

[View this email in your browser](#)



# LEAF

## April 2020 Newsletter

### Letter from the President



To all the LEAF community - be well and know that there's much planning behind the scenes to help keep us connected and moving with positivity through these times of crisis.

LEAF Earth Day Celebration along with all the workshops and classes in April and May have been cancelled. We will resume planning our educational events as soon as the Shelter-in-Place order has been rescinded.

While many of us have been limited to working from home, putting Zoom to use, I'm trying to make the most of it. I finally set up access to Alameda County's e-books and started taking long walks at Coyote Hills - and found surprisingly few people but more wildlife than usual. I dug out my packets of seeds to sow and will take up

my neighbor's offer of tomato seedlings. It's all about connecting and finding work-arounds.

Be well,

Mia Mora

## Upcoming LEAF Events

**Plant Sale:** The kick off to our Plant Sale was cancelled along with LEAF Earth Day Celebration on April 26. We started 5000 seedlings and they are growing well. The plants should be ready to sell by mid- to late April. However, we need to work through the logistical aspects to sell them safely. We will send out an update as soon as we know more.

**Educational Events:** We had so many fun, interesting and educational events lined up in April and May that had to be cancelled. We are hopeful that we will be able to reschedule them to later this year. Looking forward to seeing you then.

## LEAF News *2019 Annual Report*



**Thanks for making 2019 the best year ever!**

LEAF's Board is pleased to share its second [Annual Report](#). It's packed with photos and graphics to tell our stories and to make the finances easier to understand at a glance. Check it out! We can look back on the many accomplishments of last year wistfully, knowing that this year, coping with a pandemic, will be so different.

See this and other blogs on [LEAF's website](#).

## What to do in the Garden: April

We got our winter rains last month and weeds are popping up all over again. Honey bees are busy foraging and swarming, so hand pull weeds or use bee-friendly herbicides to remove them. Please refrain from using the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup) or the fungicide chlorothalonil: Not only are they toxic to bees, but a study showed that "bees preferred sugar syrup laced with glyphosate...as well as sugar syrup laced with the fungicide chlorothalonil..." ([Source: Science Connected Magazine](#))

Speaking of bees, it's swarming season - the time of



the year when the hive decides to find a new home. Thousands of bees shoot out of the hive, buzz around, and find a temporary spot. Typically they choose a tree or bush close to their hive because, even though the queen has been on a diet, she is still a bit too plump to fly very far. It's an amazing phenomenon to see and hear. Lucky for us, a swarm happened recently at Stone Garden, and the swarm landed on a fruit tree within the garden. Our beekeepers removed the swarm from the branch and brought them safely back to the apiary.

If you ever see a swarm, enjoy the moment. Do not be alarmed, the bees are focused on being with their colony and not you. Please do NOT kill the bees with pesticides. Please contact the ACBA swarmline 510-898-6696 (Alameda County Beekeepers Association.)

## LEAF C. R. Stone Garden



Last November we said goodbye to our black acacia tree. This shade tree welcomed everyone to Stone Garden. It lost one of its main branches in a windstorm so it needed to be removed. The acacia was our giving tree and its spirit remains with us today; its nutrients are rebuilding the soil, its roots are nurturing the avocado tree in its place, and now its wood is providing us a place to sit and rest. One of the slabs from the tree has been fashioned half round bench with a natural edge, so once again the acacia is at the entrance of Stone Garden welcoming everyone in. It continues to be our giving tree.

- The Stone Garden Tree Huggers

## LEAF Center

Planter renters at the LEAF Center can continue to tend their planters. Please remember to maintain a 6' distance. Use hand sanitizer before and after you open the lock, then wear gloves at all times while working at LEAF Center.

Being outdoors is healthy - gets the blood and endorphins flowing! And what can be more healthy than growing your own food?

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

## Urban Farm



Both the Urban Farm and C.R. Stone Garden will be enclosed by a 6' cyclone fence with slats, designed to deter vandalism in the most economical way possible. Since the gardens are adjacent, sharing a property line, it was necessary to fence in both sites.

Since no capital improvements could be made at the Urban Farm until the site was secured, fencing was essential to proceeding. Once the virus mandates are lifted, sheet mulch work parties can resume and existing grant funding can be spent on installing irrigation and such to build the farm and start operations.

Scheduling the fencing installation was on, then off, then on again. But after it was determined that COVID-19 mandates could be met on this project, DRYCO began work. Thanks, DRYCO!

## Volunteering during a Pandemic

LOTS of big **cardboard** (3'x3' min) needed for sheet mulching. We've got an acre to cover, so stockpiling over these upcoming weeks is a good thing.

Drop off at 55 Mowry (vet clinic) for Urban Farm. Toss over the new fence, by the blue dumpster.

TCV Food Bank needs **paper bags** for their new pandemic work-around: food grab bags. If you have a stash of grocery bags, please drop them off at either:

- Niles Discovery Church, Niles Blvd at Nursery Ave (cardboard box near entry)
- TCV Food Bank, 37350 Joseph Street

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



Copyright © 2020 LEAF, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

