

May 3, 1991

Dear community gardeners,

Howdy. This is just a quick note to keep you all updated and fill those of you in who were unable to attend our last meeting. Among the things we discussed were:

-Community Tasks: We have decided that each community gardener is responsible for doing one of these tasks (estimated at taking about one hour to complete) for every two week period. I have now posted a list of these tasks on our recently installed bulletin board (hung outside near the gate), and have left a space on it for each of you to sign up. The first period extends from Monday, May 6 to Monday, May 20, so sign up soon. Please notice that if you choose to mow, this will count as your task for the next two week session as well, and that those of you who have agreed to work on fixing up the herb and peppermint beds may begin work on those as your task for this two week period. (please call me if you choose this option.)

-Community Meeting Agenda: This is posted on the bulletin board and is a space for you to write down any concerns or ideas that you would like to discuss at the next community meeting.

-Next Community Meeting: This will be on Monday, May 20, at 7:30 pm. We would like to have it be a potluck dinner, so I will put up a list on the board for you to tell us what you plan to bring. We will also be signing our garden contracts at this meeting, so it is important that you all try to come. If you can't, please leave a message in my box or give me a call.(8636497)

-My hours: Since many of the tasks you will be doing may need a little more explanation or access to certain tools, I have planned to be in or around the UEL at the following times. Monday, May 6: 5-7pm

Tuesday, May 7: 1-3pm

Thursday, May 9: 1-3pm

Friday, May 10: 3-6pm

Saturday, May 11: 9-11am

Monday, May 13: 5-7pm

Tuesday, May 14: 1-3pm

Friday, May 17: 4-7pm

Saturday, May 18: 10-12am

If I have to for some reason change these times I will post it on the board.

-Parking: DO NOT PARK IN THE UEL LOT DURING BUSINESS HOURS! We have gotten some complaints.

Some things that you may be wondering about that we did not discuss at the last meeting are the new key for the hose which is temporarily located on the bulletin board inside the greenhouse (how would you feel about a combination?) and extra lists of all the gardeners and how to contact them which I will also leave in the greenhouse in the event that you either did not get one or have lost yours. I strongly encourage you to find out who you are sharing a plot with or working next to and get in touch. Other gardeners are probably your best resource!

I hope this has answered most of your questions. Sorry for the rather businesslike format, but maybe I'll be more inspired to be creative when exams are done. If you have any questions at all or if you just don't understand something I have said, please get in touch. Your gardens are looking great!

In vegetables,

Abby Crain

outdoor

Christina Cook

S an

Jungle

Tric -

Sun and Sbg - Slide T

about 4/5

Stephanie

20 gal

1 can beer

1 cup ch. soap

1/2 cup vinegar

10 lbs - Fruit

any
Annex -

June 20,1991

Dear Gardeners,

It was nice to see so many of you at the potluck. I just wanted to send a note to follow up on a few things and fill in those of you who were unable to make it.

1. PEST WORKSHOP- yes, this is happening as planned on TUESDAY, JULY 23 AT 7:00 PM upstairs in the UEL LIVINGROOM. This will be a workshop on common garden pests and what an organic gardener can do about them. Bring in samples for identification!

2. SOUTHSIDE VOLUNTEER DAY- The woman who is giving the Pest Workshop is a gardener at Southside Community Land Trust. As we discussed at our potluck, I told her that, as an exchange, several of us would spend a morning volunteering at the City Garden. I think this is a good chance to see how a different community garden works as well as to help Southside out. We will discuss a good time for us to do this at the workshop. I am thinking some saturday morning pretty soon would be good. What do you think?

3. COMMUNITY JOBS- I put up a new list on either Friday the 28th. If you haven't done a job yet, please try to make sure you do something in this next two week period. Talk to me if this is for some reason not possible. By the way, I really appreciate all the work and enthusiasm people have been putting into the community jobs. Keep it up!

4. MY HOURS- Wed, June 26: 4:30-6:30pm
Thurs., June 27: 4:30-6:30pm
Sat. June 29: 10 am-1pm
mon, Aug.1: 4:30-6:30
wed. Aug 3: 4:30-6:30pm

As always, call or leave a note if you need anything The UEL# is 863-2715. My home # is 273 0733. My E-mail account # is st102182. See you tuesday night.

