



June 2017

Newsletter

Fecund facundity from the fertile foothills

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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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From the Vice President

What Does the Altadena Community Garden Mean to Me?



Leo Stallworth

Coming from a small rural community in Alabama and having lived in various places in Los Angeles County before moving thirty years ago to my home in Altadena, I often felt like a ship without a rudder. I have always made friends easily, but it was when I became connected to our Community Garden, that I most felt like I was at home. The garden is not just a place to grow crops but has provided me with an extended family of people with similar interests. Much like my hometown in Alabama, where everyone had a garden, I was made comfortable by my fellow gardeners. I have learned from them about different things to grow, and I have also received from them an abundance of sharing. I always know that if I am out of town, I can count on another gardener to water and tend to my crops.

The bonds of friendship and sharing have given me a sense of belonging, not



Upcoming Events

- Altadena Community Garden Annual Picnic.
Saturday, July 29th from 12 to 5 pm.
- Post Picnic Review Meeting
Saturday 8/11, 10 - 11:30 AM
Loma Alta Park Gym
- Fall Victory Garden Classes
September 30, October 7, 14 & 21
Altadena Community Garden
- Executive Board Meeting
Thursday 10/12, 7 - 9 PM
Loma Alta Park Gym
- Workshop - Sharing the bounty of your garden by preserving for gift giving
Sunday 11/12, 10 AM - 12 PM
Altadena Community Garden
- General Membership Meeting
Saturday 12/2, 10 - 11:30 AM
Loma Alta Park Gym

only from the other gardeners but also to the greater Altadena Community. I have witnessed significant improvements to the garden under the leadership of our current President, Silvera Grant. Silvera has worked tirelessly to strengthen our relationships with: The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Altadena Fire Dept. and LA County Sheriffs. Many of the structural change improvements have resulted from Silvera's leadership.

I am very proud of my affiliation with our Altadena Community Garden.



The Altadena Community Gardens Picnic

The Altadena Community Gardens Picnic promises to be a superb event this year. The raffle items thus far span the gamut from the grand prize, a flat screen TV courtesy of Aldi Market, to Disneyland Tickets, and Magic Mountain tickets, a vast array of gift vouchers for local businesses including many restaurants, Costco and the Lincoln Avenue Nursery down to a book or two by local garden members. Ticket holders get music; a healthy, filling lunch; a resource fair; Garden tours; and a great time!



All Garden members are requested to make their plots presentable as garden tours will be taking place. Please make sure that the plot numbers are visible. *ACG Picnic 2015 Photo: Caroline Ducout*

Raffle solicitation letters are in the large tool shed. Garden members are requested to try to get at least one raffle item for the picnic.

Advance ticket sales: each garden member is asked to sell 5 tickets. Get tickets from Silvera: <mailto:silveragrants@gmail.com>.

Tickets are also [available online](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/altadena-community-garden-annual-picnic-tickets-32993026029) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/altadena-community-garden-annual-picnic-tickets-32993026029>. Tickets are only \$10 in advance, and go up to \$12 at the gate. Kids under age 5 are free!

Picnic flyers are in the shed for distribution in the community.

Garden members are encouraged to deliver a Home Style dish to serve 25 people to the Garden by 9:30am, July 29th!

Garden Member Dish Assignments

PLOTS 01-22

BRING A MAIN COURSE/ENTRÉE IN A RECTANGULAR OR OVAL ALUMINUM CONTAINER IF YOU NEED TO KEEP IT WARM.

INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON IT. PLEASE LABEL CONTENTS

PLOTS 23-49

BRING A VEGETABLE OR SALAD DISH IN A RECTANGULAR OR OVAL ALUMINUM CONTAINER IF YOU NEED TO KEEP IT WARM.

INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON IT. PLEASE LABEL CONTENTS

PLOTS 50-H4 AND SHED PLOT

BRING A DESSERT OR FRUIT SALAD IN A CONTAINER, INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON IT..

Music will be provided by The John Tirabasso Youth Jazz Ensemble and The South Pasadena Transit Authority. Food will be delicious and extensive, much as it has been in past years, and there will be a free community resource fair.

