



December 2018

Newsletter

Fecund facundity from the fertile foothills

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Vice President – Leo Stallworth
Secretary Jean Courtney
Treasurer – Johnie Driver
Orientation – Mary McGilvray
Website – René Amy
Mary Gothard – Community Outreach
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Inspection Coordinator – Eva Story
Maintenance Coordinator Leo Stallworth
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Newsletter Editor – Denis Titchenell
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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

- This January, P.J. Johnson will be presenting on **Optimizing Soil with Composting** at the Altadena Library
- Fruit Trees Pruning
- Continuing work on Deck Landscaping Project
- Executive Board Meeting in January
- General Membership meeting in February
- Athens Services Free Compost Giveaway in April
- Beginners and intermediate gardening classes

From The President



Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for making 2018 a significant year in the growth of the Altadena Community Garden. In particular I would like to thank the executive board for their outstanding leadership and commitment in fulfilling their responsibilities to the Garden. I give you all the credit for where we are today and what we have accomplished. I look forward to working with the board in 2019. I would also like to single out the Garden Deck Landscaping Committee members, Kelly Fernandez, chairperson, Jared Burton, Mary Gothard, Rene' Amy, Louise Jandura, Denis Titchenell and Joe Williams for their cooperative efforts, creative ideas and resourcefulness. I look forward to working with the committee and the Department of Parks & Recreation to implement the complete design which is posted on the Garden's website. The fund raising campaign to secure the money for the Deck Landscaping Project was a tremendous success. Thank you. For those members who have yet to contribute, I urge you to do so. Thank you to Supervisor Kathryn Barger for honoring our request to fund half of the project. I am hoping that we will be able to have our Annual Garden Picnic next year in celebration of our new deck and the completion of the Deck Landscaping Project.

The Annual Garden Picnic will also recognize and honor the contributors to the project.

Thank you to Mercy Santoro, Deputy Director and Michael Ralston, Regional Operations Manager for their outstanding leadership and support for the Garden. All 2018 Maintenance & Repair Requests from the Garden to your Department were completed in a timely manner. Thank you to Penny Daniels, Loma Alta Park Recreation Supervisor and her dedicated staff for their immediate supportive response to the requests from the Garden.

In closing let me express my gratitude to you the members of the Altadena Community Garden for your support and entrusting the leadership of the Garden to me for another year. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year to continue to improve the Garden and community. I will miss not working with our excellent treasurer, Johnie Driver. Mr. Driver will be leaving the executive board to take on a more demanding position with his church. Thank you Mr. Driver for your service to the Garden and community. You will be greatly missed.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Silvera Grant, President

Altadena Community Garden

silvergrant@gmail.com or call me 626-398-9840.



News

General Membership Meeting Saturday 12/1, 2018, 10 - 11:30 Loma Alta Park Gym

This year our year-end membership meeting was a potluck Christmas party. Many issues were discussed, new members were welcomed and seeds were available.

Garden member dues are now due

Please mail dues to:

ALTADENA COMMUNITY GARDEN
P.O. BOX 6212
ALTADENA, CA 91003 - 6212

Dues are:

Regular member: \$73

Associate member: \$30

Handicapped plot: \$43

The 2018 Altadena Community Garden Picnic

This year we skipped the Annual Community Garden Picnic. The deck landscaping project which promises to provide a beautiful setting for garden events has become elaborate and extensive – too much so to be undertaken together with picnic planning and execution. See the Deck Landscape Project Update below.

Garden Community Day Saturday October 20

– Rene Amy



Well, that was a day! And, a whole lot got done.

In addition to the removal of the roses and old herb garden, the Girl Scout plot now has a 1/2"-hardware-cloth liner under its newly-fluffed and amended soil, and is ready for the replacement of its side boards and the stapling of the hardware cloth to those boards.

We also managed a bit of "exploratory surgery" around the grapefruit and memorial tree, which informed us that there are no major root issues that might be cause for concern. There are a few small surface roots on the memorial tree, but nothing that the County's arborist indicated would be a problem to cut.

Also, we unearthed some of the original perimeter wood boards at the memorial tree, buried under a few inches of dirt and chips - so, really, we're looking at a garden "restoration" plan, to some degree.

Thanks to all for your help!

Benefaction from the Garden

The Altadena Community Garden has donated the following.

1. \$600 to Loma Alta Park Children Programs.
2. \$250 to UC Master Gardener Program.
3. \$250 to The Los Angeles Community Garden Council for Community Gardens Development
4. \$250 to Girl Scouts Troop 4601 for Activities/Programs.
5. \$250 to Pasadena Jericho Road for Programs
6. \$150 to North East Trees for programs.

Garden Membership Update

– Mary McGilveray

We have 55 currently on our Wait List. There has been a slow, but steady turnover this last year. Please introduce and make welcome our great new batch of members!

#56-57- Sandy Chang & Fonda Yu

#11A- Bernetta & Johnie Driver (Mr. Driver is our treasurer and we are incredibly grateful to have both of them in their very own plot. They waited patiently as Associates for a few years while diving in to strong volunteer positions!)

