



WEEKLY WEEDER

January 19, 2023

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Volunteer for the Purple Martin Colony at Sunshine
Gardens

Have you enjoyed the acrobatics and happy bubbly chirps of the Purple Martins overhead at SSG in the spring and summer? Sunshine Gardens has one of the largest most successful martin colonies in Austin. And the birds need your help. You can earn service hours helping Denise Dailey and other caretakers manage the 72 nesting gourds at Sunshine. Volunteers can help clean and prep the gourds before the martins arrive from the Amazon basin beginning in February. Assist with making observations and gathering data on nesting activity through the spring and summer. Close up the colony and store the gourds over the winter after the birds head south on their annual migration.

Volunteers are needed now to get the colony ready for the arrival of the first birds by early February. Please contact Dana Kuykendall or Mark Wilson at kuykenwil@gmail.com for information on how you can help. — *Submitted by Dana Kuykendall*



Sunshine tile photographed by Susan van Haitsma

Mark Your Calendars: All-Gardener Meeting Saturday February 4

Sunshine's first quarter all-gardener meeting will be Saturday, February 4, probably at 10:00 am. The focus of meeting will be the 2023 Spring Plant Sale – what is happening, how to get involved, etc., etc. Plant sale coordinators Marsha Riti and Karl Arcuri will lead much of the meeting. Refreshments will be served. So join your fellow Sunshine gardeners on Saturday February 4 to socialize, enjoy some breakfast tacos, and learn about the 2023 plant sale. — *Submitted by Jim Willmann*



Gearing Up for the 2023 SCG Plant Sale...

When: Saturday, March 4th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Feast your eyeballs on this year's plant lists and let your friends know about what will be available. The lists are on our website's homepage:

[Tomatoes](#)

[Peppers](#)

[Eggplants/Tomatillos](#)— *Submitted by Randy Thompson*



Plant Sale Countdown: 6 Weeks Out

Our plant sale is coming up in just six short weeks. This is our garden's major fundraiser of the year, and we want all gardeners to volunteer to make it a success. It is a fun filled day and also a great way to get your service hours for the spring growing season.

Ways to Help Now:

1. Start saving those cardboard boxes! These are used by our customers to take home their plants. Please try and bring in the best types for the sale (the two photos above are good examples of what we need). Please remove all packing materials before bringing them in. Please place your boxes in the Gardenport greenhouse which is directly next to the Micah 6 garden.
2. Tidy up your plots and your zones. We want our garden to look its best for the sale!
3. Be on the lookout for the Signup Genius page which will be coming out soon. We need everyone to pitch in and volunteer for all positions and jobs to make our sale a success. — *Submitted by Karl Arcuri*

Volunteer Opportunity: Cashiers and Ticket Writers at the Plant Sale

We are in need of volunteers for ticket writers and cashiers at the plant sale. Volunteers can work as little or as much as they like. Cashiers are needed at

the following days and times:

Friday evening (March 5th) - 5:00-7:00

Saturday (March 6th) - 8:30-3:30

Sunday morning (March 7th) - TBD

Cashiers typically work a minimum of 2 hour shifts with some staying all day on Saturday, with a break or two. It's a fast paced function that puts you in touch with all the happy people and their plants.

There is a big need for cashiers processing credit cards. We use the Square app and you would need to download the app on your own device and create an account. From there it's pretty easy. I will schedule a short meeting Friday evening before the sale and will also meet in advance for those that will process credit cards to make sure you are set up and ready to go. We will supply the card reader.

Ticket writers are also needed for Saturday and predominantly in the morning, 8:30 - noon with a couple needed in the afternoon.

The plant sale is a lot of fun, and both these positions have you interacting with the public. And its a great way to get your spring service hours. — *Submitted by Susan Waller*



Sunshine tile photographed by Susan van Haitsma

New Approach To Locking Trailer and Tool Shed Each Evening

Gardeners at Sunshine at sundown or later are asked to go ahead and lock the trailer and tool shed. This is a change from current approach of asking last gardener leaving garden to check if trailer and tool shed are locked.

The trailer and tool shed have been left open several times recently. It is hoped this will happen less under the new approach. If a gardener needs to get into trailer or tool shed after they are locked, they know the combination to unlock. So if you are at Sunshine at sundown or later and see the trailer or tool shed are open, go ahead and lock them.— *Submitted by Jim Willmann*



Sunshine tile photographed by Susan van Haitsma

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Love onions? There is great information about growing onions in Central Texas on the Backbone Nursery blog: <https://backbonevalleynursery.com/growing-onions-in-central-texas/>. Also, check out which varieties work best in our location: <https://backbonevalleynursery.com/onion-varieties-for-central-texas/>

I have found that Granex onions last until about November.

Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

Howdy SCG Gardeners!

ATTENTION!! - If you believe that you are the last person leaving the garden in evening, please CLOSE AND LOCK THE TRAILER! Any SCG garden member knows the combination and can let themselves in should the need arise.

NEXT SCHEDULED WORKDAY - Saturday, January 28th from 9am-11am. Contact on that day will be Kerry Howell casonhowell@gmail.com . Volunteers that day will be working on the new CHILDREN'S GARDEN, beside the chicken coup!

February & March we may have multiple workdays to support the upcoming Plant Sale. Dates to be determined.

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.

NOTE

The North & East fenceline now have a number assigned to each panel. It is on a brass ring hanging on the panel. Please, either you or a small group please sign up for 1 or more I that you will work to keep clean and neat looking. It may have certain vines on it if you wish. Check with staff about which vines will perform the best. Contact Jim Willmann jhwillmann@gmail.com for assignment options.

Thanks!

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.

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.

PRIORITY TASKS

- Mowing and Trimming everywhere but especially Fenceline and lawn on either side of fence. With the recent rains and more to come, mowing has become a primary task.
 - 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.
 - Maintaining common paths and common areas. If you have plants extending into common paths, trim them. The common paths are designed to allow the biggest wheelbarrows that we own to traverse them unimpeded.
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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 TSVBI students moving around garden). Mowing between fence and street along 49th St. and Sunshine Dr. along and 10' inside fence.
- Picking up trash wherever you see it.
- 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.
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REGULAR

- 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 campinthegarden@yahoo.com if you feel that you have run out of things to do.

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

Contact both [Kristin Phillips](#) & [Maria Beach](#) to contribute the Weekly Weeder.



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