



October 2021

Newsletter

Fecund facundity from the fertile foothills

President – Silvera Grant
Vice President – Leo Stallworth
Secretary – Ayesha Randall
Treasurer – Sacha Malin
Orientation – Mary McGilvray
Website – Joe Nagy
Community Outreach – Mark Anthony Cole
Wood Chips Coordinator – Angelo Chiriaco
Fertilizer Coordinator – Joe Nagy
Inspection Coordinator – Eva Story
Maintenance Coordinator – Leo Stallworth
Correspondence Secretary – Alan Freeman
Programs Chairperson –
Newsletter Editor – Denis Titchenell
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Albert West – Advisor
Isaac Turner – Advisor
Fred Shotlow – Advisor

Article submissions: altadenacnewsletter@abacus-es.com

Read the newsletter online:

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

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

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Upcoming Events

- The Farmer's Market hours: from 4pm-7pm Wednesdays
- Workshop on composting, Saturday, October 2 – 10am-11am PT Zoom. Register [here](#).
- Executive Board Meeting Saturday 10/9, 10 A.M.- 12 P.M., Altadena Community Garden
- [Clean Air Day Fair](#), Saturday 10/9, 10 A.M.- 12 P.M., Altadena Library Lawn
- [2021 Girls Empowerment Conference](#) Saturday 10/9
- General Membership Meeting Saturday 12/4, 10-11:30 A.M., Altadena Community Garden
- [Altadena Arts Festival](#), Saturday, October 23, 10am-5pm

News

Covid 19 Measures

The Garden members will continue to comply with the current Covid 19 pandemic safety guideline recommendations by the Los Angeles County Department of Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation. Proof of vaccination may soon be required for Garden members to participate in Garden activities and to work in their plot.

2021 Girls Empowerment Conference

GIRLS WITH DREAMS BECOME WOMEN WITH VISION

Powerful Speakers. Interactive Sessions. Live Music.

Saturday, October 9, 2021 // Girls ages 12-18 // Free Event

The 7th annual I Matter-Girls Empowerment Conference, where girls with dreams become women with vision will take place On October 9, 2021.

Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation presents a free event where girls ages 12-18 can join live and in-person from Loma Alta Park, Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park, and the Hacienda Heights Community Center. Participants will hear from powerful women innovators, educators, trailblazers and beyond! Girls will have an opportunity to connect with their peers and speakers to feel connected, inspired, and empowered.

LA County Parks will host workshops, panels, and keynote speakers. Girls are invited to join and participate in all events.

Workshops will include:

- Women in Tech: Closing the gender gap to empower women and girls in leading the technology industry
- Step into your Power: Empowering girls and giving them direct access to opportunities for trainings, technical certifications, scholarships, and employment
- Girls and Women with Vision: Making Your Career Dreams Come True
- Pathways to College: A look into College Life and the steps needed to be successful
- Delete the Divide: Empowering girls and giving them direct access to opportunities for trainings, technical certifications, scholarships, and employment.
- Sports & Dance Workshops: Get active and participate in our Basketball, Lacrosse, Hip-Hop or Cheer clinics

LA County Parks is excited to announce the addition of the Girl Power Lunch Party Experience to this year’s conference that will give girls the opportunity to participate in a resource fair, a picnic lunch and a dance party with live DJ! You don’t want to miss this!

[Registration](#) is free and required. Space is limited, so register today!

[Event Schedule](#) (Subject to change)

Altadena Arts Festival

After an absence of more than 25 years, the Altadena Arts Festival at Charles White Park, is coming back Saturday, October 23, 10am-5pm with artwork, live music and poetry recitation. We will have a booth with information about the Garden, gardening handouts/information and free seeds distribution.

