



A Visitor to the Garden!

Sunday



Zhesheng Zhao surprised us with a visit to the garden Sunday morning. This is the first time she has been in the garden in about three months. She is still experiencing symptoms of dizziness and can't move her head much. She is undergoing physical therapy and hopes to come back in a month or so.

Zhesheng didn't stay long, but it was good to see her, say hello and how we missed her, and wish her well. We wish her continued progress to good health and wholeness.



The hoops to put over the collards and lettuces weren't as sturdy as we had hoped and fell down. The recently planted crops need room to grow under the netting. Tianying Mi, Zhiwei Zhao, and Xingfa Gui used t-straps and clothespins to hold the hoops upright and the netting off the plants. Zhiwei's brothers are engineers in China and I have often said that Zhiwei has an engineering mind. He is an excellent problem solver.



Gary and Janice Sherman assisted in the garden. At right Gary sowed buckwheat seeds in the short unused beds by the compost bins. (See Alan working at the compost). He then raked the seeds in. This is just the beginning of our preparations for getting ready for winter. The buckwheat grows rapidly while it's warm outside and provides nutrition to the soil.



Meanwhile Janice, in the foreground, and Judy Morrow, in the background, weeded, once again, the pollinator/perennial bed. In the two weeks since we last worked in the bed, the goldenrod and weeds resurfaced. Reluctantly we covered the bare spots with cardboard to suffocate the weeds. We hope we don't discourage the bulb flowers from growing. In the left background cardboard was put under the okra to mitigate the weeds.



Judy suggested that next year a group come in the spring and pull out all the goldenrods and their runners as it is a herculaneous task. The cardboard isn't as attractive as the mulch and, in retrospect, I wish we had put it down before we put the mulch down two weeks ago. It was a very hot and humid day and the work was not easy.





Barbara Davidson tended to the tomatoes, suckering them and tying them up. They are getting tall. As we enter the autumn season, we want to keep the tomatoes from growing tall and encourage them to form and ripen.



The tree in the background behind the picture of Barbara is already casting lengthy shadows onto the garden.

Tianying collected unneeded garden hoops from a bed of squash. We have more squash ripening.



Judy and Janice took a much needed water break in the shadow of the washing station. No one has claimed the hat or water bottle left on the station.

Zhiwei and Xingfa re-bagged chipped leaves and chaff. Some of the plastic bags were victims of the elements and the plastic shredded, leaving the contents exposed. We will have enough leaves for the compost to finish out the garden year and just enough to cover the figs before winter.





Tianying weeded the edges of a bed in the garden. Alan cut down the tall tomato plants while Barbara continued to sucker and tie up the plants.



Not pictured: Judy and I weeded the bed behind the tomatoes where the squash grows. We rid the area of dead vines and unwanted plants.



Look at that! Presumably the deer are eating the sweet potato leaves! Also, the sweet potatoes are growing through the plastic slats of the lounge chair parked at the edge of the berm. Judy sprinkled animal repellant around the perimeter and somewhat inside the sweet potatoes. We hadn't had a chance to do that earlier. We hope it will help keep the critters away.

The dead leaves of the bed with horseradishes were removed by both Paula Lemerman and Xingfa Gui. See the clothespins holding the netting to the hoops? The horseradish gave me pause. The same thing happened last year: the horseradish seem to die in the winter and summer, then appear revitalized in the fall and spring.



We didn't clean out the shed. Probably we should have - and we will soon. We can't get in. Some things were removed to get to other items in the shed.



A skipper butterfly on the Russian sage at left and, below, the sedum is turning red. These are sure signs that fall is around the corner.



PROOF

Monday

gg66164197 GoGraph.com



Alan was harvesting tomatoes and found this and came to get me.

This is proof!

Deer have been in the garden. This is deer poop. Not to worry, we didn't touch it or remove it - yet.

We need to put the Repel-All in more places in the garden. Deer eat our plants.

We've never seen deer in the garden. Mostly they come at night.

I looked up the poop of another animal that Zhiwei saw in the garden and it's definitely not the poop of the one Zhiwei saw.



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The pictures on this page are from the internet. At left is deer poop and below are possum poop. Zhiwei said he saw a possum in the garden recently. As you can see, the possum also eat our food.





We have seen in the past groundhog (woodchuck). But they tend to bury their poop - probably the only thing good about them! And, yes, that's their poop you see in the above picture from the internet.

At left is a spaghetti squash I found in the garden. If you'll look closely, you'll see gnaw or teeth marks on the squash. I doubt it's deer because they don't have upper teeth, but I don't know what animal made it. We also see tomatoes with a bite or two in it.

