



The Rose Garden Gets an Update!

The board would like to acknowledge the tremendous rebuild of the Rose Garden fence!

The Rose Garden is one of two parcels tended to by volunteers at our garden, along with the Pollinator Garden. It was long in need of having the surround rebuilt. Over the past few years members have been nurtured the roses, added an arbor and improved the drip irrigation as their community service. This spring, the color and beauty of the garden has been exceptional and now the fence and new sign have made it a showstopper. Make sure to find time to stop and smell the roses this week (and check out the new fence and sign!)

Friendly reminder that roses in the Rose Garden are not to be picked, they are for all members to enjoy at the garden!



Please extend a warm welcome to our five new members when you see them at the garden!

Angela at J1, Morgan at F7, Tracey at C3, Alexandra at A7, and Andrew at B5.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Celebration! Big win for our garden community!

In May, the garden received the very exciting news that due to the work of our treasurer, Alison Batten, we have secured a significant charitable donation. The Schmidt Foundation has generously made a onetime donation of \$10,000! This will cover the purchase and installation of two long overdue 10x12 shade structures. As more details of the plans develop, they will be presented at our general meetings for member comment.

If you are interested in helping us plan the garden's "shady" future, join us for our general meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 7pm at Mae Boyer Park :)

Garden manager Bob's tomato tip for June:

Switch from high nitrogen fertilizer to high potassium fertilizer for flower production. More flowers = more tomatoes!



How does our garden work?



Theme: Water Conservation

Be Part of the Solution!

Water bills in summer are one of our major costs. Here's some helpful reminders:

- Please don't overwater, be water wise.
- Water in the morning if you can.
- Better to water deeply and less frequently than watering a little bit every single day.
- Check your irrigation systems regularly for leaks or issues.
- Use mulch to help reduce evaporation.

Important dates

- July 17, 7:00pm at Mae Boyer Park: General Meeting
- *Note: No General Meeting for August!
- Community workdays may be held (weather permitting.) Garden Manager Bob to advise.



Cucumber Beetle Verses the Organic Gardener

Just as we get ready to dream of cucumber salad, along come these brightly colored marauders. These yellow beetles suck on cucumber plant stems causing damage to your prized plant. The cucumber beetle is attracted by cucurbitacin, an odor that members of the Cucurbita family excrete, which is why you will find them mainly concentrated on cucumber and squash plants!

Damage includes reduced plant vitality, lower yields, and the potential spread of viruses. To avoid this, plan ahead by choosing a resistant variety of cucumber plant such as the "Burpless varietal." Organic methods such as hand removal, netting, soap spray, or sticky traps can also be helpful tools to defend your cucumbers!

Cucumber beetles spread quickly between plants—and especially within a community garden like ours—so let's all work together to keep these little fiends under control!

For more information, check out cucumber beetle videos from "MI Gardener" and "The Millennial Gardener" on YouTube to learn some techniques on how to control these pesky garden foes.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Melinda at C4 has a parcel bursting with beautiful blooms right now. She is a busy full-time mom to 3 y/o Arianna who is learning to tend the garden alongside her mom. Together, they make flower bouquets for the tables at their family restaurant in Moorpark, CA "Magma Pizzeria!"

How long have you been at the garden?

November 2022.

What is your favorite thing to grow and why?

Edible herbs, basil genovese has to be a favorite, I love fresh pesto!

One thing gardening has taught you?

Gardening is never-ending journey of discovery, no matter how experienced and I think the same applies to myself, but one thing I've realized is if you nurture your garden with love and care, nature will always find a way to give that love back. There is something profoundly healing about the simple act of tending to a garden.

What is the most unusual plant in your parcel?

Native milkweed for the monarchs.

"The hum of bees is the voice of the garden."



Elizabeth Lawrence

Tastes of Summer

Stuffed Zucchini Blossoms

Ingredients :

- 1 egg
- 1 cup of flour
- ½ of milk
- 1 cup of ricotta cheese

Directions:

Harvest a dozen male flowers and wash. (they have the thin stems) Whisk flour, milk and egg together. Place 1-2 tsp of ricotta inside each flower. Dip in batter until coated. Fry in your oil of choice until browned both sides. Enjoy !

