

Troy Gardens Gazette

Harvest · Harmony · Home

SPRING 2005 VOL. 3 No. 2

Earth Day Every Day

Celebrate Earth Day
With
Friends of Troy Gardens

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

NOON-3:00PM

“Open House” On The Land
COMMUNITY GARDENS OPENING DAY

Tour our new landscape installations
Talk to FTG Program Directors
What can Troy Gardens do for you?



Community gardeners can fulfill some of their 6-hour volunteer commitment for the season by helping lay out plots and getting equipment ready on Opening Day. The work takes place 9am-noon on April 23, with FTG's Earth Day Open House immediately following. To learn how you can become a Troy Community Gardener this spring, call FTG at 240-0409 or visit us at www.troygardens.org.

This tiered stone garden was installed at “The Crossroads” of Troy Gardens last fall. Troy’s Hmong community will plant traditional herbs and medicinal plants here this spring, and maintain this garden as an introduction to Hmong culture for everyone to enjoy. To find it, walk to the end of the cinder lane that starts on Troy Drive.



FRIENDS OF
troy gardens





Floor Cammaert, left, and Marianne de Boer, right, are research students from the University of Amsterdam in Holland. They have traveled here to study at UW-Madison, and to do research at Troy Gardens, in collaboration with the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison.

The two discovered Troy Gardens from our website, www.troygardens.org. Intrigued with our unique project, they crafted their

research proposals both to benefit our work here and to discover Troy Gardens for themselves.

Floor will research and design rain gardens that will accommodate storm water runoff in the Troy Townhouse Community and perhaps elsewhere on the land. Rain gardens contain water loving plants which can tolerate occasional flooding. When installed appropriately, rain gardens filter excess rainwater naturally, keeping pollutants out of our lakes and safeguarding groundwater levels—and they are much more lovely than storm sewers.

Marianne is a soil scientist. She will gather critical data about the health and evolution of the soil under Troy Prairie, comparing our soil with other established prairies in the area as well as with fallow Troy land that has not been altered. Marianne is also interested in making comparative studies of soils in the organic and nonorganic sections of

Funding hope for the future We salute our supporters!

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The Friends of Troy Gardens Board of Directors

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Executive Director's Report



By Sharon Lezberg, Executive Director, FTG

In 1970, when Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson first developed the idea for Earth Day, he proposed a “teach-in” about the environmental crisis. At the time, awareness of environmental ills was growing in the United States, and people like Gaylord Nelson hoped to capitalize on public awareness to promote real changes in the way our government, corporations, and individuals treated the natural environment.

The first Earth Day celebration brought the issues of environmental pollution and degradation to the attention of the general public. The energy from that event gave power to environmental legislative reforms and mandated industry pollution controls. And “the people” backed these efforts.

Since that time, when Earth Day rolls along each year, we turn our attention once again to the environment. Environmental organizations use the day as a platform to bring issues to the attention of the public, and to bring people together in environmental actions.

The Friends of Troy Gardens will be marking Earth Day with our Garden Opening and a special Troy Gardens Open House on Saturday, April 23. We’re hop-

ing that spring will grace us with her presence as we welcome the new season on Earth Day.

I honor those who created the concept of Earth Day as a way to focus the public’s attention once a year on environmental issues, and as a political tool to pressure the government to devise and enforce environmentally sustaining legislation.

But I think that something important—REALLY momentous—has changed in the 35 years since the first Earth Day. Nowadays, I often hear the phrase “Earth Day Every Day”. This phrase gets to the heart of the matter.

It’s not enough to appreciate the earth that sustains us, and the environment which is our habitat, and all the creatures with whom we share the earth, on *only* one day of the year. *Every* day we can be aware of our actions and their repercussions on the earth, and of our intimate connection with the earth.

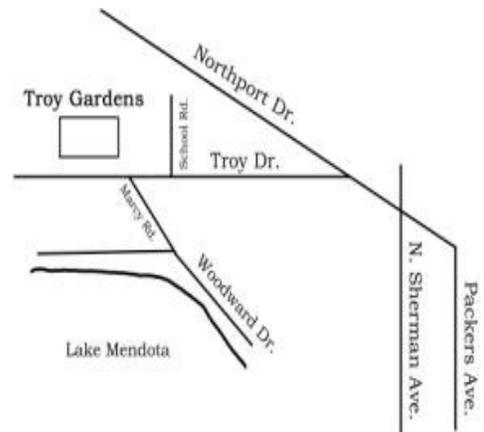
That’s one of the reasons that Troy Gardens is so important to me. Here gardeners, stewards, farmers, and other users of the land connect themselves to the land in a very personal way each and every day. By growing our own food, our minds and bodies find connection to the soil (in a figurative and literal way, as it is the soil, sun, and rain that makes our food). By walking and observing the land, we reestablish our place within the natural system.

