



# WEEKLY WEEDER

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Volunteers Wanted for American Council of the Blind of

# Texas Conference

The American Council of the Blind of Texas (ACBT) Is holding its 44<sup>th</sup> annual Conference/Convention at the Austin Southpark Hotel located at 4140 Governors Row, Austin, TX 78744 on August 25-28, 2022.

They are seeking caring volunteers to assist us during this event. They are expecting more than 100 attendees, most of whom will be blind or visually impaired. They will need volunteer assistance over the course of the four days including the following:

- Assist attendees with navigating the hotel
- Staff Hospitality Room
- Floaters (assigned as needed)
- Guide Dog Relief Area
- Tour Assistance for Friday August 26, 2022 8:00 AM
- Exhibit Hall (open Friday & Saturday)
- Sessions Friday and Saturday including a luncheon and banquet

I (Bill Gaventa) am helping out on Saturday, August 27 and perhaps more. If you would like to help, please email me at [bill.gaventa@gmail.com](mailto:bill.gaventa@gmail.com) and I will send you their Volunteer Registration Form. They are holding an orientation session for volunteers on Tuesday, August 23 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the hotel. — *Submitted by Bill Gaventa*

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## On Social Media: Gardener Profiles Gardener

Check out our Instagram and Facebook for an additional image!

Whenever I walk by John Lee's plot, I take notice. His plants are healthy and productive, even during drought. Today, I asked him about his corn plants, which he put in not long ago and are growing taller every day. Not many folks can grow sweet corn successfully in Austin, but John does! He told me that he starts his corn at home because birds are liable to pluck the little seedlings out of the ground as soon as they sprout. He also comes by in mid-afternoon to

give the plants a spritz during these hot days. He had just planted pickle cucumbers that he also had started at home. They looked very happy. John tends to use his own leaf mold compost as fertilizer. He's already got carrots, beets, spinach and melons seeded in the garden, and they are coming along well. I'm grateful for John's example and am looking forward to Sunshine's fall gardens. Now, bring on the rain! —*Submitted by Susan Van Haitsma*

## Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Do you want an in-depth intro to an itchy subject? Check out Wizzie Brown's thoughts on prevention and treatment of our favorite mites, chiggers!

[Chiggers by Wizzie Brown - Urban Programs Travis County \(tamu.edu\)](#)

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## Resources for Sunshiners

- ACGA's most recent [Cultivator newsletter](#)
- [Austin Sustainable Food Center](#)

## Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

I hope everyone is taking care of themselves during this record breaking weather. Stay hydrated and know the signs of heat exhaustion/stroke. Stay safe! The gate is open at 6 AM and that's when I'm going most days. 6 to 8 is prime time if you can handle it. Just 1 hour a week can make a huge difference and keep you in compliance.

I think that by now all have heard or read the new directives involving plant waste. I want to thank all of you that are participating for not putting anything but plant waste in our compost pile. While loading the container we found virtually no trash. We also made a separate pile for Sunflower and other branchy items that can not be picked up with a loader bucket and will have to be loaded into the container by hand.

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There will be no more IOUs accepted as payment in the lockbox. Checks or Cash in an envelope would be great.

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### **NEXT SCHEDULED WORKDAY IS AUGUST 27**

Steve Uecker will be leading the next Workday on the morning of August 27.

Workdays often evolve into social events! SCG is a fantastic place to meet new friends and learn both new and old gardening techniques. There's a wealth of knowledge here and experienced people that love to share it.

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## **NEW GARDENERS**

There are several new gardeners at SCG! Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and y'all get to know each other a little and share garden knowledge and tips. Let's emphasize the COMMUNITY in Community Garden.

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Please read handbook and site rules. Any hardware (hoses, sprayers, nozzles, splitters etc.) attached to garden faucets and maintenance of said items are the responsibility of individual gardeners.

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## **ROADS AND PARKING**

- Speed limit is 3 MPH. (Primarily for safety, but also to keep the dust down.)
- Sunshine's roads provide access to plots and common areas. Gardeners should not 1) park on roads except to unload a heavy load from vehicle, 2) drive on roads when wet, 3) drive around barriers, 4) drive into another gardener's plot, or 5) put plants or other items in the road.
- Cars may not be left idling while at the garden.
- Park only in the front parking area or your common area. On weekends there are parking spaces on Sunshine and 49th Street.

Handbook and Site rules specifically state that **PARKING ON GARDEN ROADS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Park in the parking lot or common areas only. When the emergency vehicle enters SCG, they may(I hope not)be coming to assist YOU. How inconvenient it would be for them to have to wait for folks to move cars.

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## **PRIORITY TASKS**

- Khaki weed season is upon us! For the uninitiated, Khaki weed is an invasive plant that infects the garden in late spring, summer, and fall. We are determined every year to eradicate it as much as possible. To this end, we are allowing digging up khaki weed to be counted as TSVBI hours until further notice.
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## **TSVBI**

- Weeding paths in TSVBI garden and wood chip areas on west side. (This is normally needed. Try to get out roots. Be sure to smooth out

paths after weeding to facilitate TSBVI students (who are blind) moving around garden). Mowing between fence and street along 49th St. and Sunshine Dr. along and 10' inside fence.

- Khaki weed removal.
- Cleaning the street curb gutters of dirt and debris buildup. (At places in the curb gutter along Sunshine Dr. And 49th St. soil has built up and grass is beginning to grow. Scrape off with shovel and put in wheelbarrow. If debris is gravel it can be put in low places in the parking lot, otherwise, destination is dumpster.

Note: TSVBI hours can also count as regular hours.

## REGULAR

- Mowing, edging (Please check area around trailer and greenhouses). The mowing season is picking up (if it ever rains, it will pick up exponentially.) It's way easier to keep it mowed than try to catch up when it gets overgrown.
- Maintaining common paths. (Gardeners are required to maintain a 2' strip of common paths adjacent to their plot.)
- Mowing and cleaning up overgrown/messy places in common areas.

Your Zone Coordinator may have more tasks than are listed here. Contact them or [campinthearden@yahoo.com](mailto:campinthearden@yahoo.com) if you feel that you have run out of things to do.

Slow Down (3 MPH!) You're on Garden Time! Enjoy!

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