



## Community Garden Leaders to Meet at Troy August 9

The community garden leaders are gathering at Troy Gardens on Saturday, August 9, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. This is a time for informal discussions, among people who are active in leading their gardens, on how to make our gardens better. It's a chance to compare notes on what works well, ask questions about how other gardens function, learn and share. All gardeners are welcome to attend. There will be small group discussions of 30 – 45 minutes on topics of interest to garden leaders.

Discussion topics being planned:

- Keeping up the energy – encouraging volunteers and sharing garden tasks
- Youth gardening
- Oakhill Correctional horticulture program & Madison Community Gardens
- Garden vegetable theft
- Handling weed waste
- Setting up a garden leaders email communication method (e.g., Yahoo group, list serv) to keep in touch with each other.
- Classes/Education
- English as a Second Language challenges
- Pest control
- What do we do with all the rocks?

All Troy Community Gardens Steering/Leadership Committee members, subcommittee members and gardeners who are interested in what it takes to manage the Gardens are invited to attend.

## Volunteer Hours Requirement

Unless you paid for your volunteer hours with your garden application this year, you are required to work three volunteer hours per plot. Hours can be completed at the organized work days. There are only three organized work days left for 2008: Saturday, 8/16/08, Saturday, 9/20/08, and Saturday, 10/25/08, which is also closing day. If you are unable to volunteer on these dates, please plan on volunteering on your own. A list of tasks can be found in the front of the notebook located in the mailbox on the left side of the garden kiosk near the shed. Please be sure to record your hours in the notebook. If you do not complete your volunteer hours for 2008, you will need to pay for them at a rate of \$10/hour before your 2009 application will be accepted.

## Work Day

Saturday, August 16  
9 am -12 noon

If it is raining on August 16, the work day will be changed to August 17, at the same time.  
Hnub ua haujlwm pab dawb yog  
8/16/08, 9 a.m. txog 12 teev  
tavs, yog los nag muab pauv rau  
8/17/08 tib lub sijhawm.

## Día de Trabajo

El Sábado 16 de agosto  
9 am -12 medio día

Si llegara a llover el 16 de agosto, el día de trabajo será cambiado para el día 17 de agosto a la misma hora.

**Save those Jung Dollars and consider donating them to Troy Community Gardens !!!**

You can mail them to Friends of Troy Gardens at the address below or bring them to one of the Work Days.  
Friends of Troy Gardens • Room 171, Bldg 14 • 3601 Memorial Drive • Madison, WI 53704

## Dogs, Cars and Weeds

It's time for a brief refresher course regarding a few of the Troy Community Gardens Rules and Expectations as there have been reports of infractions recently. The Rules and Expectations were included as part of the garden application you completed when applying for a plot at Troy. These Rules and Expectations can also be found on the Troy website at <http://www.troygardens.org/gardrules.html>.

### Dogs (or other pets)

Dogs are allowed in the Gardens area but they must be on leash. Please do not let your dog run around the Gardens area unattended. No dogs, leashed or unleashed are allowed in the actual plots themselves (save your own). Dogs are allowed off leash on the part of the property north of the Gardens (prairie area).

### Vehicles

Do not drive your vehicle onto the grass. Wheelbarrows are available to help you carry items to and from your vehicle. Parking is available on Troy Drive, but do not block any residential mailboxes. The post office will not deliver mail to these residences if they cannot access the curbside mailbox.

### Disposal of Weeds

In the past gardeners were allowed to place plant refuse and weeds in a pile or bin at the back of the Gardens. We had no way to turn these piles to produce any useable compost, and we must pay to have them hauled away. Starting in 2008, a new rule was created asking the gardeners to compost weeds and plant refuse within their own plots. Recently, weeds have been found in the recycle bin behind the shed and in the recycle bins used by the Troy homeowners. In addition, a gardener was seen dumping their garden weeds in the woods. **THESE BEHAVIORS ARE UNACCEPTABLE.** The Troy Community Gardens Steering/Leadership Committee discussed the problem at their last meeting and decided the following: **Gardeners who are caught dumping weeds outside their plots will be moved to the bottom of the plot assignment list for the next year.** Advice regarding composting within your own plot can be found in the May 2008 Digging In newsletter.

The following items were listed in last month's newsletter but Hmong translation was not available at the time.

### Garden Hoses

Please coil up hoses when you are done with them. Do not leave hoses lying outside the edge of the plot sections where they can be run over by the large mower. **Hmong:** Thov kauv cov hluas yas dej rov qab tso rau ntawm tus kai dej thaum siv tag. Txhob cia txoj hluas yas nyob ntawm kev teb tsam thaum txiav nyom lub cav yuav txiav tau txoj yas dej.