We are counting on assurances that the deck will be finished and functional in time for the picnic.



ALDI Market Picnic Raffle Contribution

The Altadena Community Garden would like to welcome ALDI to Altadena. The new ALDI Market in Altadena on the NE corner of Lake Avenue and Calaveras, has kindly donated a large flat screen TV to serve as our grand prize in the raffle. The store manager may be present when the award is presented and there will be an ALDI booth where samples will be distributed.

Unlike many other markets, ALDI provides a very useful array of gardening equipment, from carts and compost bins to trellises and rain barrels. The one-handed carts they carry are ideal for those who have difficulty managing two handed wheelbarrows and they are small enough to be hoisted and dumped into the dumpster.



Deck Reconstruction

The deck replacement is proceeding apace. The new deck will be entirely ADA compliant with a ramp and wheelchair accessible walkways to the disabled parking slots both inside and outside the garden. A cantilevered shade structure will be added to the south side of the deck as well as seating around the periphery. The railing on the new deck will use stainless steel cable. The deck will require little maintenance beyond restaining the wood after about six years.



Deck Reconstruction



Gardens Fountain

A fountain will be donated to the ACG by board member Rene' Amy in memory of his beloved wife who was also a member of the Garden. The fountain is to be placed in the rose garden facing the deck. It promises to be a salubrious addition to the garden ambiance and, as it is a water source for wildlife, it will qualify the gardens officially as a nature preserve.



The New Fountain



Possible acquisition of a chipper shredder.



Elvira Smith making garden waste into soil amendment

As some garden members make a regular practice of mincing their herbaceous waste for use as soil amendment, it has been suggested that a device be made available that would render this process quicker and more efficient. Rather than using a large gas powered device intended largely as a wood chipper, [one suggested model is a small electric unit](#) for under \$100 intended mainly to grind herbaceous waste into a fine meal that can easily be mixed and deployed in the garden. Possibilities may be considered at the next board meeting.

ACG Board Online Decision Making

As board meetings are relatively infrequent and some issues can be urgent, it has been suggested that a process for online decision making be created, at least for exceptional cases. Initially, the simplest case will be moved – when approval of a motion is unanimous and no member feels a need for further discussion, that motion can be regarded as passed online. Other more complex procedures allowing for discussion and passage with less than unanimity may be more problematic but may be considered as well. Some members feel that cogent cases for or against contentious issues can be more effectively made in writing in any case, and would like to see considered arguments in more tangible form when such issues arise.

This will be brought up in the October meeting.



Member Spotlight

Mary Helen Crew Educational Bequest

The [Spring 2017 issue of Community Matters](#), the publication of The Pasadena Community Foundation, featured an article on A.C. Garden member Mary Helen Crew and the scholarship she and her daughters have endowed for the Pasadena Community Foundation.

Mary Helen is still gardening at ACG in plot #3 which had previously been her husband Ernest's. Ernest Crew joined the garden in 1988 and served as Treasurer for 6 years in the



Ernest and Mary Helen Crew

early 1990s after having retired from Mobil Oil. He had also worked on the picnic committee with Fred Shotlow and Arthur Fudge.

Mary Helen loves flowers, especially roses. She now resides in the [Monte Cedro Senior Living Retirement Community](#) here in Altadena, not far from ACG.



Our Donation to the Altadena Triangle Park Project



The Triangle Park Project -- extensive renovation and beautification of the interstitial triangular park on the SW corner of Altadena Drive and Lake Avenue across from the Altadena Sheriff Station -- has begun, though construction is slower than expected due to antiquated and possibly precolumbian, antedeluvian or even prelapsarian plumbing found there which must first be replaced. On May 9th, the ACG sent a \$500 contribution to Claire Robinson, Managing Director of Amigos de los Rios for 20 native plants to be used in the xeriscape landscaping on behalf of the 152 members of the Gardens. A plaque to be installed there will commemorate the garden's benefaction.



