

June 2023



Fecund facundity from the fertile foothills

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News

Garden Picnic Planning Update – From the President

Treasurer – Sacha Malin Orientation - Mary McGilvray Website - Joe Nagy Community Outreach - Grace Lee & Erin Berkowitz Wood Chips Coordinator - vacant Fertilizer Coordinator – Joe Nagy Inspection Coordinator – Joanne McLaughlin Maintenance Coordinator – Leo Stallworth Correspondence Secretary – Alan Freeman Programs Chairperson – vacant Newsletter Editor – Denis Titchenell Archivist - Anne Reid Nominating – Marie Yeseta Albert West – Advisor Isaac Turner – Advisor Fred Shotlow – Adviso

President – Silvera Grant Vice President – Leo Stallworth Secretary – Ayesha Randall

Upcoming Events

- 4pm-8pm Wednesdays: The Farmer's Market
- Monday, June 19, 2023 11:30 am. Juneteenth Celebration, William D. Davis Memorial Building at Farnsworth Park, 568 Mount Curve Ave., Altadena <u>BUY TICKETS ONLINE</u>
- Monday, June 19, 2023 9am. C. Robert Owens Sign to be Unveiled. Participants will be guided to hike ~1 mile from the JPL Riparian Zone Parking Area to the lower entrance of <u>El Prieto Trail</u>.
- Saturday July 8th at 9 am in the Garden, Executive Board Meeting.
- Saturday July 8th at 10:30 am in the Garden General Membership & Picic Planning Meeting. Please plan to attend.
- Saturday July 8, 2023, 2-4pm. Altadena Community Center 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Community Center
- Friday, July 28, 4-8pm New Altadena Neighborhood Farmer's Market
- September 30, 2023 12 noon to 6pm Annual Garden Picnic

After a two year absence, the Altadena Community Garden Annual Picnic & Resource Fair is back. Celebrating 50 years of membership and service to the community, the picnic will be held on September 30th from 12 to 6 pm in the Garden and lower Loma Alta Park. The picnic is sponsored by our 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger. If you are a public or private organization who would like to participate in the picnic, please contact René Amy at sat9forum@earthlink.net to arrange for a booth space to showcase your organization.

Ticket Sales:

\$15 advance ticket sale will be available online and from Garden members. Tickets will also be available at the entrance gate on the day of the event.

Time to Put Your Community Hat On!!

- Mary McGilvray

Are you a musician? Do you like to BBQ? Decorate tables? Cook? Sell ads? Help recycle? Sell tickets? Give tours??

After all, that's part of why you are in a COMMUNITY garden isn't it? We need everyone to pitch in starting now.



Sign up sheets will be put up on the shed. Or email: <u>volunteer@altadenacommunity.garden</u>

YOU MUST VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN ONE THE COMMITTEE AREAS! THIS IS A REALLY, REALLY BIG DEAL! NO KIDDING! PICNIC DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Garden Members Participation – From the President

Garden members must be an active participant to ensure that the picnic is a successful event. In addition to selling advance tickets and securing raffle items, members are asked to serve on one or more of the following committees: Set-up & Decorations, Clean-up. Raffle, Food Service, BBQ/Cooking, Advance & Gate Tickets, Publicity/Advertisement, Entertainment, Garden Tour, Security, and Official Program Booklet. Please contact Silvera Grant at volunteer@altadenacommunity.garden to express your interest. Look out for more forthcoming picnic planning information announcements in your membership emails. meeting and Garden postings.

Announcing the NEW "Altadena Neighborhood Farmer's Market" – Norma Edith García-González, Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce a partnership for the operation of the NEW "Altadena Neighborhood Farmer's Market" which will begin Friday, July 28, 4-8pm at Loma Alta Park. The new operator will be Raw Inspiration, a nonprofit 501c(3) organization.

Raw Inspiration's Farmers Markets stretch across Southern California with over 20 locations. Raw Inspiration's mission is rooted in educating children and adults on the importance of a healthy nutrition and diet, especially around eating fresh fruits and vegetables daily. As the nonprofit operator, Raw Inspiration, works to increase the connection between fresh food and children through community gardens through their Garden Grant program.

