



WEEKLY WEEDER

February 16, 2023

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Poppies blooming on Valentine's Day (and found by a bee) by Susan Van Haitsma

Attention gardeners, please volunteer for the plant sale!

There are many positions still unfilled, and if they are not filled the volunteers who are working those positions will have to pick up a lot of slack. Here's a list of positions still not fully filled and a link to sign up:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/537007980657382089/false#/invitation>

- Plant delivery, March 1st and 2nd
- Compost Mover, March 4th
- Ornamentals and Passalong helper, March 4th
- Pepper and eggplant helper, March 4th
- Tomato tent helper, March 4th
- Receipt writers, March 4th
- Silent auction helper, March 4th
- Haulers to help customers to their cars, March 4th
- Stroller go-to person, March 4th
- Restock after pre-plant sale, March 3rd
- Trash and recycling, March 4th
- Breakdown at end of plant sale, March 4th
- General clean up, March 3rd

We also need two volunteers to sell our Sunshine Community Gardens T-shirts at the Plant Sale on March 4th during two times: 9am-11am and 11am-2pm. If you are interested in helping sell t-shirts please contact Marsha Riti (marsha@marshariti.com).

We also need people to bring food for our plant sale volunteers on March 4th. You'll be working with the wonderful Anita Keese. Here's a link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45acad2fa1fa7-sunshine#/>

If you are a volunteer for the plant sale not only do your hours go towards your hours worked for the garden, but you also get to go to the pre-plant sale Friday the 3rd to buy your plants. You get the best pick of plants and you don't have to deal with the day-of plant sale crowds. Also, volunteering during the plant sale is just downright fun!

Help make our plant sale a success by promoting our plant sale on social media! Below are two graphics you can save and share on social media.

If you have an untouched Instant Pot, small hand tool gardening set, or other new or gently used items lying around your house please consider donating those items to the silent auction. Contact Karl Arcuri (karl.w.arcuri@gmail.com) to donate items.

Please, continue to drop off boxes in the Garden Port / Hoop House (the greenhouse like structure directly adjacent to the Micah 6 plots). The boxes are used to pack customer purchases the day of the plant sale.

Calling all Girl Scouts! If your daughter is in the Girl Scouts please contact Anne-Marie Griger (annemariebgriger@gmail.com) by Tuesday the 21st. The Girl Scout Ridgeway Troop 1387 will have a cookie booth at the March 4th plant sale, and we would like to include other Girl Scout Troops. The cookie sale days are extended to March 5th and our plant sale attracts over a 1000 people, so this would be a great venue to sell the last of your troop's cookies! — *Submitted by Marsha Riti*




Annual Plant Sale
First Saturday in March
9am - 2pm
4814 Sunshine Dr

Live Music
Local Vendors
Silent Auction
Carrot Pulling for the kids
and more fun!

Over 20,000 heirloom and unusual tomato, pepper, eggplant, and herb varieties, plus native flowers, all at an affordable price!

Full plant lists:
SunshineCommunityGardens.org

Follow us for more info:
 [Sunshine Community Gardens](https://www.facebook.com/SunshineCommunityGardens)
 [sunshine_community_gardens_atx](https://www.instagram.com/sunshine_community_gardens_atx)



Plant Sale
First Saturday in March 9am–2pm
Sunshine Community Gardens



Plot Cleaning Team Continues and Needs Your Help

On Saturday Anastacia Santos and Caroline Alexander turned out to help Renee Fleishman clean the new extension to her plot.

As previously mentioned, we are finding that the demand for assistance is exceeding supply and we need more volunteers. Team members will be exempt from garden hours and need to be able provide two hours of work for the typical project. Most projects are scheduled for weekends. The work is rewarding, needed and much appreciated.

If you are interested in joining the team, contact Bill Cason (wccason@gmail.com) or Bill Gaventa (bill.gaventa@gmail.com) — *Submitted by Bill Cason*

Last Chance for Compost

One last load of organic super rooster compost will be delivered on Friday at an unspecified time. The space is needed for the plant sale (which we all are volunteering for and spreading the word about) so please get your compost promptly.