This Earth Day, come out to Troy Gardens and walk the land

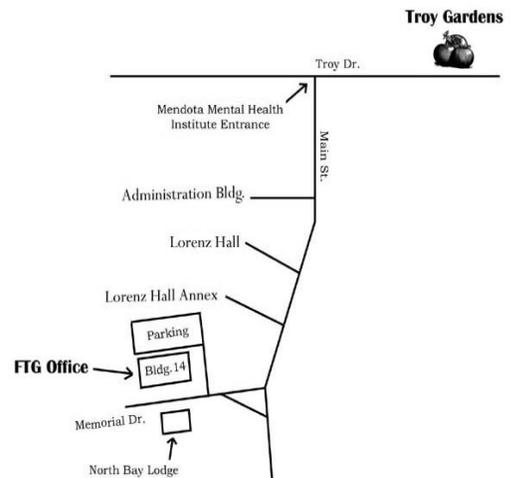
with us. There’s a lot of new features out here—the prairie gathering area, the Hmong herb garden, an edible landscape, a walking trail and signage, expanded community gardens, and an emerging prairie.

But even more important than seeing all of this is the opportunity to connect with Troy Gardens. I welcome you to become part of the community of people, plants, and animals that makes up Troy Gardens. Put your hands in the soil with us, and make every day an Earth Day!

Map To Troy Gardens



Map To FTG Offices



The Friends of Troy Gardens aim to do more than providing an opportunity for people to enjoy healthy food and a beautiful landscape—the land itself does that for us.

FTG is committed to education, so that everyone from kids to adults can expand their abilities and enhance their appreciation of what this earth has to offer. In this spirit, our staff is offering an Educational Workshop Series beginning in February and continuing through the summer.

A total of 9 workshops and 2 guided walks are scheduled. The first workshop has already taken place; here we feature the next six. The later workshops will appear in the next Gazette.

These workshops entail a modest fee, reduced for FTG members, and participants must register in advance. The “walking workshops” are free and do not require registration. Take a look—one or more of these are right for you!

For a registration form or more information, visit our website at www.troygardens.org or call Dan Durica at 240-0409.

2. Growing Your Own Organic Vegetable and Flower Starts at Home

Date: Saturday, March 12. 10:30am to 12:30pm

Place: FTG offices, directions on registration form

Instructor: Claire Strader, Troy Community Farm Manager

Cost: \$10 FTG members; \$15 non-members

Ready to get your hands in the soil? Get a head start! This class will teach you how to choose vegetables and flowers to start indoors; making your own organic soil mix; planting/caring for seedlings; preparing your starts to move outdoors.

3. Troy Bird Walks

Date: Every Tuesday beginning April 19, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Place: Meet at Welcome Sign in front of Troy Gardens.

Instructor: Pat Woickek

Cost: Free, no registration Necessary

Wander Troy's fields, woods and prairies with Pat Woickek and witness how bird life changes with the season. All bird watchers are welcome to spend time looking and learning from others. Bring binoculars, bird book and bug spray if you like.



4. Getting Your Fingers Dirty—Spring Planting for the Beginning Vegetable Gardener

Date: Saturday, April 30, 10:00am to noon

Place: Troy Community Gardens

Instructor: Dan Durica, Troy Community Gardens Manager

Cost: \$10 FTG members; \$15 non-members; Free to low-income participants

This is a good class if you're just learning how to garden. We'll get you started preparing your soil and garden beds using a few different methods, choosing what vegetables to plant when, and defending your crops against pests.

5. Off to a Good Start—Best Practices for Planting Your Garden

Date: Sat., May 31, 9:00am—noon

Place: Troy Community Farm

Instructor: Claire Strader

Cost: \$10 FTG members; \$15 non-members; Free to low-income participants

We will discuss best practices for direct seeding and transplanting, the best times for these tasks, and optimal crop spacing. We'll put all this information to use planting a flower garden at the farm. Participants will receive an informative list of over 50 flowers and vegetables, and will be able to take home leftover starts for their own gardens.

6. Organic Gardening with Intent—How to Grow Clean, Healthy Food

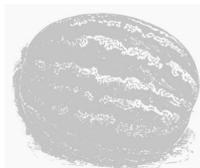
Date: Saturday, June 4, 10:00am to noon

Place: Meet at Welcome Sign in front of Troy Gardens.

Instructors: Dan Durica & Claire Strader

Cost: \$10 FTG members; \$15 non-members

Organic gardening is much more than not using chemicals. Whether you're a beginner learning the basics or a seasoned gardener with questions, you'll benefit from this workshop. We'll learn crop rotation, soil building, and how to deal with pests, diseases and weeds.