We are excited by this new partnership with Raw Inspiration and the important benefits it will bring to the community, including new partnership opportunities for the Altadena Community Garden, Our Spot-youth program and Parks After Dark.

Commencing Tuesday, Jun 13, 2023, Melissa Farwell, Director of Coordination & Development with Raw Inspiration started contacting each one of the vendors personally to invite them to participate in the new Altadena Neighborhood Farmer's Market.

Announcing Community Garden Improvements

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation will soon undertake a project to improve areas of the community garden at Loma Alta Park. The project will include painting the buildings, decks, and related components and repairing/replacing the irrigation main and anti-siphon valves.

The work is expected to take place June 2023 – December 2023.

The project is grant funded by Los Angeles County 2016 Measure A, and made possible by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, and the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.



News from Community Outreach

– Garden Outreach

Walden School Tour

This spring, Silvera, Erin, and Grace (new Community Outreach Coordinators) hosted a tour of the garden for 40 kindergarteners and first graders – plus their teachers and some parents – from Walden School in Pasadena. It was a lively event, including lots of hands-on gardening and harvesting, particularly in Silvera's plot. We hope connections were made that day with the students and their families and teachers which will continue to grow with the garden for years to come!

Partnership with LA County Parks & Recreation

The garden has been approached to host a series of events this summer in partnership with Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation and their Parks After Dark (PAD) and summer camp programs. Outreach Coordinators Erin and Grace are in touch with Guillermo Portillo from the



Walden School Tour

county, planning eight events including community garden tours with PAD and a series of

recreational programs for the summer campers, including lessons on weeding, composting, starting seeds, harvesting, and more, paired with hands-on bi-weekly gardening in the community plots. The programs are scheduled to run on Thursdays beginning June 15 through early August.

We could use your help to create inspiring programming for the summer campers! Please reach out to Erin or Grace if your plot needs weeding, has anything (excess veggies? flowers? seeds to collect?) to harvest, if you'd like help watering, etc. This way, we can teach the kids by doing, and empower them to work in the community plots during the duration of the camp program.

Get in touch with Garden Outreach: <u>erin@altadenacommunitygarden.com</u> <u>grace@altadenacommunitygarden.com</u>

Spreading the Word – Melva Watts

On Saturday morning, June 3, 2023, our president, Silvera Grant, spoke at a meeting of Eta Lamda Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. The sorority has an initiative to enhance the environment and knows that community gardens are an important part of protecting it. The purpose of this presentation was to inform the approximate 50 members who attended all about our wonderful garden. Many members live in Altadena and were familiar with our garden – in fact, Albert West, the father of one of the members, has had a plot here for over 35 years. However, many were hearing about it for the first time.

Mr. Grant covered the history of the Garden, how one can be a member, how the garden benefits the community, and how monies from donations are used. He brought fresh produce and seeds to share with members. The members were very receptive to the presentation and excited to receive fresh produce and seeds. There is special interest in attending the special training we provide the community regarding how to start and care for a garden.

The Sorority presented Mr. Grant with a cash donation and promised to visit our garden in the near future. This is an excellent example of how effective our community outreach program is.

Committee Report from the Fundraising and Resource Development Committee

The Committe has achieved this year's goals and is geared up for achieving long term sustainability.

Three Year Strategic Plan Overview

Year One: 2023

- Ensure financial resources sufficient to pay monthly water bills
- Re-start in-person garden events for the community

Year Two: 2024

- Submit 1-2 foundation grants to secure capital relationships
- Water conservation
 - monitoring process to identify typical usage and leaks
 - education: mailings, workshops

Year Three: 2025

- · Identify possible service groups to provide capital infrastructure improvements
 - Conservation corps, etc.

Donations

Please watch our new <u>Altadena Community Garden fundraising video</u> and visit our Altadena Community Garden <u>Donation page</u>.

You can mail a check to: Altadena Community Garden P.O. Box 6212 Altadena, CA 91003-6212



All donations are tax-deductible. Please indicate if you would prefer your donation to be anonymous.