Altadena Clean Air Day



ALTADENA
Clean Air Day Fair

Kick Gas With Eco-Friendly Yard Maintenance Equipment

Featuring Dan Mabe • American Green Zone Alliance

Saturday October 9 • 10 to 2 Drop in anytime between 10 and 2

Altadena Library Lawn • 600 E. Mariposa St. Altadena

- Learn about the latest in eco-friendly techniques and tools.
- Personal consultation and demonstrations with Dan Mabe.
- Hear about the health impacts of gas mowers and blowers.
- Try out various types and brands of professional equipment.
- Learn about lawn equipment rebates from SCAQMD.
- Learn how trees clean the air and how you can get a free tree.
- Bring the kids. We'll have crayons, coloring books, and more.
- Refreshments will be provided.

Take the Clean Air Day pledge at cleanairday.org

Clean Healthy Air
CHA
Clean Healthy Altadena

Altadena Libraries
altadenalibrary.org

ALTADENA HERITAGE
altadenaheritage.org

CALIFORNIA CLEAN AIR DAY

AGZA
AMERICAN GREEN ZONE ALLIANCE

Rotary
ROTARY CLUB OF ALTADENA

South Coast AQMD

MASKS REQUIRED

Girl Scout Herb Garden

– **Mary Gothard**

Dear Membership: This is just a reminder that you can pick the herbs from the Girl Scout garden (in front of the shed). There are two different types of sage, two types of thyme, rosemary, tarragon, chives and two different mints. Enjoy!



Girl Scout Herb Garden

Garden Signage Project

Eagle Scout, Andrew Kim has researched, funded and created informational signs for many parts of the Garden. We give him our thanks!

Los Angeles Seed Library

– Jessica Yarger

Did you know that Los Angeles has a seed library? The first branch was opened by David King eight years ago at the Venice Learning Garden. Currently, there is a second branch in Altadena run by me, Jessica Yarger. The seed libraries operate much like book libraries. Members can check seeds out (up to four varieties a month) and then save the seeds from their crops to turn back into the library. One does not need to be an expert seed saver to join!



The Seed Library of Los Angeles serves many purposes. It offers members a wide variety of diverse seeds, over time builds a seed catalog with seeds best suited for our warming climate, and offers a place for gardeners (beginning to advanced) to come together to share expertise and experiences. The libraries also offer free educational workshops and presentations on many garden related topics!

Spectrum News recently did a piece on the Seed Library of Los Angeles. You can watch the [news story and read the article here](#).

To learn more about the Seed Library of Los Angeles visit the [website](#).

To learn more about the Altadena Branch of the seed library, email: slolaaltadena@gmail.com
Happy planting!

New Board Member

Let's welcome Alan Freeman who has acceded to the post of Corresponding Secretary on the executive board. Alan is Professor Emeritus of Theater at Occidental College. For the past six years he has been an associate member in plot 27 and prior to that, general member in plot 02. Alan was also an emcee at one of our annual community garden picnics.

Appreciation to all the other Garden members who expressed an interest in the corresponding secretary position. We appreciate your support.

We would also like to extend our appreciation and support to our previous corresponding secretary Yolanda Jones for her many years of service to our Garden and community. We wish her well in all of her future endeavors and look forward to seeing her again back in the Garden. Thank you, Yolanda for a job well done.

Vacant Board Position

We are still in need of a Program Chairperson on the executive board. The Program Chairperson is responsible for planning and directing social events for the Garden. This person will take the lead in planning our annual community garden picnic. Please let Silvera know if you are interested in this position.

The Garden's New Website and Youtube Channel.

Joe Nagy has created a new [website for the Garden](https://www.altadenacommunitygarden.com/) <https://www.altadenacommunitygarden.com/> and a [Youtube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIYceWcHxGZAXhYfUG8wxTA) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIYceWcHxGZAXhYfUG8wxTA>

The Youtube Channel is new and contains little but there are many ideas in the offing. It currently has a long and awkward name but we will be able to have our own custom name, something like: [youtube.com/AltadenaCommunityGarden/](https://www.youtube.com/AltadenaCommunityGarden/), once we have 100 subscribers, so please visit it and subscribe.

The Garden from the Air

On Saturday July 10, 2021, a flyover video was made of the Altadena Community Garden and many garden members participated as videographer John Lynch piloted his UAV with masterly skill over around and through the features of our garden, some waving, some displaying produce and others going about their business in various ways. All aspects – videography, editing, soundtrack are John’s work.



