



September 2022

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 – vacant
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 – Advisor

Read the newsletter online:

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

Donate to the Garden:

<https://www.altadenacommunitygarden.com/donate>

Article submissions:

submissions@altadenacommunitygarden.com

[Visit our Facebook members discussion group](#)

[Visit our Facebook public discussion group](#)



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News

Supporting the Altadena Community Garden

All Hands On Deck!!

As we continue to move in the direction of becoming self-sufficient in the operation of our beloved community Garden it is critical that the Garden have a fully functional executive board to lead us in that direction. The two vacant positions of Community Outreach Coordinator and Program Chairperson must be filled. Yes, this is the time for you to step up and make a significant contribution to your beloved community Garden by volunteering for one of these positions. A positions can also be shared by two garden members.

The Community Outreach Coordinator is a member of the Garden Executive Board. The Community Outreach Coordinator is the liaison person for the Garden to the community. This person is responsible for acting on any request from the community for services/activities that the Garden can provide, such as tours, volunteer services, scout projects and other services and activities approved by the executive board. Serving the community is a very important function of our community garden and the Community Outreach Coordinator is the responsible person or persons to ensure that these services are provided by the Garden to the community.

Upcoming Events

- 4pm-7pm Wednesdays: The Farmer's Market
- Enhancements to Old Marengo Triangle: September 10th, 9am.
- Street Lighting Event - September 15 at 7pm Altadena Community Center
- On September 23rd 9:30 a.m., the Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks and Records Commission will consider an application to designate the first Historic District in unincorporated Los Angeles County. See [Historic Highlands designation](#)
- Altadena Heritage Patron Event September 25th altadenaheritage@gmail.com
- October 3th-8th. [California Clean Air Day](#). Altadena has planned a full week of events. Take the [Clean Air Pledge](#).
- Owen Brown bronze plaque at Mountain View Mausoleum: Nov. 4 at 4 pm
- Annual Tree Give Away returns - November 19 see [The Altadena Heritage website](#)

The Program Chairperson is also a member of the Garden Executive Board.
The Program Chairperson is responsible for developing and planning social, educational and other events such as workshops and our Annual Community Garden Picnic.

Please contact Silvera at president@altadenacommunity.garden if you are interested in either of these two positions.

ALL HANDS ON DECK MEANS YOU!

Donations

Please visit our new Altadena Community Garden [Donation page](#).

Use Amazon Smile

Every time you make a purchase using Amazon Smile, Amazon will make a 0.5% donation to ACG at no charge to you!



ACG Donate

How to Add ACG to Your Amazon Account

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-4544795> and change your Smile donation recipient or

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to Your Account and select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select the charity search bar and type in Altadena Community Garden.
4. Select Altadena Community Garden from the list, and you're all set!

Introduction to Water Conservation Committee

The water conservation committee, comprising 10-15 members of the Altadena Community Garden, was created as a result of our last General Meeting and is tasked with the responsibility to develop solutions that will help the Garden members conserve water. Our goal is to develop some easy-to-use educational materials, host workshops and conduct some one-on-one consultations to help all of us use water more wisely while still maintaining a healthy garden, with good yields.

As we learned from that General Meeting, we are currently using triple the amount of water necessary to maintain a healthy garden. Especially in this era of long-term drought, it's up to each of us to act as a responsible member of the broader community.

Additionally, unless we reduce our water usage, the cost of our water bill next year (likely \$20,000) will need to be borne by the Garden, which would result in higher membership dues for everyone.

We hope to engage with you in the near future – as a group and also as individuals – to educate and address specific questions and concerns.

No matter what course of action we embark on, water conservation is essential and imperative for our future.

Communication

With meetings often ill advised for health reasons, and achieving quorums difficult, it is critical that we learn how to use other existing paths to passing board motions to respond to urgent needs in the Garden without formal meetings. Means for non-profit corporations to pass motions in writing are sanctioned and defined in California State law as provided for in [The California Corporations code](#), Provision (7211 (b))

assuming a quorum and no dissenting votes. We have already been following a similar process in approving new board members. Progress awaiting board approval need not be stymied by waiting months for an in-person meeting nor by lacking a quorum when one is called.

