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# LEAF

## September 2020 Newsletter

### Letter from the President



2019 visit to Big Basin State Park vs. 8.21.20 Big Basin HDQRS leveled

My mind can't quite wrap around the environmental toll this summer's historic fires are causing. I don't remember fire seasons like this and now they're becoming annual events. Even Fremont was threatened this year. Catastrophic weather isn't isolated to California either. Last week I heard a new term: "derecho" - one leveled crops (and everything else in its path) in the Midwest. We've got to get back to the Paris Climate Accords....

In Fremont, we can still find comfort in our lush edible gardens - nature close to home. As crops are obliterated across the country by rare weather occurrences, food security becomes personal.

School (virtual for the foreseeable future) is beginning; the pandemic is far from

under control. My heart goes out to families trying to social distance in shelters, not knowing how their kids will get an education.

Thankfully, there's plenty of positive news here at LEAF. Our Education Team is hard at work creating virtual content. Stay posted. This month you'll meet LEAF's new marketing manager, Eddie, and the team who will be designing a master plan for LEAF's Urban Farm.

Community is more important than ever in times like these, when the outside world seems to get crazier by the day. Reach out - call the relatives and friends you seldom see. Take some tomatoes to the new neighbors down the street. You'll feel better for it.

Be safe,  
Mia Mora

## LEAF C. R. Stone Garden



Joyce propagating winter seedlings in the Stone Garden Lath House.

Stone Gardeners decided to have a winter food garden for the first time ever to provide fresh veggies for the food banks from winter to early spring. The Propagation Team has already started sowing winter veggie seeds such as



brassicas (cabbage, kale, broccoli, cauliflower, etc.), root veggies (carrots, beets, radishes, turnips, etc.), greens and onions. We also plan to sell winter seedlings to the public towards the end of September. We will announce the sale date in our LEAF [Blog](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

~ Elaine, LEAF Nursery Manager

## LEAF Center



### **Gardener of the Month: Ed Roberts - planter #27**

Garden Supervisor Lisa Wills reports that Ed makes an effort to come to the garden on a regular basis even during these challenging times. He says it's his sanctuary and visits early morning or early evening to avoid the peak heat of the day.

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



### Urban Farm Master Plan

Aja Mathews and Nir Berezovsky have been retained by LEAF to design a site Master Plan and irrigation plan for the farm. Aja (pronounced 'Asia'), works at The Watershed Nursery in Point Richmond, overseeing a four-person team propagating and growing native California plants. Aja is a landscape designer with farming experience. She grew up in Palo Alto and recently graduated with a masters degree in Ecological Design from the Conway School in Massachusetts.

Nir is a farmer at Urban Adamah, a community farm and retreat center located in an industrial area in Berkeley. The farm, like LEAF's Stone Garden, uses regenerative practices to grow food for donation. Nir holds a degree in Environmental Resources Engineering and graduated from the CASFS program (Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems) at U.C. Santa Cruz. Now married, Aja and Nir have also served as Food Security Volunteers in Nepal with the Peace Corps, helping farmers build agricultural capacity.

## LEAF News

### LEAF welcomes new staff

Eddie Turner is LEAF's new part-time Marketing Manager. His





broad career encompasses website design, graphic design, brand identity and strategic writing. Plus he's a published author! He'll be helping LEAF with virtual fundraising, membership, and planter rental campaigns while building LEAF's visibility, mostly through digital media - very appropriate for these times of SIP and since he resides in Ooltewah, TN, near Chattanooga!

## What to do in the Garden: August



Sky high sunflowers in the LEAF Bee Sanctuary

Stone Gardeners interplanted sunflowers and many other pollinator friendly plants in both our food gardens to attract bees, butterflies and beneficial insects. Many of the flowers are now past their peak. The question is, what to do with those dead flower heads and stems? The answer is, cut them down and pile them in your garden as a winter retreat for all those beneficial insects like ladybugs. Beneficial insects use the vegetation to overwinter or to lay their eggs. Their eggs will hatch next spring and control the aphids, mites, thrips and other pests that appear in your garden.

~ Elaine, LEAF Stone Garden Manager

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