

So far this month, the garden has produced 329 lbs of assorted vegetables with 92 lbs in just the past week. Much of the veggies are going to our canning project, which is in full swing these days. A special thank you to Leslye for offering her kitchen last week and also to our canning volunteers, Phyllis, Sydney, Jo, Gudrun, and Lisa for helping to make the canning of grape jelly a huge success. Judy and Dianne will continue to finish canning grape jelly this week. Gudrun reports that she already has in excess of 200 jars of preserves on hand. We are ¼ of the way to besting last year's efforts.

This year's figs and grapes are about to be ripe enough to start harvesting. We can expect to start picking within the next two weeks. Figs are a sticky proposition when picking. First the fruit itself is sticky so the use of gloves are advised. Also long sleeve blouses or shirts will help as working among the leaves can cause itching etc.

Our garden participation has been outstanding this year, we are getting so much done. We are keeping up with the fertilization of the gardens, thank you Eric. We finished with the shade area next to the red shed and the Swift sign outside the back orchard gate was refaced and replaced. Even though it rained early Saturday morning we still harvested cucumber, squash, tomatoes, and beans and that was before I got there at 9AM. We were able to weed the sweet potato beds, Annex and Orchard, and watered where necessary.

This week, we will continue to work on the butterfly beds and the front areas along with the harvesting and watering of the gardens where it is called for. With these hot days, we need to continue to deep water the cucumbers, tomatoes, okra, and beans which need a continuous supply of water in order to produce, with the watering comes weeds which is no ones' favorite job but please pull them when you see them! We intend to paint the bare wood that have been added to support the new shade area this coming week, weather permitting. And to work on the shed door area, which also needs repair and painting. This week the following volunteers will be helping in the gardens per our schedule: Tues 6/23 & Thurs 6/25 (Denton, Phyllis, Annette, and Sydney) and Sat 6/27 (Hal and Denton). As usual if you can't make it for some reason please let either Hal or Denton know and thank you all for your help and enthusiasm!

Week days we meet at the gardens or gate by 8AM and 9AM on Saturdays. The reason I mention this is that there are only a few keys to the front gate, Eric (who often comes early and has a key) won't be with us next week so if you don't have a gate key you will need to go around to the school parking lot and push past the school yard gate or wait for someone to come that has a gate key.

One last point, the OFE volunteer party is at home of Phyllis and Steve Bost, at 5106 Mulberry Grove Dr., Kingwood 77345 ( at 5:30 pm), if you have a folding chair please consider bringing it as Phyllis may not have enough for everyone.

Thanks and please stay safe!