Sincerely,
Abby Crain

Alma - forgot to give you this at the meeting!

july 1991

COMMUNITY GARDEN CHECK-UP

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS BRIEFLY, CLEARLY, AND CANDIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

COMMUNITY JOBS

1. How many community jobs have you done so far this year? (there have been 4 or 5 different job lists put up)
2. Of those jobs, which did you most enjoy doing?
Which did you enjoy least?
3. If you have done no jobs, or very few, what has kept you from doing community jobs?
4. Have you experienced any difficulty in your attempts to complete a job? If so, explain.
5. What things have made it easier for you to complete your jobs, and/or what things would you like to see done that would make it easier in the future?
6. What is your opinion on the tasks you have been asked to complete? (Are they too difficult? too boring? too easy? too vaguely defined? too much fun?)

7. What is your opinion of the current policy of posting jobs on the community bulletin board and asking people to sign up? If you are dissatisfied with it, can you suggest an alternate way of communicating about jobs?

8. Has the gardener's practice of posting her hours been a helpful means of getting in touch with her to explain or provide equipment for community tasks?

Have you ever tried to get in touch with her in any other way? (message in mailbox, phoning at work or home, e-mail message)

Would you say she is easy, moderately difficult, or very difficult to get in touch with?

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

1. What do you enjoy the most about them, and what do you feel needs improving?

2. Any suggestions for improvement?

Other SUGGESTIONS:

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN BEFORE THE END OF THE GROWING SEASON? (TRIPS, WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, PARTIES, PROJECTS, ETC.) PLEASE EXPLAIN.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

July 16, 1991

Dear Community Gardeners,

I hope most of you have recovered from the aftershock of our most recent, somewhat rowdy gardening potluck. In case you were unable to make it, or were confused about some of the things we discussed, I would like to take this opportunity to update everyone and make sure we are all clear about what is going on.

At the meeting we talked about a variety of things.....

-**COMMUNITY CHECK UP**- This was a questionnaire about your feelings and opinions about the experience each of you is having with the garden this year. For those of you who were not at the potluck, I have enclosed a copy of the questionnaire for you to fill out and either drop in my box at the UEL, hand to me in person, or send to me at box 1943, Brown University. These questionnaires are helping me immensely to know how things are going from your point of view. Some of the issues they have brought up so far are:

1. Tool Access- Many people cited difficulty in getting equipment as a problem that has made their completion of community tasks more difficult. The suggestion was made that we leave certain tools such as a pitchfork for turning compost in a spot that could be accessed when I am not around. Starting now, we will try keeping certain tools out in the garden, chained to the hose. Please make sure that you re-chain them with the hose after using either them or the hose. Unfortunately, it is not feasible to leave certain equipment such as the weed wacker or the broom outside, and for these I suggest either coming during the hours I have posted that I will be at the garden, or setting up an additional time that we can meet.

2. A Better Hose Nozzle- I have put out a new nozzle that I found in the basement. See how you like it.

3. New Community Job Sign Up Procedure- Although there was some dissension, I think that we more or less agreed that it would be helpful to introduce community jobs at our monthly meetings, and allow people to sign up for them then. The idea behind this is that it would provide an opportunity for immediate explanation of jobs that need it, that people can arrange times with each other to work together on jobs, that arrangements can be more easily made for procurement of tools, and that it will be easier to remember to sign up. Please note that, as we discussed at the meeting, this new plan does not mean that you will be forced to sign up for a job at Community Meetings! If you would like to sign up at another time, the job list will still be available throughout the month on the bulletin board for you to sign up at your convenience. The new plan is intended to facilitate communication, not to put pressure on you!!!! According to this new plan, we would sign up for a job every four weeks instead of every two weeks, but the jobs will be either a little longer or more demanding.

****IMPORTANT NOTE: THE NEW PLAN WILL NOT GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL OUR NEXT MEETING ON AUGUST 13. UNTIL THEN, WE WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON OUR TWO-WEEK SCHEDULE. THE NEXT TWO WEEK JOB PERIOD BEGINS ON JULY 24.**

4. Field Trip- I am currently investigating a trip to Caprilands Herb Farm, and will get back to you with details.

5. Job Credit- Many of you have put a great deal of time and energy into bringing in plants that you have donated to the garden this year. It was brought to my attention that perhaps these efforts should be considered community jobs. SURE!

6. Community Agenda- It was mentioned that it would be nice if the gardeners were able to contribute topics of discussion to the agenda of the monthly meetings. I think this is a wonderful idea (in fact I have tried to get it going before), and have put a piece of paper labeled "AGENDA" on the board for you to write down topics you would like to discuss. Don't be shy!!!!!!

WATERING AID FLAGS- We are trying out a new policy where, if you for some reason are going to be unable to water your garden, you CAN PUT UP SOME SORT OF FLAG WHICH WILL SIGNAL TO OTHER GARDENERS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO WATER YOUR GARDEN IF IT LOOKS DRY. If this works, it will be a wonderful way to accomodate busy schedules and people who are going on vacation. This brings me to my next point.....

