



August 2019

Newsletter

Fecund facundity from the fertile foothills

President – Silvera Grant
Vice President – Leo Stallworth
Secretary Jean Courtney
Treasurer – post vacant
Orientation – Mary McGilvray
Website – René Amy
Mary Gothard – Community Outreach
Wood Chips, Fertilizer Coordinator – Erik Geiger
Inspection Coordinator – Eva Story
Maintenance Coordinator Leo Stallworth
Correspondence – Maria Shufeldt
Programs Chairperson – René Amy
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Albert West Advisor
Isaac Turner Advisor

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Read the newsletter online:

<http://www.altadenacommunitygarden.com/newsletter.html>

[Visit our members discussion group on Facebook](#)

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Upcoming Events

- Altadena Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 4 - 8 P.M. Spring & Summer; 3 - 7 P.M. Fall & Winter, Loma Alta Park Lower Park
- September 21, 28 & October 5, 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Fall Victory Garden Classes ACG
- Saturday 10/21, 10 A.M.-12 P.M. Executive Board Meeting Loma Alta Park Gym
- Sunday 11/17, 10 A.M.- 12 P.M. Workshop - Sharing the bounty of your garden by preserving for gift giving ACG
- Saturday 12/7, 10 -11:30 A.M. General Membership Meeting Loma Alta Park Gym

From The President



Hello Everyone,

Can't believe summer is almost over, but it has been an outstanding summer for our beloved Community Garden, even without our Annual Community Garden Picnic. As you know, this is the second year we have not held our Annual Community Garden Picnic due to the Garden Deck Landscaping Project. The good news is that the Garden Deck Landscaping project is on schedule to be completed in the fall and we will return to having our Annual

Community Garden Picnic next year, 2020. I hope that you are as excited as I am that once again we will be having our annual picnic, a fundraising event for the Garden that also provides the community with an opportunity to see and to celebrate the accomplishments of the Garden. All Garden members must be available and ready to be active participants in the planning and execution of the picnic in order for us to have a successful event. In that regard we would like your suggestions for a date in July 2020 to have the picnic. Yes, it will be hot, but July is the month that the Garden is at its peak. Please bring your suggested date to the last general membership meeting in December or you can email it to me. We are also looking forward to getting assistance and support from Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation, and support from the community.

In regards to the Garden Deck Landscaping project, we are continuing to work with Mercy Santoro, Deputy Director, Michael Ralston, Regional Operations Manager and his staff at the Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation, East County Community Services Agency. They are anticipating completing the project by September and we are confident that they will do so. Our Deck Landscaping Committee will also be planting California natives around the deck in the fall. Please look out for their call for assistance from Garden members and the community.

Other Items:

1. Lack of Plot Cultivation:

There are a number of plots in the Garden that have not been cultivated this year. The plots have been empty for most of the year. For some members, this has been an ongoing practice. Please note that Article 3, Section L in the Garden By - Laws states "Garden plots shall be under cultivation year round. If there are extenuating circumstances for not doing so, the Executive Board must allow a fallow time (free from weeds) not to exceed six (6) months. Approval of the Executive Board must be obtained in advance. A letter from the plot owner must be submitted, outlining the details of the extenuating circumstances. Otherwise, the policy will be enforced." It has been the Executive Board's practice not to enforce this section of the by-laws in the fall and winter because most gardeners do not do a fall and winter garden. However, beginning in the spring and summer of 2020 the Executive Board will begin to vigorously enforce this section of the by-laws. It makes no sense for us to have a three to four year waiting list of people waiting to get into the Garden, while we have no justification for having empty plots in the Garden.

2. Overhead Watering:

Please note that overhead watering including a sprinkling system in your plot is permitted only if watering is kept within your plot area.

3. There have been reports of non garden members entering the Garden while the main entrance gate is open and taking items from plots. Please make sure to lock the main entrance gate while you are in the Garden and are unable to monitor any non members entering the Garden.

4. Loma Alta Park Kids Spot/Plot:

Under the leadership of Pernella Daniels, Loma Alta Park Recreation Services Supervisor, her dedicated staff and Garden Vice President Leo Stallworth, the Loma Alta Park after School Children Gardening Program in the Garden had a tremendous summer harvest of sweet corn, cucumbers, carrots, Mexican squash, zucchini and cantaloupes. They are waiting for the string beans and tomatoes to be ready. Their plot also sported a beautiful variety of zinnias, mint and Georgia collard greens.

