

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 - December 9, 2016



All About Mulch and Gardens

Josh Marks (Compost Committee) has posted a mulch fact sheet to the VISTA web site.

The IFAS-produced document reviews mulch options, coverage and pest management.

[Link to All About Mulch](#)

Member Spotlight: Jennifer Grebenschikoff

1. What is your/family member name(s), your garden bed address, the date you joined Vista Garden?

You can call me Jen, or Jennifer, just don't call me late to dinner! My birth name is Grebenschikoff (rhymes with Baryshnikov) and I am married to David Kirschman who is almost never at the garden. ;) You will know my plot at #1 Cantaloupe Court, the one with the year-round Malabar spinach in the middle. And help yourself; there is always plenty. I got started with VISTA way back when the garden was in Bill West's back yard, which was probably six-seven years ago? We (about ten of us) did a lot of experimenting then with best ways to grow veggies above ground.



2. What interested you in starting your garden?

If you see me at the garden, I have usually traveled there on my bicycle, or walked. Yes, I love the outdoors and always am looking for ways to get exercise no matter where I am or what I am doing. When I am at VISTA, I think a lot about my Dad, Oleg Dimitrivich Grebenschikoff (born in Vladivostok, Russia, since you asked) who loved to garden. In the last NJ house I lived in with my parents, he had a small backyard garden with raised beds, and was always so thrilled to see his tomatoes and sunflowers and fig tree producing eats. I

probably inherited his vegetable gardening genes.

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

I like trying different plants each season. Of course, my spinach is definitely my perennial go-to plant, but last year I was mighty proud of my carrots, some of which weighed close to a pound! We'll see what happens with this year's crop. I had not planned to grow tomatoes again this year but two volunteers showed up and looked so healthy that I made room for them. And then a really healthy tomato branch broke off, which I couldn't bear to compost, so I planted that one too! The adage "If one plant is good, two are better," applies to my arugula plants this year. New for me, I had no idea just one would really suffice. So, if anyone wants a nicely growing arugula plant, let me know and we'll transplant to your bed. Last year I loved seeing the Brussels sprouts plants in several plots, so I am trying two this year. And my first try at broccoli rabe is looking good. Also, all my new plants this year are either from our VISTA seed swap or our seedling swap.

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

I love welcoming visitors, meeting other gardeners, and seeing what they are growing and how they have decorated their plots. The time just flies when I am watering and feeding and weeding my plants. Before I know it, two hours has gone by. In the cooler seasons, anytime is good for me at the garden. Forget last summer, when it was way too hot and steamy to have any fun at the garden, so I let my plot sleep until Fall.

5. What is one thing you'd like us to know about you? At our home in Carrollwood Village, I am slowly transforming the front green grass areas to Florida native plantings and ground cover. My eventual goal is to have no grass around my house at all. One of my trial ground covers in the back is, wait for it..., Malabar spinach! And the one plant I put on the ground (didn't even bury the roots) is spreading beautifully!



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 input the community needs to provide a steady supply of material. This includes vegetable waste (garden or kitchen). Please bring your waste to the garden, don't let it go to the landfill! **NOTE: We are at capacity for leaves, cardboard and shredded paper right now. Please do not bring any more for the foreseeable future.**

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:

