

DIGGING IN

At Troy Community Gardens
Madison, WI

All Gardener Meeting Summary

The All Gardener Meeting was held on Saturday, October 9. About 40 gardeners gave up two hours on a beautiful fall day to attend. For those who could not attend, here's a summary of items discussed:

Highlights of 2010

- 202 gardeners used 329 plots
- \$640 raised at Plant Sale in May (thanks to Marge Pitts and Pat Woicsek and all the other volunteers)
- Approximately 20 gardeners attended the Your Gardening Body Work Shop at June work day
- Over 14 gallons of apple juice made with antique cider press at Harvest Festival on September 18
- Enabling Garden construction started late summer to continue in 2011
- Hose Hangers were installed at all but one water standpipe

H1 - H60 Plots to Convert to No-plow/Organic plots for 2011

Because of the difficulty of plowing these plots west and just north of the greenhouse and the fact that gardeners request more no-plow/organic plots than plowed/non-organic plots, we are switching these 60 plots over to no-plow/organic for 2011. Volunteers attempted to contact everyone currently gardening in these plots and the majority wanted to convert to no-plow/organic. For those wishing to remain in a plowed/non-organic section, plots H61-H120 will remain plowed/non-organic for 2011. Be sure to indicate on your 2011

plot application your preference, so we can assign the appropriate type of plot. For those in plots H1-H60 who are in good standing and wish to stay in their plots, they do not need to remove their fencing and can plant fall crops such as garlic.

Last Work Day/Closing Day is 10/23/10

If you were gardening in plots H61-H120 this year, you must have any fencing and non-organic material removed from your plot by 9 a.m. on 10/23. You must also chop up large stalks (into 6 inch pieces) and spread out compost piles to help plant material decompose over the winter and make plowing easier in the spring. The Plot Monitoring Subcommittee will survey these plots prior to 9 a.m. and note any gardeners who did not comply. Those gardeners will be moved to the bottom of the plot assignment list for 2011.

Water Turn Off Date

The water at the Community Gardens will be shut off on 10/19/10.

2010 Volunteer Time

You must complete your hours by 11/30/10 or pay for them (\$10/hour) before we accept your application in 2011. **New:** If you are currently a Timebank member (as of 10/9/10) and do not complete your volunteer hours for 2010, you may pay for missed hours with Timebank Hours. The last organized work day is 10/23, but we are under no obligation to find enough volunteer jobs

WORK DAY

SATURDAY
October 23
9 AM -12 NOON

If it is raining on Oct. 23, the work day will be changed to Oct. 24, 9 a.m.

Hnub ua haujlwm pab dawb yog 10/23/10, 9 a.m. txog 12 teev tavsus, yog los nag muab pauv rau 10/24/10 9 a.m.

Día de Trabajo

El Sábado 23 de octubre 9 a.m. -12 medio día
Si llegara a llover el 23 de octubre, el día de trabajo será cambiado para el día 24 de octubre 9 a.m.

that day. After 10/23/10, you can contact Christie Ralston at the Community GroundWorks office (608-240-0409 or christie@troygardens.org) for available volunteer jobs, if any.

Work Shops for 2011

In an effort to help gardeners be more successful, the Community Gardens Steering Committee is proposing that work shops be held for gardeners, free of charge, in conjunction with one or two work days next year. The attendees at the All-Gardener Meeting were presented with several possible topics, including Seed Starting/Seed Selecting, General New Gardener Info/Spring Gar-

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All Gardener Meeting Summary

(Continued from page 1)

den Prep, Composting/Building Soil Fertility/Cover Crops, Creating a Garden Plan, plus several others. Watch for a listing of these possible work shops on next year's plot application. We will be asking you to rank your interest in the different work shops to decide which ones to develop and present to the gardeners.

New Food Donation Box for 2011

Many gardeners share their extra produce with others by placing the items on the picnic tables under the canvas tent. However, the items sometimes get eaten by animals or destroyed by vandals. For 2011, we will be hanging a milk crate with a cover on the side of the yellow shed opposite Troy Drive. If you have extra produce you wish to share with other gardeners, place the items in the milk crate. If items are not taken by other gardeners, one volunteer gardener will be assigned to remove the produce on a weekly basis and delivery it to a local food pantry.

Spring Registration Date for 2011

March 5, 2011, is the tentative date for Spring Registration. Please watch for plot applications to be available on the website in mid-February 2011. You will be notified via post card (and email if applicable) regarding the event.

Policy Reminders

- Do not enter other gardeners' plots for any reason. If you wish to report a weed or invasive plant problem (e.g., mint), please contact the Plot Monitoring Subcommittee at plotmonitoring@gmail.com or put a note in the mailbox on the side of the shed. If the issue is urgent, contact the Community GroundWorks office at 240-0409.
- Please do not use grills within your garden plots. Grilling can be done in open grassy areas, and all grills, lighter fluid, and coals must be removed from the property when you are done. Do not throw any coals (hot or cold) into the recycling or garbage bins at the gardens.
- Compost weeds and garden waste in your plot or take home. Do not dump this material anywhere on the land.

Help Needed on Subcommittees

We could use help on all subcommittees, but especially the Plot Layout, Plot Monitoring, Work Day, Water and Equipment Subcommittees. We also welcome gardeners to serve on the Steering/Leadership Committee. All time served on these subcommittees or the Steering/Leadership Committee counts toward your volunteer time commitment. See <http://www.troygardens.org/what-we-do/troy-community-gardens/subcommittee-descriptions> for a list of subcommittee tasks. Contact Jill Schneider (schneiderjill@charter.net/608-241-1821) if interested in signing up.

