

Down and Dirty

Long Beach Community Garden Association

Spring/Summer 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joan Criswell

Summer planting is in full swing and the garden is looking great thanks to all of your good work. I have several things that need to be covered in this issue.

ELECTIONS

On June 14, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. there will be a General Meeting, in the garden at the gazebo to elect the Officers and Directors for the term of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

WEBSITE

I wish to inform all members of something that has happened within the membership. Our past website master, upon leaving the membership, took our site with him and refused to release it back to the legal owners, **YOU**, as LBCGA members, so please do not use that site as we cannot guarantee the privacy of your information. We have learned that in order to obtain www.LBCGA.org back it would take considerable time, effort and money. It was decided that our website needed a new updated face lift so a new site was arranged. Please go to www.LBCG.org and take a look at your new and improved site and we hope that you find it enjoyable, user friendly and informative. We will continue to update this site with current information such as renewal dates, events, and disease & pest control along with anything new going on in the garden. Please note that the new LBCGA By-laws and Rules and Regulations are there for you to **read before** your renewal process and refer to when needed in the future, along with other information.



WATER CONTROL



Our water is not recycled water and we need to conserve it, we are in a drought. In order to conserve we have changed the requirement for watering methods. All gardeners must stay with the hose when the water is turned on, hand held watering only, **NO** drip systems, oscillating sprinklers, diffusers or soaker hoses are to be used in the garden. If you use any of these items you must stop the use of them.

GARDEN HOURS and TAGS/PARK TICKETS

Our hours have now changed to 7am to 8pm. The Park Rangers have had to go to the garden on several occasions to let members out after hours for which they were issued a ticket from Parks and Recreation along with a Correction Notice from the Board. You all should know that we have made an agreement with the Parks Department that we would keep to their hours. Please always check at the Spring Street gate for the current hours of the Park and in case you have missed the Parks signs, the gardens front gate of the garden also has the hours posted on both sides. Please do not enter prior to or stay past the posted hours. Per the Rules and Regulations you **must** have your current garden pass, with numbers showing, displayed where it can be seen easily. If you bring a visitor into the garden they must have a garden pass displayed on their vehicle, bike etc also.

VACANT PLOTS

Should you see or think that a member has vacated a plot please do not enter this plot and confiscate any items that are in the plot. The plot may have been reassigned and the only party to know this would be the Membership Chair. Remember it is against the Rules and Regulations to enter any plot other than your own without written permission. If you are found in another members plot or a vacant plot you have a good chance of having your membership being revoked. Also taking anything from a plot, other than your own, is considered stealing and grounds for permanent termination of membership.

WORK PARTIES

We all know members need four (4) hours of community service in order to renew their membership for the following year. At a work party you must check in under the gazebo with your plot number and the number of people who will work with you, then once the work party is over you must go back to the gazebo and pick up your receipt showing that you put in those hours. It is important to keep these receipts in case there is any question as to the number of your hours of community service for the next renewal date. Some people would like to work over the required (4) hours and donate to another plot. This is possible only if the member whose plot you are donating your hour is there

with you working. If you do not have the receipts showing your hours we will have to go with what we have on our records. If you cannot make any of the set work parties, normally the 1st Saturday of the month, there may be a few jobs that you can do at other times. You would need to contact Lonnie Brundage or Nancy Bernstein. We also have year jobs that are for the year in different areas of the garden. Since these jobs are for a full year you will put in more than the (4) hours but the exchange is that you do them at your time. Unfortunately at this time all these jobs are taken.

PLOT INSPECTION

Three people (Officers and/or Board Members) inspect the garden twice a month with the dates noted on the large board at the front gate. During these inspections your plot is not compared to any other plot but on its own merits as to compliance to the LBCGA Rule and Regulation. The Correction Notices run for a full year with the date of the year starting with the first notice. Example: First notice given 5-3-08 starts the year with only two more for your membership to be revoked. On 5-3-09 the notice of 5-3-08 will drop off your file. I hope that clears up any misunderstanding as to how the notices are handled. You may not receive more than (3) three within a one year period. If you go on vacation, are ill or unable to tend your garden due to a family matter and you **notify the President** with the dates you will be out of the garden you will be put on a Pass List for that period of time. If your plot needs a correction notice during your time away, one will be mailed to you but it will state "For Records Only" and will not count against your plot.