I just starts with a board member moving a motion in writing. Members perceiving a specific issue which needs addressing need only convey that opinion to a board member.

Volunteers needed

Our efforts to make the Garden sustainable will require a number of measures and participants with specific skills. If you can help with any of the following or know someone who can, please respond to volunteer@altadenacommunity.garden. Skills required:

1. Tour guide. The Garden is in need of members who would be willing to prepare for and lead tours of the Garden
2. Fundraising specialist

Appreciating Our Donors

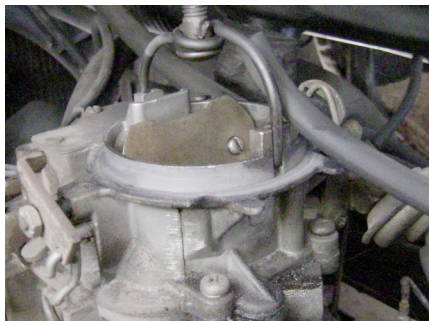
The Garden Executive Board would like to thank those individuals who have donated money to the Altadena Community Garden to supplement the Garden's 2022-23 budget. The Garden is in need of all the financial assistance that is available to meet the financial challenges in the coming years.

The Garden Executive Board would also like to thank the individual or individuals for leaving a variety of old vintage gardening/forming tools outside the middle gate of the Garden fence. We appreciate the tools, which will be put to good use.



ACG Merchandise

New ACG Merchandise is being considered to offer to members, patrons and the public as a way to show their support of the Garden. There is no official progress to report yet but items eventually available will probably not include chocolate birdbaths nor luminous sundials, and may bear absolutely no resemblance to the items pictured.



Carburetor



Tote Bag



Apron



Submerged Hippo



Kneeling Pad

Progress Reports from ACG Committees – Events and Tasks

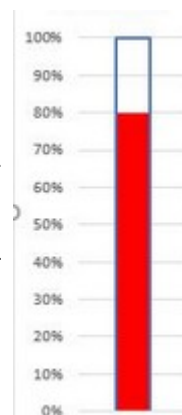
A section for updates on Garden self-sufficiency progress

ACG Fundraising Goals and Status

A bar-thermometer type display showing current progress and distance to our ultimate fundraising goal is not in place yet.

Watch for an upcoming letter to Garden Membership inviting all of us to support the Garden.

Watch for a Member Survey designed to help the Fundraising Committee apply for Foundation support.



We don't have one of these yet.

Water Conservation Committee

New water conservation policy in the Garden. No policy established yet.

Calendar of integrated activities and tasks of ACG Committees and ACG events

No activities and events scheduled yet.



Rotary Club of Altadena To Host a Community Pancake Breakfast

– Mark Mariscal, District 5300 Rotary Foundation Chair 2021-2024

Please plan to attend the next Rotary hosted “Community Pancake Breakfast” scheduled for Saturday, October 1st in the parking lot of Grocery Outlet from 8 am. - 10:30 am. The suggested contribution for tickets is \$5.00 each. All monies raised will be contributed to local non-profit organizations. The Rotary Club covers all expenses so that 100% of proceeds are donated. The last two Community Pancake Breakfast events (Sept. 2021 and May 2022) had proceeds donated to the Altadena Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT), the Altadena Sheriff Station Fund - Explorer programs, Outward Bound Adventures, Altadena Library Foundation and the Altadena Town Council.



Pancake Breakfast

The Altadena Rotary Club was founded in 1949 and will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in February 2024. There are currently 35 members and their Signature Project is the Summer Concert Series at Farnsworth Park. The Rotary Club has operated the concession stand since 2009. At the end of the 2017 Summer Concert Series, the Sheriff Support Group (SSGA) asked if Rotary would take over the production (raising funds for the musical acts, sound & lighting, permits, security, etc.) in order to keep this FREE program going. This year is the 25th Anniversary of the Concerts in the amphitheater. The concerts take place each Saturday in July and August with the closing concert the Saturday after Labor Day. This summer, the Rotary Club will raise and spend more than \$37,000 in support of the concerts.

