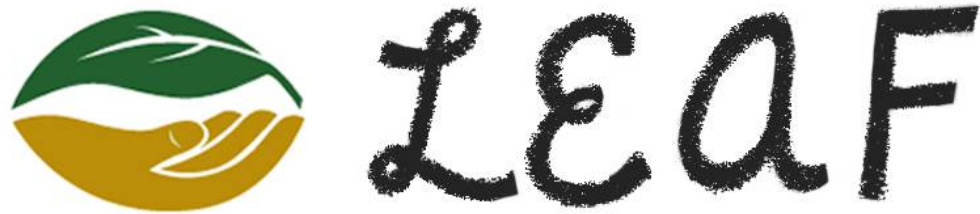


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August 2020 Newsletter

Letter from the President



Left: Mia Mora

Middle and right photo: Keith Westra

No vacation this year, but a lot has been happening at LEAF! We're taking big steps forward at both the new LEAF Center and the Urban Farm. Design work has begun on the LEAF Center's new location, along the Niles Boulevard frontage.

Meanwhile, at LEAF's Urban Farm, a HUGE pile of boxes materialized since last month's fervent plea. We asked - you provided! Many thanks to all who contributed. Work parties have resumed to continue sheet mulching - in small groups, wearing masks, with lots of social distancing. If you're interested in joining us, contact Volunteer Coordinator, [Elizabeth Gibb](#).

A big piece of news: LEAF is a contender, in partnership with Dig Deep Farms, to take over from the Perry family at Ardenwood. LEAF would manage 10 acres, with beekeeping and nursery operations, while bringing in ag research and expanding

our educational offerings. It's a stretch, but a natural next step for LEAF. Stay tuned!

Sadly, last month we lost a local environmental pioneer, Donna Olsen, of TriCity Ecology Center. You can read below about her contributions over the decades.

Be well and happy gardening,
Mia Mora

LEAF C. R. Stone Garden



We now have two food gardens at the Stone Garden location. The Stone Garden food garden has been in production for 6 years. The Bee Sanctuary, our new food garden, is only ten months old. Last September, it was an overgrown weedy field until the Stone Gardeners sheet-mulched it with cardboard and wood chips. After the winter rains, a cover crop of fava beans was sown to provide nitrogen to the soil, improve soil texture, support microbial life, and suppress weeds. In spring, summer seedlings were planted.

In April and May, the fava beans were harvested and donated to Centro Servicios (Daily Bowl) and Tri-City Volunteers (TCV) plus seed was saved for next year's crop. In June, we started harvesting summer produce and by the end of July with both food gardens in production we harvested over 2000 lbs of veggies. The Stone Gardeners were delighted to hit this milestone so early in the season.

According to an article in the [The Guardian](#) on the key statistics for coronavirus, "An average of 63% more food was being sought by food banks and pantries around the US in the wake of widespread job losses, according to Feeding America." [Daily Bowl](#) and [TCV](#) are the two food banks we donate produce to. We would appreciate your continued financial support to help them provide healthy produce to our community.

Thanks, Elaine
LEAF C.R. Stone Garden Manager

LEAF Center



Keith Westra



LEAF Center - architects for new site chosen

Our long-awaited move to a permanent site is finally moving forward. Yadav Design was hired to prepare landscape and architectural design drawings. Neelu and Raj Yadav, landscape architect and architect respectively, will present their design for community input later this year. The new site, along the Niles frontage, will include restrooms, an outdoor kitchen and open-air pavilion. Move-in is anticipated late 2021.



Gardener of the Month: Aarti Patil - planter #7

Lisa Wills reports that LEAF's community garden has always been a place of added solace for Aarti. She's a yoga instructor and embodies activities that bring joy. Recently due to the pandemic, her husband Manesh has taken a newfound interest in the garden and likes them to come every evening together as a couple. It's a beautiful thing to see.

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



Girl Scouts project for LEAF Center

Four Scouts from Troop 31381 repurposed wood pallets provided by Lisa Wills and her husband, Brian, to make two colorful potting tables. The girls learned woodworking skills. Thank you girl scouts!

LEAF News



Grant awarded for new fence

The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment awarded \$3,000 to help pay for the new slatted cyclone fence installed at LEAF's Urban Farm and C.R. Stone Garden. A sturdy fence was needed to deter intruders. It was completed by DRYCO in March, with a final payment due in October. This is the fourth grant the Rose Foundation, located in Oakland, has awarded to us. LEAF thanks you for your support!



LEAF welcomes new staff

Bhupendra Patel, LEAF's tax preparer, has joined LEAF as our new accountant. We're lucky to get someone with so much expertise - his last position was as controller. His accounting skills are much needed!



LEAF & Ardenwood Farm

As you may have heard, the Perry's are retiring and East Bay Regional Park (EBRP) is looking for someone to take over farming the 100+ acres. LEAF, in partnership with Dig Deep Farms, submitted a proposal. EBRP will announce the new lessor for the farm mid-September.



LEAF mentioned in Edible East Bay article

Edible East Bay's summer issue includes an [article](#) about what community gardens are doing during this anything-but-normal summer. Although the magazine focuses on the northern reaches of the East Bay, the editor was kind enough to remember LEAF and include us in this feature.

Donna Olsen tribute

Fremont's environmental community

mourns the passing of an early leader in the movement, Donna Olsen. In 1971 she led a group of women to found the TriCity Ecology Center and published their newsletter until very recently. Donna and other TCEC board members have been supportive of LEAF since our early days. She will be missed. [Read more in our blog post.](#)



What to do in the Garden: August



Time to check the leaves of your veggie plants, especially your chard, beet leaves, cucumbers and gourds. Do you have blotches or tunnels underneath the surface of your leaves? If so, you most likely have leaf miners.

Leaf miner are the larvae of the leaf miner flies. The adult female fly pierce the leaf and lay eggs under the surface. The larvae hatch and feed on the tissue between the layers of the leaf. If there are lots of larvae their tunnels may join and leave large blotches. Sometimes you can see the larvae in the tunnels.

The larvae leaf damage, though unsightly, has little effect on the plant growth nor does it kill the plant. Leaf miners feed on a large variety of plants. Keeping growing areas free of weeds is helpful because weeds can be a reservoir for leaf miner populations. If the infestation is heavy on a particular leaf or set of leaves, remove them.

Leaf miners have many natural predators to control their populations. Using pesticides will not only kill the leaf miner but also their natural predators so it's better to not use pesticides.

~ LEAF Nursery Manager

Contact us

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