



WEEKLY WEEDER

Oct. 27, 2023

1. Workday October 28
2. Photo: Sunrise at Sunshine
3. Meet a New Gardener
4. Garden Education by Ila Falvey
5. Sunshine Notes from Marsha Riti

Workday October 28th

There is a workday this Saturday October 28th 8am-12pm. We will be covering the greenhouse in new plastic film!

Here's a photo from last week's workday where we got to use power tools!



Photo: Sunrise at Sunshine



Photo by Iris Slevin, from her plot.

Meet a New Gardener

Hello, garden neighbors! My name is Stacia (STAY-sha) Bowley. I'm new to Sunshine, but not necessarily new to gardening. For years, I have ridden my bike past Sunshine and marveled at poppies and zinnias, sunflowers, and veggies from afar. After several years living with a shady yard and no real room to grow anything showy, novel, or delicious, I finally have a plot of my own at Sunshine.

You may see me over in Zone 8 with my kids, Phoebe (5) and Elliot (2.5), who are looking forward to infinite lettuce and flowers for cutting. Beyond growing food and flowers on my own turf, I am part of a parent group working to install native plants for pollinators around Highland Park Elementary School. I also support a cross-age peer mentoring program called PALS for Austin ISD, serve on the board of Austin Classical Guitar, and greatly enjoy reading and writing.

Here's a picture of my family in some gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmstead (though you might not know by looking) at World's End in Massachusetts.



Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Mushrooms, Marigolds, and More!

Central Texas Mycological Society has a number of upcoming events, including a **UV Night Hike** at McKinney Falls State Park on Saturday, October 28 and a **free Lo-Tek Mushroom Cultivation workshop** on Monday, October 30. To view their interactive calendar visit this site:

<https://www.centraltexasmycology.org/events?view=calendar&month=10-2023>

The third **Annual Marigold Festival** is going on now in Blanco, Texas. The Blue Barn will be holding a book signing with the authors of *Dining with the Dead* cookbook from 12-5 pm on Saturday October 28, and the festival finale will be a Marigold Dance at the Blue Barn at 8pm Saturday, featuring the Grammy Award-winning band Brave Combo. For more about the festival visit:

<https://www.texasmarigoldfestival.com/events>

Are you or a friend looking for a full-time job? The **Blue Barn is seeking a Barn Market Manager**, working at the Barn 50% of the time and growing plants the other 50%.

For a job description email: amoskyflowers@gmail.com

Wondering when to fertilize new seedlings? This post explains how seedlings grow and when to feed them:

<https://www.gardenmyths.com/when-fertilize-seedlings/#more-11387>

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 28, from 8 am to 10 am. The focus will be wrapping the greenhouse in new plastic.



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](#).



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](#).