In addition to the concerts, the club is very active throughout our community. They’re responsible for putting up and taking down the flags on the poles on Lake Avenue just before Memorial Day until after the 4th of July and Veterans Day. They also help organizations purchase flags when necessary. And of course, they manage the huge Flag Pole on the corner of Altadena Drive and Lake Avenue.

The club raises and spends more than \$100,000 in support of local community service. In addition to the Summer Concert expenses listed above, the club provides scholarships (more than \$25K) to students attending Pasadena City College (vocational and separate for Veterans returning to school), Blair, Muir and Pasadena Fundamental High Schools and to the top two students each year from Eliot Arts Magnet Middle School. The club is proud to present Teacher Mini-Grants (20+ each year) to local PUSD teachers, contributions to International Projects, contributions to local non-profits (more than 15 last year) and support to the Rotary Interact Youth Club on the Muir Campus.

Our current Club President is Doug Colliflower. Club Presidents serve for only one year. The current President-Elect is Dawn Smith. She will be leading the 75th Anniversary Celebration of our Club since it occurs during her year.

For further information about the club, please visit <http://www.altadenarotary.org> or email us at altadenarotary@gmail.com.



Fruit Tree Pruning Class

– Sandy Chang

On an unusually overcast day in July, we joined other enthusiasts for a morning of fruit tree pruning class at the Altadena Community Garden. At five past nine the class, under a flowering trellis, was already packed and buzzing with excitement. Shuffling quietly in the background on this early Saturday morning was Silvera, true guardian and President of the Garden, setting up chairs in his usual behind the scenes way for the nearly 50 participants. Elsewhere in the garden, vegetables flourished under the summer sun and attendees too glowed through their masks in this third, fourth or Nth era of covid spikes. I squeezed onto a bench next to a parked bicycle, underneath a grapefruit tree drooping with the last of its ripening fruits threatening thumps onto unexpecting heads.

The crowdedness was forgotten as soon as the presenter began to enlighten with fascinating facts such as that no fruit trees are indigenous to southern California, and that species have had to be grafted to root stock selected to accommodate our climate. This process is made more arduous by the variability in seed viability. Take avocados for example, out of 1,000 seeds, only 1 might be strong enough to adapt to a new environment. Add to that the statistics that only 50% of avocado seeds will sprout and that it can take up to 15 years before an avocado tree produces fruit, every successfully bearing avocado tree is the result of a long and precariously delicate process.



Pruning

Photo: Altadena Library

To ensure the success of young trees, always purchase those with branches with fruit already attached. Fruit can form on branches as short as 18" in height! Different fruit trees maximize productivity through different configurations. For apples, the more horizontal branches, the more fruit; for stone fruits and pomegranates, the more substantial the trunk, the more fruitful the tree.

The productivity of a fruit tree is also driven by the symbiotic relationship between sunlight and its branches. The amount of light that strikes a branch determines whether it becomes a budding branch. To encourage budding branches, allow sunlight to penetrate tree canopies by opening up spaces within them. Doing so will likewise eliminate fungus and other diseases. For a balanced ecology, maintain a healthy number of beneficial insects including predators, and use no toxic sprays or drastic measures that could tip a fruit tree's native ecology.

July is a key month for pruning. Note that although trees have the ability to self-repair wounds, it is best to use clean and sharp shears to minimize injuries. Gardeners should think in 2-year cycles for peach and nectarine trees because branches two or more years old are nearly always no longer productive which is why pruning should occur every two years, as opposed to yearly.

Like all living organisms, fruit trees are most interested in procreation and have inner systems to make sure their seeds are fertile. According to its internal nutritional balance, a tree will undergo a process called carbon balance, whereby it determines the maximum number of blooms it can sustain to attract pollinators while shedding the rest of its buds. The tree then pads its seeds with sweet ripening fruit enticing animals to pick them up and drop them elsewhere for propagation.

In this age of the Great Western Drought, gardeners have been reminded that most farms sustain a 10% crop loss yearly and for organic farms, a 30% annual loss. This implies that, on average, farmers work for free one in every 10 years, and organic farmers, every 3 years. Therefore every single piece of fruit that we eat is indeed the result of precise climatic conditions and human toil.