Gopher Control

Negotiations have apparently broken down between our local population of pocket gophers and the ad hoc rodentia intervention committee with the result that the troglodytic interlopers are now being besieged with a number of devices and methods to ensure their exile or eradication following unsuccessful attempts to persuade them to enter into a binding agreement to limit their diets to purslane and milkweed. It seems that gopher deracination is difficult and temporary and that more humane eviction is often recommended (See [A Humane Approach to Gopher Problems](#)). [Euphorbia Lathyris](#), or mole spurge, is used to repel moles and gophers and is said to be effective but as it is highly toxic and can even cause skin irritation when handled, it may not be a plant one would like to introduce into one's vegetable garden.



Pocket Gopher

Unfortunately, in an allotment garden such as ACG, gopher eviction is likely to result in a simple move next door. A device for imparting a phosphorescent glow to gophers that traverse a clever applicator may or may not render them more susceptible to owl predation but does have the advantage of producing a certain nocturnal artistic beauty to gardens as refulgent blue-green gophers perform for whatever fortunate audience is present with purportedly innovative and suggestive choreography.

[Verticillium wilt](#) has been a problem in the gardens. A ground spreading fungus, verticillium wilt causes well-watered tomatoes and other eudicot plants to wilt with blotches on lower leaves as if water deprived. There is no chemical control for the disease, so when [verticillium wilt](#) occurs, planting a different crop or a disease resistant crop is recommended as some wilt varieties survive as microsclerotia in soil for up to 15 years. Infected plants should be destroyed, not composted.



2017 Maintenance, Repair and Upgrade Projects

By Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation

1. July 17 – 21 Department of Parks & Recreation will begin and complete the beautification of the Garden and lower park in front of the Garden. They will complete the deck, paint the planting boards around rose beds, herb and cactus gardens. Paint the wood picnic table, stalls, safety bumpers, shed doors and

the red no parking area in the lower park. Paint the Palm Street iron entrance gates. Restripe Garden parking area. Steam clean/pressure wash the Garden parking area, concrete picnic area in front of the deck and the handicapped plots area. Upgrade the Garden walkways with new mulch/wood chips and remove nut and crab grass from walkways.

2. Continue to provide the maintenance for the Garden Corner Beautification project...ongoing. Coordinate with the Farmers' Market to replace the rotten trees that were removed last year from the Lower Park. Trim the palm tree in the Garden. Complete by April.
3. As agreed, provide and install safety "SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING" signage in the Garden by March. Refer to the attached email for specifications.
4. Begin construction on the deck to replace rotten foundation boards, address any related ADA issues, and add seating 18" to 20" in width to the inner east and south sides of the deck. Provide 2 picnic tables to accommodate someone in a wheelchair. Complete construction by April.
5. Refurbish the back of bulletin board, display showcases and replace the one termite infested wooden display showcase. Upgrade cases for Garden newsletters and applications. Complete by April.
6. Continue to replace rotten perimeter plot boards as identified.
7. Remove Victory Garden Class sign to Handicapped plot-4. Replace outside light bulb over large shed door. Install replacement light pole in Lower Park next to Garden outside eastern fence between the main and middle entrance gates to the Garden. This rotten light pole was removed last year. It provided light to eastern section of the Garden and Lower Park. This is a safety issue. Complete by February.
8. Continue to provide logistical support to ensure another successful Community Garden Annual Picnic on July 29th.
9. Construct a 6 foot border from the eastern Garden fence in the Lower Park and add mulch to the area. The Garden will plant California native plants and additional fruit trees. The Garden will also provide the ongoing maintenance for this area. This request has been made for the past two years, with no action by your Department's managers. This project is necessary to enhance the appearance of the eastern side of the Garden facing the Lower Park. Complete by April.



Call for Newsletter Submissions

Have you done anything interesting lately that you would like to share with garden members? Artwork is most welcome.

As the ACG Newsletter will be in digital form, multiple media may be included as links. If you have written an "Ode to my Favorite Soil Amendment" it can appear in print and also as a dramatic recitation. If you are inspired to compose a musical setting of the Garden bylaws, a recording could be included. With video linking, a demonstration of humane negotiation with gophers could be conveyed through interpretive dance.

Please submit creative thoughts or material to altadenacgnewsletter@abacus-es.com



Roses by Patrick Gothard