



Down and Dirty

Long Beach Community Garden Association

www.LBCG.org

Summer/Fall 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A MUST READ FOR ALL MEMBERES

Ours is a **Community Garden** which means we all need to **pull together** and think of the entire Garden Complex as if it were **our own**. Community Gardens **fail** when their **members fail** to understand and accept their **obligations** as part of the Community. Many gardeners do not give any thought to the Community part of the garden each concentrating on only their individual plot and their four hours of Community Service.

Recent experience has shown that only about **15%** of our 300 gardeners give extra time to their garden community. Very few of us have a great deal of extra time but if each of us takes just a little time to clean up around the trash bins or bend over and pull a weed that's in a common area our Community Garden would soon reflect the additional care.

Your officers and board members work hard to maintain the garden so that all of our Gardeners can enjoy it. Too much time is currently being spent informing gardeners, thru phone calls and notices, that they are not complying with the Rules and Regulations that keep our Community Garden better than any other. It would be a great time saver if these notices and calls could be reduced. I am asking each of you as Community Gardeners to become more aware of the Rules and Regulations as they apply to your Community Garden and your individual plots so less time needs to be spent on phone calls and notices. Your Officers and Board members can then spend more time considering ways to make our garden even better rather than having to spend so much time policing the area.

I am sorry if this appears that I am upset-- but I am. I have been President for a little over a year and I have heard the same complaints, excuses and demands over and over again. You all signed a contract and said that you would be on a committee and would maintain your plot according to the Rules and Regulation. We need your support, your time and your muscle to continue with your Community Garden. I am asking you to step up and ask what you can do to maintain this garden other than your required hours. This is your garden, take ownership of it.

SALE of TOOLS

We have an abundance of used hoes, rakes and shovels and wish to sell them to our members for \$3.00. Should you need or want any of these tools please contact me at 562-598-4076.

SEASONAL RULE

Please remember that tomatoes, pepper and eggplant must be removed from all plot by December 1, 2008 to enable the garden to have a rest period from plants that host mites and blight. You may replant these items after March 1, 2009.

COMMUNITY HOURS

I want to remind all of our gardeners that our year for Community Hours runs from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, with the first work party for this season being July 19, 2009. We try to keep the record current and correct but we are human and do make mistakes. **This is why it is important that you keep the work slips you receive after each work party you attend.** The only way to insure that we have your hours correct is by these work slips then if there is ever a question, show the slips and our records will be corrected. There will be no posting of work hours needed at the large board as you are responsible for keeping your records. Again this year there will be no make up work parties so please get your Community Service in either at a scheduled work party or at a yearly job.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GARDEN

Just in case you have not notice we now have a concrete walk way to the large barn and have completed the walkway to plot Q1.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 1-Blue Passes must be visible on any vehicle you arrive in/on while in the garden
- 2-We have had four (4) bee hives started in composts bins and wood items this year. The composters had been left inactive and bee's just like to build nests on wood, this includes tools left unmoved and/or in piles for a period of time. It is each member's responsibly to eradicate the bees if they are in your garden.
- 3-Please do not put anything glass in the trash bins as it ends up broken on the road while being dumped.
- 4-No standing water in any garden due to West Nile Virus
- 5-Do not compost any diseased plant or any part of the tomato plant, including the roots, as you will just put the disease back into your soil
- 6- Please UNCOVER all border boards. Water and dirt will cause the boards to rot quicker if covered.
- 7- The Sunflower Project got started, was planted then all plants disappeared for unknown reason.
- 8- Please date any correspondence you put in the mail box at the small barn as it is not checked every day.
- 9- If you are having a problem with disease or a pest please check under the gazebo for a possible identification of the problem, then go to your nursery for advice on what to do.
- 10- Please use the manure in the South/East corner as this bin needs to be empty for the winter due to water run off into the storage drain.

