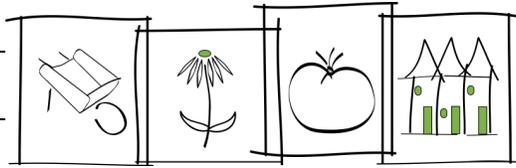


Troy Gardens Gazette

Troy Gardens News



Vol. 5 No. 1 Spring 2007

A Learning Community

One of the hottest new concepts in education is the “learning community,” which takes students out of the classroom and into the world, making teachers (and learners) out of everyone.

A learning community cross-pollinates people. Elders teach teens and find themselves reawakened to their original essence. Teens teach children and discover how valuable their own experience is. Professionals work together with interns and volunteers in a relaxed setting where curiosity, respect and inspiration ricochet in every direction. Adults transform hobbies into passions by watching, listening, and doing alongside an exhilarating diversity of others with whom they may think they have nothing in common—until the inevitable epiphany occurs: “So *that’s* how you do it!”

Troy Gardens is becoming a superb learning community. Take a stroll through the pages of this newsletter—and perhaps along the trails of Troy Gardens itself one of these days. See for yourself how our diverse programs, developed and stewarded by staff and volunteers, provide learning opportunities that are both physical and spiritual, intellectual and



Photo by Bryce Keel

emotional, artistic and edible.

Starting this year we’ll be sending this newsletter to neighbors, gardeners and farm customers who aren’t members of the Friends of Troy Gardens (yet). We hope that when you become more acquainted with the work we’re doing in this corner of our green earth, you will join us. We are a non-profit, community-based membership organization. We rely on the support and participation of people like you. You’ll find a membership form on the back page, or download one at www.troygardens.org.

“People bring their experience and gifts to this place,” says Nathan Larson, Troy Gardens’ Education Director. “We’re all learning from each other.”



Photo by Hannah Lavold



Photo by Marcia Yapp



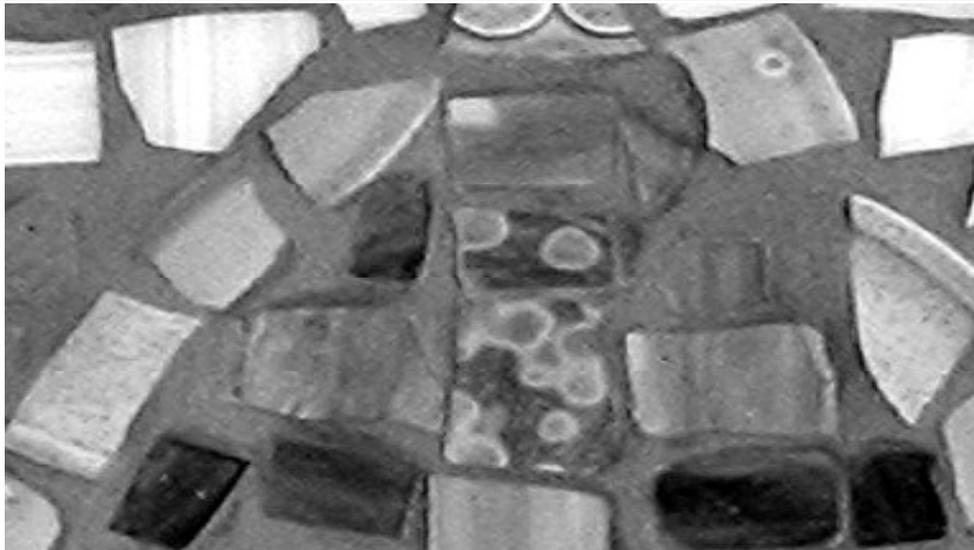
Photo by Hannah Lavold



Photo by Mark Dohm

FRIENDS OF
troy gardens





Save the Date! Saturday, August 11, Noon-6pm

Live Music All Day · Kids' Games & Activities · Great Food · Neighborhood Talent Show · Cooking & Craft Workshops · Fun for all ages · Rain or shine under the big tents!