2023 Juneteenth Celebration

- Veronica Jones, Altadena Historical Society

Join the Altadena Historical Society (AHS) and Mountain View Mortuary to commemorate Juneteenth. AHS will award two \$1,000 Ellen Garrison Clark Scholarships to John Muir High School graduating seniors at a luncheon. Tickets are \$20, or \$160 for a table of 8. Monday, June 19, 2023 at 11:30 am, William D. Davis Memorial Building at Farnsworth Park, 568 Mount

Monday, June 19, 2023 at 11:30 am, William D. Davis Memorial Building at Farnsworth Park, 5 Curve Ave., Altadena <u>BUY TICKETS ONLINE</u>

C. Robert Owens Sign to be Unveiled on Juneteenth – Veronica Jones, Altadena Historical Society

In celebration of Juneteenth, Lowelifes Respectable Citizens Club volunteers and the Altadena Historical Society will unveil the new Robert Owens historical sign in El Prieto Canyon on Monday, June 19th, 2023.

This educational sign will shed light on the <u>largely unknown story of Robert Owens</u>, a former enslaved person who became Los Angeles County's wealthiest African American during the 19th century.

At 9am on June 19th, participants will be guided to hike ~1 mile from the <u>JPL Riparian Zone Parking</u> <u>Area</u> to the lower entrance of <u>El Prieto Trail</u>. A 30-minute presentation on Robert Owen's story and the history of the sign project will begin on-site at 9:30am.

Participants are recommended to wear sturdy shoes and carry a water bottle. The El Prieto Canyon area is not easily accessible to those with limited mobility.

According to Erik Hillard, Lowelifes Respectable Citizens Club:

Unveiling the Robert Owens sign creates a permanent reminder of the hidden history within El Prieto Canyon. A new era acknowledges early African American settlers in our forest.

Acknowledging the history of El Prieto Canyon helps our community to be stronger and brings us closer. We experience and learn about the history that guides us each day.

More information: <u>https://lowelifesrcc.org/2023/05/09/robert-owens-historical-sign-to-be-unveiled-in-el-prieto-canyon-on-juneteenth/</u>

Altadena Community Center 20th Anniversary Celebration

Veronica Jones, Altadena Historical Society

On July 12, 2003, Altadenans celebrated the opening of the Altadena Community Center.

For two decades the Community Center has provided a home for community organizations and a place for County and community events.

Now, 20 years later, we're celebrating again! join us and you'll —

• Find out how the Center came to be

- Learn about Altadena's history
- · Get to know the organizations located in the Center
- Listen as Altadena musicians entertain us
- Епјоу delicious appetizers and refreshments

Mark your calendars! We hope to see you there.

"Sponsored by the Altadena Community Center Advisory Board (ACCAB): Alladena Chamber of Commerce. Altadena Heritage, Altadena Historical Society. NAACP, Altadena Sheriff's Support Group, Altadena Town Council. Los Angeles County. Quality of Life

At the Altadena Community Center 730 E. Altadena Drive

Appreciating Our Donors

The Garden Executive Board would like to thank those individuals who have donated money to the Altadena Community Garden to supplement the Garden's 2022-23 budget. The Garden is in need of all the financial assistance that is available to meet the financial challenges in the coming years.



The Bean That Connects Us – Sandy Chang

The fava plants grew heavily laden with pods after a long and sodden winter. Their seeds trace back a generation to eight dried beans that got passed around a couple of years ago by Planet Earth Observatory according to the label on the packet. I had no idea what the organization was about except that it must be a fan of fava beans.



The first eight wrinkly beans took off into a hearty patch and in no time generated enough pods for a few feasts and more seeds. Besides producing good eats, the crops that followed in the favas' place ushered in exceptional yields; three feet tall scallions, two feet long zucchinis and radishes the size of chicken eggs! Turns out, fava plants have a mystical way of amending soil properties by replenishing the all important nitrogen.

In the ensuing winter of 2022-2023, the second generation of seeds were sown requiring only weekly waterings with otherwise little to no maintenance. As record snow white-capped the San Gabriel mountains and copious rain inundated and carved out previously non-existent creeks, ponds and streams, the



Fava Bean Bed

fava plants too danced in the deluge and drank, full of the nectars of spring.