TOMATO FESTIVAL

If you missed the festival that was held in the garden, under tarps which gave great shade, you really missed a good opportunity to check out different tomato varieties to see if you would like to plant them for next year. First place went to Pineapple, 2nd year in a row, 2nd Golden Boy and 3rd to Kossovo. Or the salsa contest and they were all good, with the winner being Griselda Suarez who won the \$25.00 prize with Barrajas Roasted Tomato Salsa; this is the 2nd year Griselda has won with 2 different recipes with 2nd place going to Bill Bonocora. Both recipes are below. The hamburgers, donated from John's on Spring St, were the best and hot off a grill which was lent to us by the Long Beach Fireman Organization. Was that not a wonderful grill, open and flat grills and three burners? Due to this grill there were no lines waiting to be served. This is not to leave out the great door prizes that were available with donations by Jessica Weiss, owner of Green Coast Hydroponics along with two free memberships which were won by Peggy Mills and Alice Gibson. Thank you also to Joan Wells of Theater West for letting us use their tables and chairs and to Debbie Louise for her help in setting up the tasting of tomatoes. And was that not the best watermelon this season?? Hope to see you there next year!



BARRAJAS ROASTED TOMATO SALSA

10-12 Medium Early Girl tomatoes
6-8 Purple Russian tomatoes
1 large green Anaheim pepper
6 dried Serrano peppers, coarsely chopped
1 medium onion
1 t dried oregano
6 garlic cloves

Roast tomatoes and Anaheim pepper on grill or griddle until soft and dark on all sides.

Roast onion for last half of the roasting period. Take three of the roasted tomatoes, all of the onion and garlic and blend in blender, set aside. Take the rest of the tomatoes, Anaheim pepper and oregano and blend. Incorporate blended ingredients and Serrano's in a large bowl, add salt to taste. Let sit at least ½ hour before serving.



BILL'S SALSA



2 lbs mixed tomatoes, plum, gold, Roma etc.
½ red onion, finely chopped
6-8 cloves garlic, minced
3 T chopped peppers, bells, jalapeno, Habanera, Anaheim (What is in your garden)
Juice of one lime

Fresh herbs to taste, oregano, parsley, thyme, basil and 2T cilantro

¼ t each cumin, smoked paprika, chili powder, cayenne

Salt and black pepper to taste.

Mix ingredients. After 2 hours drain liquid from salsa and add 2 t flavored rice vinegar.

After 2 more hours drain accumulated liquid from salsa and serve.

Joan Criswell
President

MEMBERSHIP

My thanks to all who came prepared to renew their membership. As I told you and some of you didn't believe it is a quick simple process if you come prepared with the necessary paperwork, a utility bill, a driver's license and a check. To the Board Members who assisted in this process thank you!!

I would also like to let you know some of the trials of being membership chairman. At renewal there were a couple of people who renewed late in spite of all the accommodations made for all members to renew early or late if necessary. One member failed to show up for 4 different special appointments and another failed 3 special appointments, it won't happen in the future, special appointments will only be granted with documentation of an emergency situation. I have also received phone calls at midnight, 5:00 a.m. Unless, it is an emergency that cannot wait until a reasonable hour please don't call until after 8:00 am and before 8:00 pm.

We like to keep our waiting list numbers in the 40's at all times (which we have at the present) therefore please keep spreading the word about our garden with your family, friends, neighbors, medical offices and anyone else you can think of.

FOOD BANK

As you could all see, the food bank plots had the same problems as other plots, the tomatoes and cucumbers didn't do as well as they have in the past. Having spoken to some experts and other home gardeners in the area neither have had much luck this year either. Most of them attribute the most difficult problem to the weather; it's been pretty crazy this year. You members stepped up to the plate and contributed in huge amounts. I spoke to some of the staff at the Long Beach Rescue Mission, and they expressed their gratitude for all the donations we made to them. The numbers of meals they serve per day has increased by some 20 percent in the past year. Your donations have provided nourishment to many persons.

FOOD BANK (CONTINUED)

Thanks to all who cleaned and trimmed their produce before putting it on the donation table. Remember it should be clean (no dirt attached to the roots) and not overripe. Should you be donating leafy vegetables (lettuce, mustard greens, carrots, etc.) the best time to donate is early in the morning or late in the evening. They wilt in the heat of the day. Please remember the plastic bags at the food bank collection area are for the use of the delivery people. They, on some days, divide the produce between several recipients and need the bags to complete this task. If you leave your veggies in plastic bags they sweat and degrade.