Hours passed but gardeners remained razor focused taking notes and asking questions. I looked up and saw the donut peach tree adjacent to our plot that has fed the community with its drippy creamy fruit year after year and thought: we really owe it a good pruning when the time comes.

Thanks to the very knowledgeable Mr. Herb Machleder, Director of the Master Gardener Orchard Team, for presenting on the topic of fruit tree care. We will have a follow-up hands-on program to this presentation during winter 2023. More information to come.

Please email Diana Wong, the Altadena Bob Lucas Library Branch Manager for a copy of the Fruit Tree Fundamental Handout. dwong@altadenalibrary.org.



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.

A [public Facebook discussion group for the ACG](#) is available. Anyone may join in. Let's show gardening delight to the world.

Progress is being 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 [Altadena Community Garden website](#) continues to serve the Garden and Webmaster, Joe Nagy (webmaster@altadenacommunitygarden.com), is delighted to receive contributions of news, prose, verse, screeds, diatribes, artwork and other media appropriate for inclusion therein.

When Thomas Grey in [his ageless poem](#) eulogized the poor and illiterate souls laid to rest in the country churchyard and bemoaned their ignorance, the pages of human knowledge having been denied them by their poverty, it was indeed the case that they had been prevented from access to knowledge of arts, literature, language, science, philosophy and all the best that humanity's cultures had amassed over the centuries. Grey acknowledges that the ignorance was not their fault but was an inevitable symptom of their lot in life.

The average citizen of a developed country today cannot be similarly exonerated of guilt. Any networked device – phone, tablet, screen – yields vastly more content than than all the greatest libraries and archives of history, and search engines and translation apps instantly remove any remaining barriers to finding and understanding that unprecedented wealth of human knowledge. Yet the common modern soul remains intentionally and willfully ignorant, in some ways even more so than the rustic peasant farmers of Grey's 18th century poem.

Is it not time, perhaps to acknowledge this anomaly, to start a trek through some arcane corner of wisdom and lore that has occasionally subconsciously intrigued one. The world awaits you.



Our LFL

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



Our LFL Nook, Photo: Sean MacGillivray

Fall is just around the corner! As we turn the page on the seasons, here's a quick update on our literary nook.

I took a trip to our local and amazing neighborhood library recently and paid a visit to the Friends of the Altadena Library book sale section. I found a few books, which I paid a very reasonably small price for, to add to our Little Free Library. If you're interested, go grab one! It's yours to keep and/or return.

- Step-By-Step Successful Gardening: Vegetables by Rita Buchanan
- Garlic Garlic Garlic by Linda & Fred Griffith
- Straw Bale Gardens by Joel Karsten

Also, by way of the flier kiosk that I found in the Library's lobby, I learned that [the Altadena Library District has selected an artist-in-residence named Linda Illumanardi](#). She is a botanical printer and natural dyer and will have a series of classes offered to teach those plant-related skills to the community. In October, she is offering a four-class series on Botanical Printing on Paper and Designing Handmade Books! Check out more at altadenalibrary.org/programs for more information.

Happy gardening and may we all "fall" into a good book!

Jared Burton
Plot #44A



*Linda Illumanardi
Photo: Altadena Library*



New Members and their Plots:

– Mary McGilvray

Please welcome our newest ACG associate, Deb Sandrowski. Deb is thrilled to be part of such a “beautiful, magical and peaceful place,” where she can get away from the stresses of running a women’s rehabilitation home for the Salvation Army. Deb is going to be a real asset to our little Eden!



Deb Sandrowski



Desultory Droppings

Compost for the cranium

Gratitude for sessions at the Altadena Community Garden

– Laura Kerber, Grateful Boggy Band Member

During the pandemic, our little local Altadenan Irish band fell into a perilous position, threatened with extinction by the impossibility of meeting together indoors. The Boggy Band, as we called ourselves, had been meeting for several years by that point, carefully and slowly learning Irish jigs and reels (and one marriage between band members had already resulted!) As the initial shelter-at-home restrictions relaxed, we found an oasis in the Altadena Community Garden. Meeting there by twilight and by invitation, the garden offered us a platform (literal and figurative) from which we could continue our neighborly sessions, enjoying music and fellowship, and occasionally entertaining the passersby, who paused their nightly walks and gathered at the picnic tables outside the gates to listen.