(Where else but in this garden newsletter would you see pictures of animal poop?)



Monday was a very busy day as we were a wee bit short of help and we had no less than three sets of visitors to the garden. I love talking to people about the garden and showing them around so I don't mind the visitors, but not everything was harvested. There's always another day to catch up, but it wasn't a day to take many pictures. Above, the eggplants make a colorful display against the banana peppers. That's chard and tomatoes in the background. We had a discussion about when to pick butternut squash. Is it color dependent? This discussion was unresolved. I later looked it up. It should be tan on picking.





Zhiwei donated this watermelon to the pantry. It's a large one. He says the ones we grow are too small. That's true. It seems to me that small families can't eat large watermelons so we plant small ones. What's nice about this one is that it has a good sounding thump to it.



After bemoaning our lack of beans this summer, they are starting to come in. We picked eight pounds today.



Paula Lemerman finished the okra harvesting for me as I didn't have time. Here she's holding one she found. Afterwards, she weeded. The watermelons are to her right. In the background is one of the arbors with Malabar spinach.



We've been curious about the number of birds that wait until we are gone and then flock to the compost bins. These are wrens. They sit on our fences as well.

Some time ago I had a conversation with the preschool science instructor, Karen Williams. She put up about four or five bluebird houses around the J campus. Bluebirds don't like habituated areas and weren't going to nest there - but wrens have. This birdhouse is near our garden.





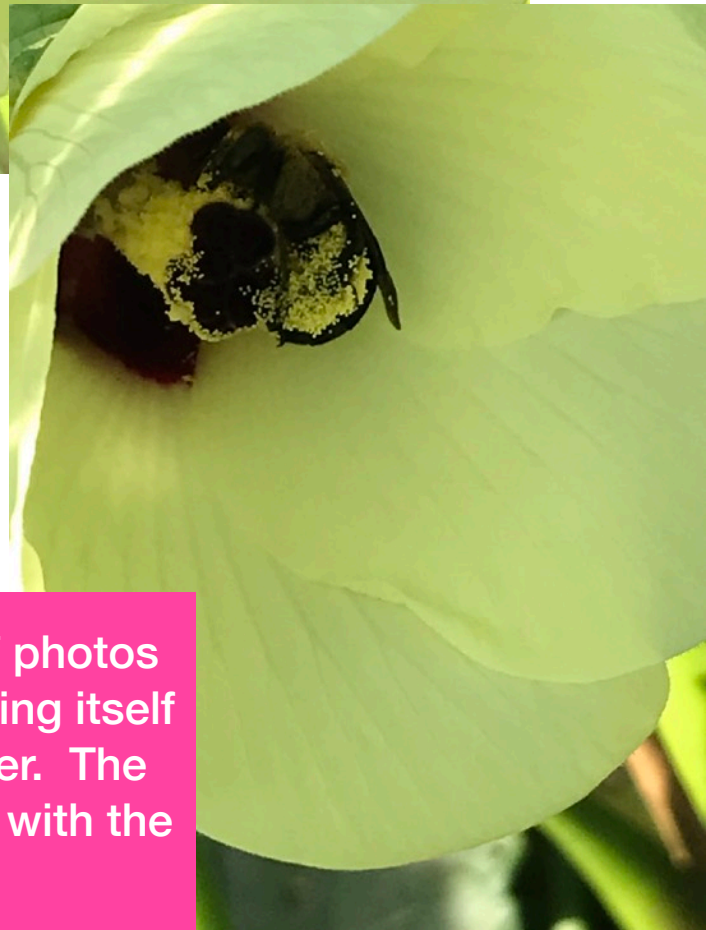
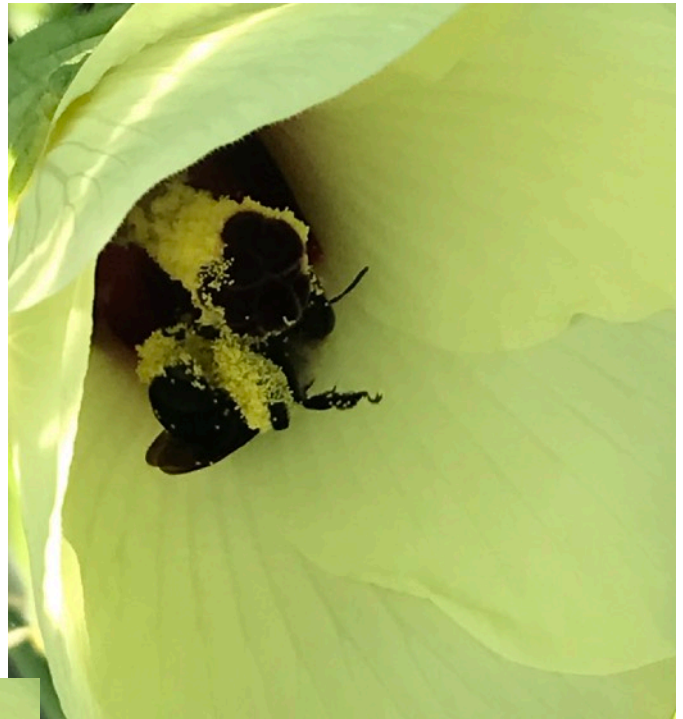
I always thought these were Malabar spinach seeds. Aren't they pretty? They are actually flowers of the plant. Flowers are white, pink or red in color. They appear as small, globe-shaped buds, then bloom into tiny node-like colored flowers, never forming large petals. They eventually form small, dark purple berries. Malabar Spinach flowers taste like a cross between spinach and chard. However, the flavor is so mild that it is almost tasteless. It has a crunch that adds texture, but can be quite slimy when cooked. The flowers are used as garnish atop salads and curries. The flowers are said to have medicinal purposes.