PLOTS in GENERAL

In walking in the garden we have found that there is a lot of trash in the plots by way of old crops, old plastic pots, container, bags and plant labels and used water bottles left on the ground. We do not ask that your plot be beautiful but we expect it to be kept clean and neat. These items are to be put in the trash bins to keep them from blowing around the garden. Please keep your fences tightened up and out of the pathway as well as your crops. It is a safety hazard if they extend into the pathways. Remember, the pathways are considered fire lanes for paramedics or firemen.

GREAT SUNFLOWER PROJECT

The area behind the manure bin in the South/West corner has been designated as The Great Sunflower Project area. Participants can be any age and possibly your children would enjoy watching, counting and recording the bees that come to the sunflowers. We would appreciate that you are with your children at all times so no one gets stung. The project was looking for citizen scientists all over the U. S. to plant sunflowers and then observe how many and what kind of bees buzz by them. All they ask is for you to take a 30 minute look twice a month and record what you see. Once completed turn in the count to a Board Member and all data will be sent the San Francisco State University scientists to use in order to make a coast-to coast pollination map, showing where bees are and aren't throughout the United States.



TOMATO TASTING FESTIVAL



This event will be happening on July 26, 2008 in the garden. The normal menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, and grilled veggies will be there and all gardeners are invited to attend. So if you're working in the garden or coming to the festival, grilling time will be 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. We will have a Salsa Contest with recipe cards you can take, door prizes of some great gifts and of course the Tomato Tasting for the best tomato of 2008. Tomatoes for the tasting contest can be left at the gazebo on Friday evening, July 25th between 7 and 8 PM or Saturday July 26th before 11 AM. **Please bring only clean tomatoes which are clearly labeled.**

In case you missed the 2007 Tomato Festival, you missed a real treat as these cookies were baked and served by Patti Witt and yes, they were as rich as the name sounds.

Sesame Crunch Butter Cookies

1 lb butter (room temperature)	1 ½ cups sugar
3 cups flour	1 cup sesame seeds
2 cups flaked coconut	¾ cup chopped toasted pecans

Cream butter, gradually add sugar and continue beating until light and fluffy. Add flour and mix until combined. Stir in sesames seeds, coconut and pecans. Stir until blended. Divide dough in fourths. Shape into a roll, 1 ½ inches in diameter on a strip of wax paper or plastic wrap. Repeat with remaining dough. Wrap and refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour. Can keep in the refrigerator for a week or freeze for three months. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Cut rolls into 1/4 inch slices. Bake for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes about nine dozen.

This and other great recipes will be found in the LBCGA Recipe Booklet. More information on that will be forthcoming.

FOOD BANK

Lonnie Brundage

This past year the members have been generous with their donations to our Food Bank project. It is our way of paying back the community for the use of their land. The charities we delivery to thank you. The economy is not good, as you all know, and so please don't let your crop go to waste. A hungry person would be happy to get your donations and don't forget to grow a row for the hungry. If you have fruit trees at home and you cannot use all the fruit, please donate it to the Food Bank. Below are some points that will help our delivery people.

- Please be sure to wash the dirt off all root vegetables. Most charities do not have the faculties to wash them.
- Please do not donate over ripe or rotting vegetables or fruit.
- If you are donating leafy vegetable such as chard or lettuce, it is best to put them out early in the morning or late in the evening.