#24A- Peter and Brenda Hurst

#32A- Holland Millsap & Curtis Noel

#17- Linda O'Connor

#48- Maria Zendajas and Associate Ida Calderon-Morin



Meet new Garden Members

Sandy Chang & Fonda Wu - Sandy is from Olney, Maryland, she has been a resident of SoCal since 2010. Sandy is a lawyer with a MArch (Masters degree in Architecture) from UMD. Fonda is born and raised in Pasadena, he is a chemical engineer in the aerospace defense industry and works at Raytheon Company. Sandy and Fonda are foster parents to Crosby, a 90 pound rescued giant boxer who enjoys going to the community garden and snoozing in the car

while Sandy & Fonda works their plot. Sandy and Fonda likes to hike, swim, and garden. Sandy's favorite homegrown vegetable is sweet potato greens, Fonda loves Swiss chard while Crosby has an affinity for Brussels sprouts.

Brenda Hurst and Peter Doms new joint members of the Altadena Community Garden. Brenda grew up in Los Angeles and Peter grew up in Pennsylvania. They are Altadena residents. Brenda is an artist and gardener and Peter works at JPL. They are looking forward to finally having a sunny place to grow vegetables. Brenda gardens mostly with native plants at a tree-shaded home and at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center, where she's an Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates board member and is active with the gardening group there. Brenda's and Peter's favorite root vegetables are sweet potatoes and baking potatoes respectively.



Encouraging Barn Owl Populations in the Garden

– Denis Titchenell

As many of our gardeners are painfully aware, gophers have infested the gardens in numbers limited only by the maximum density that their territorial habits permit. Rats have also become a problem and have in many cases reduced the yield of certain vegetables in some gardens.

Three motions were approved in the October board meeting: That we study the feasibility of fostering predation as a solution to our rodent infestation, that we acquire and deploy Barn Owl Nesting Boxes in the garden, and that we solicit a donation of such boxes.

Barn Owl boxes will start appearing in the garden soon. Please join in. A donation entreaty letter requesting four owl boxes has been sent from the Garden to The Barn Owl Box Company (<https://www.barnowlbox.com/>) which sells high quality and well designed boxes proven to be effective



Chuck Nickerson with two barn owl boxes

in dramatically reducing gopher populations in a controlled study performed in a vineyard. Whether or not box donations are forthcoming, we can make them for less than the \$189 they are charging for them with the aid of volunteers, and will be able to provide our potential nocturnal tenants with a choice of accommodations.

After some research, a set of plans for barn owl box construction has been decided upon and posted in the [Altadena Community Garden Facebook Forum](#). Two boxes can be made from a single 4 X 8 sheet of exterior grade plywood, screws and a couple of hinges. Master woodworker, Chuck Nickerson (who will also be helping us with the Little Free Library), has offered his time and expertise.

Two boxes have been constructed and will be deployed in the garden – schedule dependent upon assistance from the county in planting the poles upon which the boxes will reside.

A nesting family of barn owls will take over thousand rodents to feed their brood and may breed twice in a year. Importantly, if even one of the rodents taken has ingested a rodenticidal toxin, the predators will suffer and possibly die, bringing the process to a sudden halt. A motion will be moved to ban the use of toxic rodenticides in the garden; their immediate effect on rodent populations is ephemeral and probably negligible, and the long term effect upon predators is disastrous.



Outreach Report

– Mary Gothard

Everyone, please meet Danielle Campos, Senior Level Girl Scout

The Altadena Community Garden Landscape Committee is sponsoring Danielle Campos to complete a Girl Scout Council approved Golden Project. Her plan is to build our herb garden while teaching Troop 4601 about the herbs.

Danielle will be working with Girl Scout Troop 3601 to build our new herb garden. The garden will be conveniently located by the wheelbarrow shed. The plan is to create, educate and demonstrate the use of herbs. The girl scouts will create, educate and demonstrate the use of herbs which will be available to all garden members. The Girl Scout Troupe will be earning badges during the herb garden project. Danielle, along with troop 3601 members enjoyed a field trip to the Huntington Botanical Herb Garden. They were hosted by ACG Garden Member Kelly Fernandez. The girls had a wonderful curator who explained the many uses and history of herbs. They were all able to smell, touch and learn the uses of the medicinal, edible, perfumes along with dyes and fibers. They all made a lavender sachet for their keeping.

The Girl Scouts love to be busy doing garden chores. They continue to work in the garden, once a month, helping, learning and doing. They are looking forward to the new herb garden location.



Garden Maintenance Update

Maintenance, Repair & Upgrade Projects by Los Angeles County department of Parks and Recreation 2018.

All requested work has been completed with the exception of the disabled parking slot which is to be moved next to the deck.



Notifications and reminders

From the President

Hay Bales

Hay bales in the compost stall are available for you to take and use in your plot. You may take more than one for your plot.

Compost

The Garden will participate in Athens Services Compost Giveaway in April. Athens will provide a truck load of their compost to the Garden.

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. You can also close the gate if you are alone in the Garden. When entering or leaving the Garden, please remember to lock the Palm Street entrance gate.

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.

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 altadenacgnewsletter@abacus-es.com