

This past week was filled with concern that a strong blow from Laura would level our okra and possibly flood the orchard. We worked hard on Tuesday to make sure everything that could be battened down was and that potential flying items were put away to minimize any destruction. We also worked to repair bed M11 & 12 in the main garden by replacing the treated lumber of the bed to minimize erosion due to storm rains. Laura was certainly a motivator! Thankfully for us Laura headed north leaving the Kingwood area untouched so all our hard work was rewarded as cleanup and maintenance. The concern for the storm resulted in cancellation of the Thursday garden day and the volunteer orientation meeting. Instead volunteer orientation will be held this Tuesday September 1st at 9AM in the Jo and Ken Sanders outdoor classroom just inside the Annex.

Our summer garden continues to reward us with produce such as okra, peppers, and eggplant. Our canning elves continue to resupply the canned goods larder, so there are still many good canned items to choose from. Please visit the website to see what's available at <http://www.ofegrowers.org/inventory--order-form.html>.

This week we will begin working with the students. The first lessons will be about the gardens and garden-tool safety. We will visit with the entire OFE 5th grade throughout the day to introduce them to the gardens and the fun awaiting them this year. It will be a long-ish day as the 5th graders will visit the gardens as classrooms for the purposes of not too many students meeting in one place at one time. Face masks will be required and the students will be divided into teams to help maintain good physical distancing during the garden and safety discussions and tours. In the weeks thereafter we will start meeting in smaller groups of 5th graders to work in the gardens in a number of capacities, composting, bed preparation, planting, weeding, and harvesting. Please remember that each student needs to have his/her gloves, a face mask, and the proper foot wear – no opened toe shoes. Volunteers will meet at the gardens this thursday (9/3) at 9AM.

We are looking forward to a year of fun gardening and getting to know one another.