Altadena Community Garden from above. Photo: John Lynch

Watch the video: [ACG Flyover Video https://youtu.be/Dc0sNQBMIIE](https://youtu.be/Dc0sNQBMIIE) You may also find John’s other videos inspiring. See: [John Lynch’s Arborcopter Youtube channel](#).

Musical Tastes

A selection of free-to-use background music in the [Youtube Audio Library](#) and one such was used to accompany this video, a rather percussive and haphazard one – no arc, structure nor cadences beyond the incessant repetition. Some feel it does not do justice to the brilliant video which, with better accompaniment, could perhaps go viral. Just for contrast, an [alternative soundtrack](#) was suggested to John but rejected, one with two voices in fugal counterpoint that really seemed to fit the gaiety of the occasion on a more sophisticated level. Feel free to express your opinion.

The Altadena Farmers Market, featured in The Pasadena Weekly

A fine [Pasadena Weekly Article entitled Altadena Farmers Market is keeping the dream alive](#) by Frier McCollister appeared in the Aug 19, 2021 issue (<https://pasadenaweekly.com/altadena-farmers-market-is-keeping-the-dream-alive/>). McCollister explains that, of the local farmers markets – the Saturday morning market at Victory Park, the South Pasadena Thursday evening market, and the Tuesday afternoon Highland Park market – the Altadena Farmers Market, open from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays in Loma Alta Park, next to the Altadena Community Garden, is the closest to a real community market.

Managed since January 2019 by Stacey Whitney, alumna of John Muir High School, the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in LA, The Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago and the Chicago branch of Le Cordon Bleu culinary academy, the Market has overcome the pandemonium of Covid 19 restrictions, more stringent in unincorporated Altadena than elsewhere, to thrive and prosper through a preorder and pickup system and has established itself as an inclusive, familial entity, reflective of the surrounding Black and Latino population. With her two market partner associates, Loren Phaen and Leigh McGilvray, Chef Whitney steered the Market successfully through a very difficult period.

Since starting 2012, the market's nonprofit fiscal receiver and sponsor was the Altadena Community Garden. On Aug. 6, 2021, Whitney acquired formal 501(c)(3) certification from the IRS for the market which initiates a new phase in its progress and fundraising.

McCollister reports that Whitney has managed to recruit many vendors who appeal to the community with locally produced affordable produce and actively encourages EBT recipients and a Market Match voucher program. The Market also distributes up to 10 free produce boxes each week on a first-come, first-served basis. Please see [the original Pasadena Weekly article](#).



Vegetables, Anyone?

– Sandy Chang

In the middle of a 3-digit day with a basket heavily laden with tender vegetables, my mind raced thinking of whom to pawn them off on before everything starts to wilt in the sweltering heat.

Inside the garden, Silvera took one look and sped off in his truck while I chased behind waving a foot long zucchini. René, ever too courteous to refuse asked if there was anything smaller, with a look of plea in his eyes. Margaret, never one to sugarcoat, declined while launching into the contents of her own jam packed refrigerator and freezer. Forget about Brenda, who will surely seize the opportunity to unload twice as much of her own overabundance. Even the always affable Denis, stammered apologetically about having to contend with his own harvests. After much useless cajoling, the vegetables drooped.

Next, I go through a mental list of friends who unbeknownst to themselves, have been placed on a rotating distribution schedule. All would have been well but for the lifting of covid restrictions when it is no longer easy to knock on a door in the middle of any given day to find a work-from-home friend grateful for the impromptu bouquet of kale. Without the usual park-goers anywhere in sight, I dejectedly packed up the now limp vegetables and headed home.

Unable to block out cautions of severe droughts and food wastes, I washed, deveined and tossed the unwanted vegetables into a slow simmering pot with generous slabs of soy braised pork-bellies. By the time the pot bubbled with a soulful fragrance of meats and greens, neighbors who tired from various lawn work in the early evening cool were sniffing into the air hungrily. I have stumbled upon a willing and ravenous crowd! A backyard fire pit dinner was had and by nightfall, all the vegetables were gone with the last few morsels packed up and claimed for. A feeling of relief washed over me until I realized.. that I was to do this all over again when the next harvest is ready in a few days...

