

OVF NEWS



2006 - CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY GARDENING

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Karen Andersen, Editor

From the Editor's Desk

Imagine yourself as a farmer near Lima, Peru returning back in history about 4,000 years ago. You are visiting a temple high in the Andes one evening as the celestial sky above you entrances you with a massive display of mysterious luminous designs. Stargazers, scientists, astrologers, and curious children have mirrored your behavior for centuries. You are suddenly propelled forward to recent excavations that occurred during 2004 – 2005, because it is now believed that this particular temple, called the Temple of the Fox, was an ancient calendar that indicated the seasons in the Southern hemisphere with pyramids and sculptures pointing to the summer solstice sunrise on December 21, and the winter solstice sunset on June 21. In the Southern hemisphere, December 21 would mark the beginning of the planting season. An Andean legend describes that the fox taught farmers how to cultivate their plants. Carbon dating of evidence located at this area indicates that the objects found were used around the year 2200BC, long before Stonehenge was built.

While the Temple of the Fox was being excavated, a couple 4,000 year old murals depicting foxes were found along with a sacrificial human mummy. As this careful process unfolded throughout the day, a real fox had arrived in the nearby hillside as it chose to witness this electrifying event. One of the archaeologists, Robert Benfer, reported, "He stayed till we finished excavating, and then he left... That was a weird coincidence." Benfer's childhood friend and astronomer, Larry Adkins, was at the site of this significant discovery. He learned that in 2200 B.C., the summer's first sun would be introduced by a celestial shaped fox reflected in the night sky...

Saturday, June 10

Workday 9:00 • Potluck 12:00
General Mtg. 1:00



BIG-WIGS FROM DOWNTOWN JOIN OVF TO CELEBRATE OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY



We could not have had a more perfect day for our 30th Anniversary Gala held on April 8th, 2006. Approximately 200 guests, both present and former garden members, including 5 founding members, neighbors, family and friends. Special guest speakers were Los Angeles 11th District councilman Bill Rosendahl, Westside Area Representative John Brady from the Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and Howard Putnam, Senior Park Supervisor from the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

From top: The Potluck was fantastic! Balloons welcome guests. President Frank Harris receives a citation from John Brady. One of OVF's founding members George Dodds offers the garden some enthusiastic words of wisdom.



GardenMaster's Report

PARKING I am sure you have all encountered the lack of space in the parking lot now that Little League is in session on weekends. One suggestion is to use the street on Centinela Avenue and enter the garden through the lower gate at the main pathway. The time limit for parking is 4 hours but I have not seen anyone get a ticket if they remain longer. Another alternative is to park over in the Phase 4 field area. **DO NOT PARK BEHIND THE NORTH BALL FIELD BACKSTOP.** Every year someone gets his or her windshield broken by a foul ball. Little League does not have insurance for this and you will have to repair it at your own expense.

GRANDVIEW GATE The lock on the Little League Grandview access gate has been changed to a lock that uses the same key as all of our gates. If you want to come to the garden from that direction, you can use your garden key to gain access.

TOOLS It has come to our attention that some of the tools such as the manure forks are being misused and the handles have been broken. A manure fork is for picking up manure mulch. **DO NOT** dig into the dirt with these forks as you will bend the tines or break the handle. Someone used a spading fork as a pry bar and bent the tines and the handle. These tools cost about \$30 each. Every member should invest in his or her own shovel, hand clippers and a trowel for their own personal tool use. OVF is glad to provide the other special tools for your use, but please use them with care. Remember to return your wheelbarrow to the shed each time after you use it. Do not leave it out in the garden where it will rust.

READY New members who want compost should check the compost area and look for the "Ready" sign that is mounted in the open bin. You may take all the compost you want. You will find a screening box that you may put on top of the wheelbarrow and push the compost through the screen and remove any sticks. Use gloves when doing this. Place the sticks in the barrel with the sticks in it and put the trash in the other barrel so identified. There will be short periods when the compost will not be ready, but have patience and keep returning to check for the "Ready" sign. If you need community hours, please join us on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. to see how that black gold is made. Composting lasts about an hour and is good exercise before returning to your garden.

BUGS They're back! I was bitten twice recently during the shredding session. Mosquitoes need water to breed and they don't require much of it. Empty all containers in your plots and help prevent the West Nile Virus. Vector control inspects our garden each year for these pests.



