

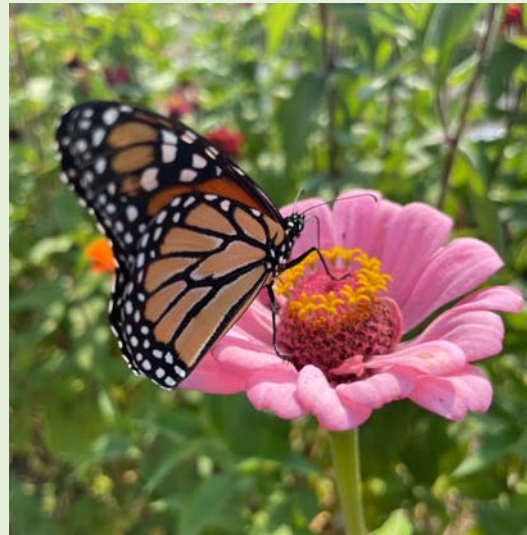


March 2022

News From the Garden

In this issue:

- Returning Gardener Application Information
- The Essentials of Volunteering
- Spring Plant Drive
- Spring Fling & Tomato Monster Sale Information
- Link to 2022 BFCG Calendar
- Monthly Garden Committee Meeting Information



Email/online applications went out to returning gardeners in good-standing on Friday, March 4th. If you have not received your application, email us at communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org. If you requested a paper application, it will be arriving in the mail soon.

The Essentials of Volunteering

Greetings to all gardeners, as we anticipate another growing season at Ben Franklin Garden! As many of you know, we are the largest community garden in Cuyahoga County with over 3 acres of tillable land. Each year a great deal of preparation and maintenance is required to sustain and improve the soil and the surrounding grounds. Unlike many gardens, we provide the tools, water, compost, seeds and many plants.

Volunteering is an essential part of maintaining and improving the garden. It is also an essential element to advertise when applying for grants. While the cost of materials and maintenance has increased significantly over the years, the rate attached to volunteer hours at the garden has not. This year we will be increasing the cost of purchasing your volunteer hours from \$10 to \$25 per required hour. This is in line with the current national value rate of \$28.54.

Volunteer opportunities will be offered throughout the year. Some will be offered before the official opening of the garden, including supporting the Spring Fling and preparation for the garden's opening in mid-May. A major method we will be using this year to post volunteer opportunities will be through the Remind and SignUp apps. Through SignUp, you will be able track your hours. The garden is also open to creative ways to earn your hours such as hosting a fundraiser at your place of work, assisting on of the garden Sub Committees or other creative ways.

The completion of your 5 volunteer hours is mandatory, along with keeping track of them and signing out at year's end. Failure to do so could lead to dismissal from the garden for the following year. If you have unique circumstances that would inhibit you from completing these hours you will need to discuss this with a Garden Committee Member.

We look forward to seeing you this year and appreciate what you can contribute to make the garden the unique and wonderful place that it is.

Pictured below: Garden volunteers helping keep BFCG beautiful!



Spring Plant Drive

By Renata Gelito

I am grateful to have found this community of fellow gardeners and feel privileged to help grow and expand on all the wonderful work that you have done in the past years. The Ben Franklin Community Garden provides so many with an opportunity to feed their families fresh produce, it also gives a helping hand to those in need and it provides a much needed space for all to enjoy.

As you know, the Committee has been working very hard on creating a more beautiful place for our community. A pavilion has been built, trees removed, paths created, with any luck we will have a sitting area and maybe, just maybe a beautiful brick wall with a water feature could be in our future.

We have been granted \$2,000 from the OBCDC for the purpose of purchasing trees and shrubs to make improvements to the wooded area of the garden. As your fellow gardener and a member of the Beautification Committee, I am reaching out to you for help with securing perennial plant donations. We can use plants for shade, sun or anything in between. **The area around the pavilion will benefit most from shade loving plants!** So, if you find yourself with one, two or a hundred plants too many, please let me know and I will be happy to find them a home. I can be reached at gardensbyrenata@aol.com

Wishing you a bountiful season!

Shade Plants

- **Hosta - All sizes and colors are welcome (labeled with a mature size if at all possible)**
- **Tricertis**
- **Hardy Begonia**
- **Ferns**
- **Ligularia**
- **Tricertis**
- **Asarum**
- **Epimedium**
- **Dicentra**
- **Hellebores**
- **Heuchera**
- **Liriope**
- **Astilbe**
- **Bletillalamium**
- **Hakonechloa macra**
- **Liriope**
- **Mondo grass**



Mark Your Calendars!



Saturday, April 30th

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Please join us for an evening of fun in support of our community garden!

- **50/50 Raffle**
- **Basket Raffle**
- **Side Boards**
- **Grumpy's Famous Buffet**
- **Beer and Wine**

Tickets will be available soon!



Saturday, May 21st


10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.


Join Tomato Monster Heirlooms at the garden for their Heirloom Tomato and Pepper Plant sale. Each Plant is in a 3.5" pot and is sold for \$5. \$1 from each plant sold is donated to the BFCG. There will be 50+ varieties of amazing Heirlooms to choose from, so this is a great opportunity to try something new! Plants tend to sell out, so you can preorder to reserve your favorite tomato and pepper varieties at [tomatomonsterheirlooms.com](https://www.tomatomonsterheirlooms.com) Click the link below to view the Ben Franklin Community Garden sale page on <https://www.tomatomonsterheirlooms.com/ben-franklin-sale>

Monthly Garden Committee Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, committee meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden classroom. **All gardeners and members of the public are welcome to attend!**

 [SHARE TO FACEBOOK](#)

 [SHARE TO TWITTER](#)

 [FORWARD EMAIL](#)

Benjamin Franklin Community Garden

1905 Spring Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109 United States

communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org

You received this email because you are a current or past gardener.

[Unsubscribe](#)