

Report from the Interfaith Garden

Saturday, 5/20/17

Volunteers: a Lexington Brownie troop

Weather: Sunny, dry, 60s to 70s

We were delighted to be joined this morning by an enthusiastic troop of about 8 Brownie scouts and parents helping at the Garden this morning. For some, this was a repeat volunteer opportunity. For others, this was the first time they were learning about the Garden. When Carla asked who wanted to do some of the harvesting, all hands shot up in the air.





Over 9 pounds of asparagus, rhubarb, bok choy, scallions, radishes and garlic chives were harvested today. We cleaned off the produce, weighed it all and loaded up the garden carts.

Here Carla is talking about the radishes that were harvested. She showed them one radish that looked a little eaten. That is from wire worms that burrow in the soil. Only untouched radishes pass muster and get donated.

Did you know how to tell when radishes are ready to pick? When you see the red bulbs literally push their way out of the soil. So, it was pretty easy for us to identify which were ready to be picked. You screen the row of plants and when you see red, you poke your finger into the soil a bit to check the size of the radish. If really small, we left it for another week. After picking, the next step was to take it to the cleaning table where the radishes, not the greens, got swished around in a bucket of water to clean off the dirt.



All the Brownies helped wheel the produce over to the Food Pantry and unload the carts.



The produce got unloaded in the kitchen at the Pantry where Pantry volunteers take over sorting and organizing for distribution to the clients that same morning. Carolyn Wortman, head coordinator of the Pantry, reports that our Interfaith Garden is the first garden to donate fresh produce this season.

After delivering the produce, all the girls returned to the Garden to cultivate, plant and weed.