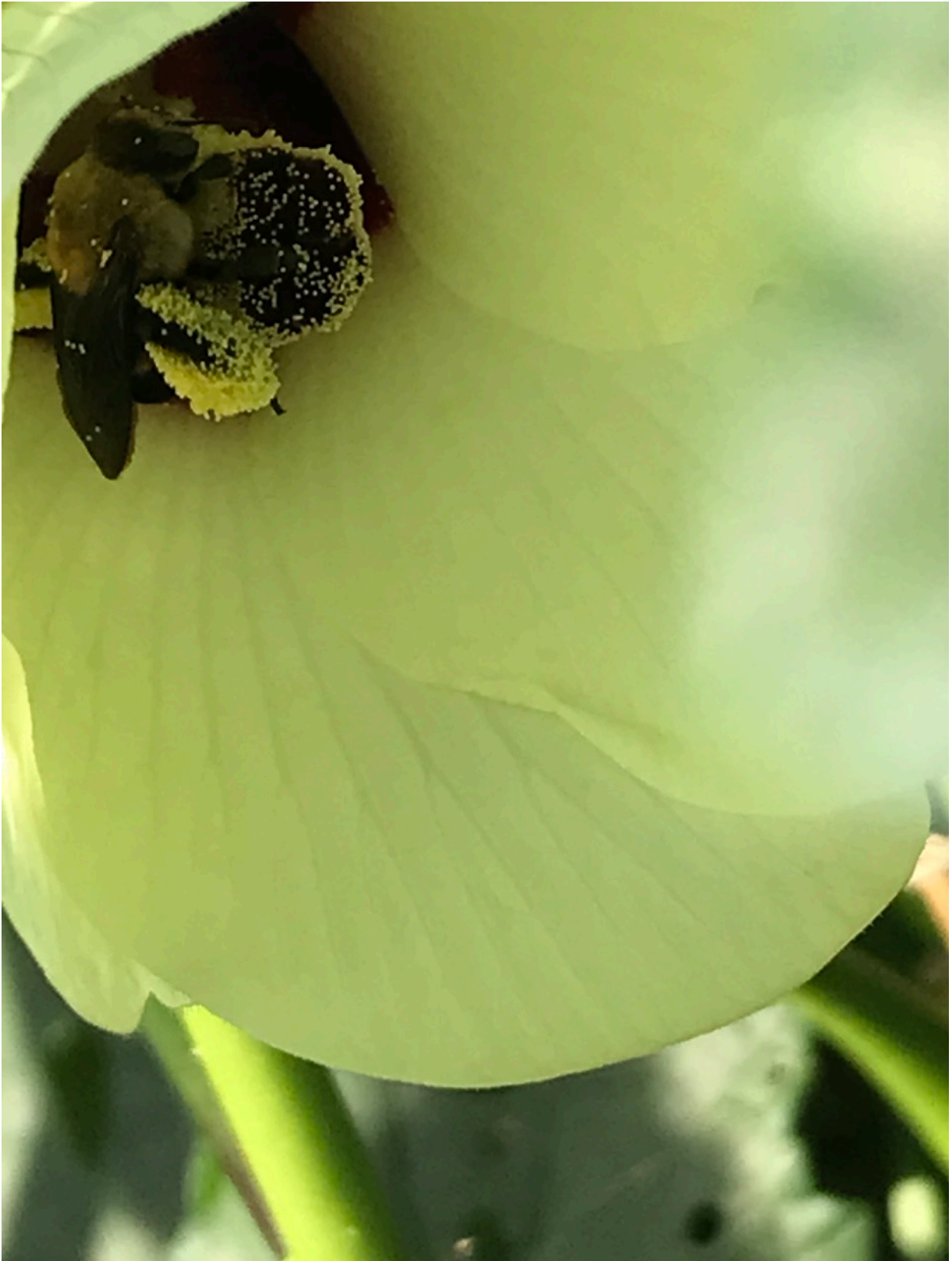
Our friends from Covenant Place are quite absorbed in conversation here. I'm not sure what was said or what was talked about, but I suspect it has to do with the Chinese melon.



