



WEEKLY WEEDER

Oct. 19, 2023

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Workday and Potluck on October 21st



Photo of the most recent greenhouse workday on October 14. Thank you to all those who helped weed!

Photo by Marsha Riti.

There is a workday this Saturday the 21st from 8-10am. We will be working on the greenhouse and breakfast will be provided.

After the workday, there will be a basil-themed potluck. Bring your favorite basil-related recipe to share and enjoy good conversations, food, and fun with your fellow gardeners.

Photo: Watching the Solar Eclipse at Sunshine



Luda Voskov viewing the solar eclipse last weekend at Sunshine. Photo by Susan Van Haitsma.

Please Help Find a Missing Cap

A Sunshine gardener needs your help finding a lost hat that has great sentimental value. The cap was left hanging on a fence post near the quarter plots and tool shed. It is royal blue and has the word "CREW" stitched on the front in gold letters. It is a treasured souvenir from a trip to California and means a lot to the gardener who is missing it.

If you find the cap please contact the *Weeder* editors and they will put you in touch with the gardener searching for the lost "CREW" cap. (See contact link at the end of the newsletter.) Thank you!

Photo: Bee Hovering in Pumpkin Blossom



Photo of a bee hovering inside a pumpkin blossom by Susan Van Haitsma.

Volunteer Needed

Sunshine Vice President Marsha Rita writes that she needs a volunteer to lead a Gardener Success Team. The role entails introducing new gardeners to Sunshine Community Gardens community, helping them learn the importance of volunteering within the garden, assisting them develop a plan for their garden, and teaching them how to keep on top of weed control.

If you are interested please contact Marsha Riti: marsha@marshariti.com

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Workshop: Polar Vortex Garden Prep

Austin organic gardeners is hosting a workshop this Saturday, October 20th, on preparing your garden for winter. The Farmer's Almanac this year predicts that Texas winter will be "unseasonably cold." Tickets and more information can be found here:

https://www.austinorganicgardeners.org/store/p415/polar-vortex-prep.html?mc_cid=d6da29e741&mc_eid=e9768a5fd3

The soil temperature at Sunshine is down to 72 degrees, so it is time to plant/transplant winter crops from the list below, provided by Austin Organic

Gardeners:

Direct Seed:

- Arugula
- Asian Greens
- Kale
- Lettuce (head, romaine, loose leaf, summer mix)
- Mustard
- Spinach

Transplant:

- Broccoli
- Brussel Sprouts
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Collards
- Kohlrabi
- Swiss Chard

Happy Gardening!

Garden Notes from Marsha Riti

The lovely icons for this section were created by Marsha Riti



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 help post to Facebook and Instagram. 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

The next workday is October 7, from 8 am to 10 am. The focus will be removing the greenhouse plastic and helping the Plot Helpers Team.



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.

Garden news, seasonal recipes, photos of Sunshine and other content welcome! Contact all three Co-Editors: [Maria](#), [Maggie](#), & [Marianne](#) to contribute the *Weekly Weeder*. Please submit items by or before 5 p.m. on Wednesdays to be included in the current week.

Follow Sunshine Community Garden on Social Media!

Get regular updates, photos, and gardening information by following SCG on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [TikTok](#).



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