

August, 2009 Newsletter

How does your garden grow? In my area, the rains are back to going around, the nights are too cool for the veggies, and we've only had a couple of days of really good growing heat. How the Russian thistle does love this weather! If you need some, I have plenty to share. But, do let me know before Dan does his ritual "Death Dance" with the pump sprayer.

Are you ready for a picnic? We've reserved the North Pavilion (north of the pool) at Lion's Park for Wednesday, August 19 from 5 to 8. The board will provide the charcoal, eating utensils, plates and drinks. You're asked to bring whatever you'd like to cook and a dish to share. **Your families are welcome to come.** (If you bring your recipe, I'll put all of them together and send them out.) This will be our last meeting until graduation.

Since this is the time of year to think about dividing and seed saving, let's make the picnic more fun by having a plant exchange! Bring anything you have time to pot that you'd ordinarily be thinning or if you have something unusual to share, bring that too. There may be some new gardeners in the group that would be happy for anything you'd like to bring.

We do have just a little business to discuss. The nominating committee will give us a report on how their search for a new president and secretary is going. We'll need to discuss and vote on four landscaping projects we've been asked to help with. (Is that another committee I see forming on the horizon?) The Animal Shelter has asked us to help design a more welcoming garden by their front door (sustainable and xeric). Stride is making good use of their earth boxes and would like our input on landscaping by their front door (think texture and edible). We've also been asked to help with the landscaping for the new South High School *and* Habitat for Humanity wants us to donate expertise, time and money for their four new homes. Are we up for all this? It would be wonderful exposure within the community, but if we are going to do these projects, we need to commit to do them well.

The last I heard, the Children's Garden is making good progress. I'd like to add my thanks to Sue's to all of you who have donated your time on this project. It will be a wonder addition to our community when it is completed.

The conference committee is continuing to work. All the speakers have been booked, including Roger Swain of PBS's Victory Garden and former science editor of *Horticulture Magazine*. We have some really interesting speakers from UW, CSU, and the surrounding area. We're also planning a tea at the Botanic Garden and a garden hat contest. Your help will be needed as we're anticipating attendance of around 200 people. By having the conference at LCCC we'll be able to keep the registration fees very reasonable. If you'd like to get involved early, please let Catherine, Terry Foley, Susie Heller, Sandy Dennis, Linda Barker or me know. We'll put you to work!

See you at the picnic!