

VISTA Matters is the weekly community newsletter for garden members. Included are key dates and communications necessary for all members to know and be involved.



VISTA Gardens News - April 5, 2017



Watch Us Grow

What is happening between the log plots and the cedar plots? We are growing!

Marty Kleiner is working hard preparing the grounds for ten new cedar wood plots. The plots will be ready for the next growing season.

Welcome to VISTA!

New member orientation was held at the garden last Saturday, April 1.

Please welcome our newest members when you see them on site!



Pictured from left: Abby, Adam and Fanny Elend, Grettel Ramos, Mary Eillen and housemate Roberta Owens

Member Spotlight: Leah Wooten



What is your name, your garden bed address and the date you joined VISTA Garden?

My name is Leah Wooten and I share a bed with my friend, Lynn Clark, at 6 Cabbage. I think I've been at the garden since 2014, just after the beds were built and ready for first use.

What interested you in starting your garden?

Both of my grandmothers had big gardens that I assiduously avoided as I was a child who did not enjoy getting dirty. Now that I am grown it brings back memories of them and provides an opportunity to get out of the house and enjoy the fresh air. I work from home so the benefit of being outside and around other humans cannot be overstated. P.S., I still don't like to get dirty but 'suck it up' in exchange for the experience and enjoyment.

What do you like to grow? What are your "go to" plants?

I like to grow whatever will cooperate. I started with zero experience and still have a so much to learn. Anything that pops through the dirt and grows for me feels like a magical surprise. My first real success was with purple eggplant and I finally have experienced good results with tomatoes. I jokingly call Lynn and myself the "Okra Queens" because it grows like crazy for us. Other vegetables include brussels, broccoli, squash and carrots.

What's your favorite activity/time of day at the garden?

My favorite time is whenever it is relatively cool and shady. I live for those days.

What is one thing you'd like us to know about you?

I am the communications lead for VISTA Gardens and my responsibilities include sending this weekly newsletter, maintaining the web site (including email requests) and posting to Facebook. If you have suggestions for any of these areas or would like me to distribute information, please send it along. Simply reply to this newsletter and I will receive your email.

*Earth Day Celebration
Saturday ~ 22 April 2017
2 pm till ???
At the garden
Bring a dish to share*

*Pot Luck
&
PIG
ROAST*

\$8 per plate to offset the cost of porky



Botanical Gardens
presents the

>>> 2017 Spring Plant Festival



April 8 & 9

Saturday 10:00-4:00

Sunday 10:00-3:00

\$5 admission; children under 12 & USF

Botanical Garden members are admitted free.

Free Parking

This event supports
USF Botanical Gardens,
a nonprofit facility

12210 USF Pine Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

Website:
<http://gardens.usf.edu>
(813) 974-2329



**Sunday Beekeeping
Talk at Noon**

**Talks every hour on
Saturday**

**Organic Vegetable Gardening
Workshop, Saturday at 11:00**

**"Native Plants in your Landscape"
Saturday at Noon**

**Find orchids, begonias, bonsai, cactus,
Crotons, butterfly plants, camellias, bamboo,
tropical fruit, citrus, gingers,
Plumeria, palms, bromeliads, carnivorous plants, African
violets, native plants, herbs, ferns, & lots more.**

Ongoing Activities

Saturday Work Parties

Fulfill your community volunteer requirement by joining fellow gardeners on Saturday mornings to tackle the maintenance needs of the garden at large. It's a fun time and you get some exercise and the garden stays looking great. Keeping the garden regularly maintained prevents us from major intermittent workload. The party starts at 9 a.m. every weekend, weather permitting.

Compost Thursdays

Committee members meet at the garden Thursday's at 8 a.m. to turn the compost. Please join the team if you would like to learn more about composting.

Compost Materials Needed

General reminder: To produce high quality compost the community needs to provide a steady supply of material. Please bring your garden or vegetable waste to the garden, don't let it go to the landfill!

Keep in touch with VISTA

We are working hard to streamline communications to ensure you receive the right content in the right place when you need it.

1. Facebook: Like "VISTA Gardens" to receive updates on key activities throughout the week

If you do NOT use Facebook please reply to this email and you will be added to a separate email distribution list. The team will do its best to email any time sensitive updates requiring community attention to this list when a post is made to Facebook.

2. Tuesday email: Summarizes key activity and news for the upcoming week

3. Monthly newsletter: More detail into topics of interest and education (see link

above!)

4. Web site: Our address is vistagardentampa.org (note: no 's' in garden). A repository of membership information, detailed education, links to articles on shared topics of interest. Plus much, much more.

VISTA Gardens | comms@vistagarden.org | vistagardentampa.org

STAY CONNECTED:

