-Editor and will be mentoring two new Co-Editors. Maria has been gardening at Sunshine since the late 1990s and currently works for Travis County Elections.

The two new Co-Editors are Maggie Clapp and Marianne Spencer. Maggie started gardening at Sunshine in 2021 and is pursuing her doctorate in psychology at UT-Austin. Marianne also started gardening at Sunshine in 2021 and has a background in software testing.

Please submit content for the *Weeder* to **all three editors**: [Maria](#), [Maggie](#), and [Marianne](#). (You can click a link at the bottom of each *Weeder* to send an email to all three at once.)



Photo and Drawing by Marsha Rita

Whittlesey Super Rooster Compost Available

For massive fall veggies, get your 5 gallon buckets for \$2.00 per bucket. There is a limit to how much compost you can get: 20 buckets per full size plot. 10 buckets per half size plot. 5 buckets per quarter size plot. Cash, check, or PayPal payment. PayPal link is on the website. Payments by check or cash (no

coins please) go in the dropbox. Compost payments should be made when compost is moved to your plot. Don't forget, IOUs are no longer accepted.

—Submitted by Marsha Riti

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Passing on information from Austin Organic Gardeners:

Matt Simon from New Leaf Agriculture will be speaking on September 11 from 6-9 pm about new farming practices at a certified organic farm in Elgin. The talk may be attended in person or streamed on Zoom and is free.

For more information visit [Austin Organic Gardeners](#).

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:

illness <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/heatrelillness.html>.



Slack

Are you looking for a Sunshine Community Gardens social media space to chat with fellow gardeners? Look no further, we have Slack! This is not a new account for our garden.

What is new is that we have a Slack "Pro" account for non-profits as of this week. This means we are able to retain our message history past 90 days and we have other cool new features. Check out [this link](#) to see what the pro account gets us. If you would like to [be on our Slack account](#),

please join! Only Sunshine Community Gardeners are allowed on our account, so I'll be checking new Slack members against our database. Just call me your friendly Slack Bouncer.



Help Needed!!!

Our community garden needs help with:

- A social media volunteer to start and create content for a SCG TikTok account and also help post to Facebook, and Instagram. If interested contact marsha@marshariti.com
- 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

Volunteering for these roles counts towards your SCG service hours in the Green Binder.



General Workday

Saturday the 16th, 8-11am there will be a workday led by Steve Uecker.

Things to do: Clear paths, Lay mulch on paths, Uproot khacki weed (counts as TSVBI work), Mow the Zone, etc.



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 all three Co-Editors: [Maria](#), [Maggie](#), & [Marianne](#) to contribute the *Weekly Weeder*.



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