The Community GroundWorks Garden Newsletter

# DIGGING IN

At Troy Community Gardens
Madison, WI

## Opening Day 2010

Despite gale-force winds, the 2010 Opening Day event was well-attended, and many gardeners got a jump-start on the season with the warmer than usual spring we have been having. In addition to Opening Day on April 17, it was also our first organized work day of the year. We had over 70 gardener volunteers helping out with various tasks. Our next work day is scheduled for May 15 from 9 a.m. - noon. Upcoming work days will always be listed on the front page of this newsletter, which is published at the beginning of each month, May through October. A complete list of work days and other events can be found on Page 4. If you cannot attend the regularly scheduled work days, you can always volunteer on your own and record your hours in the notebook located in the left-hand side mailbox on the garden kiosk near the yellow shed. A list of tasks can be found in the front of the notebook. There is usually a gassed-up and unlocked mower in the yellow shed, which can be used by volunteers.

Photo by John Beck

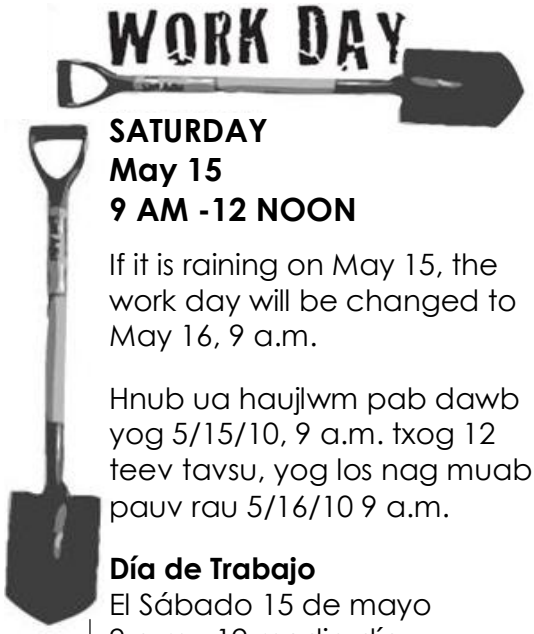
The water has been turned on at the gardens, but there is a small leak in the system which will be repaired by volunteers before or at the May 15 work day. All hay and row cover ordered on applications prior to Opening Day has been delivered to your plot.

Each year the May newsletter seems somewhat redundant in its content as garden policies and procedures are reiterated for the benefit of new gardeners and as a reminder for returning gardeners. Hopefully if you are a new gardener, you were able to attend the new gardener orientation at Opening Day. If you weren't, be sure to review the General Garden Information, Rules and Expectations (pages 5 and 6 of your plot application) to familiarize yourself with how things work at Troy Community Gardens. One important rule to remember is that you must start to work in and/or plant things in your plot by June 1. If you have access to the internet, you can view the application at http://www.troygardens.org/sites/default/files/troy-gardens/2010TroyGardenApplication.pdf. The rules are also posted on the kiosk at the gardens.

You may not have noticed, but at Opening Day we had some plant starts, bags of Purple Cow Organic Compost and individual wire compost bins for sale. These items will be for sale again at the Troy Community Gardens Plant and Equipment Sale on May 30 from 9 am-1 pm in front of Pierce's Northside Grocery (see Page 4 for details). If you'd like to order a compost bin for pick-up at the May 15 work day or at the Plant Sale, please contact Kurt Schneider at 237-8024 or kschneider@badgercab.com. Kurt is our Equipment Subcommittee Leader and the subcommittee is making the bins for sale to fellow gardeners at a cost of $12 each. They come with re-usable zip strips to expand or contract the size of the bin. You will also receive a handout of compost making tips.

Turn the page for more gardening news and event information, including a free work shop called Your Gardening Body listed on Page 3.

Happy Gardening!




**SATURDAY**
**May 15**
**9 AM -12 NOON**

If it is raining on May 15, the work day will be changed to May 16, 9 a.m.

Hnub ua haujlwm pab dawb yog 5/15/10, 9 a.m. txog 12 teev tavsu, yog los nag muab pauv rau 5/16/10 9 a.m.

**Día de Trabajo**
El Sábado 15 de mayo
9 a.m. -12 medio día
Si llegara a llover el 15 de mayo, el día de trabajo será cambiado para el día 16 de mayo 9 a.m.

# Scenes from Opening Day

Photo by Jill Jacklitz

Photo by Laura Paglusch

Photo by Jill Jacklitz

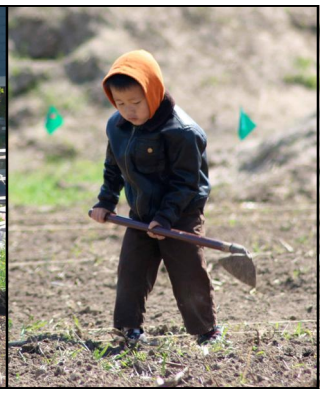


Photo by John Beck

# Gardens a Part of Community GroundWorks

Our community gardens are part of a bigger organization called Community GroundWorks. You may have noticed that your garden application is mailed to Community GroundWorks and you see references to Community GroundWorks in the masthead of this newsletter. Community GroundWorks is the non-profit organization that manages the 26 acres where there are 329 community garden plots, a community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm, a Kids' Garden, and restored natural areas. Community GroundWorks also administers programs that develop the land in a sustainable manner, improve food security for Madison's Northside residents, and provide educational programs on gardening, natural areas restoration, food preparation, nutrition, and environmental education.