Mosaic Living Fence Dedication

Monday, May 14, 4-5pm

We'll tidy up the mosaic fence that was created and installed last season, plant huitlacoche corn along its length, and dedicate the fence to the generous spirit of the instructors,

volunteers and supporters who made it happen. Then we'll eat some treats!



Troy Plant Sale

At Pierce's Northside Grocery

Sunday, June 3, 8:30-Noon

Vegetables, flowers, and prairie plants potted up and provided by Troy Community Gardeners and Natural Areas Restoration Stewards. Heirloom and native varieties. Come for the Northside Farmer's Market, stop in at Pierce's for some great plants. Proceeds will help pay for *A Northside Festival—Savor the Summer at Troy Gardens!*

Share The Love—And Your Photos, Stories & Poems!

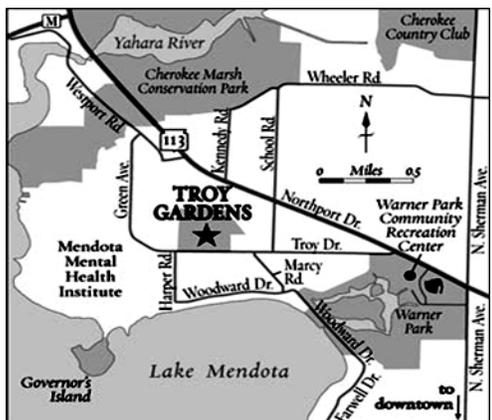
Troy Gardens is more than a geographic place—it's also a personal space of great meaning in the hearts and minds of the individuals who use it. Friends of Troy Gardens produces several newsletters and informational pieces throughout the year. We're looking for photos, stories and poems submitted by anyone who has a relationship with this beautiful land and the revolutionary urban experiment it represents.

Email stories and digital photos to the address below, or send to Marge Pitts at 3617 Harper Rd., Madison 53704. Your thoughts and talents matter so much more when you share them.

Troy Gardens is where, these pages are how.



Photo by Marcia Yapp



Troy Gardens is located in the 500 block of Troy Drive on Madison's Northside.

Friends of Troy Gardens Staff

Jake Hoeksema

Community Farm Assistant

Nathan Larson

Education Program Director

Tom Popp

Interim Director

Christie Ralston

Natural Areas Restoration Manager

Office Manager

Claire Strader

Community Farm Manager

Phone: 608-240-0409

Email: info@troygardens.org

Friends of Troy Gardens Board of Directors

Sam Dennis, Co-Chair, *UW-Madison*

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Dean Gagnon, *Troy CSA Farm*

Beulah Lee, *Troy Community Gardens*

Steve Lendved, *Northside Resident*

Sharon Lezberg, *Troy Youth Programming*

Marge Pitts, *Troy Youth Programming*

Martha Worcester, *Troy Gardens Condo Association*

Marcia Yapp, *Northside Resident*

“THE GARDEN OF HAPPINESS”



Kendra Davis

This summer the Madison’s Children’s Museum and Troy Kids’ Garden collaborated on a photo-journalism project that put the cameras in the hands of the kids. The kids

teamed up and took pictures at Troy Kids’ Garden, and later shared their thoughts about gardening and their experiences at Troy Gardens.

The project, inspired by the book *The Garden of Happiness*, by Erika Tamar, represents a partnership among the Madison Children’s Museum, Friends of Troy Gardens, students and staff from Northport Community

Center, Mendota Safe Haven and Lindbergh Gems. The exhibit was on display at the Children’s Museum in downtown Madison in late summer, and featured at the Savor the Summer at Troy Gardens Festival in August.

Through story-telling, photography and interviews the students shared their joy and laughter, hopes and dreams for their garden and planted the seeds for creating a community that celebrates the uniqueness of each of us.

“The Garden of Happiness” highlights that what a garden needs— food, sunlight, support and nurturing— is also at the heart of what we all need to grow.



Beatrice Elvord

“One way to stop pests from getting into the garden is by feeding potato beetles to the chickens.”