5. Congratulations to one of our past Presidents Isaac Turner – plot 31 who recently celebrated his 95th birthday.

6. A speedy recovery to associate member Helen Liddell – plot 41 who is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

7. Thank you, Renè Amy for the excellent resource for free wood chips.

8. Fall Intermediate Gardening Classes are available free to garden members. Please refer to the Garden's website for additional information.

Sincerely,

Silvera Grant,

President, Altadena Community Garden

silvergrant@gmail.com 626-398-9840.



News

The ACG Treasurer Position

The Altadena Community Garden has found someone to accede to the office of treasurer starting in September.

Gophers and Barn Owl Boxes

Our four barn owl nest boxes erected in March continue to await tenants. Beautifully appointed quarters have not yet become home to barn owls. The barn owl is not as common as it once was due largely to reduction of suitable habitat – they nest in disused cavities in trees, attics etc. In the organized and regulated spaces of today's suburbia, such nesting opportunities are increasingly rare but for where they are intentionally provided. Our attempt to provide them may have been a bit late this year but will certainly be in time for next year.

Gopher Celebration

Instigated by Renè Amy, we had a thoroughly stochastic yet very successful potluck in the garden on Friday evening July 12 during which members were able to enjoy the opportunity to exchange stories, wisdom and aspirations on the new garden deck. Besides meeting fellow members, ad hoc discussion among members of the landscaping and Little Free Library committees took place leading to a number of incipient plans and strategies.

Renè's organization included the screening of the classic gopher film, *Caddyshack*, which features an iconic and defiant gopher dance.



Louise Jandura - plot 29 Honored



Louise Jandura

Garden member, Louise Jandura - plot 29 has become an honoree of the Google Cloud All-America® Academic Hall of Fame for her accomplishments at MIT in field hockey, basketball and softball.

A graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Class of 1984, Louise has received much plausive recognition and many honors throughout her career with NASA. She currently serves as an engineering leader at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) for the Mars 2020 mission and is the Sampling and Caching Subsystem Chief Engineer for the Mars venture. She has contributed to the

delivery of mechanisms, robotics and scientific hardware to many space flight projects including the Mars Exploration Rovers, Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity Rover, Shuttle Radar Topography Mission and the Genesis and Aquarius missions and currently leads a team of 120 engineers who are designing and building the sampling and caching system for the Mars 2020 rover, whereby those samples may be stored for possible retrieval and transport to Earth at some future point.

Please join us in congratulating Louise on having been granted this distinction.



Meet New Members

A number of new members have joined our ranks and will be featured in the next issue of the newsletter.

Elisa and Eric Callow have been living in and around the San Gabriel Valley for over 30 years but feel even more at home than ever in Altadena, having moved to East Woodbury Road nearly three years ago. Eric is nearing retirement as a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch. Eric's love of gardening is expressed through a California native garden at their home and Theodore Payne Foundation Board membership. Elisa, founding Executive Director of the Armory Center for the Arts, has worked in the non-profit sector most her career most recently as a planning consultant for large and small budget arts organizations. Her real passion is cooking and the communities that develop through sharing delicious, authentic, meals with others. She is the author of *The Urban Forager: Culinary Exploring and Cooking on L.A.'s Eastside* published this year by Prospect Park Books.



Eric and Elisa Callow

Charles Hope

Charles has been retired for 20 years from being a health inspector. He is originally from Guyana and lived in London for over 30 years. He and his wife of 60+ years have two grown children who reside in London and Miami.



People of the Garden

By Alisa Callow

At the June 22nd membership meeting, a project to interview long-time Garden members was enthusiastically supported by those in attendance. As the Garden has been in existence since the 70's and many of those first pioneers are still involved, it is time to collect their stories, their wisdom, and their sense of the Garden's value.

The small, and informal committee to conduct interviews and write up the bios are: Denis Titchenell, Elisa Callow, Marie Yseta, and Mary McGilvray. Watch for the bios in the upcoming newsletters and if you would like to participate in the interview project, please let us know by emailing: elisacallow@gmail.com

Outreach Report

by Mary Gothard, Outreach Chair

School is out for the summer and our field trips are over for the season. This year we hosted Walden School, the Boy Scouts and Franklin Elementary. The children enjoy the visits and we have tried to make the visit fun and educational for them. Most schools now have a garden to tend and the children are arriving more informed on growing their food.

