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Around the Compost Pile: News from Community GroundWorks



August 2012

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Ride the Drive Northside

August 12 10 - 3 p.m

Troy Gardens is "Village" -- stop by!

Hop off your bikes and enjoy:

- Music and Dance
Guinea Obobofo African drummers
Forward Marching Band
Vera Court Girls Step Troop
- Cold gazpacho with vegetables from Troy Community Farm
- Chocolate Shoppe ice cream
- Lemonade
- Splash area
- Garden exploration
- Artterro art projects
- Ask the Capitol Gardener
- plus restrooms and water station in the garden parking lot



The Good Food Garden Party

September 8

4:30 - 7:30 pm

Fine dining, alfresco, at Troy Gardens

Featuring seasonal dishes from:

The Coopers Tavern
L'Etoile and Graze
The Madison Club
Madison Sourdough
Marigold Kitchen
Tornado Steakhouse
Underground Food Collective
Vom Fass

Weary Traveler Freehouse

With VERY locally sourced produce ... from Troy Community Farm.

For details visit [The Good Food Garden Party](#) page.

Tickets are available online through [Brown Paper Tickets](#) secure site.

The event sold out last year. Don't delay in purchasing your tickets.

The Good Food Garden Party is a zero waste event

Vandals Strike at Troy Gardens

Watchfulness Appreciated

On two weekends in July vandals have hit the two garden sheds and Troy Community Farm. Damage and theft, particularly at the farm, has been considerable and disheartening. The police have been informed of each incident and they will be upping their presence in the area. We would appreciate gardeners, hikers and dog walkers to simply be aware of unusual activity, tools/implements dropped in odd places, farm gate left open, people inside the farm fence in the evening or at night (FYI--CSA members are invited to pick flower from the garden just inside the gate). If you have a cell phone and see anything questionable, please call Kate Sullivan at 345-3171. Thank you.

Some CSA members have asked how they can contribute to the insurance deductible for coverage of damaged and stolen farm equipment. Contributions can be made securely online. [Follow this link](#). Put "farm vandalism donation" in the "Comment" section at the end. Thank you.

Hot Days in the Troy Kids' Garden

During the triple digit weather in July, some physical activities had to be notched back a bit. Besides gardening, cooking, drumming in the mulberry grove and water activities, kids also worked on art projects. Building fairy houses involved gathering natural materials from the garden, creating a construction plan and working together to complete each house. One group thoughtfully included an air-conditioner for their fairies.



Madison FarmWorks at Work

Megan Cain and the Madison FarmWorks crew had a busy installation and planting season. Beside teaching Urban

Gardener classes, Madison FarmWorks also does home and business consultations and installation of vegetable gardens. See Megan's latest blog [HERE](#). To learn more about Madison FarmWorks, click [HERE](#).

Urban Forestry Career Day

Community GroundWorks will be hosting the second Urban Forestry Career Day on Wednesday, August 15, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Troy Gardens. Career Day is intended for high school aged students, particularly underserved or adjudicated youth. The day will feature thirty-minute interactive workshops from professionals in urban forestry and related fields. Following the workshops, students can ask more specific questions about the professions represented as well as obtain information about various post-secondary education and certificate programs that can help them on a path towards a career in urban forestry, horticulture, landscape architecture, restoration, and others.

For information on participating in the Urban Forestry Career Day and other Troy Natural Areas activities, please contact Patricia Lindquist, patricia@troygardens.org.



Garden-based Education the Focus of "Growing Minds"

The past two summers, Community GroundWorks has sponsored *Growing Minds*, a five-day, 20-hour course for K-12 teachers and community educators who are interested in building skills in the areas of youth garden education, development, and management. This year, the interest was so great that Education Director Nathan Larson added a second class.

"Two amazing groups of local educators left feeling re-inspired and reinvigorated to really grow the school and youth garden movement," Nathan said. A participating teacher agreed, saying "This is one of the best professional learning development classes I've taken in a long time. I feel better equipped to move forward as I now have a wealth of resources to utilize because of this course."

From the Capitol Gardener

Watering Vegetable Plants ... even in a drought

We've had many queries about how to best support our vegetable plants during a drought. Fact is, it really isn't any different than non-drought years -- 1 inch a week, either via the skies or a garden hose. When using a hose, apply the water directly to the base of the plant. Yes, watering one plant at a time takes time, but sprinkling from above is wasteful and can encourage disease. Some details are up on the website, [HERE](#).



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