

Salem Community Gardens

Monthly members' newsletter

<http://growsalem.org>

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Salem Community Gardens To Expand

In response to record-long waiting lists and an ever-growing interest, Salem Community Gardens is seeking to establish new gardens for next summer. Potential sites include Collins Cove and Forest River Park (see map at right). We are excited about the prospect but there is much work to be done! If you would like to become involved with the planning and organization or would just like to express your interest and enthusiasm, please contact Lisa (lsponce@precisionit.net) or Leslie (leslietut@earthlink.net).



Collins Cove and Forest River Park are two potential sites for a future garden.

More Volunteer Opportunities Coming Soon!

Community Gardens thrive when everyone contributes. Many of you were able to sign up for volunteering, and we'll be contacting you as projects ramp up this summer. For those of you who weren't able to sign up at the pot luck in May, volunteer opportunities will be posted on the web site in early July.



Introducing Garden Captains

In an effort to improve communication and maintain a positive environment for all gardeners, SCG board has created the position of garden captain. These volunteers serve on the SCG board and have a plot in the garden that they represent. They watch for abandoned gardens, and should be made aware of

any issues, concerns, or suggestions you may have pertaining to the gardens. This year's garden captains are: Shannon Bott at Mack Park, and William Hanger at Palmer Cove. You can reach them by e-mail, phone, or leave them a note in the garden. We're getting each of them a mailbox for their plots.

Shannon Bott (Mack Park) 978-375-1953
William Hanger (Palmer Cove) 978-594-0855

shannonbott@gmail.com
bricksclick@gmail.com

Composting

An essential part of SCG's mission is to support organic and environmentally responsible practices. In an effort to do so, we are building composters to process plant matter at both Mack Pack and Palmer Cove.

Compost is a blend of decayed plant matter used to improve soil and provide nutrients. SCG plans to use the garden waste generated from our plots to produce compost that will in turn fertilize the gardens.

Designated compost bins and areas to dispose of weeds will be marked. Only two of the three composting bins can be filled. (One bin needs to be left open to build compost layers.) We have a few volunteers interested in helping with the composting at each garden, but the more the merrier. Please contact



Lisa Spence (info@growsalem.org) if you'd like to be involved. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about composting!

Please use the recycling bins for customary recyclables (plastics, glass, metal) and the trashcan for rubbish. Do not put plant matter in the trash!

Limit One per Household...

Given the surge of interest in Salem Community Gardens, we have to stick with our "one plot per household" policy again this season. This year's waiting list, which exceeds 30 would-be gardeners, compels us to decline multiple-plot requests. Once

additional garden sites are established, this policy will be revisited.

We have begun reassigning plots that were not started by June 15, 2009. You can expect to see all plots planted within the next two weeks. If you know that you cannot use

your plot, please contact Lisa Spence (info@growsalem.org). There have been some inquiries about selling or giving unused plots to friends, which is not allowed. In an effort to be equitable, unused plots will be assigned to people on the waiting list on a first-come-first-served basis.



On a Personal Note...

Do you have some news or info that you'd like to share? Send it our way: info@growsalem.org.

Vote for Camryn

Josh Cotter's daughter, Camryn, is a finalist in the Gorton's Fisherman Photo Contest. Cast your vote today at this link:

<http://www.gortons.com/smart-details.php?id=1373&page>

A Walk in the Woods

William Hanger, of Palmer Cove, is going for a walk in the woods—from Atkins, VA to Harpers Ferry, WV on the Appalachian Trail. His update on June 18 said, "Another violent thunderstorm at Chestnut Knob shelter, day 3, mile 42."



Where The Wild Things Are

A pair of red foxes has been spotted trotting merrily through Mack Park. While these handsome critters are harmless to gardens and gardeners alike, they do serve to remind us that Salem still has its wild side. If anyone snaps a photo of the delightful fox duo, please send it our way! info@growsalem.org

Giving Back

A vital part of the Salem Community Gardens' mission is to connect with and enrich our community. One of the ways we do this is by donating fresh produce from our gardens to Saint Joseph's Food Pantry in Salem (www.saintjosephsfoodpantry.com).