- 2 dollars a bucket
 - 20 bucket limit per full size plot
 - Please measure what is taken
 - For use at Sunshine by Sunshine gardeners only
 - Please pay at purchase with cash, check or PayPal and no coins
 - Please return the buckets promptly (several never did come back from the fall) — *Submitted by Randy Thompson*
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Hearing Aid Found

On Wednesday afternoon, February 15, I was walking to the tool shed and found a single hearing aid in the grass between the dumpster and the tool shed. If someone thinks it may be theirs, they can ask a garden officer to show it to them as it is in the Sunshine office. -- *Submitted by Dana Kuykendall*

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Blast from the Past -- specifically, *The Weekly Weeder* in April of 2008. This article holds true today!

What it means to be a Community Gardener -- written by Valerie French

A wise gardener commented recently that we should not describe the process of providing spaces to garden as "plot rental". What Sunshine Community Gardens provides is not a 20x20' piece of private property, but the opportunity to commit to gardening. Sunshine gardeners are not 'renters', but stewards.

Tenancy is a legal relationship: the tenant has responsibilities to the landlord usually detailed in a long document with small print, mostly involving paying rent on time and leaving everything in working order at the end of the lease. Paying rent is a good and necessary start - but it isn't gardening.

Each plot in Sunshine Community Gardens is a garden - a piece of land intended for the cultivation of plants. Cultivating plants requires ongoing commitments: to till, to plant, to water, to weed, to maintain, to harvest, and to clear for the next season so it can all be done again. Gardening is something like a job: if you don't show up regularly, the tomatoes die, the flowers droop, and you don't get 'paid'. And eventually the garden stops being a garden.

In a community garden, failing to tend a garden has immediate and wider effects. For most of the year, a garden can be overrun by weeds within two weeks. Plants that are not tended become insect breeding grounds. In mid-summer, unharvested produce rots on the vine, and the rats come for it. The neighboring gardeners - and neighbors are rarely more than three feet away - battle weed-seeds, runners, insects, and vermin attracted or bred by the failing garden. They cannot address the source of the problem without trespassing on their neighbor gardener, violating both written rules and basic courtesy. For the same reason, what produce there is goes to waste instead of being harvested and donated to a food bank, or simply eaten. Those who have volunteered to help maintain the organization spend their time policing "messy plots" instead of helping the community as a whole, and become burned out and disillusioned. Gardens that "return to nature" cannot be left there: eventually, someone will have to uproot the weeds and re-create the garden.

And then there is the wider community. It includes the people waiting for a

space to garden here; the Micah 6 Food Bank and its constituents; the many people who stood in line to buy our tomato and pepper plants this spring; our landlord, the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; and the State of Texas that ultimately owns the land. To all these people, we represent that we use this space to garden, and we are all responsible to them as well.

These outside commitments - to other gardens, to the organization, to the wider community - make community gardening an act of stewardship: an ethical responsibility.

As Board secretary, I have seen and participated in closely-reasoned legal arguments referencing the Site Rules and Bylaws point-by-point, mathematical debates about the acceptable ratios of weeds to vegetables, and the fine procedural points of mailing and verifying receipt of "clean-it-up" notices. These distract from the ultimate point. If the natural law theory applies anywhere, it ought to be here, and that higher law is this:

Each plot is a garden. Therefore, each plot should be readily identifiable as a garden (i.e., space used for the cultivation of plants), and each plot needs at least one gardener (i.e., person actively engaged in cultivating plants).

That simple. The purpose of our organization is to provide opportunities to garden, to ensure that each garden has a gardener or gardeners that take care of it, and that the gardens as a whole are maintained and are an asset to the wider community.

Equally, every single gardener here has a duty to tend the land that has been entrusted to them as a garden, and to maintain it as an asset for themselves and for the wider community.

Please make certain your plot has a gardener this spring.

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!

February 18 at 9-12 . Contact on that day will be Cathy Camp (cathycamp621@yahoo.com). Volunteers will be prepping garden facilities for the annual Plant Sale on March 4th. The remaining Saturday in February will also have a workday to support the Plant Sale. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!

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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