If you are similarly burnt out from disposing excess harvest to families, friends, neighbors and strangers, please consider donating – or perhaps doing some outdoor cooking where sumptuous redolence may entice and summon. Of course it's also always possible to post in [our Facebook Discussion Group](#) when a nimety of veggies is expected.



My Personal Quest for Fire

– Justin Maust

I started growing hot peppers for the same reason many do; I love the heat. From raw peppers to months old fermented hot sauce, I admire the versatility of peppers. I have been growing hot peppers as a serious hobby for several years now. However, access to my our new plot at the community garden has enhanced both my experience and enthusiasm for peppers. I still learn new things every season to improve on and it never gets boring. I have the added benefit of my harvest feeding my other hobby – making hot sauces. I do not consider myself an expert but feel free to stop by my plot and ask me questions about peppers or if I have a sample bottle of sauce on me.



Photo: Justin Maust. The yellow and brown pods are Puma Peppers. In the middle-back the long red peppers are Tiger Teeth Habaneros. On the left and right side, the wrinkly red spheres, are 7 pot peppers. In the front row are Peruvian White Habaneros

This season's crop contains Peruvian White Habaneros, Tiger Teeth Habaneros, Hot Puma Peppers, and 7 Pot Peppers.

[Justin is in plot 32 with his mother and father, Debbie and John Maust.]





The Online Garden

A [private Facebook discussion group](#) continues to provide online space for garden members to interact, share and rant with each other, instead of, or in addition to, talking over the fence.

Claudia Zhao has created a [Gardens Instagram resource](#). Suggestions and contributions are most welcome.

The official [Altadena Community Garden website](#), is being thoroughly updated by our new webmaster, Joe Nagy, who is delighted to receive contributions of news, prose, verse, screeds, diatribes, artwork and other media appropriate for inclusion therein. Much thanks to former webmaster, René Amy, for all his web work service over the years.



Our LFL



Our LFL Nook, Photo: Sean MacGillivray

A column centering on the Altadena Community Garden's Little Free Library

Autumnal literature, though vastly varied, does tend sometimes toward the wistful departure, often a passing, and sometimes, with the return of Halloween, a bit of spooky foreboding. A few poems come to mind, one such being the one depicting the cursed Lady of Shallott with her mysterious malediction

and forbidden gaze at Camelot, which of course she finds she can't resist. Too long to quote here, please [read or listen to it online](#).

An interesting practice has evolved, that of providing summary of or commentary on great works in the smallest possible space – the limerick – often pages of text distilled into the few syllables of this five line form. Tennyson's *The Lady of Shallott* has inspired many of these; here are a few for which acquiring permissions was not a problem.

I am half sick of shadows cried
The lady ere she looked outside
And then a boat
Bore her afloat
'Till singing her last song she died.

The lady wove scenes that would pass
The window she saw in the glass
'Till the web from the loom
Filled all of the room
She never looked out, the poor lass

Through a looking glass saw she outside
Where the Round Table Knights oft would ride
Then she took a straight look
And Lancelot took
Her with him – the whisper had lied.

Unlike the Lady whose autumnal character is implicit in the reference to barley sheaves, the incontrovertibly spooky [Raven of Poe](#) is explicitly hybernal. This superbly crafted litany of dismal vaticinations has inspired so many over the years, yet few have thought to ask why the narrator does not learn from experience, having rapidly and overtly gleaned the truth of the bird's limited vocabulary. One more little limerick does ask just that question:

Why ask if you'll clasp your Lenore?
"Nevermore" is its sole stock and store.
Not the answer you sought?
Then simply ask not
What you'd not like so answered once more.

Until next time, always remember:

If you have a garden and library, you have everything you need – Cicero

Denis Titchenell
Plot 43A

[And perhaps note [the corollary to Cicero's asseveration](#). – ed.]