GARDEN SOIL We found a lot of soil in the weed material last week while shredding. It appeared that wheelbarrow loads of soil were placed in the shredding area with the weeds. This is not permitted at OVF. **Never remove the soil from your plots.** If you are trying to get rid of

OVF HONORS



*Congratulations to
Gardenmaster Ed Mosman
(Ph. III, E51, 53, 55)
who begins his 25th year
of gardening at OVF*

weeds, you must screen them out. Always shake the soil from the plants you remove. If you have other problems with your soil, talk with the Gardenmaster. The soil here is very sandy and therefore needs amendments added to it in the form of compost and manure.

RECYCLING The California redemption value (CRV) program here at OVF has been very successful. We have collected almost \$200 from recycling the cans and bottles you members have been depositing into the shed area. We have installed new containers for your deposits that will help separate the recyclables. If you do not want to separate them, just empty the bag into the blue box or leave the bag next to the containers. Receptacles should be empty and be marked with the CA REDEMPTION VALUE. Glass containers are also recyclable as long as they have CRV indicated on them. Thanks again for your wonderful response.

THEFT IN THE GARDEN This is not acceptable here at OVF. Members in Upper Phase 1 have had vegetables stolen from their plots recently. Anyone found doing this will be immediately terminated from the garden. If you did not grow it, do not pick it! That applies to independent project areas as well.

PIPE If you have any old pipes in your garden that you do not need, please remove them and place them under the lumber cage next to the big shed. We will use them to repair retaining walls.

THANK YOU and enjoy your summer here at OVF.

— Ed Mosman, GardenMaster

OVF Needs Your Help

The OVF Membership committee requests your help to update our records by filling out the Plot Assignment and Waiver form.

OVF is asking all members to complete a new Plot Assignment and Waiver Form*. Please return the completed form to the locked wooden box located in the large shed between Phases 1 and 2 before July 8th, 2006.

■ **DON'T** worry about the Start Date ____ (we'll fill that in for you!).

■ **PLEASE** include all members of your household on the appropriate line. These will be the only people, other than your associate, eligible to earn community hours for your plot(s).

■ **PLEASE** make sure to sign and date the waiver on the back. We would like to thank all of our members in advance for your help and cooperation in this important project.

* Any information submitted to Ocean View Farms, Inc. will be used explicitly for Ocean View Farms, Inc. business. Personal information [to include but not limited to: applicant or member name(s), address(es), telephone number(s) or email address(es)] will NOT be shared, sold, leased, rented or distributed in any other method to outside individuals or organizations, unless we must respond to subpoenas, court order or legal process, or to establish or exercise our legal rights or defend against legal claims.

View more than 150 pictures of the 30th gala celebration at www.oceanviewfarms.net/gala.html

continued from page 1...

One of the other impressive objects Benfer and his team located in Peru was a large clay sculpture depicting a frowning face with two animals on either side of it. Benfer believes they represent Pacha Mamma, the Peruvian earth goddess of fertility. The sculpture faces the sunset on the winter solstice on June 21 which would represent the harvest time.

One can imagine that an immense amount of effort was spent creating elaborate statutes and artifacts designed to alert farmers and priests to the seasons for planting and harvesting crops. For civilizations to continue reproducing, food was an essential commodity, and if one planted at the wrong time, a flood could wipe out an entire season's crop. Next time you scoff at an astrologer's scientific analysis, remember that many civilizations before us have studied the motion of the stars' alignment with great interest and devotion as though their lives depended upon it! May your gardens this summer bring you the cleverness of a fox and the mysterious magic of nightfall after a long delightful summer afternoon...

— Karen Andersen, Editor



ACGA 27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUNSET GARDENS, UCLA, AUGUST 10-13

Get involved with other gardeners from around the country and Root for the Future!

The Annual Community Gardening Association is a non profit organization whose membership includes professionals, gardeners, volunteers and supporters of community gardening. ACGA will be holding their conference at UCLA from August 10 – 13, 2006. Tours will be offered to various local community gardens (including our own) and fascinating workshops will be held on garden design and horticulture therapy, public policy, food security, youth, and growing the organization. If you register by June 30th, the fee is \$200, but you must be a member of ACGA. The membership fee is \$50. To participate in this local event for Angelino gardeners, log on to <http://www.communitygarden.org/> and download a brochure. Sponsors include Kaiser Permanente, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and the Community Food Projects Program.