MISC INFORMATION

- 1-Do not compost any part of the tomato plant including the roots as this could put disease into your compost. Then when you spread it in your plot you will be putting disease into your soil.
- 2-Please keep your artichokes cut up from the ground as all the critters like to hide, build nest and live there. This would be a great help to our Critter Chairperson, Frank Dayak.
- 3-Tip for okra seed planting, if you soak them in buttermilk they will sprout faster.

DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL

There are different pests and diseases to contend with in the growing months of spring and summer. The most common problems that attacks our biggest summer crop, tomatoes, and can take down your entire crop are:

1. Late Blight
2. Mildew
3. Tomato Russet Mite

A new display with pictures and information regarding the most common pests and diseases is under the gazebo. Please make yourself aware of them, as you might encounter them in this growing season. If you come across a pest or disease not under the gazebo, take a sample to a nursery and get some expert advice. Also, you can go online to www.google.com or www.ipm.ucdavis.edu for help in identifying your problem. Keeping your tomato plants trimmed up off the ground and cut off all leaves that are not perfect. Using the proper controls for mildew and the russet mite will help you have a successful season. Remember, disease is soil and air borne so what happens in your garden may affect every other garden plot.

A new problem that surfaced last year is the presence of too many grasshoppers. They are very destructive to your plant leaves. Deal with them the best that you can, **but do** deal with them. If allowed to proliferate, we will have a very big problem. Keeping gardens weeded and ant free (ants carry disease from plant to plant) will also help bring your garden to successful abundance.



SUMMER TRIAL GARDEN

Joanne Rice

For our new LBCGA members the Trial Garden was started at the suggestion of Dr. Albert Paulis, the famous Plant Pathologist who spear headed the treatment of Late Tomato Blight when it resurfaced in 1992, after lying dormant for many years.

The Trial Garden grows new varieties of vegetables during the summer and winter growing seasons. By doing this, we have found some wonderful new varieties of vegetables and are able to pass along the information to you. Our main tomato, Big Beef, came out of Trial Garden as did Trombone Squash, to name a few. **You may not harvest anything on your own that is growing in the Trial Garden.** This season we are trialing:

New Tomato: Mikado, Champion II, Rhodia and First Ladies.

Eggplant: Dancer, Rosita and Hansel.

Cucumbers: Tanja and Slagen

Squash: Bianco di Sicilia

During the summer months, I am usually there during the evening, which is a simply lovely time in the garden. Please come by and say hello or if there is something you would like to taste test, I will be happy to give you whatever is ready for testing. The only request is that you must give me some feed back to pass on to other members via the Newsletter.

Plant Calendar

October through March: **Asian greens, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Swiss Chard, endive, Escarole, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Shore Day Onions, Parsley, Peas, Radishes, Turnips**

March Through June: **Beans, Beets, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Herbs, Lima Beans, Loose Leaf Lettuce, Melons, Okra, Onions, Peppers, Pumpkins, Radishes, Squashes, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Turnips**

July Through September: **Beans, Beets, Carrots, Cantaloupe, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Lima Beans, Okra, Squash, Swiss Chad, Tomatoes, Leeks, Lettuce, Radishes, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Peas and Sweet Peas, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Turnips**



Long Beach Community Garden Association
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LBCGA OFFICERS

Joan Criswell	President	598-4076
Lonnie Brundage	1 st VP Membership	597-0926
Nancy Bernstein	2 nd VP General Maintenance	
Sher Meyers	Secretary	
Mary Rasmussen	Treasurer	

BOARD MEMBERS

Chuck Davis	Border Replacement
Frank Dayak	Gopher & Critters
Victor Espinosa	Work Parties
Kevin Holman	Flower/Landscape
Joanne Rice	Trial Garden & Diseases
Michael Roide	Newsletter
Vency Sanchez	
Gary Sarka	Water Systems Repair
Ernie Trait	Orchard

SAFTEY NUMBERS	
Ranger Station	570-1765
Ranger Cell Phone	572-6445
Park Gate	570-1772
L.B.P.D. Eastside	570-5808

PLEASE KEEP YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR FURTHER REFERENCE