The community gardens are primarily managed and maintained by gardener volunteers. All gardeners are encouraged to join one of the many subcommittees that exist to manage and maintain the community gardens. In addition, there is a Steering/ Leadership Committee comprised of volunteer gardeners. This Committee makes decisions regarding the management of the community gardens and is a standing committee to the Community GroundWorks Board of Directors. Any gardener can volunteer to participate on the Steering/Leadership Committee or can attend the meetings if interested.

Jill Jacklitz

As part of the Community GroundWorks organization, we receive administrative support from the staff for tasks such as collecting and depositing of garden fees, copying newsletters, distributing meeting minutes for the Steering/Leadership Committee, answering phone calls from gardeners, etc. We also rely on the CSA farm staff to plow a large portion of our plots each spring.

Christie Ralston

Community GroundWorks recently filled two key staff positions. Jill Jacklitz was hired just over a month ago as the new Executive Director. Jill formerly led the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and is a lecturer at the UW School of Social Work.

In addition, Christie Ralston was hired for the new Associate Director position which is responsible for fundraising, donor relations, community and public relations, and other tasks. The Associate Director is a half-time position, and Christie will also continue on in her role as Natural Areas Coordinator. Christie has been providing support to the community gardens for over two years and will continue to attend our Steering/ Leadership Committee meetings and provide support in the future.

Another new staff member is Megan Bjella who joined CGW as Administrative Assistant earlier this year. She handles the bookkeeping duties among many other things. She will also be helping with some of the administrative support for the Community Gardens.

Other staff members include Claire Strader as Farm Manager for Troy Community Farm and Director of Madison FarmWorks, and Jacob Hoeksema as the Assistant Manager for Troy Community Farm. Nathan Larson is the Education Director and oversees the Kids' Garden. Megan Cain is the Program Manager for East High Teen Farm and Madison FarmWorks. Elizabeth Gering is an AmeriCorps VISTA member and is coordinating the Madison Youth Grow Local Initiative.

Megan Bjella

Please visit the recently revamped www.troygardens.org web site to learn more about the staff and programs that are Community GroundWorks.

This publication is produced by the Troy Community Gardens Newsletter Subcommittee.
Contact us at 608-241-1821 or email schneiderjill@charter.net.

# Friendly Reminders

**No Parking Zone**

At the request of our Troy Drive neighbors, we have been asked to not park within 15 feet of their residential mailboxes. The US Post Office will not deliver mail to mailboxes if there is a car parked within 15 feet. Please respect our neighbors, and refrain from parking near their mailboxes Monday through Saturday.

Español: No se estacionen más cerca de 15 pies cerca de las cajas de correo residencial en Troy Drive.

Hmong: Yuav tau nres tsheb nrug deb li 15 kotaw (feet) ntawm sab txoj kev Troy Drive uas muaj cov mailboxes rau cov tsev.

**Keep Green Flags in Plots**

Please do not remove the green plot marker flag from your plot. Try to keep it in the center of the plot or near the path but obviously within your plot. The Plot Monitoring Subcommittee will need to reference the flag when monitoring plots.

Español: Por favor, no quite la bandera verde de su parcela. Ésta sirve como punto de referencia para el comité que hace el monitoreo de malas hierbas.

Hmong: Thov txhob rho tus chij ntsuab uas sau nej npe thiab nej tus nabnpawb tawm ntawm nej pav teb. Thaum pab saib xyuas teb(Plot Monitoring Subcommittee) ncig saib cov teb, lawv thiaj li paub leejtwg qho yog qho twg thiab nyob qhov chaw twg.

**Weed Policy**

We do not allow gardeners to dump weeds or plant debris anywhere on the property. Gardeners must compost their garden waste within their own plot or take it off site themselves.

Español: No se puede dejar malas hierbas o cualquier otro desecho vegetal en el fondo del jardin, como ha sido hecho en años anteriores. Todos los jardineros deben guardar tales desechos dentro de sus parcelas (para hacer abono) o quitarlos del sitio.

Hmong: Yuav tsis pub koj pov tej yam nyuag khaub nroj tsuag lossis me nyuam khaub ntoo,kav quav pobkws rau pem qab thaj teb lawm. Cov tswv ua teb yuav tau muab tej khaub nroj tsuag faus nyob rau nej thajteb lossis nqa mus povtseg tom nej tsev xwb.