I am going on vacation from thursday the 18th to wednesday the 24th. I have put up a few watering flags myself, to cover for this time (hint hint). So far, my hours after I come back will be as follows: Thursday, July 24- 4:30-6:30pm
Friday, July 25- 3-5pm

SOUTHSIDE RESCHEDULED!!!!!!!!!! Due to a rained out first attempt, we have rescheduled our trip to volunteer at Southside Community Land Trust for SATURDAY, JULY 26, FROM 9AM TO NOON. A van will leave the UEL at 8:45 am. See you there!!!!

NOFA CONFERENCE (Natural Organic Farming Association)- August 9-11. This looks like it will be a fun and informative event. I will be putting out registration forms when I get back, and would be happy to tell you the limited amount that I know about it.

Well, I think that's all for now. Seems like a lot doesn't it? If you are confused about ANYTHING, as always, you are encouraged to call me at home (2730733), work (8632715), leave me a note in my box, or e-mail me at st102182. I'll be happy to clear things up.

Hey. Marilyn says "Don't compost members of the cabbage family, you'll get clubroot", and Barbara says, "Don't compost tomatoes." OK?

See you later,
Abby Crain

P.S. If anyone wants to do any extra compost turning while I am gone, that would be fantastic!

August 19, 1991

Dear Community Gardeners,

Hello. It's time again for our monthly update/recap of the garden meeting. Although our last meeting was rather small, we did accomplish quite a bit (maybe the fresh air helped). Here is a brief description of what was said:

1. COOKBOOKS- We managed to find several of the community garden cookbooks. While the UEL has decided not to print anymore, it has agreed to make the books that we already have available for sale. The books cost six dollars and are spiral bound. If you or anyone you know would like one of these books, get in touch with me. I will also bring them to the next meeting.
2. SOIL TEST- There is a soil testing kit available in the greenhouse for anyone who wants to use it.
3. WATERING FLAGS- Remember to water gardens that people have put a flag in.
4. GREEN MULCH FOR THE WINTER- I will be ordering hairy vetch, winter rye, and fava beans to plant as a winter cover crop on the gardens.
5. NEXT YEAR-As in past years, we will be making most of our decisions about who will have a space in next year's community garden by mid to late february. If, however, you would like to make preparations for next year immediately, you can fill out a special portion of the evaluation sheet we will be completing at the next meeting and we will consider your request for a space right away. Requests for garden space in the coming year will be considered on the basis of the gardener's fulfillment of the terms of this year's gardening contract.*
6. FINAL MEETINGS- Our last potluck meeting will be on Monday, September 9, at 6pm. In October, instead of a meeting, we will have a "Garden Closing Day". It is important that everyone be at both of these.
7. CAPRILANDS- We have scheduled a trip to Caprilands Herb Farm on Saturday, September 14. The visit will cost \$18, which includes a snack, a lecture, a lunch, and plenty of time to walk around. As we must pre-pay, please bring cash or a check to our next meeting. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THIS SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD TIME!**

As the summer is wrapping up and I am beginning to get sentimental, I would just like to tell you all how wonderful it has been to work with you this summer. Long live the community garden!

Sincerely,

Abby Crain

* I will post a copy of the contract on the garden bulletin board and also on the board in the greenhouse. In brief, what the contract contains is a commitment to maintain a garden plot under organic principles and within its assigned boundaries, to leave this plot in an acceptable condition for planting next year, to attend and participate in monthly community meetings, to help make decisions about the garden, and to devote one hour every two weeks to a community job. (We will take into account our recent switch from bi-monthly to monthly completion of jobs, and our informal agreement that while one hour should be spent on a community job for every two weeks, it is not necessary that this hour be spent within the two week period. In other words, it doesn't matter when you did the jobs, as long as you have done them.)

According to our new jobs policy, we sign up for jobs at meetings, and if you are either not at a meeting or do not feel like making a commitment at the time, the jobs list will be posted on the board for you to sign up at your convenience. Here is a list of what you signed up for at the last meeting, and a few jobs that have not yet been signed up for.