7. Exploring Mendota's Indian Mounds

Date: Tuesday, June 21, 7:00-8:30pm

Place: Meet at Governor's Island (call FTG for directions)

Instructor: John Bell

Cost: Free, no registration necessary

Southern Wisconsin was the center of Native American mound-building culture. Dane County is especially rich in these earthen constructions. Several animal effigy mounds are located on the grounds of Mendota Mental Health Institute. John Bell, a Troy Community Gardener, is a student of the mounds. Join him on the evening of the Summer Solstice to share your interest, understanding and appreciation of these ancient forms.

If we can learn to grow beans, we can learn to share this green earth in peace.

A series of Kids' Workshops will take place at Troy Kids' Garden this season. All five will be taught by FTG's Kids' Gardening Program Coordinator Megan Cain. The cost for each workshop is \$5 per person for FTG members, \$7 for non-members. Kids ages 5-11 are invited. All children must be accompanied by a registered adult. This is an opportunity for you and your child to share learning time at Troy Gardens— together you'll benefit from an experience both precious and useful!

For a registration form or more information, visit our website at www.troygardens.org or call Megan Cain at 240-0409.

K1. Fun with Chicken in the Garden

Date: Saturday, May 21, 10:00-11:30am

Come explore the Kids' Garden at Troy. Learn about chickens' role in the garden, hold and feed live chickens, become a certified "Chicken Wrangler," prepare and eat a healthy snack from the garden.

K2. All About Worms

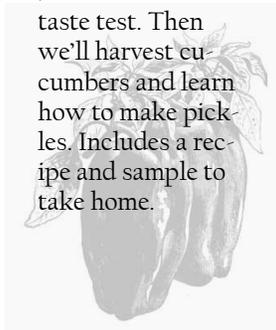
Date: Saturday, June 11, 10:00-11:30am

Learn about the importance of worms in the garden and in nature. Discover the fascinating parts of a worm, explore the worm bin, feed worms, read a funny book about a young worm, and make a worm-themed snack!

K3. Kids Cook! Making Pickles

Date: Tuesday, July 19, 6:00-7:30pm

We will learn about different kinds of cucumbers and have a taste test. Then we'll harvest cucumbers and learn how to make pickles. Includes a recipe and sample to take home.



K4. Kids Cook! Making Salsa

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 6:00-7:30pm

We will learn how the different ingredients of salsa grow in the garden. We'll harvest the ingredients and have a taste test. Then we'll make our own salsa to snack on with some chips. Includes a recipe and sample to take home.

K5. Art in the Garden

Date: September 10, 10:00-11:30am

Participate in garden and nature themed art projects. Help prepare a healthy snack from the garden. Some art projects will be to take home and some to leave in the garden.

March

Tuesday, 3/1: Returning gardener applications accepted

Sunday, 3/13: Orchard Pruning Day, 2:00pm. Meet at Welcome Sign at Troy Gardens. Bring tools, ladders, etc. if possible.

Saturday, 3/26: Orchard Pruning Day, 10:00am. Meet at Welcome Sign at Troy Gardens. Bring tools, ladders, etc. if possible.

April

Saturday, 4/2: Hmong gardeners meeting, 9am; Registration for new gardeners, 10am, Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd.

Sunday, 4/10: Orchard Pruning Day, 2:00pm. Meet at Welcome Sign at Troy Gardens. Bring tools, ladders, etc. if possible.

Saturday, 4/23: Community Gardens Opening Day, 9:00am. Troy Gardens Earth Day Open House, Noon-3:00pm



May

Wednesday, 5/11: Community Gardens Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, FTG offices

Saturday, 5/14: Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon

June

Wednesday, 6/8: Community Gardens Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, FTG offices

Thursday, 6/9: Hmong Community Gardens Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, Packers Ave. Community Center

Saturday, 6/11: Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon

Wednesday, 6/29: Volunteer Workday, 5:30-7:30pm

Across the street from Troy Gardens lives an artist, photographer, dog owner, and Troy Gardener—Marcia Yapp.

Last summer, Marcia and FTG Executive Director Sharon Lezberg heard about a grant offered by the Wisconsin Arts Board, to fund an “Artist and Community Collaboration.” A conversation in the gardens led to an application for this grant—which we were awarded!

The project is to create a stone mosaic on the land near the Kids’ Garden. Community members—both children and adults—who are interested in learning mosaic and would like to

create permanent art on the land are invited to participate.

