



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



a word from elaine

Our Beekeeping Course held in July was a success, so we decided to offer a Honey Harvesting Class on Sunday, August 29th. Participants will each process the honey from a honeycomb by themselves and take home one jar of the honey they processed. Please see details below in the Learning with LEAF Section.

This past year we received many requests from students to sponsor a project with them. We had many limitations and obstacles due to COVID-19; however, after brainstorming with the students, we came up with some awesome activities and projects highlighting their drive, skills and talents. Also, I'm happy to announce that this newsletter will highlight the **2021 Students for LEAF** volunteer activities, completed projects and

projects slated for completion this year. Be sure to read the entire newsletter! You won't want to miss all the great things our young people are doing at LEAF.

Special thanks to **TCEC** (Tri-City Ecology Center) for providing Eco-Grants to many of the Scouts for their Eagle Scout and Gold Award projects.



Sunday, August 29th

Apiary at LEAF C.R. Stone Garden, Fremont

(Tentatively scheduled for 10 am to 1 pm)



LEAF

Honey Harvesting Class

Syndee, our LEAF Beekeeper will give a short demonstration about honey harvesting. Each participant will process honey from a honeycomb by themselves and even take home one jar of the honey they processed.

\$75 per person (limit 8 people per class)

All tools and equipment are provided.

All participants must be vaccinated to participate.

For more information, contact us at info@fremontleaf.org.

To register/pay for the class, please visit our **LEAF Shop**.



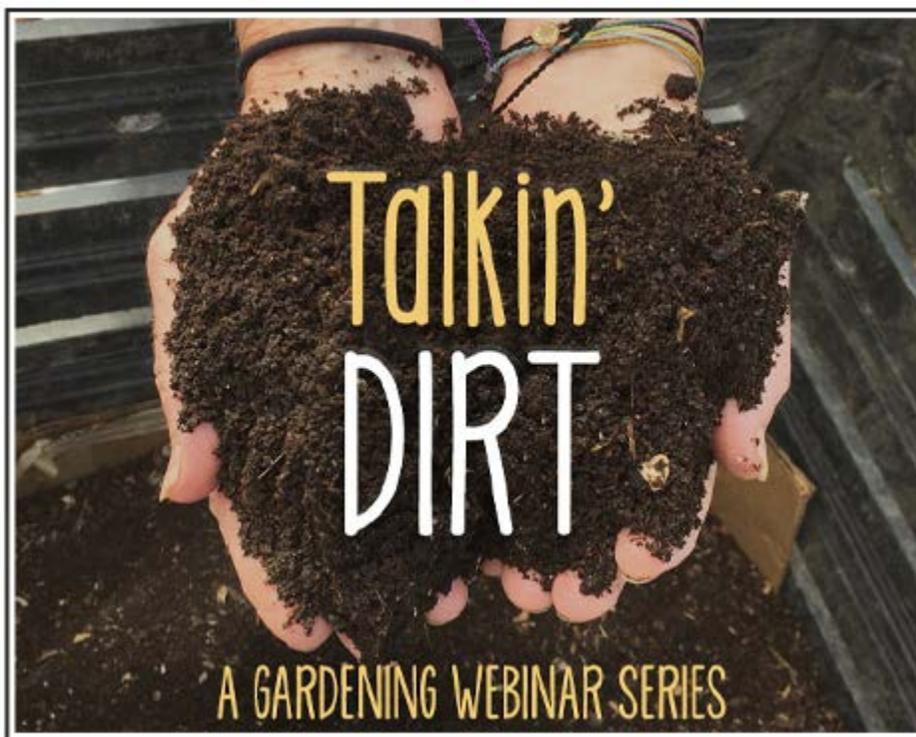
Tips for Your Garden



- **Continue** to water consistently, harvest often and deadhead flowers to keep them blooming.
- **Water the roots, not the leaves.** Water is taken up by the plant from the roots, not the leaves. Water on the leaves is lost by evaporation and can encourage fungal pathogens if the leaves are wet overnight.
- **Summer squash** should be harvested continuously to promote production. Fruits are ready to be harvested when they are small but the size will depend on the variety being grown. For example, zucchini should be harvested when 5" to 8" long and less than 2" in diameter. There is less damage to the plant if the fruit is cut off with scissors or pruning shears about 1/2" from the stem rather than being torn off. BTW, if squash starts to wither after growing a couple of inches, it is probably not pollinated.
- **Perennial weeds** are a nuisance right now, especially bindweed. The key to managing bindweed is to dig out the roots, then sheet mulch if possible. Keep the soil completely dry to dehydrate stems, rhizomes and tubers.



