



Dear Gardeners,

Happy summer! While this time of year is not exactly the peak gardening season in south Florida, there is still plenty to be done in preparation for the fall, when we will be ready for planting in our raised garden beds. We have lots to share since our last newsletter—like our new logo! (see above ;)

Garden Bed Updates: We have finalized the design for the iguana barriers that will go around each of the 23 raised beds at the **Ann Wasserman Memorial Community Garden**. So far, there are 4 beds done, but we have the supplies and will be making the rest throughout the summer. They really do deter the iguanas, so this is great to know once we have food growing in the garden beds—remember, the iguanas here are an invasive, yet established species in south Florida (meaning they are breeding and are here to stay). They will eat everything in sight (veggies, fruit, leaves, etc..) if not deterred properly. We are learning to coexist with them in the garden, along with the many other wonderful species of wildlife, like owls, butterflies, dragonflies, woodpeckers, bats, armadillos, and many more! If you would like to reserve a bed for the fall planting season, and join us at the garden, there is still availability, please reach out, or find all pertinent information on our website. 🧑🌾

Garden Workdays: We have been very busy! There are still garden workdays at the garden every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 am-10 am (there are our earlier “summer” hours because of the heat). Lately, we have been here more often—in March and April we were there every Saturday. Please check our website for the up to date schedule, if you would like to join us. We have been SO lucky to have the most amazing people come to the garden and dedicate their time, energy, and sweat! Lately, we have been mulching, refilling our rain barrels, pruning, and planting some young fruit trees and Florida natives. We have successfully started a pollinator garden with all Florida native wildflowers. 15 different varieties, and planted in 3's to ensure successful establishment. Some of the plants are on the endangered list, so we are happy to do our part in the reestablishment of species that are needed for a healthy ecosystem at the garden. We can't wait to add more pollinator plants. 🌻


Volunteering: Once again, a huge thank you to **Hands on Broward** for being a fantastic platform for volunteers to find us. We have had some amazing people come out on our workdays, including 2 Master Gardeners! We are so grateful, as a community garden is not possible without community engagement of all types. Please check our website for upcoming volunteer opportunities, use the Hands on Broward link, or the General Volunteer link. We provide water and snacks, so please bring a refillable water bottle, if possible. If not, we have cups. We also provide gloves to borrow while working, but you are welcome to bring your own. A hat and sunscreen are also key! Hope to see you there. 😎

Events: A few of our board members attended the South Florida Community Garden Hub, presented by the **UF IFAS Extension Broward Urban Horticulture** in Davie. This was a wonderful gathering of community gardens in our area, sharing their knowledge and answering questions—we left inspired and more knowledgeable! We look forward to more events like these where we can learn, network, and grow as a community garden.

We are in the first phase of planning for our **Fall Plant Sale** at the garden—save the date—Saturday, October 5th. Check our website for updates. Please join us! Either as a vendor, or a visitor— you can also tour the garden that day too. It is always a fun time! 🌿

Special Reports: Finally, we would like to report that we have another **Eagle Scout Project** that was done for the garden. It is a large wooden bulletin board at the entrance of the garden, which we will utilize to inform visitors of happenings in and around the community garden. Thank you to Adam Colmanares from Weston Boy Scout Troop 383 for creating and building this generous donation. We are proud to have another Eagle Project at the garden. Again, community is everything!


We were contacted by a student at **Cypress Bay High School** about composting. He created a questionnaire and found there is a desire (and need) to compost in Weston, and wants to partner up with us to get this going. A couple of our board members supported him at the City of Weston Commissioner's meeting, and have met him at the garden. We are excited to be a part of this, and hope it can be done

because composting is so important! It improves the structure and health of soil, attracts beneficial organisms, reduces the need for fertilizers, and so much more. Not to mention it protects the climate by reducing methane emissions from landfills. Let's hope we can get this going. It's a win/win. 

Social Media: Please visit us on **Facebook** at Weston Community Garden Society, or **Instagram** weston_community_garden

Thank you to our supporters and volunteers who are making this garden a reality! This assistance is invaluable, and every volunteer is needed and appreciated. If you would like to support the garden too, by donating, volunteering, or both, please visit our website at <https://westoncgs.org/>

Did you know?

Butterflies are at times more attracted to your “weeds” than your flowers. Colorful blooms aren't the chief reason they love your garden - it's more about fragrance and nectar. So, everyday plants like fogfruit and thistles might actually be the most appealing things in your garden to butterflies. 

Yours in Gardening,
Gina

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