Paqabzib Jasmine Vang, age 8



Leon Griffin

“My favorite memories about gardening are about watering, eating plants and chickens.”

John Raffy, age 10



Dorra Stewart

“I come across worms, beetles, flies, and rollie pollies when I garden. I like the rollie pollies and worms, but I don’t like the beetles because they eat all the plants.”

Graham-Tande, age 8



James Noyd

“Yes, I will garden when I am older until I’m 30 because then I’ll get a job. I’ll plant veggies and fruits.”

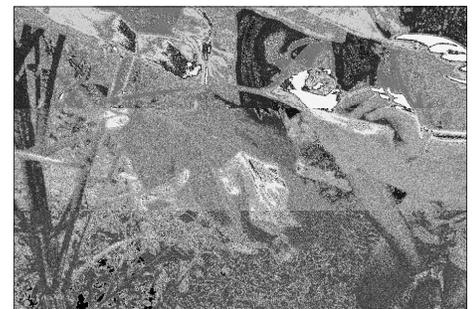
Carlitos Bulaong, age 10



Wayu Bedaso & Carlitos Bulaong

“I like coming to Troy Gardens because it is a nice, safe environment, and it’s beautiful.”

Mina Schmidtke, age 8



Paqabzib Jasmine Vang

PHOTO JOURNALISM BY KID GARDENERS

“I like to get wet in the garden by watering carrots, potatoes, and strawberries.

Freshen your day up!”

Kendra Davis, age 9

“My favorite thing about gardening is watering because you get to accidentally water people.”

Alvonte Bell, age 7



Dariana Carmona



Tori Jacobson and Rachel Gottschalk

“While I garden I come across potato bugs, bees, spiders while gardening. They make me feel gushy, mushy and ticklish.” *Dorra Stewart, age 9*



Tyre Toby

“I plant tomatoes, cabbage, flowers, and carrots.”

Beatrice Elvord, age 8



Jordan Gottschalk

“I feel pretty good about worms. I held twenty seven worms. They poop and it really helps the soil. When they dig they make good holes for the plants.”

Ariana Yarn, age 6



Matthew Vue

See the *Garden of Happiness* exhibit—on display December through January at Lakeview Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave. (next to Pierce’s Northside Market).



See Lor, Nou Vang, Maiya Her

... Please Give Generously This Year!

Troy Gardens Neighbors

In this new feature of the Troy Gardens Gazette, we will introduce our readers to interesting individuals who live in our neighborhood. If you would like to suggest a good neighbor for us to feature in future issues, please contact the Gazette (see the bottom of page 2 for info).

Sonci Clare-Williams calls herself “the busiest woman in the world.” She is a fulltime bus driver for Madison Metro, has a big, blended family, volunteers both with Troy Community Gardens and Vera Court Neighborhood Center. These two organizations are collaborating for the first time this year, to present “A Northside Festival—Savor the Summer at Troy Gardens” on Saturday, August 11 from noon-6 pm. Sonci is, of course, on the planning committee for the Festival.

By Sonci Claire-Williams

I moved into Vera Court in 1994 from a homeless shelter, recently divorced, with my two children. The community center was just being built at that time. When it was finished my son found out that he could go hang out there, so, since he went, I decided that I needed to check it out.

And the rest is history. I volunteered whenever I could. Those first years there wasn't a lot of time left in my day, but at the center they didn't care if I could volunteer a lot or a little. If I saw something that needed to be done, if I was able, I did it.

I became a board member just eight months before our Director Tom Solyst was hired, and less than a year later I was Board President. I remained in this capacity until November 2006. During Tom's early years, staff was short and I had no problem pitching in to help. I actually loved doing it. These were not typical board member jobs, these were things like mopping floors, helping to cook dinners, helping with the kids, and even the dreaded bathroom duty.

Last year Mac, our cook, was hospitalized unexpectedly days before our Baseball Barbeque, an event that we had pre-sold a few hundred meals to. The menu was Chicken, Ribs, Baked Beans, Greens, Mac and Cheese, Salads, and Desserts. I cooked it all myself, and damn was I tired. Tom asked me to come to the park (where the food was served) so our guests could thank me . . . but I was too tired . . . I passed. I felt real good to help out that day. No thanks needed.