HELP NEEDED:

The Food Bank Committee could use more ongoing help other than at work parties, i.e. watering, weeding, and planting. Most of all we are in desperate need of 2 delivery persons so if you can please step up and help out with this most rewarding task. It surely makes one appreciate what one has after just one delivery to persons less fortunate than us. Please call me if you can help out with this community project. It is a large part of what makes us the **best** community garden west of the Mississippi.

VISIT FROM CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE

In early March a lady, Lois Smith, from this organization called me to ask if I would speak to her group on National Community Gardening and LBCGA. I had been recommended to her by Yvonne Savio of the University of California Davis Extension Service. We met at the garden site later that month, to give her a tour of the garden and work out the details of the visit. I knew in advance there would be around 25 people or so and that they would be coming on a bus. Imagine my surprise on Saturday July 12, when down the road to the garden comes a bright red double Decker bus that looks as though it came straight off the streets of London. What a hoot!! They were the most fun group of women and men, I have ever spoken to. Their state convention was held at the Marriot on Spring Street. They came from as far north as San Francisco, south as San Diego, east as Blythe and all points in-between. There were a total of 27. The visit was scheduled for 30 minutes however they stayed for an hour and a half. They had many questions about our association and were awed by the beauty of the gardens. One lady said to me "I thought my community garden in Alta Dena was the prettiest I had ever seen but now I know we are #2 behind you". What a compliment to all of us who work so hard to keep our plots and the garden site looking good. They were impressed at the ethnic diversity of our members as well as the variety of crops being grown. It was a lot of work on my part to prepare for them because my knowledge of their association was somewhat limited. They educated me on their purpose, which is to promote agriculture in California. You may visit their web site at www.cawomen4ag.com. All the information on their organization including how to join the organization is on the site. It was a really nice time that I spent with some really nice people. Tomatoes from my garden, Anita Cordova, and Russ Blankenship were enjoyed by all. As the Big Red Bus pulled away I remembered that's what **Community Gardening** is all about sharing our love of gardening and the fruits of our labor.

Lonnie Brundage
Membership & Food Bank

GOPHER & CRITTERS

Gopher activity continues to be slow but steady. Should you see a mound or a large hole in your plot, place a flag (found in a bucket at the head of the center road) then call me at 562-596-1975. Please do not run water in that area.

Frank Dayak
Gopher & Critters

REPORT FROM THE ORCHARD

The orchard seems to be in fine form and producing well, and as may be noticed, it being in a flash, so to speak. The first peaches came and went in short order as did the apricots. Once they started coming, there was no stopping for a breather lest there be a good quantity on the ground. As the apricots ran out the plums began to ripen and haven't stopped yet. As you may see from this little scenario, summer is a busy time in the orchard. This being an ongoing situation is the reason you have seen some new or strange faces in amongst the trees. My crew of pickers and helpers has done a splendid job of keeping up with things while I ran off to enjoy like elsewhere. They will be doing the same in August when I will visit my Family in Pennsylvania. These people will be helping me on a continuing basis, I hope, for the summer and into fall learning all the various jobs needing to be done in the orchard environment, of which there are many. My many thanks go to the crew that have been very active these last weeks of June and July, being Ron Boeckler, Cathy Brattan, Mary Clements, Paula Nathan, Susan Colman, Earl Kelly and Eric Pieper.

Ernie Trait
Orchard



Reminder:

Only those with these yellow safety vests are allowed in the orchard area.

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**

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LBCGA OFFICERS

Joan Criswell	President	598-4076
Lonnie Brundage	1 st VP Membership	597-0926
Nancy Bernstein	2 nd VP General Maintenance	597-4552
Sher Meyers	Secretary	428-8604
Mary Rasmussen	Treasurer	498-7428

BOARD MEMBERS

Chuck Davis	Border Replacement	438-2073
Frank Dayak	Gopher & Critters	596-1975
Kevin Holman	Flower/Landscape	425-4038
Tom McCabe	Food Bank	438-2359
Joanne Rice	Gazebo	425-4038
Michael Roide	Newsletter	755-6781
Gary Sarka	Water Systems Repair	430-0695
Ernie Trait	Orchard	431-7074

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 REFERNCE