



We just finished the 2022 [Students for LEAF](#) summer session. This is one of my favorite educational programs. Why? I love to work with students interested in the environment, gardening, and getting their hands dirty! We teach them about growing food regeneratively, and they help us with harvesting produce for the food banks, maintaining the gardens, and working on special projects. It's a win-win scenario.

This year, our Students for LEAF team of volunteers was small, but mighty! Sydney returned this summer as the Team Lead, joined by Sutharsana, Mallika, and Bridget. When I asked the students what their favorite activities were, there was one response in particular that was equally shared among them—"Becoming friends with all of these amazing people." Aww. This makes life so special at LEAF Stone Garden. And it's why I enjoy this program so much! In the next section, we bring our students and their activities front and center.

Students FOR LEAF Summer 2022



Former LEAF Propagator and Educator, Joyce (far right) grabs a photo op with our Students for LEAF team, Sydney, Sutharsana, Mallika, and Bridget.



LEAF Beekeeper, Syndee teaches how gardens benefit from bees and other pollinator insects.



Students propagating seeds for our gardens.



Joyce demonstrates how to fly a drone and capture aerial footage at the Stone Garden. Check out their video below!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIqK8JKQWDs>



Harvesting worm castings (poop) to use as fertilizer. While not a typical activity of teenagers, this group was excited to dig in!



Huddle of happy honey hive handlers. Hooray!



Identifying and photographing bumble bees for the California Bumble Bee Atlas with Joyce.



Building "Toad Hollow," a habitat for our resident toads,
led by Alan, our Master Gardener (not pictured).



A portrait of a young woman with long dark hair, smiling brightly. She is wearing a dark zip-up jacket over a white shirt. The background shows a field of green plants and a sunset or sunrise sky with orange and pink hues. To the right of the portrait, there is a brown rectangular area containing text.

**Q&A with
Sydney**

Students for LEAF
Team Lead

What type of gardening do you like to do?

Generally, I just like watching plants grow and taking care of them since they are like my little pets. I have a couple of plants that I keep in my dorm and take care of them with my roommates at college.

What are some of your favorite activities?

My favorite things to do are painting and reading at the beach. I also love to explore new places, drink boba, and eat sushi while out with my friends. When I'm not eating, I like to exercise by playing basketball and volleyball or running. But I'm always eating. :)

Describe your educational background.

I was once a Washington Husky and am now a UC Santa Cruz Banana Slug where I am majoring in Human Biology. My goal is to become a Physician's Assistant or similar professional in the medical field. I am currently participating in a virtual shadowing program to learn and gain knowledge about the various roles within the medical field.

Describe your role at LEAF.

Last year I participated in Students for LEAF where I learned about regenerative agricultural practices and building healthy soil. This year, I was able to lead the students and guide them through the ins and outs of working in a garden.

What were your favorite projects this year?

My favorite projects were Toad Hollow and Bumble Bee Atlas. I enjoyed making a home for the toads by digging out a hole in the ground and then filling it with logs, branches and compost until it was 18" above ground. We decorated the top of the mound with basil, aster, clover, marigolds, and dandelions to attract insects for the toads.

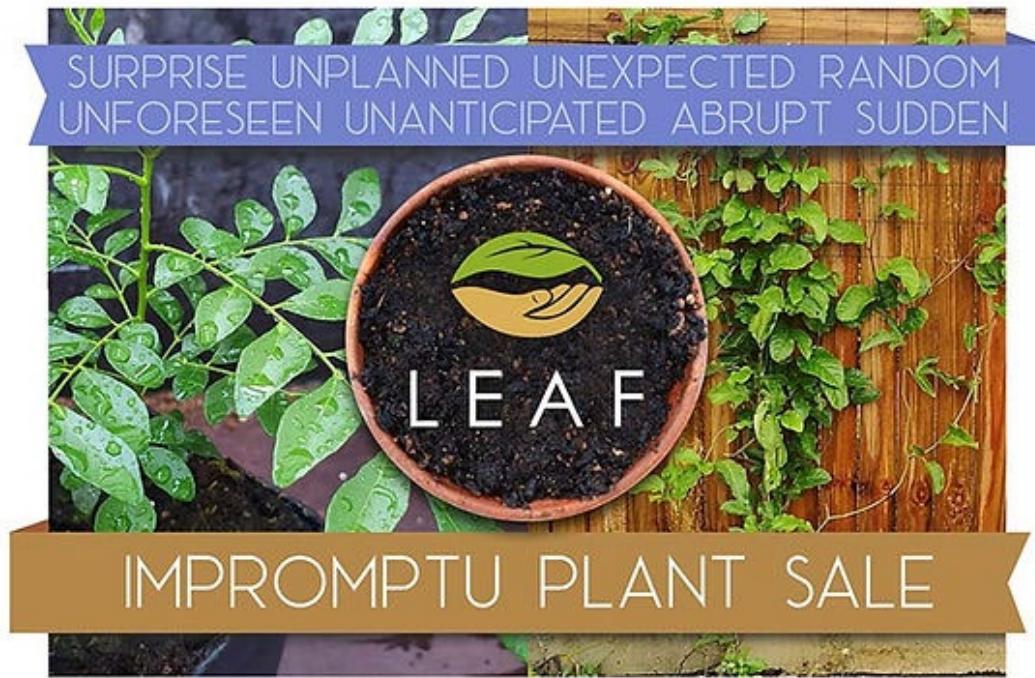
I became certified with the Xerces Society's California Bumble Bee Atlas, a community-based science project, in order to better understand where bumble bees live and how to conserve them. Catching the bumble bees was scary but exciting! We carefully caught them in our nets, enclosed them in small vials, then chilled the bees to make them calm so we could study and identify them. Afterwards, we put them in the sun to warm them up and they flew away on their own.