Thursday



These are a series of photos showing a bee wrapping itself around an okra flower. The bee is getting dusted with the pollen.





Steve Keyser found this in the garden Thursday morning and asked about it. It is a butternut squash, but it's not ripe yet. It's a good size. My guess is that it needs the sun to turn a tan color.

Unfortunately I didn't get a picture of Steve today. He harvested squash and tomatoes.

Even though it's getting late in the season, a watermelon is still beginning to form. I doubt it will be large enough for harvesting before we finish out the garden year. We have had a good year with watermelons this year. We don't harvest them every time we are in the garden, but we have harvested a good number of them.



Our volunteers hard at work. Xingfa is looking for cowpeas, Lisa is harvesting tomatoes, and Tianying is picking Malabar spinach. We just go to wherever needs harvesting and do our work.



Lisa helped put out animal repellent. I started sowing cover crops seeds on the squash beds. More about that in another newsletter.



At the washing station, Zhiwei and Xingfa put tomatoes into a bag before weighing. Zhiwei donated these beautiful radishes from his bed to the pantry. Tomatoes and Malabar spinach make a colorful display before bagging.





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Saturday, September 10, 10-11 a.m. CT

Instructor: Tonia Scherer, Seed St. Louis Director of Schools

[Season Extension & Winter Gardening](#)

In Partnership with the St. Louis County Library

Wednesday, September 14, 2-3 p.m. CT

Instructor: Dean Gunderson, Seed St. Louis Director of Education

[Getting the Most from Your Harvest](#)

Thursday, September 15, 6-7 p.m. CT

Instructor: Dean Gunderson, Seed St. Louis Director of Education

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Annual Community Garden Celebration

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC, FUN, & FOOD TRUCKS



SAT. OCT. 15TH 4:30-6:30PM

.Come join us for some fun in the garden! There will be two food trucks to purchase from as well as some homemade Indian cuisine to sample.

Go Gyro Go and a surprise dessert truck are helping to make this event memorable. All are welcome! Please bring your own lawn chairs to sit and enjoy the music.

The Church Music Ministry will be donating their time and talents for our musical evening entertainment.



**Community Garden at Mt Zion
United Methodist**

Address:
1485 Craig Rd, St. Louis, MO 63146

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN
CHAIRS or BLANKETS**



The Mt. Zion Community Church and our Garden of Eden at the JCC are co-hosting our near-end-of-the-year garden party at Mt. Zion. Next year the festivities will be at the Garden of Eden. Look how much effort Gio has put into this party and into his community garden!

Above is the view from the parking lot towards the garden. At right is how Gio set up the cattle panels to grow beans.

The produce from this garden goes to Loaves and Fishes.





Straight ahead are the tomatoes. To the left of the pictures are bottle gourds with yellow flowers. At far left are okra plants with its large leaves. That is Jay in the picture, a volunteer. He and his son were putting compost into the bed when we came to visit last Saturday morning.



Harvesting pole beans. The garden has had a successful year with beans.





At left the eggplants are doing very well! Below is a closeup of their pollinator/perennial garden.





Janice Sherman, Gary Sherman,
Judy Morrow, Barbara Davidson,
Alan Raymond, Paula Lemerman,
Steve Keyser, Lisa Whitley, Zhiwei
Zhao, Xingfa Gui, Tianying Mi



LABOR DAY WEEKEND BLESSING

WISHING YOU...

GOOD TIMES WITH YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ANIMALS

LOTS OF HUGS AND COUNTLESS REPEATS OF

'I LOVE YOU'.

LAUGHTER, JOY AND GRATITUDE.

BUT MOST OF ALL, I WISH YOU DOWNTIME,

RELAXATION, PEACE AND A

CALMNESS IN YOUR SOUL THAT

THE SPIRIT OF LABOR DAY OFFERS.

– CHARITY M. RICHEY-BENTLEY

THANKSGIVING&CO.

**No Garden Tasks to
Accomplish list as we won't
be meeting this weekend and
Thursday we will have a lot of
harvesting to do.**