1. turn both piles of compost -august 13-17.....JAMES CORLESS
-august 18-24.....MICHAEL TORENS
-august 25-31.....MARILYN FENTON
-september 1-8....._____
2. dig weeds inside gates.....NORI CASHMAN
3. weed wack inside gates - before august 26.....DEB MAJUNDAR
-after august 26.....DEBRA KRUSE
4. help plant crown vetch if it ever comes (on call)...ALMA SANDERSON
.....ANNA BROWDER
.....CLAUDIA RADEL
.....MARILYN FENTON
.....MICHAEL TORENS
5. figure out a storage system for outdoor tools.....BURR HARRISON
6. clean up alley next to UEL.....JULIA KARAHALIS
7. call people for next meeting.....DEB MAJUNDAR
8. weed ivy, sedum, and heather by driveway
(near bicycle storage facility and compost).....ALMA SANDERSON
9. water greenhouse from august 29-september 1....._____
10. trash pickup around garden and grounds.....CAROLYN DIGBY
11. sweep and/or rake front walkway....._____
12. weed wack outside gates....._____
13. trim dead branches off pine trees (requires two people and climbing a ladder)
....._____
14. weed new shade garden (by path)....._____

I plan to be around thursday, august 22 from 5-6:30, friday, august 23 from 3-6, monday, august 26 from 4-5:30, tuesday, august 27 from 4:30-7:30. Call to set up additional times and check the board for changes. See you around.

October 22, 1991

Dear Community gardeners,

Sorry for the delay, but here, at long last is my monthly garden letter to remind us all of what was said at the last meeting and to update everyone on any new developments.

1. EVALUATIONS: The evaluations you all have filled out were much appreciated, and don't worry, they will not be forgotten in some dusty UEL file, but will be used by myself and whoever the next garden coordinator is to structure the way the garden works next year. If you were not at the last meeting, and so did not have a chance to fill out a questionnaire, please either directly contact me to get one or stop by the UEL, where I have left them in a box. Also, if you think of anything else you would like to suggest that you did not include in your questionnaire- feel free to drop me a note or give me a call.

2. GARDEN CLEANUP AND CLOSING DAY-THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM.: This will be the time when we can do our final weed wacking, cover things for the winter, cleanup our gardens, plant cover crops, and generally put our garden to bed. When you come, please remember to do the following things.

- a. Bring back any tools or books you may have borrowed.
- b. Bring your keys! If you do not bring your key, we ask you for \$2 to cover the cost of replacing it, which you can have refunded when and if you bring your key back in. After this day, we will be leaving the garden unlocked.
- c. Bring any friends, families, or other folks who feel like helping out.
- d. Since I am having trouble getting mulch from groundskeeping, bring any bags of leaves that you might not have room to compost at home so we can use them to mulch the perennials. Thank!
- e. Bring food for our lunch potluck!

3. COOKBOOKS: These are still available for \$6 apiece. I will have some on the closing day.

4. CAPRILANDS: Sounds like those of you who went had fun. Maybe we can hear more about it on the closing day?

5. WINTER SEED AND SEED CATALOG SWAP IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY: This seemed to be a popular idea, so we will try to set one up. If any of you would like to coordinate this- let me know.

6. NEXT YEAR- Unless we have a prior agreement, I will be letting all of you know when to apply for a garden next year- either in January or February.

That's about it folks. I hope to see you all on Saturday. If you for some reason cannot make it, please let me know. The UEL box# is 1943, my E-mail# is st102182, you can always leave a note in my box at the UEL, my home phone is 5211133 and the UEL# is 8632715.

It's been absolutely wonderful working with you all and I hope it's been fun for all of you too. Thank you thank you thank you.

P.S. Yes - you may

keep your garden next year.

Abby Crain

May 28, 1992

Dear Community Gardener,

Just a note to let you know that the tool locker is now set up and ready for use. The same key that opens the garden gates will work on the padlock on the locker. Inside the locker I have placed:

- two shovels
- spade
- weed-wacker
- rake
- push-mower
- soil/compost sifter
- pitch fork
- shears
- trowel

If you have any suggestions about what else you'd like to see in there, just let me know.

I will be leaving Providence on May 31 and will be back around June 19. As soon as I get back I'll send out another mailing to schedule our next potluck meeting. It will probably be held sometime during the last week of June.

I'm going to try to do as much weeding and weed-wacking as possible tomorrow, but without an electric weed-wacker I probably won't be able to get as much of it done as I would like to. When I get back I will look into buying an electric weed-wacker, but until then, it would be big help if each of you could weed and trim the areas bordering your plot, and, if you feel inspired, feel free to weed any other neglected area. Let me know what you've done extra when I get back so that I can count this as a community maintenance task. If you don't like to weed and are looking for another maintenance task to help out with, the compost down on the cement area near the parking lot needs to be turned.

Enclosed is our 1992 Community Garden Address List and either a copy of your signed contract or a contract to be signed and returned if I have not yet received one from you. Please, let me know if any of the information on the address list is incorrect.

I hope you all are enjoying the start of our season. If you have any concerns or questions, leave me a note in my mailbox in the UEL office, so that I can address them as soon as I return from my trip.

Thanks and take care,

Sandra

Sandra Baptista