As the summer rolls on, you may find that you have more veggies than you can eat! Or perhaps, you just want to share the bounty of your harvest with those in need. Either way, please consider donating produce from your garden to Saint Joseph's; they are always overjoyed to receive our healthy, home-grown, organic food donations.

Collection will be starting soon and volunteers are needed to help harvest and deliver vegetables. If you are interesting in participating, please contact Carolyn McGuire at carolyn.caroleena@gmail.com or 508-740-3683.

New Gates at Palmer Cove

Palmer Cove gardeners may notice the new and improved gates at the garden entrances.

New locks will be added to the gates in the coming week. Gardeners will be notified via email of the combination. Although it is fine to leave the gate open/unlocked while several gardeners are working in the plots, please be sure to make sure all gates are closed and locked if you are the last to leave.

These gorgeous gates were built and installed by PC garden captain William Hanger, with help from volunteers Ehrlander Kristjansson and Mike Ryder. Next time you see them around Palmer Cove, be sure to thank them!



Maintain your borders

The volunteers who have been mowing both garden sites have been doing a great job of keeping the grass under control. Given the unusual contours of the garden layouts, this is no simple task. In an effort to make this volunteer service less burdensome, we are asking that

all gardeners maintain the edges of their own plots. A pair of hand clippers will be available at Mack Park and Palmer Cove in the respective areas where common-use tools are kept. In the spirit of community, let's all take a few minutes to keep our gardens trimmed.

Vacation Plans for Plots

Many of us may be staying close to home this summer, but if you are planning a vacation and would like your garden checked in your absence, please notify your garden captain of the dates you will be away. If you prefer to make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to water your plot, your garden captain should be informed, in an effort to keep the gardens secure.

Mack Park
Palmer Cove

Shannon Bott
William Hanger

Shannonbott@msn.com
bricksclick@gmail.com

Please consider donating the harvest from your vacation week to the food pantry – we'll do the harvesting for you!

Gardener Spotlight: Cresene Sanglap, Palmer Cove

To walk through Cresene Sanglap's plot at Palmer Cove, is to discover horticultural ingenuity at every turn. A bright white bookshelf laid on the ground first catches your eye, each shelf compartment packed with soil and brimming with life. Look closer and you'll find salvaged bureau drawers that sprout basil, woven baskets that cradle mint, and tomato plants that thrive with the help of plastic bottle terrariums. It all makes for a fantastic scene of transformation and possibility.

Checking out neighboring plots last summer, Cresene describes having "raised bed envy" and this year she has set about a resourceful game of catch up. Lacking power tools and carpentry skills, Cresene set to the task of creatively repurposing objects around her in the service of gardening. The bookshelf was scored at a Marblehead yard sale (\$5), the

drawers were plucked from the curb on trash day, and a pile of discarded bamboo poles became the genesis for a handmade trellis. These clever gardening props are paired with biodegradable tarping and straw to minimize the time Cresene spends weeding and the plastic bottle terrariums reduce water usage significantly.

While Cresene credits the website www.gardengirltv.com for some



the bottom inch into soil and away they grew.

This week her pole beans are poised to climb their twine supports, tomatoes are being coaxed to the trellis, and even the spinach has lofty ambitions for an upward ascent. Cresene, herself an accomplished high-altitude climber, is always keeping her eye out for the next creative advancement for her garden. For the rest of us, it's just a sight to behold.



of her clever techniques and tricks, others seem like total originals. Take for instance, the case of the scallion. When faced with the prospect of a 100 day germination for scallion seeds, Cresene turned towards her kitchen scraps for a speedier solution. Since (organic) store-bought scallions include their root base, after using the majority of the plant for cooking, she simply plunked



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