The Girl Scouts continue to meet in the garden and are tending the herb garden. The garden is plentiful with chives, sage and oregano and will be updated for the fall season. Remember, members are welcome to pick the herbs for their personal use. The ACG hosted the SENCH Neighborhood Watch for their annual BBQ on the deck on August 17th. We usually have a few visit from our local Sheriff's Station. We have a new captain to meet, but I cannot make any promises she will be there, just hoping.

All the field trips are a gift to our future gardeners and our community. Showing the children a carrot right out of the ground or explaining water usage or seed ball planting lights up their little faces. A good tour involves about five volunteers. If any member would be interested in joining our team, please know, you and your ideas, would be welcome.



Garden Maintenance Update

Maintenance, repair & upgrade projects by Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation 2019.

1. Continue to work on the deck to complete handicapped parking space in the Garden next to the deck. Complete by March
2. Provide the expertise and labor to complete the recommendations of the Garden Deck Landscaping Committee. Install the recommended irrigation system. Provide the labor and materials/supplies to do so. The Garden has completed a fund raising campaign to secure the funds to complete all of the other recommendations in the deck landscaping report. Complete by December
3. Stabilize Garden informational sign in the Lower Park in front of the Garden main entrance gate. Assess and repair damage two large signs in the Garden. Complete by March
4. Refurbish or replace all peeling letters on informational signs in the Garden. Complete by April.
5. As identify, continue to replace rotten perimeter plot boards in Garden plots. Complete by May.
6. As identify, continue to replace leaky water spigot in Garden plots. Complete by April.
7. Coordinate with the Garden to replace two rotten dead trees in the Lower Park in front of the Garden. Complete by April.
8. Construct a 6 foot border from the eastern Garden fence in the Lower Park and add mulch to the area. The Garden will remove plants growing on the fence and plant more fruit trees in that area. The Garden will be responsible for providing the ongoing maintenance for this newly created area. Complete by September.



Notifications and reminders

From the President

Congratulations

Congratulations to one of our past Presidents Isaac Turner – plot 31 who recently celebrated his 95th birthday.

Congratulations to garden member, Louise Jandura - plot 29 who has become an honoree of the Google Cloud All-America® Academic Hall of Fame for her accomplishments at MIT in field hockey, basketball and softball.

Appreciation

Former Supervisor, Michael D. Antonovich and Supervisor, Kathryn Barger send their regards to everyone and appreciation for receiving produce from the Garden.

Thank you, Renè Amy for the excellent resource for free wood chips.

Thanks to: Debbie Baird, new member in plot 52, for labeling the light switches in the pagoda for the water fountain and light. Thank you also for agreeing to monitor the condition of water in the water fountain.

On the Mend

A speedy recovery to associate member Helen Liddell – plot 41 who is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Gopher Traps

The Garden has purchased 6 gopher traps that are in the large tool shed. The traps are numbered and labeled. The traps are available to Garden members to be used in their plot and walkway to control the gopher population in the Garden. The traps are only to be used in the Garden. Please do not take them home. Gardeners should use one trap at a time, in order to give other gardeners an opportunity to get a trap for their use. Traps must be returned to the shed after being used. Please, do not store or keep the trap in your plot when you are not using them. Instruction on the usage of the traps are printed on one of the boxes that the trap came in, which is also in the shed. We will consider purchasing more traps if six is not enough to meet the demands of the gardeners to control the gopher population. Good luck with your efforts.

Compost

Please comply with the fertilizer distribution guideline for each plot.

Seeds

Free seeds are available at all general membership meetings.

Gardening Classes

All garden members may attend the spring and fall gardening classes in the Garden for free.

Housekeeping reminders:

See Something Say Something

Refer to the following emergency phone number list that is posted in the Garden.

- MEDICAL EMERGENCY IN GARDEN DIAL 911
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PARK BUREAU (213) 974 – 8000 24-HOUR DISPATCH (800) 834-0064
- SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – ALTADENA STATION (626) 798-1131
- PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT (626) 744-4620
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT/ALTADENA FIRE STATION #12 (626) 797-1911
- PASADENA HUMANE SOCIETY & SPCA (626) 792-7151
- PENNY DANIELS, RECREATION SERVICES SUPERVISORS LOMA ALTA PARK (626) 398-5451 or 5452
- NICOLAS BERNAL, OUR GARDENER Cell: (626) 379-0593
- SILVERA GRANT, PRESIDENT, ALTADENA COMMUNITY GARDEN (626) 398-9840
- LEO STALLWORTH, VICE PRESIDENT (626) 398-8846

Tiller Usage:

Please check to see if gasoline or the oil and gasoline mixture are in the tiller before you try to start it. Make sure you put the correct fluid in the correct tiller before using it. Please remember to clean the tiller after using it.

