



## Pumpkin Patch at Troy

If you wander over to the east end of the Community Gardens just behind the Kid's Garden, you will see our pumpkin patch. Since there has been a delay in getting the greenhouse for the Troy Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm constructed on this site, the Steering/Leadership Committee for the Community Gardens thought it might be nice to utilize the space to grow some pumpkins. At the May Community Gardens work day, several volunteers prepared the ground and planted over a dozen hills of pumpkins. After a couple weeks, we were a little disappointed to not see any signs of germination, but about three weeks after planting, nearly every hill had pumpkin vines bursting out of the ground.



At the most recent work day in June, another group of volunteers weeded the patch and marked each hill with a green flag. If the season goes well, we may have enough pumpkins to share with gardeners and the extra could be sold at the North/Eastside Senior Coalition's annual Apple Fest at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. The money raised would be used towards the Community Gardens.

## Anti-Mosquito Device Installed at Troy

How many mosquito bites have you endured so far this gardening season? Are you resistant to using bug spray with DEET but haven't found an effective, natural alternative? With all the recent rain and subsequent standing water, experts expect the mosquito population to be higher than ever this season. Well, have no fear, the new anti-mosquito device is now installed at Troy. It doesn't need any electricity like those bug zappers; it doesn't contain any noxious chemicals like those sprays and lotions; and it was free (okay, nearly free). At the June work day, a donated bat house was erected near the canvas tent by the Kid's Garden. If we are lucky, bats will decide to inhabit the house and go on to consume loads of mosquitoes at the Gardens.



In this area of the country, the house is likely to attract either little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) or big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*). These two bat species consume large quantities of insects. In fact, the big brown bat appears to prefer beetles, and a colony of 150 big brown bats can eat enough cucumber beetles each summer to protect farmers from up to 33 million or more root worms each year. The little brown bat is typically found close to lakes, so perhaps our proximity to Lake Mendota will help these bats find our house soon. One little

brown bat can eat up to 3000 insects per night. With the recent discovery of 22,000 mosquitoes in a trap located at Warner Park, we could all benefit from a few bats in the neighborhood. Stop by and check out the new bat house.

## Work Day

Saturday, July 19  
9 am -12 noon

If it is raining on July 19, the work day will be changed to July 20, at the same time.

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7/19/08, 9 a.m txog 12 teev tavsu,  
yog los nag muab pauv rau  
7/20/08 tib lub sijhawm.

### Día de Trabajo

El Sábado 19 de Julio  
9 am -12 medio día

Si llegara a llover el 19 de Julio, el día de trabajo será cambiado para el día 20 de Julio a la misma hora.

# Garden Announcements

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Garden Plot Theft

There have been reports of ripe vegetables being taken from garden plots at Troy. Friends of Troy Gardens staff cannot patrol gardens to control theft that may occur. Police can help only if they arrive while a person is stealing or destroying property. We as gardeners are the best people to watch for theft and confront those we suspect are not our garden neighbors. First of all, get to know your garden neighbors. If you are going to be out of town and have arranged for a friend or family member to maintain your plot, let your garden neighbors know, so they don't have to wonder who those strangers are in your plot. If you think someone doesn't belong in a plot, engage them in conversation. Ask them if they are helping the gardener while they are out of town. The person might just leave knowing someone is questioning them, and you may have helped prevent more garden theft. If you have experienced garden theft, please report it to the Friends of Troy Offices at 240-0409.

## ***Mark Your Calendars for the . . .***

### **Troy Community Gardens Harvest Festival**

**Saturday, 9/20/07, 12 to 3 p.m.**

**Potluck - Pie Contest - Cider Pressing**

**Meet your fellow gardeners - Bring your family and friends**



## **Can't Make a Work Day?**

There's almost always some area of the gardens that could stand some mowing. There will be an unlocked, fueled mower in the middle wooden bin at the rear of the gardens if you wish to get in some volunteer time on your own. Be sure to return it to the bin and record your volunteer hours in the notebook located in the mailbox on the left side of the kiosk near the shed.

## **Thanks for the Donation**

We thank Jim Sommerfeld and Happy Grass ([www.happygrasswi.com](http://www.happygrasswi.com)) for providing several bags of "Purple Cow Organic Compost" for us to sell at a profit at our plant sale on May 25. We appreciate it from the bottom of our soils!



## ***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

*Save the Date! Saturday, August 2*



# Savor The Summer at Troy Gardens

## Celebrate Local Abundance

### Free Family Fun!

**Saturday, August 2**

**3pm-8pm**

**Free samples of garden goodies!**

**Kids' games & activities**

**Home-grown music & entertainment on the land**

## A GREEN FESTIVAL

*Bring-your-own picnic to Troy Gardens—  
Take-your-own trash with you when you leave*



## Mallards Fundraiser for Troy Gardens



Don't forget - Troy Gardens and the Madison Mallards have teamed up to give you an opportunity to raise some money for Troy Gardens.

If you buy tickets for the Monday, August 4, Mallards game against the Green Bay Bullfrogs at this special website - [www.mallardsgroups.com](http://www.mallardsgroups.com) - and use the group password "garden" to log in, \$2 will be donated to Troy Gardens for every ticket purchased. Tickets are also available at the box office, but remember to use the "garden" password and support Troy Gardens. Go Mallards . . . and Troy Gardens!

## Upcoming Events

**Community Gardens Volunteer Work Day**

Saturday, July 19, 9:00 am - 12 noon

**Natural Areas Stewards Workshop**

Saturday, July 19, 9:00 am - 12 noon

**Community Gardens Steering/Leadership Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, July 23, 6:00 pm - 7:45 pm, Lakeview Library

**Kids Get Crafty! Flower Pressing**

Saturday, July 26, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

**Kids Cook! Making Pickles**

Wednesday, July 30, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**Community Gardens Weeknight Volunteer Work Day**

Thursday, July 31, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

**Kids Explore! Animals in the Garden**

Saturday, August 2, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

**Savor the Summer Festival**

Saturday, August 2, 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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