

Earth Day Notes – April 22, 2023

Like last year, Earth Day Festival 2023 in Cupertino was announced early in the year and Lion Joan reserved 2 spaces for the Cupertino De Anza Lions club early on, so even though she had to miss the event, the club was set up to be represented very well.

When I got to our spots before 9:00am, the canopies for Lions (the 'big' one and a smaller one) were already up; Lion Ray was there guarding our two posts. He and dozens of young kids helped to unload my car, which I parked in the designated spot, with the parking permit.

The location of our tables could not have been better: the tables were facing West, we had the big tent with the side cover in the East, and the Brag board shielding us from the midday sun in the South. There was no manned booth on our left side, and on the right side, we had the Santa Clara Master Gardeners. Almost opposite were the 2 food trucks and the ice cream station, which turned out to be OK; there were no permanent smells, just a whiff of cinnamon at times from the Waffle truck, and an easy walk over to get lunch.

Lion Ray had brought another table and two additional chairs from storage which was great. He helped to put Lion Joan's tablecloths on all 3 tables and put up the Brag Board.

Lion Barb joined us at 9:30 and she sent Lion Ray home, as we were determined to handle everything from there.

I had brought around 350 packets of extra seeds ("Free") and photos of our sunflowers at the Camp, plus the display of sunflowers we had grown in the greenhouse in the last 6 weeks.

Lion Barb and I peeled off more sunflower seeds when the first visitors came by shortly before 11:00am. By that time, Lion Sue had joined us and she was happy to help people seed sunflowers with the screened soil and the already peeled sunflower seeds. Many admired the displays and were keen on taking some of the seed packages. Most people were pleasant and polite, but of course there had to be a black sheep who just demanded seeds, without saying please and thank you, and she was quite greedy, too.

Young and old were happily seeding the sunflowers with the help of Lion Sue and Carol, our weekly helper at the garden, who arrived before noon time.

One older gentleman came by and raved about the sunflowers he had gotten last year; they had grown to 6 feet tall, he marveled.

We ran out of most seed packets by 1:00pm. Basil, Cilantro and Nasturtiums were in high demand – I could have brought at least 50 more packets each (and we do have a lot of cilantro seeds still). Carol pulled more sunflowers from the chaff, and Lion Barb made more sunflower seed packages which were also going like hot cakes.

Around 2:30pm, Lion Ray came back with Lions Charlie and Eli to pick up the Lions items, and together with Carol and Lion Sue, he and Lion Charlie were helping with the packing up of my stuff.

Not many people were interested in the Lions Club per se, probably because that table was not 'manned'; but many stopped for a wee chat and were happy to get some seed packets. We have a few email addresses; one from a lady who asked if we would like to have HS students as volunteers out at the garden. I also talked with the Master Gardeners and gave them my email address to receive their event calendar and their teaching classes. I asked them if they had met Lion Joan at the garden event a couple of weeks ago, but they could not remember the name.

Great event, lovely helpful volunteers, ideal location – Super pre-work and instructions from Lion Joan. I would call it a very pleasant successful event!