Dumpster Area:

Gardeners, please be responsible for cleaning up after dumping your trash and other items from your plot into the dumpster. The area should be kept clean as much as possible.

Inspection Concerns:

Please correct any violations you may receive from an inspection report. Plot number must be visible at all times.

Farmers' Market and Garden Access:

The Garden is closed to the public during the Farmer's Market. All gates to the Garden must remain closed during the Farmer's Market. Garden members, Loma Alta Park staff and Farmer's Market staff are the only persons allowed in the Garden during the Farmer's Market.

Avocados:

Please be aware that removal of avocados from the tree is now a violation of the Garden's by-laws. Refer to Article - 3, Section - P. We will harvest the avocados in December or January and distribute them to the Garden members in a general membership meeting. This will allow for everyone to get an equal share of the avocados.

Tools & Equipment:

Please clean the tools and equipment before returning them to the tool shed. This is also your responsibility. Notify Leo if a tool or equipment is broken or needs attention. Let him know if you would like to have a tool that is not in our inventory.

Please remember to close the door of the small refrigerator in the tool shed tightly.

Thievery:

Reminder: The Garden By-Laws call for the termination of membership of any member taking something from another member's plot without their permission. Several gardeners have reported items missing/taken from their plot without their permission -- items such as, vegetables, stepping stones, boards, chairs and personal hand tools.

Open Gates:

If you are the last to leave the Garden, please make sure the gates and tool shed are closed. It is also inappropriate and inadvisable to leave a person alone in the garden without locking the gate. When entering or leaving the Garden, please remember to lock the Palm Street entrance gate; it should remain locked at all times.

The Deck Fountain

Please use the bottom electrical light switch on the pagoda next to the deck to turn on and off the water fountain. You can also use the hose on the side of the deck to fill the fountain with water when it is low. If you are the last person to leave the Garden and the water fountain is on, please turn it off.

Gate Locking and Parking Policies

The Garden is a public facility and we encourage the gardeners to keep the main entrance gate open when they are in the Garden gardening. This will give passersby the opportunity to see the Garden when a gardener or gardeners are present. However, safety is the top priority for all Garden members when they are in the Garden. It is therefore the responsibility of all Garden members to do whatever is necessary to ensure that they feel safe while in the Garden and the Lower Park. When alone in the garden it may be appropriate to lock the gate. Upon entering the Garden and finding the gate locked with someone inside, it is probably best to defer to that person's preference and lock the gate back up after entering. When leaving the garden with another garden member in the Garden, it is polite to determine whether that gardener would like the gate locked or not.

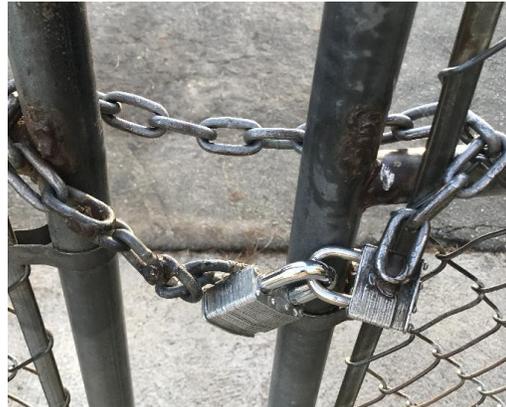
It is never appropriate to leave the gates open when leaving if the garden is empty or if only one person is present.

The Garden parking lots are for gardeners only. As the gates may be locked at any point, it is unwise for non-members to park there.

Only service dogs are allowed in the Garden. Visitors with or without service dogs are welcome to walk into the Garden when the gates are open, walk around in the walkways and visit with gardeners. They are not allowed to go into a plot or to take anything out of a plot. No alcohol, drugs or inappropriate behavior are allowed. Members may refer to Article 3 section A, G, J, M, P, Q, & U in the Garden By - Laws for justification.

Gate Locking:

When locking the gate, please be sure always link the padlocks to each other so that opening either one will undo the chain. Padlocking to a chain link locks out legitimate users whose keys fit the other padlock.



Call for Newsletter Submissions

Have you done anything interesting lately that you would like to share with garden members in the next newsletter? Please let ideas propagate in your imagination and share the harvest with us. Artwork is most welcome. As the ACG Newsletter will be in digital form, multiple media may be included as links. Please submit creative thoughts or material to altadenacnewsletter@abacus-es.com