CHAIR SHOTS

To all OVF Members,
I would like to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank everyone at OVF for all of your help, cooperation and participation in our 30th Anniversary Gala held on April 8th, 2006. It was an unbelievably special and deserving day for OVF. The garden, as well as all of the plots, looked so beautiful thanks to all of your efforts. I am extremely proud to tell people that I am the President of OVF because of the incredibly unselfish, caring and giving community that we have nourished here. Thank you.

Respectfully, Frank Harris

False Garlic Woes

It's time to eradicate false garlic...again!!

By Karen Andersen

If any of our new gardeners here do not know how to identify false garlic please ask your Phase Rep or a neighbor so they can help you recognize it. (There are pictures in the big shed.) This is the time of year when the pesky plant forms white tiny flowers and seeds itself. Once the seeds spread the party begins, and you'll have more false garlic than you ever wanted even your worst enemy to deal with.

The root of false garlic looks like a tiny onion bulb, brown in color. The best thing to do is dig out a wide and deep space underneath the bulb so you can then try and remove all the tiny corms surrounding the parent bulb. This is the only way to get rid of it. Set plants and bulblets carefully aside and toss everything into the bins labeled for its removal or place in the dumpsters in the parking lot.

Please do not add false garlic to the compost pile as it will just reappear in every plot again and again.



TLC FOR YOUR SUMMER VEGGIES

Instead of tossing those eggshells into the trash, spread them around your melon and squash plants to help deter the traffic jams from those unwelcome snails and slugs. Once the melons or squash begin ripening, place plastic berry baskets, upside down aluminum pie pans or metal cans underneath them. The metal will assist by transferring the heat from the sun onto the melons or squash and assist in sweetening and ripening them. Water the melons only once a week to maximize their sweetness.

To help prevent the corn earworm from enjoying your sweet corn before you do, try this tip: Three to seven days after you observe the silk forming on the top of the corn, add some mineral oil on the silk at the top of each ear.

Tomato plants are often subject to fusarium wilt at OVF. Best to snip off any leaves at the bottom of the stem that have contact with the damp ground. It won't prevent blight, but helps. Also, don't give up on your early blight plants; pinch off the wilted leaves and let them struggle along until we have warmer, sunny days. They may recover and surprise you with a great harvest.

After you harvest your garlic, onions and potatoes, store them in a dark area wrapped inside pantyhose. Trust me, no one above the age of 35 really wants to wear them anyway! Cut one leg from the pantyhose or nylon stocking and drop an onion, potato, or garlic bulb into the foot portion of the hose. Then tie a knot and add another and repeat the process. Hang the hose on a nail in your pantry and each time you need an onion, e.g., cut below the lowest knot and remove the onion. They say your onions, garlic or potatoes will last another month by using this clever idea

JUNE - SEPT WORKDAY SCHEDULE

JUNE

10 Sat 9-12 Work
12 Potluck
1 Gen. Mtg.
25 Sun 1-4 Work

JULY

8 Sat 9-12 Work
15 Sat 9:30 Board Mtg.
30 Sun 1-4 Work

AUGUST

12 Sat 9-12 Work
12 Potluck
1 Gen. Mtg.
27 Sun 1-4 Work

SEPTEMBER

9 Sat 9-12 Work
12 Potluck
1 Gen. Mtg.
16 Sat 9:30 Board Mtg.
24 Sun 1-4 Work

WEBMASTER 310

Experienced web tech to help update and maintain our website. Earn community hours doing something you love. Contact frank@oceanviewfarms.net

DOCENT 340

Docent to help conduct tours of OVF for school-age children on as needed basis. Ideal for retiree or gardener with flexible schedule. Leave note in Chair mailbox or frank@oceanviewfarms.net.

SHADETREE MECHANIC

OVF is looking for an experienced mechanic to oversee the maintenance of our small fleet of equipment. Leave a note in the Chair mailbox in the wheelbarrow shed.



Know Your Rules & Regs

Associates: The purpose of the associate status is to provide a remedy to garden members who need help with maintaining their plots and/or completing community work. The garden member assumes responsibility for all actions of the associate and monitors the associate's activities for compliance with OVF By-Laws and Rules and Regulations. Garden members must actively participate with the associate in maintaining the member's plot/s. Under no conditions may a garden member relinquish a plot to an associate for their sole use.