



## Early Bird Special

### Reduced Share Price for Returning Members Signing up by March 1<sup>st</sup>

As usual, returning members who sign up by March 1<sup>st</sup> will pay the previous year's share price. For 2013, that means \$580 instead of the new price of \$590. Simply cross off the price on the sign up form and write in \$580. Then send it in with your check(s) by 1 March.

Signing up by March 1<sup>st</sup> will also guarantee your spot for 2013. It is very important to us that anyone who wants to return to Troy has a spot, so we will hold your share for you until March 1<sup>st</sup>. After that date, membership is open to new and returning members on a first-come, first-serve basis.



## CSA Share Rebates

Physicians Plus, Group Health, Dean, and Unity all offer rebates worth \$50 to \$300 on the cost of your CSA share. Find out more at <http://www.csacoalition.org/our-work/csa-insurance-rebate/>

## Claire's Comments

### New for 2013!

We had some of the best input we have ever had from our end-of-season survey in 2012. You all had a number of great ideas that we are looking forward to putting into practice in the coming season. Here are some of the things we are working on:

- **Member Handbook**

We get plenty of questions throughout the season about where the flower garden is, how to pickup a share after hours, what to do with kohlrabi, etc. Our goal with the handbook is to put answers to many of those questions all in one place for you. There will be an information page that you can give to a friend who is going to pickup your share while you are out of town; a page to help with identifying fresh herbs; a page on how to find the CSA flower garden and how to harvest flowers, etc. As the handbook evolves, it will also include basic storage and preparation tips for most of our vegetables. We hope to have a working draft of the handbook done by the first pickup in May. We will post it on our website, so you will always be able to access the most up-to-date version. If you have questions you would like answered in the new handbook, please send them to me!

- **Farm Member Orientation Tour**

Even though most of you come to the farm each week to pickup your shares, there is much more to the place than you can see from the pickup site. On the first pickup of 2013, we will have guides ready to show you around the site and bring you back to the farm. We will take a look at the CSA garden, visit the hidden prairie grotto, pop into the passive solar greenhouse, and answer your questions along the way. No one will be required to go on the tour, but for those of you who are new or who want to learn more about Troy Gardens, this tour will help you to get to know the place and feel at home.

- **Pre-Packed Pickup Option**

Some of you mentioned that even though you enjoy packing your own shares most of the time, there are days when you are in a hurry and would like the option to pickup a pre-packed share. Why didn't we think of this ourselves?! This year, we will have some pre-packed shares ready to go for those days when time is tight.

- **Farm Event for CSA Members**

We have never really done much with farm events. Perhaps because we see so many of you each week, we just never made it  
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a priority. It is a priority for this year! We are battling around a number of ideas, all of them include eating together. The idea we like best so far is actually *cooking* and eating together. If we can work out the logistics, we would love to harvest the ingredients for pasta sauce, cook it up on site, and then all join in a simple farm lunch in the field. If you have any ideas of what we should do, please send them along. At the moment, we are thinking the event will be sometime in August when the field is full of fresh summer favorites.

- **Member Forum on our Website**

This forum would be a place to share recipes, find someone to pick up your share when you are out of town, or even to set up a CSA pickup carpool. This idea is not new, it is just harder to implement. We will be talking with Jim, who is a member of the Community GroundWorks board and a whiz with the website, to see if we can get this going for 2013.

In addition to those items, we also have a new egg supplier for the season. Though we were very happy with their product, Keene decided that they would not have enough eggs to supply us this year. Luckily, we found Prairie Bluff Farm. They produce certified organic eggs and are also members of the Fair Share CSA Coalition (as is Troy). The price of the egg share is the same as last year, their eggs are great, and they should have plenty to supply everyone who wants CSA eggs this year. We are very happy to be working with them.

On the production side of things, we are also very much looking forward to building on our melon and weed successes from last season. More melons! Fewer weeds! The whole crew enjoyed working on these projects in 2012, and I know we can do even more in 2013.

Spring is right around the corner. I am looking forward to seeing you all again when the days are longer and vegetables are growing in the field once more.

## Upcoming Events

### **Special Price Sign-Up Deadline**

*Friday, 1 March 2013*

Returning members, send in your sign-up form and check by March 1<sup>st</sup> and pay the early bird price of \$580. Sending in your form by the deadline will also guarantee your spot in the CSA. After March 1<sup>st</sup>, membership is open to both new and returning members on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### **First CSA Pick-Up**

*Thursday, 30 May 2012*

*at Troy Community Farm*

Remember to bring a tote bag to the first delivery of the season. We will fill it with lettuce, spinach, radishes, sprouts, green garlic, and more.

### **Farm Volunteer Days**

*Fridays, 7:00 to 11:00 am*

*May through October*

*at Troy Community Farm*

The farm has open volunteer hours on Friday mornings. We transplant, mulch, weed, harvest, and have interesting conversation while working hard. Everyone is welcome. You will leave with some dirt under your fingernails, a stretch in your hamstrings, and as many flowers and herbs as you can carry.



Though the farm is covered in snow right now, here's what we will be doing in a few short months! We rent a big tractor and chisel plow each spring to incorporate cover crops and prep the ground for the first seeding. The spinach, lettuce, and radishes we plant in mid-April are the first vegetables you will have fresh from the farm in May.

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## **Troy Community Farm**

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