Using square patio stones, participants will create a border around the picnic table and perhaps some of the garden beds in the Kids’ area. Each of the stones will be designed and constructed by one or two participants. The border will be a patchwork of mosaics representing each unique participant, and will remain in place—perhaps to be expanded on over the years.

In addition to participants, we are looking for people who can donate supplies. We will also need people to help with the installation of the stones, which involves framing, filling and setting the stones in place.

If you are interested in helping

to create the art, or can donate materials for this project, please call Megan Cain at FTG, 240-0409.

We hope this project will inspire other community art in the gardens—people sharing their ideas and talent, learning not only about the land but also how art can be a vehicle for community expression.

**Troy
Community Farm**



**COMMUNITY
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claires@chorus.net
for a brochure**



The Madison Area Community Land Trust, which owns the whole of Troy Gardens, plans to begin construction this fall of a 30-unit townhouse community on five acres at the southeast quadrant of the property.

The sketch above shows how the townhouses will look. Units will range from 2-4 bedrooms with a variety of floor plans. All units will be fully handicap-accessible on the first floor.

Twenty of these homes will be sold as Land Trust homes to first-time homebuyers at or below 80% of the median income level for Dane County. These will be priced under market value with a restriction on how much profit can be made when they are resold, so that they will be permanently affordable to future buyers. The remaining ten will be sold on the open market as conventional homes. For more information, call MACLT at 280-0131.

Troy Garden Journal



By Marge Pitts

JAPHY

My old collie, Japhy, reached the end of his days this winter. He had grown ancient in the ten years since I adopted him. He had been a stray, wandering the countryside, unclaimed. Exactly the dog I was looking for at the time. I suspect I had dreamed him into existence.

Finally, he couldn't get up without help, couldn't eat more than a little bit. He couldn't keep up with my young dog, Wink, and me when we went rambling at Troy Gardens. He'd get way behind. Then he couldn't see us anymore. He'd stand in the trail, looking like a fool, until we came back close enough to yell his name. He had a couple of accidents in the house, which appalled him. Japhy's dignity, his core, was mortally compromised. He couldn't be the dog he wanted to be anymore. So it was time.

The vet came to our house to release him from his worn out body. Japhy let out a deep sigh and

I felt his spirit dissipate into the room, like a scent. I had promised him he could stay in the house forever. I'm certain that's what he wanted. He had enough of freedom when he was a stray dog, his tail a blunt club of matted burdock, and no soul companion to roam the familiar landscape with him. I had wished him into existence in the first place, so how could he leave me? He began as part of my dream life, and there is no death from that.

I made good on my promise. I took his body to my sister's rural home. We built a magnificent fire. Gorgeous, silky and radiant, as Japhy was in life. My brother-in-law had plenty of wood to burn. My sister poked at the fire with a huge branch until it became a blast furnace. In the morning there was nothing left but bone fragments and ashes.

I collected Japhy's remains into a coffee can and took them home. Some reside in an elegant little urn, on the floor next to the radiator, where he lay down the first day I brought him home and looked at me with immeasurable gratitude and fulfilled longing. That's where I habitually glance for him, and he is not absent. The rest, I'll scatter in the places we liked to patrol, the trails and my garden at Troy. If Japhy's spirit wants to visit his old life he'll find himself in the right place.

I feel good about that. But when I need consolation, I reread something I wrote several years ago, when Japhy was in his prime. I was writing about our partnership, wild woman and wolfish dog galloping along, hot-wired by a long leash.

"We patrol the open spaces around Troy Gardens," I wrote. "The trails belong to us, like favorite songs. We go over and over them; we can't get them out of our minds. While we wait panting to catch our breath, I have a chance to admire the scenery. Grand thoughts pass through my mind like wheeling birds, but usually I return to looking at Japhy, his sharp teeth and bright tongue, his soft ears resting or coming forward, his sleek flank and graceful brush of a tail. He looks back, and waves his tail at me. *Yeah, he says through the leash, I know.*"

Yeah, I remember that. It happened every time we wandered our familiar landscape, a place where soul companions can run together—the open spaces of Troy Gardens.



The Friends of Troy Gardens

Room 171, Building 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704

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Yes! I want to join the Friends of Troy Gardens

Members receive our quarterly newsletter as well as notices of volunteer opportunities, educational programs, and community events at Troy Gardens.

Sign me up! I want to

<input type="checkbox"/> Propagate	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Harvest	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Transplant	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustain	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Plow	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve	\$200+

The Friends of Troy Gardens is a non-profit corporation. Your gift is fully tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to: **Friends of Troy Gardens** and mail with this form to

FTG
Room 171, Building 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704

Preservers receive an FTG T-shirt and a copy of *Troy Garden Journal* by Marge Pitts



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Thank You!