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LEAF

March 2020 Newsletter

Letter from the President



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Hello spring! Daffodils began blooming at the C.R. Stone Garden mid-February and as the East Bay hills have become a glorious bright green, so too has LEAF's Urban Farm. It's all hands on deck - we're racing to squelch the weeds by sheet mulching - join us if you can for one of the work parties listed under Events.

Have you voted yet in the Argus' [Best of Fremont](#) survey? You have until March 8th and, of course, I encourage you to vote for LEAF as Fremont's best nonprofit. Find box #93 for "Best Nonprofit (Local)" on page 2 of the survey and enter 'LEAF (Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont).

Here's some news to celebrate: Jeff Bezos is donating \$10 billion to address climate change. Bezos is, of course, Amazon's CEO and currently the richest person on the planet. It's encouraging that he's finally stepped up - after much activism from Amazon employees for him to do so. Last year Amazon committed to buy 100,000 electric trucks made in the USA while also revealing Amazon's substantial carbon footprint. Bezos' fund will support scientists, activists and nongovernmental organizations. Maybe LEAF can get a piece of the action for our regenerative agriculture practices, sequestering carbon...

Jeff Bezos: "Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet."

- Mia Mora

Upcoming LEAF Events

LEARN TO SEW MAKER WORKSHOP: EMBROIDERY

Saturday, March 7 // 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM // No fee

Sustainable living is a major program of the Education Team. There are 3 major areas being focused on, one of which is Stop Clothes Waste. The idea is teaching our community about sewing basics. In this workshop, we will teach basic embroidery stitching that could be used to bring new life into an old pair of jeans or shirt. Space is limited.

Fremont Centerville Library at 3801 Nicolet Avenue

SHEET MULCH WORK PARTIES

Sunday, March 8 // 9 AM - Noon

Sunday, March 21 // 9 AM - Noon

Help us build healthy soil at our new urban farm. We'll suppress weeds and build soil by covering the weeds with cardboard and mulch.

We need **BIG** pieces of cardboard. You can drop off cardboard any time - look for the "CARDBOARD" sign by the blue dumpster.

55 Mowry Ave at Mission Blvd

LEAF GARDEN SCIENCE WORKSHOP: FLOWERS AND POLLINATION

Thursday, March 12 // 3:45 - 4:45 PM // No fee

We'll talk about how flowers draw pollinating creatures to them and the different types of pollinators. Includes craft project to make a bee. All materials will be

provided. Program geared for kids.
Fremont Centerville Library at 3801 Nicolet Avenue

FREMONT BEEKEEPERS MEETING

Saturday, March 14 // 3 PM - Sunset // No fee

Meet the Fremont Beeks and discuss what you should be doing in your hives right now and for spring. Open to all.
55 Mowry Ave at Mission Blvd

BRING BEES TO YOUR GARDEN

Saturday, March 28 // 10:30 - Noon // No fee

Learn about the importance of honeybees and native bees, and about pollinator plants for your edible gardens. LEAF's beekeeper will bring an observation hive with hundreds of live honeybees. Open to all.
Fremont Main Library at 2400 Stevenson Blvd

What to do in the Garden: February



Oh where, oh where have our rain clouds gone?
Oh where, oh where can they be?
With the rains so light and the sun so bright.
Oh where, oh where can they be?

Yes, we have a problem. January and February were rainless months, so you need to prepare your garden for a dry summer NOW when the weather is cooler. Drought-proofing your garden starts by building healthy soil. Time to get out into your garden and compost and mulch, especially around your existing plants and trees.

- **Compost, Compost, Compost:** Improve soil structure by working large quantities of organic materials like compost or green manure (plant waste) into the soil. Organic material adds nutrients into the soil, increases water holding capacity (ability to physically hold water against the force of gravity) and soil porosity (air space for more oxygen to the roots and improve drainage)
- **Mulch, Mulch, Mulch:** Minimize water loss and keep soil cool by spreading 3 to 4 inches of mulch on top of your composted soil. Think of mulch like an insulating blanket. Mulch also provides next season's nutrients when it breaks down.

Garden from "beneath" the ground up.

- Stone Garden Regenerative Farming Gardener

LEAF C. R. Stone Garden



Something is always cookin' at Stone Garden. This time it's, **Guy's Raised Row**

Gardening. Recipe: fill 5 gallon buckets with good potting soil, then turn bucket upside down on well-mulched ground. Cover the entire bucket with more mulch, firmly packed. Pull out bucket leaving soil surrounded by mulch. Transplant flowers into top of soil. Cover with more mulch. Loop irrigation line around the top and, voila, you will have a beautiful flowering compost heap ready for your friendly local pollinators.

- LEAF Stone Garden, your local start-up incubator garden :)

LEAF Center



Remember that incredibly windy morning on February 9th? Garden Supervisor, Lisa Wills, was working at the garden when there was a big crash and this (mostly dead) tree at the back of the garden, in the grove, snapped off about 12' above ground. Some branches fell on the back fence and snapped another tree off. We'll be working with the city to clear the area and remove any trees threatening to fall.



Gardener of the Month - Urv Anderson planter #15

Lisa Wills, LEAF Center Garden Supervisor, reports, "This is Urv's third time getting the award. He's one of our most dedicated gardeners. Rain or shine, you can see Urv carrying his tool tote. He sometimes just circles his planter, kneels down to inspect it more closely, then says all is good. He loves just coming to check on his green babies even if nothing much is happening."

There are still planters available for rent in both half and full sizes. If interested, contact [LEAF Center Garden Supervisor](#).

Urban Farm



Mission High's Greenkeepers International club, members of Mission Rotary and Rotoractors joined forces to battle weeds on a ferociously windy day last month. Carrying large pieces of cardboard was almost comical and volunteers had to serve as human weights to hold them down until they could be covered with mulch. Despite that, they covered an impressive amount of square footage. This will suppress the weeds and add to soil fertility.

We'll be holding at least 3 more sheet mulch events until we cover the whole acre, and could really use your help! See 'Events' above and check out the Meetup listings to sign up.

Opportunities to Participate

- We need LOTS of big **cardboard** (3 x 3 ft minimum) for sheet mulching. Drop off at 55 Mowry (vet clinic) for Urban Farm - see sign by blue dumpster.
- Interested in **supervising a sheet mulch work party**? We need you!
- Recruiting for **LEAF Earth Day** on Sunday, April 28th. We need both adult and teen volunteers. Contact LEAF's [Volunteer Coordinator](#).
- Please [contact us](#) if you can help with any of the above.



Want to get involved? Become a Member of LEAF today!



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