### First Aid Kit

We now have a first aid kit for gardeners to use. It is located in the yellow shed on top of the metal cabinets on the right side of the shed. **Hmong:** Nimno peb muaj ib cov tshuaj-first aid kit rau cov tswv teb sawvdaws tau siv yog raug mob tos qhov twg. Lub thawv muab tso nyob hauv lub tsev shed xim daj saum cov tub hluas uas nyob sab xis thaum nkag mus rau hauv lub tsev lawm.

### Portable Toilet

There is a portable toilet located on the property for your convenience. Lately the company that maintains the unit has mentioned trash has been thrown into the toilet. Please refrain from depositing any trash, including disposable diapers, in the portable toilet. Your cooperation is appreciated. **Hmong:** Thov txhob pov khib nyiab, xwsli me nyuam daivpawm (diapers)rau ntawm lub tsev viv nyob tom qab daim teb Troy. Ua tsaug rau nej txoj kev koom tes.

## Nation's Mayors Visit Troy Gardens

On Saturday, August 2, approximately 20 mayors from across the nation visited Troy Gardens as part of this year's Mayors Innovation Project Summer Meeting. The Mayors Innovation Project (MIP) is a learning network among American mayors committed to "high road" policy and governance: shared prosperity, environmental sustainability, efficient democratic government. MIP participants believe that building high road cities and metropolitan regions is both good for their residents and a key way to move the country to the high road nationally. MIP was founded in 2005 by Madison mayor Dave Cieslewicz and Joe Rogers, the UW-Madison professor and director of COWS, the national high road service center and the new Center for State Innovation (CSI).

One of the topics at this year's Summer Meeting was Local Food Systems. The mayors spent Friday afternoon listening to speakers discuss city-based food production, which can take many forms, from rooftop gardens to community garden plots to urban farms to re-greened vacant lots to microenterprises to farmer's markets. Then on Saturday, they toured the Dane County Farmer's Market and Troy Gardens. At Troy the mayors were greeted by Bob Gragson, Executive Director of Friends of Troy Gardens. Marge Pitts, Friends of Troy Gardens Board member, long-time Troy gardener and neighbor of Troy, then gave a brief background on how Troy Gardens came into existence and brought us up to today. Jill and Kurt Schneider shared information with the mayors about how the Community Gardens operate. Lastly, Marge led a tour of the entire property showing the mayors all aspects of Troy; the Community Gardens, the Kid's Garden, the Natural Areas, including the Prairie and Edible Landscape, the Community Supported Farm (CSA), and the Troy co-housing units.



The mayors seemed genuinely impressed with the history and success of the Troy Gardens project. We heard several mayors express hope that their visions can become realities now that they have learned that our grassroots vision became a reality here on the north side of Madison.

### Troy Gardeners Gathering

Troy gardeners are invited to gather in the council ring\* of the Natural Areas at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, to visit with fellow gardener George Tyson and his wife Lily. George's accounts of his boyhood on a Wisconsin farm, his travels to China and his deep understanding of sustainable systems for the production of food and energy should make this a memorable event for all of us. Please bring a beverage and a snack--if possible, something with ingredients from your garden plot--and perhaps your own seating.

\*The council ring is located near the center of the Natural Areas Prairie. Go northwest of the gardens area and take the path leading into the center of the Prairie until you reach the council ring opening.

### Upcoming Events

**Garden Leaders Meeting at Troy Gardens** (details on page 1)

Sat., August 9, 12 noon - 3 pm

**Community Gardens Volunteer Work Day**

Sat., August 16, 9 am - 12 noon

**Natural Areas Stewards Workshop**

Sat., August 23, 9 am - 12 noon

**Community Gardens Steering/Leadership Committee Meeting**

Wed., August 27, 6 pm - 7:45 pm, Lakeview Library

**Troy Gardeners Gathering** (details to left)

Thurs., August 28, 7 pm, Council Ring in Troy Prairie

**Natural Areas Stewards Workshop**

Sat., September 13, 9 am - 12 noon

**Community Gardens Volunteer Work Day**

Sat., September 20, 9 am - 12 noon

**Community Gardens Harvest Festival**

Sat., September 20, 12 noon - 3 pm

For details about any of these events, please call the Friends of Troy Gardens office at 240-0409.

# Troy Community Gardens Harvest Festival

Saturday, 9/20/08, 12 to 3 p.m.

Potluck - Pie Contest - Cider Pressing - Door Prizes

Meet your fellow gardeners - Bring your family and friends

The word is we will have lots of apples from Mendota Orchard for the cider pressing this year!



## Scenes from this year's Savor the Summer Event



8/2/08 - Clockwise from upper left - Meet and greet with the chickens; accordion players; bagpipers; slip and slide; visit by horses; cutest baby in attendance.