## Your Gardening Body Work Shop

**When:** Saturday, May 15, 10:00 am - 11:00 am
**Who:** Troy Community Gardeners
**Cost:** Free (but class size limited to 20 gardeners)

The **Your Gardening Body** work shop, taught by Anne Asher, will go over best ways to perform a few of the most common gardening chores in a way that can help save your back and joints. We will also talk about injury prevention and pain management. By becoming in charge of your own body mechanics and strengthening key support muscles, you can spend more time in the garden with less strain and pain. Anne Asher is a body worker and movement therapist. She created the Your Gardening Body work shop to help empower people as they sustain the earth. She blogs at Your Gardening Body: http://www.yourgardeningbody.com. This work shop will accommodate only 20 Troy Gardeners. The work shop will be held at 10 a.m. in the middle of our regularly scheduled May work day. Participants will receive volunteer credit.

## Swale & Berm Work Shop

**When:** Saturday, May 8, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
**Cost:** $25 per person (meet at Kids' Garden at Troy)

This work shop is being offered by Permaculturist, Kate Heiber-Cobb of **Sustainability on Stilts, LLC**, in collaboration with Community GroundWorks. Learn how to easily hold water on your property, how to use an A-Frame Level, how to measure contour of the land and more. We will be creating this project to help ease erosion and flooding near the Troy Community Gardens. Bring shovel, mattock, gloves, drinking water, and please dress for weather.

**Please mail a check made out to:**
**Sustainability On Stilts, LLC**
**5310 Winnequah Rd.**
**Monona, WI 53716**

E-mail Kate at seventhheaven@mailbag.com with questions.

## Northside Farmers' Market Open

The Northside Farmers' Market opened for the 2010 season on Sunday, May 2. The market is located at the Northside TownCenter, at the corner of Sherman and Northport, just across from Warner Park. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Sunday. May 9 is Mother's Day, and all children who visit the market can take home a free plant or flower for Mom. More plants will be available on Sunday, May 16, when the Dane County Timebank hosts a plant exchange from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bring your labeled perennials, seedlings, bulbs, houseplants or seeds to trade or sell for Timedollars. Non-Timebank members are welcome to trade plants. May 23 will be Farm Day at the market. Come delight in meeting a variety of farm animals right there at the market. Hope you can join us!

## 2010 - Important Dates for Community Gardens

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sat., May 15** | Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon |
| **Sat., May 15** | Your Gardening Body Work Shop 10 a.m. (see details on Page 3) |
| **Sun., May 30** | Plant & Equipment Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Pierce's Northside Market (see details below) |
| **Sat., June 19** | Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon |
| **Sat., July 17** | Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon |
| **Sat., August 21** | Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon |
| **Sat., September 18** | Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon |
| **Sat., September 18** | Community Gardens Harvest Festival, 12 noon - 3:00 p.m. |
| **Sat., October 9** | Community Gardens All-Gardener Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - noon |
| **Sat., October 23** | Community Gardens Closing Day/Volunteer Work Day, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon |

### Madison Area Community Gardeners Email Listserv

Consider joining the Madison Area Community Gardeners listserv to connect with other community gardeners around the Madison area in order to share advice, questions, and successes. To join, visit http://groups.google.com/group/madison-area-community-gardeners.

## Aluminum Cans Needed!

We will continue to collect aluminum cans to raise money for the gardens. Save your cans and bring them to each Saturday work day (3rd Saturday of the month).

**Español:** Traigan el sábado que son los días de trabajo latas de aluminio bacías en bolsas de plástico para juntar dinero para los Jardines.

**Hmong:** Nqa cov kauspoom aluminum (pesxij) uas haus tag lawm ntim rau ib lub hnab yas tuaj txhua hnub Saturday uas muaj ua haujlwm sib pab, muag rau kev nrhia nyiaj pab lub vaj.

Troy Community Gardens
PLANT & EQUIPMENT SALE

Sunday, May 30,
9am until 1pm

**In front of Pierce's Northside Grocery during the Northside Farmers' Market on Memorial Day Weekend**

**Hundreds of Heirloom Tomato and Pepper plants!**

**Herbs**
**Prairie Plants**
**Perennial Flowers**
**Purple Cow Organic Compost with Microlife**

**Healthy plants in 3-inch pots or larger**

**FEATURING: A limited number of refurbished mowers & trimmers for sale!**

**Proceeds benefit Troy Community Gardens**

### *NEW* TROY GARDENS SAVOR THE SUMMER COOKBOOK IS COMING!

### *WE NEED YOUR RECIPES AND STORIES!*

We're creating a new cookbook for Troy Gardens and Madison's Northside. This special cookbook will include a children's story and coloring book—a delight for the whole family!

Please GIVE US A RECIPE—plus a few words. Tell us where you got the recipe, how you enjoy it, a poem about your garden, a story about your grandmother—anything you want to share about *you*! Pictures are welcome. Everyone whose recipe we use will receive a free cookbook—a $6 value.

**Send your recipes, stories and pictures to:**
**margepitts@sbcglobal.net**
**OR**
**Mail to:**
**Community GroundWorks**
**3601 Memorial Dr., Suite 4**
**Madison, WI 53704**