Right before the pods came in, Al West and Silvera Grant, past and current Presidents of the Altadena Community Garden, hefted a truckload of mealworm castings from the Rainbow Reptile Store in Compton and shared them with the membership. Thanks to their hard work, castings fine as sawdust with a woodsy fragrance were sprinkled in time for fruiting!

In early March, just as bean stems burgeoned with white flowers providing a rare but much needed winter habitat for pollinators, the name "Planet Earth Observatory" popped up again on a pamphlet asking gardeners to share their fava growing tales. After a few miscommunications, Lydia Breen, director of the non-profit organization and I finally met on a sunny morning following a spell of torrential rain. Chatting like old friends, we exchanged tips on the best pruning methods, the prime harvesting times and the various ways to rid one's garden of insect predators. We lost ourselves hunting for pods in the secret isles of giant fava plants buzzing with bees lusting after it's clusters of black-eyed blooms. Flowering stems soared overhead cutting up the sun and scattering the light into a patchwork of infinitesimal brilliance. A bona fide fava enthusiast, Lydia snapped photos while I snipped fresh favas as we feasted on beans and flowers, pods and all, happy as two chipmunks in a midsummer garden!

Strangers turned kindred spirits by a shared love of fava plants, Lydia and I parted ways putting the first harvest into good use; as demo for Lydia's San Pascual middle schoolers' Los Angeles County Fair Science Competition project and, as the key ingredient in my shrimp and fava grits!

An old world delicacy, just about every culture has its own ways of cooking fava beans. Learn more about fava plants from Planet Earth Observatory at <u>planetearthobservatory.org</u> and order a copy of its very exciting \$10 recipe book. Get to know this ancient, earth friendly, low maintenance, and nutritious legume that can be grown for harvest or as a nitrogen-fixer cover crop! Garden members may also check out the Garden's official copy of The Fava Bean Recipe Book from Grace Lee and Silvera Grant.

I spread a tray of pods under the sun ready to preserve them into the third generation of seeds wistfully in contemplation of the fact that, just as with Al, Silvera, Lydia, and the San Pascual gals, the fava beans will continue to draw gardeners together.

Caution: for fava bean novices, test before consumption as these legumes can trigger serious and life threatening allergic reactions.



El Rio First Grade Garden Visit

– Kameelah Waheed Wilkerson

We had A BALL in the garden on February 21, 2023. The children were so happy and parents were happy. Silvera was really great with the children. You can see his joy as well as the children's joy in the photos. We had one kindergartner who was "slow to warm up," Silvera engaged her with patience and a welcoming spirit. She quickly was joining in a long with the others. They were all inspired and excited to plant their items in our garden bed.

Silvera, Thank You for your time, the tour and the yummy goodness from your garden!



Silvera Grant with El Rio students



A Colorful Parkway After planting seeds from the Pollinator Palooza – D. Titchenell

The January Pollinator Palooza Extravaganza instigated by René Amy and held at the Altadena Community Garden was a massive success with nearly 1,500,000 California-native wildflower seeds distributed for



free to attendees and I am fortunate to have been one of them. The event was presented as a public service by <u>Altadena Maid Products</u>, hosted by the Altadena Community Garden and sponsored in part by the Altadena Rotary Club, with the participation of Amigos de los Rios, the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy, the LA County Beekeepers Association, Operation Pollination, the Pasadena Audubon Society and the Pasadena Sierra Club.

I sowed the seeds in the parkway in front of my house with very little soil amendment and kept them well watered until they were well established.