GROWING TOGETHER



**Join our next Talkin' Dirt webinar!
August 14th, 9am to 10 am**

Master Gardener Volunteers, Guy and Michele will be presenting along with LEAF's own Joyce Qiao.



LEAF empowers our community's young people with opportunities to explore their interests in environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, and earth sciences. And we're proud to share with you some of their many projects and achievements.



Avani Pammidimukkala, Girl Scout Gold Award Project
LEAF Stone Garden Container Mural on LEAF Food Gardens
LEAF Project Advisor, Mural Designer and Artist, Sejal Choksi



Avani Pammidimukkala, Girl Scout Gold Award Project LEAF Stone Garden Fence Mural on Environmental Degradation and Climate Change

LEAF Project Advisor, Mural Designer and Artist, Sejal Choksi

Avani Pammidimukkala is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award focused on the

food gardens and a fence mural about environmental degradation and climate change. She is creating educational flyers for three age groups and a short video about Fremont LEAF's regenerative agricultural practices. She will be holding several workshops in Bay Area libraries to teach kids about environmental degradation, climate change and sustainability.



Rithwik Narendra, Eagle Scout Project Building a Hugelkultur Mound at LEAF Stone Garden

LEAF Advisor, Alan Berling

Rithwik Narendra's completed Eagle Scout Project consists of three deliverables: building a hugelkultur mound, creating and building instructional signs and shooting a video to educate the public about the importance of regenerative agriculture practices such as hugelkultur mounds.

Hugelkultur mounds are compost heaps that extend both below and above the ground. The mound is used to grow plants while building healthy soil, conserving water and sequestering carbon.



Raj Patel, Eagle Scout Project
Solar Wax Melters for LEAF Stone Garden Apiary

LEAF Project Advisor, Elaine

Raj Patel built two solar wax melters for our LEAF Beekeeper. A solar wax melter is basically a solar oven consisting of an outer box, inner heat chamber, wax screen and wax container with a clear sealed top. The honeycomb frame is placed in the aluminum-lined heat chamber. As the sun heats the wax in the honeycomb, it slowly drips through the wax screen into the container below, providing a screened chunk of wax. The beeswax can be used to make various products such as candles and lip balm.





Girl Scout Troop 31602, Silver Award Project Once Upon a Trash Workshops

LEAF Project Advisor and Presenter, Susan Schynert

Girl Scouts Habiba B., Madeline K., Zoey R., and Maathini V. from Troop 31602, with guidance from their troop leader Jennifer Roper, completed their Silver Award by presenting Once Upon A Trash Workshops. They held two Zoom workshops, one for the public and one for other Girl Scouts. Their presentation covered how pollution is destroying the Earth, how to empower kids to help the environment and how to turn trash into treasure. They created games, two movies, a song, a slide show and a repurposed art project to share their message.





Girl Scout Troop 31033, Take Action Recycling Project LEAF Earth Day Recycling Event

LEAF Project Advisor, Elaine

Twelve Girl Scouts from Troop 31033 along with their troop leader, Thess Einhaus, took on the challenge of collecting recyclables as part of our LEAF Earth Day Recycling Event. They collected paper bags, socks, bras, CDs/DVDs, writing utensils, sports medals and Brita filters from their friends, family and neighbors. They collected so many recyclables, including a humongous box of crayons that was taken to the Crayon Initiative in Danville, which recycles used crayons and distributes them to kids in hospitals.





Students for LEAF Volunteers Learning LEAF Regenerative Agricultural Practices

LEAF Student Volunteer Educator, Joyce Qiao

Many times the best way to learn a task is by physically doing it, and that is how our group of student volunteers are learning about LEAF regenerative agriculture practices. The student volunteers Sofiya, Aliya, Ethan, Pranali and Sydney work alongside our regular LEAF Stone Garden volunteers on Mondays and Thursdays. Joyce teaches them all about the importance of the gardening practices and techniques they are doing.