What excites you the most about LEAF?

Everyday that I come to the garden, I learn something new that I can share with others.

If you could have the whole world's attention, what would you say?

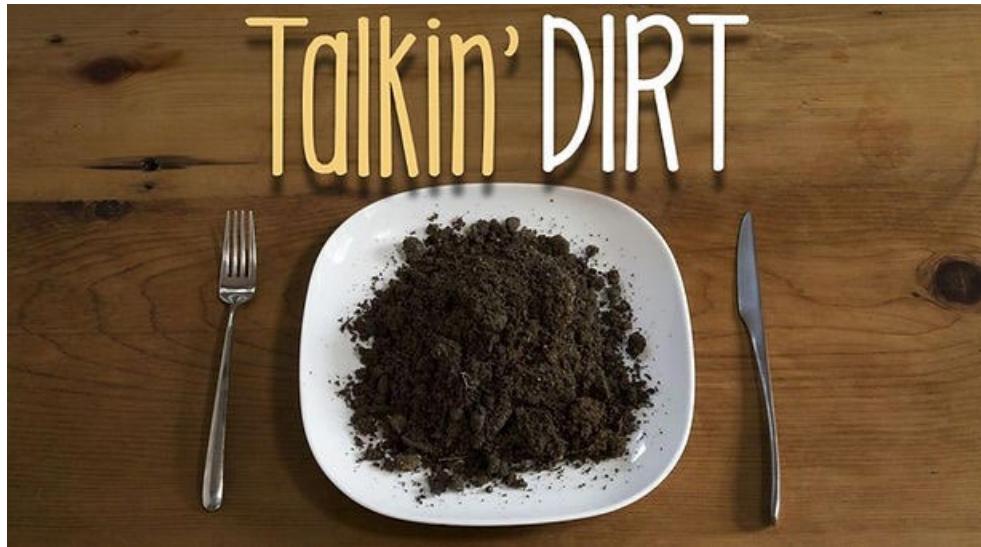
Create a life that feels good on the inside, not just one that looks good on the outside.



Just when you least expect it, LEAF has a plant sale! Once again, we have curry trees and passion fruit vines that need homes—all with reduced prices. Stock is limited, so get them quick at our [LEAF Shop.](#)

All orders can be picked up at LEAF C.R. Stone Garden behind Mission Valley Vet Clinic at 55 Mowry Ave on **Mondays and Thursdays** from 9am until 12pm.





WHOA! We, we said TALKIN' dirt, not EATING it! But hey, you never know what can happen when you get a bunch of crazy gardeners together, which is what we do on the first Wednesday of every month from 7pm to 8pm.

Join us for our online gathering of gardeners hosted by Master Gardener Volunteers, Guy and Michele, along with Rebecca from LEAF. Be warned...our discussions can get a little...dirty!

Register now at fremontleaf.org/talkindirt.



Get BUSY as a LEAF volunteer! On the 2nd Saturday of every month, you're invited to help us tackle projects that benefit from a group effort. We've got tools, but you're welcome to bring your own. To find out more info, just give us a shout at volunteer@fremontleaf.org.

If this is your first time volunteering, please complete our [Volunteer Agreement](#) form. You can email the completed form to the address above or bring it with you when you come. Here are our next three volunteer Saturdays, weather permitting.



Help local families gain access to healthy varieties of fruit by gleaning fresh fruit from the trees in your yard. Drop your fruit off at LEAF C.R. Stone Garden on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9am to 10:30am, and we'll deliver your donations to a local food bank. We are accepting fresh fruit all year long.

So far this year, you have donated 1351 lbs of fruit!!!

Stone Garden is located at 55 Mowry Ave behind the Mission Valley Veterinary Clinic. More info at fremontleaf.org/glean.



Donations

2022 YTD: 4,368 lbs.

