



August 14, 2020

VISTA MATTERS: Let the planting begin!



Seedling and Seed Packet Pick Up Dates

Over the past weeks, Karen R. and members House of the Rising Seeds committee have been carefully nurturing the seedlings that will soon be ready for transplant to your member beds.

As always, a donation of \$2 is requested per seedling and \$1 for 2 packets of seeds.

Check out the article below for more information about the varieties that will be available.

Session I:

Date: Saturday, August 29

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

(Rain Date: Sun., Aug. 30, 5 - 7 p.m.)

Available: eggplants, peppers and tomatillo seedlings, as well as "mini" seed packets, appropriate for late August planting.



Happy Hour Returns!

When: Fridays

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

Join your fellow garden members 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.



Session II:

Date: Saturday, September 12

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

(Rain date: Sun., Sep. 13, 5-7 p.m.)

Available: tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, collards and kale, as well as late developing eggplants and peppers.

Also available will be "mini" seed packets appropriate for mid-September planting.

New Training Videos Available!

Education Chair, Barb Mahlmeister and gardening expert, David Whitwam, are back with three new installments of their helpful video series.

Learn how to properly place plants in your bed, how to use seed tape and seeds and helpful information on using trellis systems.

Link to Videos

1. Planning Your Garden Bed
2. Proper Planting of Seed Tape and Seeds
3. Trellis Tips

Seedlings and Seed Packets Available August 29



Eggplant: Black Beauty, Florida Highbush and Diamond

[Link to Information Sheets](#)

Peppers: California Wonder, Golden California Wonder, Sweet Banana, Tam Jalapeño

Also available: Dr. Wyche's Yellow Tomatillo

[Link to Information Sheets](#)

Seeds: Carefully-sourced, interesting varieties of carrots, bush and pole beans, as well as radishes and onion sets.

IFAS guide "Edibles to Plant In August" [Link](#)

Available September 12

Seedlings: Tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, collards and kale, as well as late developing eggplants and peppers.

[Link to Tomato information sheets](#)

Seeds: Carefully-sourced, interesting varieties of arugula, beans, beets, carrots, celery, cucumbers, Chinese cabbage, radish, Swiss chard, spinach, turnips and onion sets.



Welcome, New Members Pt. II!



Vincent & Amanda

Vincent A. and Amanda M. are new to gardening and look forward to getting their hands dirty in the VISTA soil.

They are starting with a 4' x 8' plot and look forward to growing tomatoes and other vegetables. [Their plot gained fame over summer for its gigantic and delicious "Amazel Basil", that provided many gardeners the makings for delicious pesto, no pressure Vincent and Amanda!]

For their day jobs, Vincent is a realtor and Amanda is a flight attendant.



Simone and Maurice

Simone J's husband, Maurice, and children asked what she wanted for her Mother's Day gift, to which she replied, "a plot at VISTA Gardens." We are thrilled that she asked, and her request came true.

Simone is a corporate trainer who previously volunteered for VISTA's Garden Art committee before becoming a member. Her son, Maurice, volunteered at VISTA last year as part of the Sickles National Honor Society and, in addition to helping his mom garden, likes to help move the soil and mulch at VISTA.



Michelle

Michelle E. is an art teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School and mother to two teenage sons.

Michelle volunteered many hours in July and August at VISTA sifting compost, creating plant markers for the pollinator gardens, weeding, preparing the soil in the Hugelkultur and sowing Jack Be Little pumpkin seeds. As an art teacher, we are thrilled that she has volunteered for the Garden Art Committee.



Tish and Jen

Tish B's claim to 'VISTA fame' is her through parents, Nancy and Jim Bardin, former VISTA gardeners and neighbors to M.J. (who regularly shares her harvest from VISTA with the Bardin family).

Tish looks forward to raising food and bringing her Mom to VISTA to enjoy the butterfly garden while she and Jen K. work in their bed adjacent the Main Monarch Waystation garden. Tish and Jenn have volunteered for the Social Committee and will also help the Compost Committee.



Theresa

Theresa Q. returns as an active volunteer with the AARP garden group that raises produce in two garden beds to benefit the Community Food Pantry. Theresa now has her own garden bed where she plans to raise more produce to share!

Theresa retired to Tampa Bay after a long career as an assistant at The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AASS) in Washington D.C. and actively volunteers in community service programs.



Jason and Raisa

An experienced gardener, Jason H., works in commercial real estate. Raisa H. is a longtime teacher in Hillsborough Public Schools.

Jason volunteered for the Infrastructure Committee and helped cut lumber, repair, and lengthen the life of many of VISTA's raised garden beds this summer.

We thank him for his energy and participation!

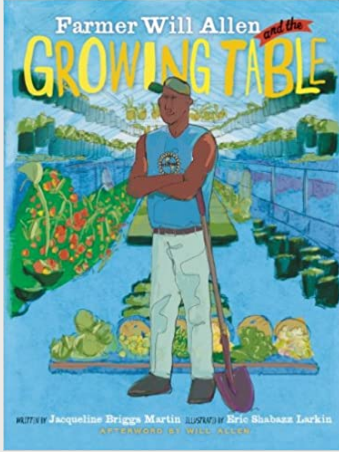
Ansel and Shanae

Ansel W. and his niece, Shanae M., are new Social Members who volunteered tirelessly this summer weeding, edging, mulching and moving soil into the newly raised beds.

We send them a big thank you for helping VISTA avoid the typical weedy, soggy look of August at the garden.

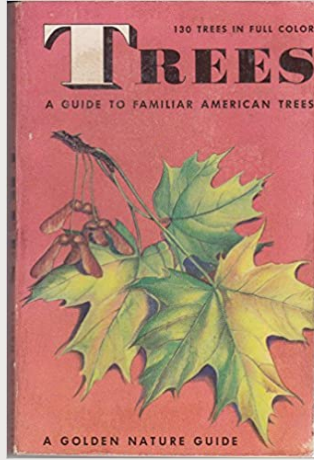
What's New in the Little Free Library

Click on image or titles to read descriptions



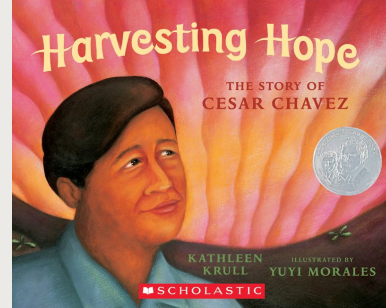
***Farmer Will Allen and
the Growing Table***

Purchased with grant from
Forever Friends



***Trees a Guide to
Familiar American
Trees***

Donated by Caryl Barnes, Friend
of VISTA Gardens



***Harvesting Hope
The Story of César
Chávez***

Purchased with grant from
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VISTA Gardens
13572 South Village Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618

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