

PLEASANT HILL INSTRUCTIONAL GARDEN



Winter 2016 Issue 1

Welcome to the Garden!

Welcome to the first issue of the Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden (PHIG) Quarterly Newsletter. Thanks for being a friend of the garden, a volunteer, or a supporter of our community!

We have accomplished together so much good work, in such a short time, that we want to get the word out to more of the community. With this informational letter we plan to inform you of the garden's accomplishments, volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, special occasions, and much more!

Earth Day Celebration 2016

Join us in the garden on April 17, 2016 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm for Earth Day activities and celebrations! Register for the garden tour with Monika Olsen at phigarden@gmail.com or by calling (925) 482-6670.

Earth Day Celebration

What: Free Garden Tour, Exhibit, Talks, Fun for Everyone!
When: Sunday, April 17th, 2016
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Where: Pleasant Hill, off of Oak Grove Rd.; next to Pleasant Oaks Park and Pleasant Hill Middle School
Cost: Free!

Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden
Living Landscape: A California Habitats Garden
Register for Garden Tour At: <http://phig.webs.com> - email: phigarden@gmail.com

2015: A Year of PHIG Accomplishments

We had a busy year in the garden and with the help of great funders, we saw a lot of progress.

Plant Tag Replacement Project

Forty heavy duty plant tags were securely placed in the ground last fall by Chevron, DVC Enactus, and other volunteers during Pleasant Hill Community Service Day, Corporate Caring Week, and garden work parties, with thanks to the Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club for funding this project. The stronger system, designed by Don Ellison, will allow visitors and classes to identify more appropriate plants for their own gardens.

Composting System

PHIG's beautiful 4-bin composting system is producing rich, organic fertilizer from food scraps and garden trimmings, with thanks to the Pleasant Hill Middle School and the Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club for their help funding this project over the last couple of years. In collaboration with students and teachers from Pleasant Hill Middle School, PHIG has diverted over 300 pounds of cafeteria food waste from landfills in the last 6 months!

Composting System Stats

- Best Month: January 2016—76 pounds
- Total collected since October 2015: 321 pounds diverted from landfills
- Sending food scraps to landfills produces methane that leads to global warming
- Compost is used as a nutrient-rich and organic fertilizer in the garden!

New Kiosk Panels

Thanks to Central Contra Costa Sanitary District for beautifully designed and printed new panels in the informational kiosk in time for PHIG's Open House Celebration October 11, 2015.

Volunteers of the Year

PHIG would like to extend a special thank you to the PHIG Volunteers of the Year—David Acevedo and Laurie Grant. PHIG recognized David for his long-time support of the garden since 2007 with various projects and especially for building the composting storage shed last year and for ongoing pruning of the large mulberry trees. PHIG recognized Laurie for her service helping in many ways at the garden since 2014 and especially for initiating the composting education project with Pleasant Hill Middle School students twice weekly last year. PHIG also recognized Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club and Central Contra Costa Sanitary District for their ongoing support of PHIG with several projects.

PHG Open House

On October 11, 2015 PHIG invited the community to explore the garden. Visitors learned about native plants, native bees, composting, using recycled water, the weather station, and how to provide a more sustainable environment by knowledgeable exhibitors including Wild Birds Unlimited, California Native Plant Society, UC Berkeley Urban Bee Lab, Lilli Rehmer, Sustainable Contra Costa, Eco Studio, Bluebird Recovery Program, Contra Costa Master Gardeners, and Central Contra Costa Sanitary District.



Volunteer Opportunities in the Garden

Interested in giving back to the community, expanding your gardening knowledge, and getting some exercise?

Join us in the garden usually on Sundays from 10 am -12:30 pm for a Garden Work Party!

Email phigarden@gmail.com to confirm your reservation:
Upcoming dates:
4/3, 4/15 and 4/29



Work Party Volunteers!

Meet the PHIG Board



Board members from left to right: Laurie Grant, Monika Olsen (Board Chair), John Maloney (Board Treasurer), and Nikki Gilman (Board Secretary).

Donate to PHIG!

Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are greatly appreciated. The Garden is always in need of tools as well as volunteers interested in helping with building projects.

Tools Needed:

- Shovels
- Pruning shears
- Pruning saw + blade, Pruning loppers
- Garden Trowels, with metal blade
- Screwdriver
- Tool sharpener
- Paintbrushes (1", 2")
- Garden Gloves

If you're interested in donating time or materials, email Monika Olsen at phigarden@gmail.com.

Materials for Upcoming Projects:

- Redwood lumber (1x12, 2x12, 4x12 or similar sizes, used OK - we recycle redwood)
- 4x4x12 treated lumber - posts
- 2x4x12 treated lumber - top rails
- Carriage bolts (6", 8")
- Nails, different sizes needed
- Wood screws, different sizes needed
- Steel rebar
- Concrete mix

Do you shop on Amazon? Go to smile.amazon.com and search for Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden. A portion of your eligible purchases will then be donated to the Garden!



Living Landscapes:
A Wildlife Habitats Garden



Located next to Pleasant Oaks Park and Pleasant Hill Middle School
P.O. Box 23454, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
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Email: phigarden@gmail.com
Voicemail: (925) 482-6670