



WEEKLY WEEDER

Nov. 2, 2023

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Pocket Prairie Workday

Get ready for Matthew's Pocket Prairie Workday on Saturday, November 11th (9-12pm). The Austin Cosmopolitan Rotary Club will be there volunteering, but anyone from the Sunshine is welcome to help out too!

We will be moving heavy stones so please bring work gloves and hand tools.

A big thanks goes to The Austin Cosmopolitan Rotary Club and their president Terry Foor, who is a Sunshine gardener. Their club is funding this project.

<https://www.austincrc.org/>



The trailer refrigerator was filled to capacity with greens for Micah 6 recently. Photo by Iris Slevin.

October / Year to Date:

Sunshine Produce: 204 lbs / 2347.25 lbs

Dry Goods & Non-Sunshine Produce: 85 lbs / 758.75 lbs

Sunshine produce donations to Micah 6 food pantry in October were more than double September's, The improvement in the weather has certainly benefited our gardens. Your donations are very much appreciated. See the photo below of jalapeños someone donated. Thank you for packaging them so nicely! Very helpful.

Fresh Produce Donations: Please consider donating excess harvest or purchased produce to the Micah 6 Food Pantry. Donations of fresh produce may be left in the cool room (south end of the trailer) or in the trailer refrigerator.

Dry Goods Donations: Please consider donating non-perishable items. 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 Kuhl



Photo: "Lake Sunshine"

The weather station at Sunshine Community Gardens recorded an astonishing 6.33" of rain between October 23 and 29! This made for some soggy conditions--but happy plants!



1, 2, 3 Dive!! Gardener Ila Falvey at the edge of the "lake." Photo by Steve Camp.

Great Job Volunteers!

The greenhouse wrap was a success, thanks to all the hard work provided by our fellow gardeners. Special call out to: Robert Jarry and Jennifer Boley who provided carpentry work. The structure is still not completely done, but thanks to y'all for getting it tightly wrapped this past Saturday.

--Submitted by Marsha Riti





2024 Herb Team

Check out the Herb Team using the newly covered greenhouse this past Sunday when the temperatures took a dip. If you'd like to help with the 2024 Herb Team please contact Dawn Friesen:

d.friesen@live.com

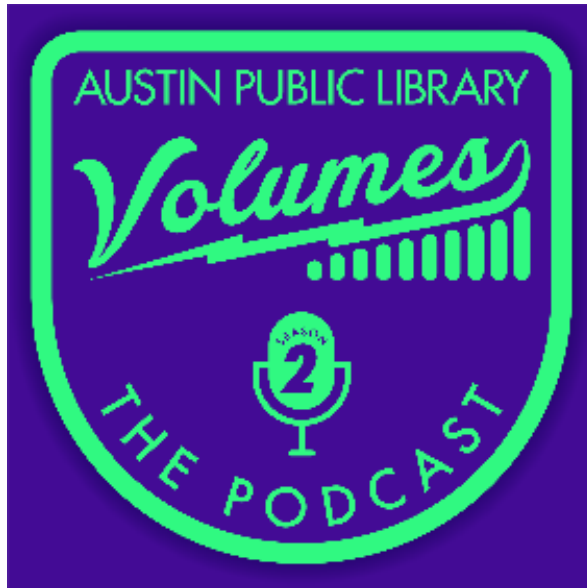


Sunshine Featured on Austin Public Library Podcast

Sunshine Community Gardens was recently featured on Austin Public Library's podcast Volumes! Sunshine gardener and APL Howson Branch Library Manager Monica Jones was interviewed about seed libraries and she talked up Sunshine Community Gardens.

Listen to the episode:

<https://sites.libsyn.com/462282>



Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Vegetable Varieties: This article written by Patty Leander, Travis County Master Gardeners, (Texas A&M Agrilife Extension) provides insight and knowledge on how to choose the "right" varieties of vegetables to grow: <https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/2023/10/29/how-to-choose-vegetable-varieties/>

Garden Conservancy Tour: The Travis County Open Day is happening this Saturday, Nov. 4. Check out the link below to view sites and register: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/open-days-schedule/travis-county-tx-open-day>

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 Saturday, November 18th (8-10am). Zone 3 coordinator Luda Voskov will be hosting and she would like the pathways and common areas in Zone 3 cleaned up. Bring hand tools and work gloves.



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 whackers)

[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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