Whether or not the unruly squash or the tidy cornrows appreciated our Irish airs I cannot say, but as the night descended, I often thought of [the lines by Percy Shelley](#):

*Only overhead the sweet nightingale
Ever sang more sweet as the day might fail,
And snatches of its Elysian chant
Were mixed with the dreams of the Sensitive Plant.*

We are blessed to have such a place for community in our neighborhood, surrounded by growing things, a place for earnest industry, a unique green light amongst the more standard parks of our little village. Here's to hoping that the combination of potatoes and Irish tunes will continue to touch the lives of Altadena's citizens, just as it has mine.

Book Club Meetings in the Garden

– **Veronica Jones**

Community gardens offer residents an opportunity to come together as a smaller neighborhood community to garden, enjoy fellowship, and learn from one another.

Over the past five years the Altadena Community Garden has offered me and my book clubs a beautiful place to meet and picnic. The Garden's deck is the perfect setting for sharing wonderful conversation and good food on a warm summer night. The Garden offers a relaxed setting free from the responsibilities that we have faced that day.

I belong to two book clubs, one for over 12 years and the other for over 17 years – Book Divas and Bookie Babes. The book clubs consist of women who share the love of good books, fellowship and food. We meet once a month to discuss a book from a selection we have chosen at the beginning of the year. I usually host in August, so the evenings are great for outdoors and the Garden patio is the perfect location.

During the second year of COVID, we were able to socially distance ourselves on the Garden patio to discuss our books face-to-face and share a meal. We even celebrated an August birthday. After a year of Zoom, it was refreshing to see everyone in person. We ate, fellowshipped, discussed our book and took a tour of all the wonderful things growing in the garden. On one such meeting we were able to learn the history of the Garden from the President, Silvera Grant. What a special book club meeting that was.



Book club meeting on the Garden Deck

The sunsets and the full moon make the book club nights extra special. The Community Garden offered a release from the stress of COVID and the isolation we had felt for the last year from each other. Everyone is always in awe of the beauty of all the things growing in the garden. I hope to be able to host my book clubs again next August at the Altadena Community Garden.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share the Garden with my friends.

Uses for an old Covid Mask

– **Mary McGilvray**

Wondering how to recycle to old covid mask?



Denise Yuan knows how!

Zoo Poo

Zoo Poo continues to be available in the Garden fertilizer bin in arbitrary quantities. It comprises a number of ingredients, 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. 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.



Notifications and reminders

From the President

Garden Inspector

Let's give a warm and supportive welcome to our new Garden Inspector, Ms. Joanne McLaughlin in plot 17. Joanne will have begun inspection of the plots in the last week of August. In preparation for her inspection, please make sure that your plot number is visible. Failure to have a visible plot number is a violation of Article 3, Policy E of the by-laws. Remember that the inspector's job is to ensure that your plot is being cultivated within the policies of the Garden by-laws in order to remain in the Garden. Upon receiving an inspection violation report, please try to correct the violation (s) before the completion date. If you are unable to do so you may request more time from the inspector to correct the violation(s). Violations must be corrected to avoid termination of your Garden membership. Also remember that three violation notices in a year will result in the termination of your membership. Remember the goal of the inspection is to keep you in the Garden. Let's work with the inspector to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your assistance and support.

Water Conservation Committee Chair

Let's give a warm and supportive welcome to Denise Yuan who has graciously agreed to chair the Water Conservation Committee. She is currently working with Peter Doms and Val Zavala to develop content and a database.

Appreciation

Please join me in extending our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Garden members Eva Story and Mark Anthony Cole for their service to the Garden and community, as members of the Garden Executive Board. Ms. Story in plot 01 served on the executive board for several years as the Garden Inspection person. Mr. Cole in plot 28 also served on the executive board for several years as the Garden Community Outreach Coordinator. We appreciate their contribution to the growth of our beloved community Garden and welcome their future service.

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