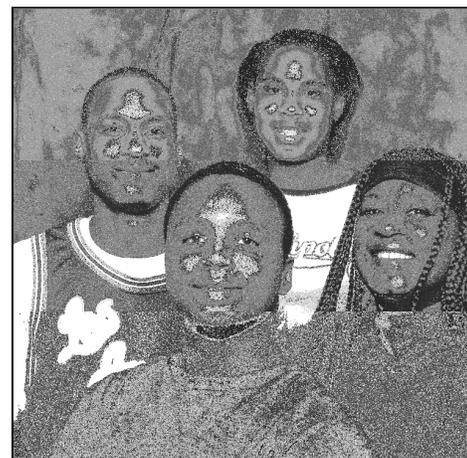
My Mom taught us to garden as teenagers. Every Saturday we would drive 45 minutes outside of Chicago and spend most of the day tending the church garden. Nothing but dirt—no water, no buildings, sheds or shacks, just trees to keep the sun off.

We learned love, patience, respect, and the rewards were the fruits of our hard work. Most of us still garden. I had the only garden in Vera Court until I heard about Troy

Gardens. When I saw it for the first time it reminded me of our childhood garden and I couldn't wait to get in there.

My Mom and I have gardened there for about seven years, and I became a part of the Gardens Steering Committee two years ago. When I found out that committee had so few members and really needed the help, I could not say no. As I pitched in to help, I learned a lot from a lot of folks, and by the time the season ended I felt real good about what we did that year. No thanks needed.

At home I have now three children: my son, Marcus, 21, my daughter Kristina, 14, and I adopted my brother's son, Winston, 18, twelve years ago. My mom moved in about 1998 (she is such a help), and two years ago my disabled brother came to live with us (he is such a joy to have around).



Clockwise from bottom, Winston, Marcus, Kristina, and Sonci.

I have a great boyfriend. Jeff Stone is such a rock—he helps me balance my family and all my volunteer work, often helping out at the house when I'm not there. I do have the coolest family. And they help out with my volunteer work, too.

I am on the citizen advisory committee for Warner Park. I also serve on the Board for the North-East Sherman Youth Basketball Program. I am usually found working concession stands for the UW Football and Men's Basketball games. Two years ago, I got a Referee's license so from time to time I also referee basketball games. I try to follow my kids around to all their activities—basketball, football, soccer, and East High's Show Choir.

My biggest hope for “A Northside Festival—Savor The Summer at Troy Gardens,” and the new partnership between Vera Court and FTG, is that we can make someone have the time of their life, smile more than they ever have, laugh louder than they knew they could. I want more and more people to become aware of these very worthwhile agencies and the work that is being done, and the need we all have to prosper.

Every one needs some help at one time or another in their life. I have been blessed. Not with material things, but with love. I try to give always . . . It makes my heart feel good.

No thanks needed.



Save the Date!
Saturday, August 11
Noon-6pm



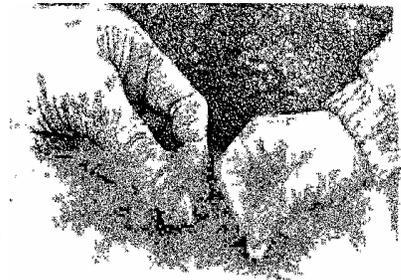
Yes! I want to join the Friends of Troy Gardens

Members receive the Troy Gardens Gazette as well as notices of events, volunteer opportunities, and educational programs.

Sign me up! I want to help:

- TRANSPLANT \$25
- PLOW \$45
- HARVEST \$75
- SUSTAIN \$100
- PRESERVE \$200+

Low income memberships available, call 240-0409



PRESERVERS RECEIVE FREE T-SHIRT

Please make your tax-deductible gift payable to:

Friends of Troy Gardens
Room 171, Building 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Thank You!