Alex Crocker, Eagle Scout Project
LEAF Bulletin Board at LEAF Stone Garden

LEAF Project Advisor, Jerry Kuhlmann

After researching bulletin boards online and in local parks, Alex Crocker designed a bulletin board with specific construction criteria that took project cost constraints into account. The bulletin board will feature a waterproof locked cabinet to showcase a landscape architectural drawing on one side and pertinent garden information on the other side. The bulletin board is in construction and targeted to be completed this summer.





**Atif Ahmad, Eagle Scout Project
Pergola for the Picnic Table at LEAF Stone Garden**

LEAF Project Advisor, Jerry Kuhlmann

Atif Ahmad will be designing and constructing an 8ft x 8ft x 8ft standalone pergola with a lattice roof to cover the picnic table and bench. LEAF Volunteers currently do not use the table or bench very often because they are in the sun. This would change when the completed pergola provides much-needed shade. Atif will also create a video on how to build a pergola as a guide for others who want to build one.

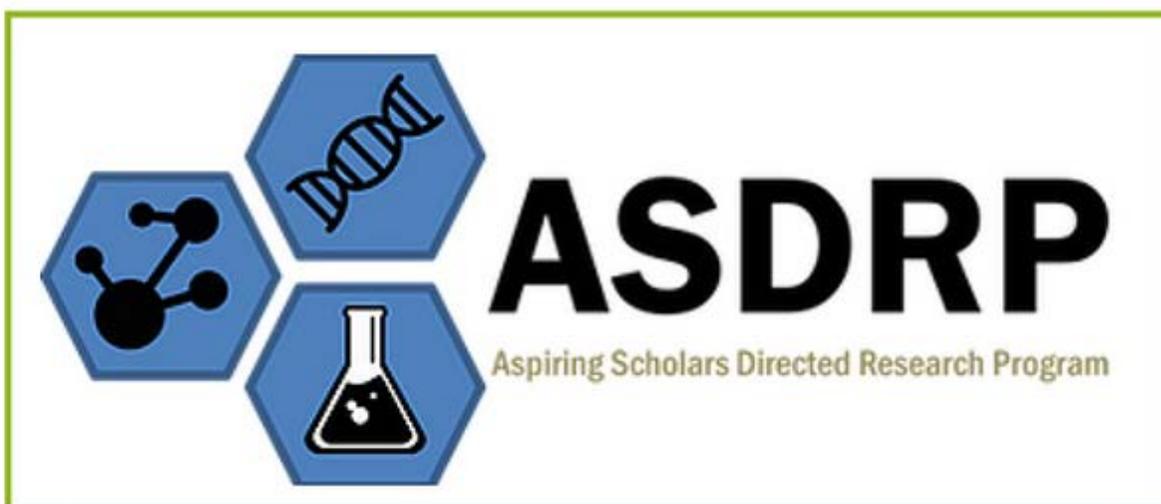




**Vignesh Manikandan, Eagle Scout Project
Documentary on the Importance of Sustainability**

LEAF Project Advisors, Mayank Malik and Joyce Qiao

Vignesh Maniikandan will be creating a documentary discussing the importance of sustainability locally and on a wider scale in the world. He will be discussing the methods and implementation strategies of sustainability, as well as how it affects our lives and gardening. The video will include LEAF sites, as well as other locations around the community. His goal is to get communities interested in embracing regenerative agriculture and gardening to create a more sustainable future.



Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program

Robert Downing, Chair, Dept of CS & Engineering at ASDRP and Research Advisor

Prabhjeet Kaur, Research Investigator in Genetics and Microbiology at ASDRP

Fremont LEAF STEM Soil Analysis Project

LEAF Project Advisor: Elaine

ASDRP is conducting soil studies at the LEAF Food Garden on heavy metals. Students from ASDRP took the first set of samples in January and May to establish a baseline set of measurements for the plots under analysis. The samples were analyzed for the presence of heavy metals. A second set of samples taken in May and June were to identify the presence of rhizobium strains and to investigate symbiotic relationships of the bacteria with the flora and foliage in the garden. ASDRP is a nonprofit research & development (R&D) institution that provides opportunities for high school students throughout the Bay Area, especially those who are underrepresented in STEM or who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, to conduct high-level novel scientific research.





**PRODUCE DONATIONS AS OF
July 30, 2021**

2,353LBS



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