New Members and their Plots:

– Mary McGilvray

Let's give a big welcome to new associate and regular members:

#11- Jill Boyd is working with Ida Calderon-Morin

#32A- Cheryl Lee is working with Holland and Curtis Millsap-Noel

#36- Sharon Sand has joined Eric and Elisa Callow

#H3- Stacey Smith has joined with Kameelah Wilkersoni

#38B- Chuyen (Chewy) Nguyễn and Duane Christensen are proud new members



Desultory Droppings

Compost for the cranium

Hose Repair – experience, insights and an easy, quick and cheap solution



Hose-mender fitting

One way to fix a garden hose leak is to cut the hose, clean up the ends and splice them together with a store-bought “hose mender” fitting which includes a rigid sleeve inserted into the hose ends and clamps on either side. This works well but involves time and expense and leaves a large fixture in the middle of the hose which can be awkward and may prevent pulling it through things.

The traditionally recommended way to tape a garden hose leak is to wrap overlapping turns of tape, first one way, then the other, in both directions far past the rupture itself. This takes a lot of tape and time and is not guaranteed to work every time. Better solutions exist now.

A very impressive hose repair tape is available from different sources. Variously called “Rescue Tape” or “Self-fusing silicone tape,” it does indeed fuse to itself to make a watertight bond. However, in an experiment, when subjected to constant pressure – water turned on with closed valve on the end of the hose – its tensile strength was not adequate and it formed a great aneurysm, a gradually expanding balloon of water which did give way eventually.

It has been whimsically asserted that, with enough duct tape and something to stand on, anything can be fixed. Duct tape does have the tensile strength



Self-fusing silicone tape

to handle water pressure but, on its own, often doesn't produce a leak proof patch. A silicone tape patch covered with duct tape for strength did solve the problem temporarily but is both resource and time intensive and it did eventually start to leak out the ends. Still not an ideal solution.

The problem with patches tends not to be flaws in the wraps of tape themselves, particularly if properly overlapped. Most often, water is seen shooting out of the end of the patch, requiring the patch to go on and on for a great distance. A hose clamp is one solution but it is hard to deploy a hose clamp in the middle of a long length of hose and it is also necessary to acquire a one.

A cheap, novel and inexpensive solution is to tie an *ad hoc* hose clamp with a piece of cord. Yes, a constrictor knot tied with strong, non-slippery cord does the job nicely (see [how to tie a constrictor knot](#)). It can't be cinched as tightly by pulling as can be achieved by screwing a hose clamp, but that shortcoming can also be overcome. If one continues the ends of the cord around the hose after tying the constrictor knot and ties them together (with a bow for easy release) over a shaft – screwdriver, pen etc., then the knot can be cinched dramatically, much like a tourniquet, by turning the shaft. Care must be taken not to break the cord which is easier than one would think, even if it is far too strong to break by hand pulling. When fully cranked, the two ends can then be cut or tied together. An experiment applying such knots to the ends of a duct taped patch was entirely successful. This solution does however depend upon solid structural resistance of the hose itself as, unlike using the hose mender fixture, there is no rigid internal sleeve to clamp down upon.



Constrictor knot cinched down tightly

This discovery leads one to ask the big question: When patching a localized leak and applying tied hose constrictions, is there any need to do an overlapping wrapping job at all? A single or double pass of two-inch-wide duct tape wound over the leak in a matter of seconds with tied constrictions on either side could be a simple, minimal and ideal solution to hose leaks. Duct tape on its own may lose adhesion and come unstuck over time, but when tied down this way, that problem is also solved. The experiment has been successful so far, but has not yet withstood the test of time.



Duct tape patch with constrictor knots



Cinching a constrictor knot tight from underneath

What cord is best to use is still an open question. Durability is certainly a factor and other obvious alternatives such as wire or zip ties clearly present deterioration and rust issues along with the fact that when coiling and sliding along a hose, one is likely to discover that they are not particularly friendly to the hands.

100 lb test 3/64 inch microcord was another experiment, but when it was cinched down hard it bit through both duct tape and hose, producing a new leak. Cotton, jute, nylon, polyurethane, paracord are all options but all will deteriorate and some suffer from photodegradation. All of these appear to be viable options and only time will tell.

