



October 5, 2020

VISTA MATTERS: October Edition

New & Improved Water System

VISTA Gardens is growing! With the addition of seven new raised garden beds, we are expanding and improving our watering system. Last year our current water supply system was depleted some evenings and mornings causing problems for many early gardeners. To address this along with the additional demand of the new beds there was a real need to install a new system that will double our water storage capacity, will work after sunset, and will add pressure to all the spigots and the many automated irrigation systems. With much research we found a solar solution. (For new folks, we have no electric access at the garden.)

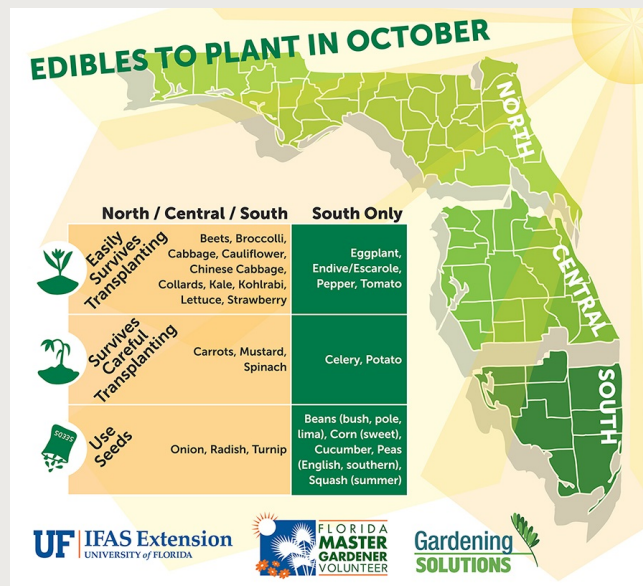
These photos show VISTA infrastructure volunteers Gordon, Marty, and Saif installing solar panels that will power the new pump. The system is designed such that we can still use our existing water tower while we tweak the new system. The project should be done in a few weeks.

Important note: It's important to always make sure all the spigots are turned off (at the spigot, not just the hose) and that irrigation systems do not leak. Please report any leaks to Marty. Thanks!





Right Plant, Right Place, Right Time - Edibles to plant in October



University of Florida's Institute for Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Website

Beekeeper David Schneider

Meet Beekeeper David! While growing up in Michigan, his great uncle ran a large bee operation. C David Schneider was always interested in the sweet honey and the whole process of how it came to be. It wasn't until David visited Troy, a local beekeeper in Largo, that he learned just how accessible beekeeping has become. David was pleasantly surprised to learn that keeping bees in an urban backyard is not only legal, it is also fun to coexist with the bees.

Currently, David has several hives at his house in downtown St. Petersburg. He keeps himself busy by rescuing bees from troublesome areas, bottling and selling honey, and hosting beekeeping experiences. Just this past week, David set up a trap out after a colony took up residence in a tree located very close to a city sidewalk. "As a backyard beekeeper, it's always exciting to interact with each colony and observe behavioral differences. Every day I learn from these amazing creatures" says David. In addition to beekeeping as a side business/hobby, David is also a full-time educator. He teaches digital media and computer application at the Center for Advanced

Technologies.

David visits the gardens every two to three weeks to check on the colony. He states that it is important to make sure the bees have enough resources to keep their population strong and healthy. David also cautions that when the hive is opened for inspection, the bees can become agitated and might be aggressive. "I love to talk with people about bees, but please don't approach the apiary during or after a hive inspection" says David. Remember to give the bees their space!

David is excited to be involved with Vista Gardens. "Lucy left us with some great supplies. Unfortunately, the older colony decided they wanted to move out. The good news is there's no evidence they died, but something caused them to abscond" David stated. He recently moved in a new hive, saying that "we were able to get a new colony - it is a mature hive that has just made a new queen bee." It is best to maintain at least 3 hives at each apiary. David is hoping his current trap out/rescue is successful and the plan is to relocate them to the gardens in a few weeks.

David sells a variety of wildflower and monofloral pure honey and is also hoping to offer bee experiences for garden members at a special friends & family rate.



David's Bee Experiences

Follow David on
Facebook



Trenching "Leggy" Seedlings

Barbara Mahlmeister shows you how to turn "Leggy" tomatoes into strong sturdy producing plants.

**New Training Video
Available!**

Barbara Mahlmeister shows you



Community Calendar

Happy Hour Returns!

When: Fridays

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Join your fellow garden members

how to turn "Leggy" tomatoes into strong sturdy producing plants.

Click [HERE](#) for all Videos

for a socially distanced Happy Hour at the garden.

This is an excellent opportunity for members to get to know each other and unwind after a hectic week.

Please bring a chair and your favorite drinks and snacks.

Beekeeper David Schneider



Laura Perez

Laura joins us with experience in her previous community garden in Vista, CA (north of San Diego). After a decade in California, she recently returned to her "hometown" of Carrollwood. Licensed as a marriage and family counselor, Laura presently works as a medical Social Worker. Laura is volunteering with the House of the Rising Seeds.



Katie Rincon

Katie recently moved from Seminole Heights to Carrollwood where three generations now live, including her mom and her children. Katie works as a Pediatric Respiratory Therapist on a Medevac team. Katie is volunteering with the Garden Art committee.



Linda and Bill Clark

Linda and Bill planted their first VISTA garden this past week and look forward to organic peppers, eggplant, beans, and tomatoes among other fine vegetables.



Alex Livingstone

Meet Alex in another garden! Alex joined VISTA after her graduation from Vanderbilt and as she begins her career in the financial industry. Alex is volunteering with the Garden Art committee (perfect, since one of her minor studies was Art History).

VISTA Gardens
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Connect with us