The resultant floral burgeoning is spectacular, and if it does proceed to reseed itself as it is expected to, promises to provide a chromatic display for years to come while serving bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Intended to bloom at different times during the year, this mix of varieties is a relay of successive hues. The seed mix included:

Achillea millefolium(white yarrow) Clarkia unguiculata (Elegant clarkia) Collinsia heterophylla(chinese houses) Eschscholzia californica(california poppy) Gilia capitata(globe gilia) Gilia tricolor(birds eye) Lasthenia californica (Dwarf goldfields) Layia platyglossa(tidy tips) Lupinus microcarpus densiflorus(golden lupine) Lupinus succulentus(arroyo lupine) Mimulus aurantiacus punieceus(mission red monkeyflower) Nemophila maculate(five spot) Nemophila menziesii(baby blue eyes) Phacelia campanularia(california bluebells) Sisyrhinchium bellum(blue eyed grass)

Not all of which have appeared which may be due to less than ideal planting. A far better method of planting would be to use <u>Altadena Maid Seedbark</u> – wildflower seeds embedded in a special germination medium that gives them a more ideal seminal growing environment, available from our own René Amy at his local <u>Altadena Maid</u>.



The Online Garden

A <u>private Facebook discussion group</u> 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.

A <u>public Facebook discussion group for the ACG</u> is available. Anyone may join in. Let's show gardening delight to the world.

Progress has been made on production of <u>a fundraising video</u> and <u>Garden Blog</u> and continues to be made on production of instructional and promotional videos from the garden.

Claudia Zhao has created a Gardens Instagram resource. Suggestions and contributions are most welcome.

The official <u>Altadena Community Garden website</u> continues to serve the Garden and Webmaster, Joe Nagy (<u>webmaster@altadenacommunity.garden</u>), is delighted to receive contributions of news, prose, verse, screeds, diatribes, artwork and other media appropriate for inclusion therein.



Our LFL

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



Our LFL Nook, Photo: Sean MacGillivray

Books to Consider

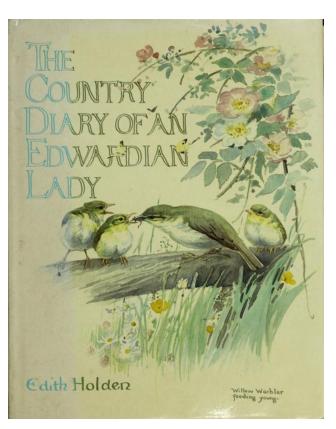
The Country Diary of an Edwardian lady, 1906 : a facsimile reproduction of a naturalist's diary by Holden, Edith, 1871-1920

Borrow online for free from Archive.org

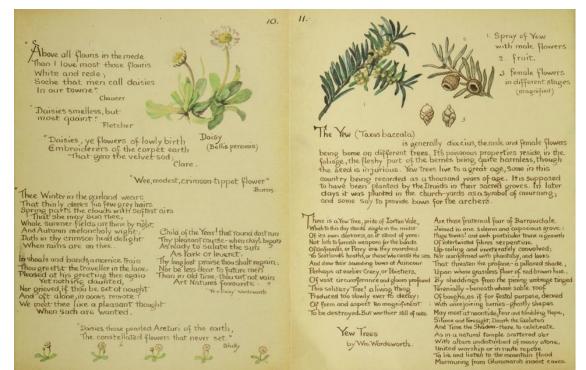
Purchase a copy

I first encountered this work in the store at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia California and never regretted the rather extravagant purchase. Edith Holden was an inspired artist as well as a naturalist and also brought to the table much knowledge of literature and verse which is shared, as appropriate, in the pages which span her ramblings, reflections and artistic renderings of her native Warwickshire countryside over the course of a year.

Though later editions offer a typeset version,



the original facsimile version, printed in Holden's own hand, is easily readable. She makes the most artistic use of the sights she sees but weaves in as well choice and relevant snippets of prose and verse from such as Chaucer, Spenser, Byron, Coleridge and more.



Though only some of the nature she depicts will be familiar to the Southern California eye, many will, and many more evoke memories of the lines of familiar literary works.



Members and their Plots: - Mary McGilvray

New Members as of May 29, 2023

Plot# 22A – David, Ivana and Nathan Nelson Plot# 31 – Marina Kochan- moved to Ike Turner's plot as an associate Plot# 40A – Juan Garcia- associate to Prakash Shri-Vastana Plot# 48 – Richard Coulson- associate to Maria Zandejas



Desultory Droppings

Compost for the cranium

The Committee

- Anonymous <u>Audio</u>

> Oh, do have some pity, I'm on a committee Which means that from morning till night, We attend and amend and contend and defend Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur, And re-iterate all of our thoughts, We revise the agenda with frequent addenda, And list all the must-dos and oughts.