Conclusion: It works! But the hose must be strong enough to resist the tied constrictions; softer spongy hoses will not allow for a good clamping job. The tying material must be strong, and broad enough not to cut through tape and hose.

Another layer of duct tape to protect the cord from sun and weathering would probably extend the life of the patch and, as the hose has already started to have leaks, the patch might last longer than the hose. As Garrison Keillor's National Duct Tape Council put it: When it really comes down to it, isn't all repair temporary?

Zoo Poo

Zoo Poo, a conflation of many things, scatological and otherwise, possibly including dik dik doo doo, oryx ordure, flamingo feces, emu excrement, eland effluvium, dugong doodle, markhor merde, camel crap, sheep scheiss, toucan turds, penguin poo, mandrill manure, dromedary droppings, duiker doodle, gerenuk guano, cob coprolite, flea frass, kangaroo kak, elephant excreta and saiga stool has been bestowed upon the garden. Initial testing leads one to conclude that it is not devoid of noxious weed seeds, but may, given time and further composting, serve well as a source of highly diverse, not to say exotic, garden nutrients.



Garden Maintenance Update

From the President

We appreciate Mr. Lance Verdugo, Craft Manager 1, Facility Operations and his staff from the North Community Service Agency for their prompt response to our repair requests. Thank you for a job well done.



Notifications and reminders

From the President

Expert Gardening Consultation Offer from Jessica Yarger, UC Cooperative Extension

Dear Gardening Community Member,

Do you have a garden related question? Having trouble identifying a certain pest or want to get some information about how to start a vegetable garden?

Master Gardeners are available to answer all your garden related questions, including tree care,

pest management, and soil health.

You can call the Master Gardener Hotline at (626) 586-1988 or send an email to mglosangeleshelpline@ucdavis.edu.

Regards,

Jessica Yarger
UC Master Gardener Program Assistant
University of California Cooperative Extension
Los Angeles County
700 West Main Street
Alhambra, CA 91801

Victory Garden Classes



Our Fall Class will be held Saturdays from 9/18—10/2 at the Altadena Community Garden.

The final class on 10/9 will be hosted at an Altadena Master Gardeners private garden.

Please join us! **Classes are free for Altadena Community Garden Members.**

For additional information, please contact Trish at dgflightnurse@hotmail.com

Gardening Issues:

Please remember to keep your debris in your plot when the dumpster is full until space is available to accommodate your trash. We are charged an extra fee from Athens when the dumpster is overloaded. This is a cost we cannot afford and will have to charge the extra dumping fee to the Garden member or members responsible for overloading the dumpster. The dumpster is empty on Tuesday between 1 and 2 pm. Also please remember to sweep-up your trash and debris after dumping. We must try to keep this area clean.

Now that we have a large supply of wood chips please put wood chips in your walkways.

The grapes on the outside fence on the Palm Street side of the Garden are ready for harvest. Members from the community are welcome to harvest those grapes. The grapes on the inside fence are for Garden members to harvest.

Wheelbarrows, tools and other items that belong to the Garden must be returned to their respective shed before you leave the Garden. It is a violation of the by-laws to leave items overnight in your plot that belong to the Garden.

Please pay immediate attention to your irrigation system for any leaks or needed repairs. Inform Silvera of any leaky water spigot in your plot. We must all do our part to conserve the use of water.

Please note that the seeing eye/service dogs are the only animals allowed in the Garden.

Appreciation:

Much thanks goes to Andrew Kim for his extensive informational signage project in the Garden.

Much thanks to Joe Nagy who has created a new [website for the Garden](https://www.altadenacommunitygarden.com/) [and a Youtube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIYceWcHXGZAXhYfUG8wxTA)

On The Mend:

All our best wishes to:

Penny Daniels, Loma Alta Park, Recreation Services Supervisor who is recovering from knee replacement surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Isaac Turner plot 31 as his health continues to improve after release from the VA hospital.

A speedy recovery to all other Garden members who are experiencing health related problems. Please let Silvera know if you need assistance in maintaining your plot.



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