



WEEKLY WEEDER

January 26, 2023

1. Plant Sale Countdown: 5 Weeks Out (including sign up sheets)
2. Plant Sale Potluck Sign Up
3. Text about Plant Sale to Send to Friends or Post in Neighborhood Forums
4. Cashiers and Ticket Writers at the Plant Sale (new contact information)
5. Dream to Reality: The Children's Garden
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Kale makes an impression by Susan Van Haitsma

Plant Sale Countdown: 5 Weeks Out

Our plant sale is fast approaching. Plant descriptions for tomato, pepper, eggplant, and tomatillo varieties are on the [website](#). Start looking at them now to plan your spring garden.

All members are expected to volunteer to make the sale a success. Please make sure your plot and zone are looking its best. We want to put our best foot forward when we invite the public into our garden.

Ways to Help Now:

1. The signup page is now active! Please review all the time slots that are available and pick one (or two!) that best work with your schedule. There is plenty to do both before and during the sale, and we need everyone to pitch in and make this sale a success. Click here and sign up! <https://signup.com/go/gRoksGQ>
2. Reach out to Karl Arcuri (karl.w.arcuri@gmail.com) if you have anything to donate to the Silent Auction.
3. Continue to collect boxes and black flat trays for the sale.—

Submitted by Karl Arcuri

Plant Sale Potluck

This year, we are thrilled that the breakfast and lunch treats are returning for Plant Sale volunteers. The food will be available in the Trailer.

If you wish to contribute to the meals for your fellow gardeners and volunteers, please check out the sign up sheet:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45ACAD2FA1FA7-sunshine>

Thank you! —*Submitted by Anita Keese*



Text about Plant Sale to Send to Friends or Post in Neighborhood Forums

Please help Sunshine spread the word about the Plant Sale. This text can be sent out to friends or posted in forums.

It's Spring and time to plan your organic veggie garden! On Saturday, March 4th, Sunshine Community Gardens — Austin's urban oasis where organic food and flowers have flourished since 1979 — will host its Annual Plant Sale. Gates open at 9am with a musical parade. Learn from knowledgeable gardeners while you choose from 90 varieties of tomatoes and 54 varieties of peppers. Rounding out the 20,000 plants that will be for sale are varieties of eggplant, herbs, tomatillos, and native flowers. Explore booths of local vendors, walk through our flower gardens, or teach your child to pull a fresh carrot from the ground. Join us at 4814 Sunshine Drive from 9am to 2pm on March 4th, or learn more at www.sunshinecommunitygardens.org

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.

Because this "job" requires training, please sign up on the sheet above AND reach out to Susan: swallar@gmail.com or 512-791-3683

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 Wallar



Children's Garden Workday

Dream to Reality: The Children's Garden

It can often feel slow to bring a dream idea into reality, especially when it is dreamed up by an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. The idea for a Children's Garden came forth over a year ago, and had a committee of enthused and dedicated garden volunteers to create a plan. This past weekend the dream of the Children's Garden at Sunshine got closer to

being realized, as gardeners set in physical motion the final preparations of the Children's Garden.

On Sunday Jimmie Schneider, Jenny Zhang, Victor Houle, Arran Walker, Bill Cason, and Jim Willmann prepared the designated area by covering it in black plastic and landscaper cloth and dug trenches around the perimeter to accommodate cedar boards that will prevent grass intrusion. This week the cedar boards are being installed by Jimmie, Bill, and Jim. Robert Jarry has already constructed the boxes for each garden and they are ready for installation.

What an amazing process to behold the transformation of the ground from bermudagrass land to an inviting area for children. The children's boxes constructed by Robert are just the right size for our newest and youngest gardeners to plant and tend, and we have a list of excited young gardeners ready to be a part of this pilot program. By providing the space and opportunity, Sunshine is instilling the gift of the love of gardening to the youngest members of our community; this gift is likely to last a lifetime.

To help move us even closer to opening the children's plots, on Saturday there is a work day planned by Kerry Howell to install the boxes and cover the area with wood chips. With your volunteer help, the Children's Garden will soon be ready for our youngest gardeners to begin spring planting.

The board has approved this work as a qualified TSBVI hour. You are invited to come out on Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and help bring the Children's Garden to fruition. Hope to see you there!— *Submitted by Bill Cason and Kerry Drake*





Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Monday, February 13 6-9pm: Presentation on growing tomatoes in Austin from Austin Organic Gardeners (Zilker Botanical Garden & Streaming via Zoom or YouTube)

There is still time to plant lettuce.

The following article is written by Mary Kay Pope who works for Backbone Nursery in Marple Falls. The article provides useful info - you can just substitute "Sunshine Compost" for the recommended soil amendments. I suggest protecting your seedlings if the temperature is predicted to be near freezing.

<https://backbonevalleynursery.com/grow-lettuce-from-seed-in-the-garden/>

Happy eating!

Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

Howdy SCG Gardeners!

All-Gardener Meeting: Saturday, February 4 at 10 am

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 TSBVI 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 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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