We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose, Every point to the very last one, But, though various notions are brought up as motions, Deplorably little gets done.

We then cease to steer, we forget why we're here We babble and fail to take votes. Our team starts to prate and then degenerate No minutes, no motions, no notes.

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve We've thoroughly changed our perspective What a traumatic pity to end our committee! To continue seems now its objective.

Solitude

(Quoted in The Country Diary by Edith Holden – see LFL column) – Lord Byron

To sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood and fell, To slowly trace the forest's shady scene, Where things that own not man's dominion dwell, And mortal foot hath ne'er or rarely been; To climb the trackless mountain all unseen, With the wild flock that never needs a fold; Alone o'er steeps and foaming falls to lean; This is not solitude, 'tis but to hold Converse with Nature's charms, and view her stores unrolled. ...



Notifications and reminders

From the President

Appreciation

Let's extend our best wishes to Associate Member, Val Zavala as she leaves the Garden and as a member of the Garden's Executive Board as Water Conservation Committee Chairperson. We appreciate Ms. Zavala for her many years of membership and outstanding service to the Garden and community. We would also like to congratulate her as the newly elected president of Altadena Heritage. We wish her the very best in her new leadership position with Altadena Heritage.

Lets also extend our sincere appreciation to Ayesha Randall for her many years of service as Secretary on the Garden Executive Board. Ms. Randall will continue to be an Associate Member in the Garden and the Leader for our local Girl Scout Troop 4601. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the girl scouts on projects to enhance the Garden and community.

Thank you Max Mosesman for taking the initiative on your own to spread new wood chips in Garden walkways. The upgrade was surely needed to enhance the appearance of the Garden for our Annual Community Garden Picnic on September 30th.

Inspection & Plot Condition

Inspection & Plot Condition:

Garden members – Upon receiving an Inspection Report on the condition of your plot, please correct the violation(s) as indicated. Failure to do so will put your Garden membership in jeopardy.

After using any tools or equipment that belongs to the Garden, please clean and return them to the shed. Leaving them overnight in your plot is a violation of the by-laws.

Remember to turn off your water completely before leaving your plot.

Only official guide or companion dogs are allowed in the Garden.

Vacant Executive Board Positions

We need your service on the Garden Executive Board. Yes, we need you to serve as Secretary, Water Conservation Committee Chairperson or Garden Plot Inspector. These executive board positions are essential for the Garden to continue to exist and to function. It will be up to you to determine the outcome. Please tell Silvera Grant at silveragrant@gmail.com that you are interested in serving in one of these vacant positions on the executive board. What will it be?

Sympathy

Please join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Elisa & Eric Callow and their family for the sudden and unexpected loss of their son-in-law's brother Brandon Durham. Brandon was only 39-years-old when he died from a heart attack. Brandon grew up in Altadena and attended Marshall Fundamental School. Elisa's daughter Nori met her husband, Anthony, who is Brandon's older

brother, while they all attended Marshall. Brandon will be deeply missed by his mother and his siblings, his daughter and fiance' and the entire extended family.

Fertilization

You can get for free, 50 pound bags of worm meal fertilizer for your soil and plants. This is the very best fertilizer for your soil and plants. Location:

Rainbow Reptile Store 129 E. Spruce Street Compton, CA 90220 310-635-0032

Theft

Recently we have received several reports from Garden members about missing items from their plots. Please note that it is a violation of the by-laws (Article 3, Section Q) to remove any items from a Garden member's plot without his or her approval. Doing so will result in the immediate termination of your membership.

Tiller Use

From Vice President Leo Stallworth

Gardeners, when using the tiller, please make sure to put in the correct mixture of gasoline in the tiller, put the cap of the gasoline container back on the container, close it, and clean the tiller before returning it to the shed.

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



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 submissions@altadenacommunity.garden.



The Altadena Community Garden at Loma Alta Park is a unit of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