Green Online Auction

Thursday, Oct 14 - Sunday, Oct 24

Bid at:

<http://www.biddingforgood.com>

Support Community GroundWorks, The Dane County Timebank and Wisconsin Partners for Sustainability by bidding on great locally sourced items.

Local foods! Save money at farmers markets, coffee and pizza shops. Pies, gourmet chocolate. Dinners at local eateries.

For you: Overnights at local hotels and bed & breakfasts. Massage. Hula hoop lesson. Clothing. UW basketball and hockey tickets!

For your home: Landscaping services, gardening consultation. Original art.

Support these wonderful local nonprofits



Dane County
TIMEBANK



Wisconsin Partners For
SUSTAINABILITY



Learn More About Community GroundWorks

As many of you know, the community gardens are just one part of Community GroundWorks. Hidden behind the tree line just north of the garden plots is Troy Community Farm. The CSA farm was established in 2002 with just 14 members on a quarter acre of land. Today, there are 160 members on five acres. Over 60 interns have passed through the farm gate, working with and learning from Claire Strader, Farm Manager, and Jake Hoeksema, Assistant Farm Manager. Claire publishes a weekly newsletter called *Urban Roots* describing the contents of each week's member share, as well as other timely and interesting information about the inner workings of the farm. To view past newsletters and get a sense of what's involved with running a CSA farm, go to <http://www.troygardens.org/what-we-do/troy-community-farm/csa/newsletters-and-photos>.

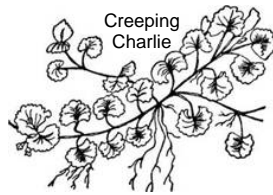
Also, check out what the press has published about Community GroundWorks by going to the "In the News" section of the website <http://www.troygardens.org/resources/publications/in-the-news>.

Song of the Garden (Garden Chant)

By Barb Tarockoff

Inspiration!
Motivation!
Cultivation!

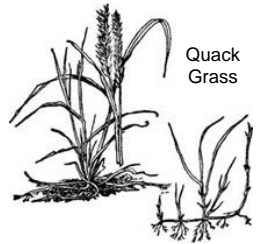
Weeds!



Creeping
Charlie

Salutation!
Expectation!
Mass Migration!

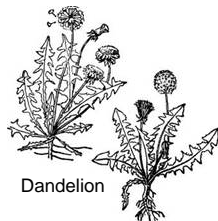
Weeds!



Quack
Grass

Contemplation!
Classification!
Irritation!

Weeds!



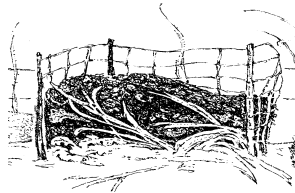
Dandelion

Aggravation!
Subjugation!
Eradication!

Weeds!

Ahh...Education!
Revelation!
Emancipation!

Weeded!
Seeded!
Completed!
Repeated!



Barb is a gardener at Troy Community Gardens and participated in the Community GroundWorks' Writing Work Shop in August and September organized by Marge Pitts, Community GroundWorks Board Member and gardener at Troy Community Gardens.

We Need Your Help

Community GroundWorks would like your help in guiding our vision for the future! The Board of Directors and staff of Community GroundWorks will be meeting on Saturday, October 16, for an all-day strategic planning session. By completing the short, two-question survey at the link listed below, you will help guide the organization in their future planning. Please consider taking a moment to give your input. Click [here](http://bit.ly/bTQckG) to start the survey or type the following URL in your browser's address bar: <http://bit.ly/bTQckG>. Please complete survey by October 17.

Thank You!



Community & Food Pantry Gardens Fall Harvest Potluck

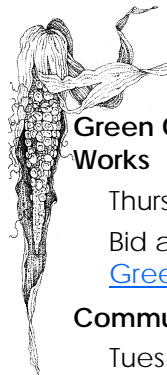
Thursday, Oct. 21, 6-8pm
Catholic Multicultural Center (1862 Beld St.)

Please join Community Action Coalition gardens staff in celebrating the harvest and all of our committed gardeners' hard work at our Fall Harvest Potluck. All community and food pantry gardeners are welcome. The purpose of this event is to acknowledge those who put in the extra effort over the summer that has made our gardens successful.

In addition to CAC's gardens staff providing an overview of highlights of the summer, this evening will also be a great opportunity to find out what's going on at other gardens, including the food pantry gardens. We will have a time for people to break into smaller groups during dinner and share experiences or lessons they have learned with one another. This time of sharing experiences will help both our communities and gardens grow stronger.

In the theme of a harvest celebration, our event will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass. This is your chance to show off your carefully grown fruits and vegetables, as well as your skills in the kitchen!

RSVP for the event to Michelle Shively at mshively@cacsw.org



Upcoming Events

Green Online Auction to Benefit Community GroundWorks

Thurs., Oct. 14 thru Sun., Oct. 24 (see details on Pg. 2)

Bid at <http://www.biddingforgood.com/GreenAuctionsWI>

Community Gardens Water Shut Off Date

Tues., Oct. 19

CAC Fall Harvest Potluck

Thurs., Oct. 21, 6-8 pm (see details above)

Community Gardens Work Day/Closing Day*

Sat., Oct. 23, 9 am - 12 noon

* All gardeners located in plots H61 through H120 (plowed section for 2011) must have all non-plant material removed from their gardens, woody plant material chopped up, and compost piles spread out by 9 a.m. on 10/23. If this is not done, the gardener will be considered in bad standing for next season and may not get their plot(s) back.

NEW FOR 2011, plots H1 through H60 will not be plowed and gardeners can keep up their fences and compost piles, etc., for next year. This section will also be organic for next year.

For more information about any event, please call the Community GroundWorks office at 240-0409.

Troy Community Gardens Harvest Festival 2010

The weather wasn't the best, but a few hearty souls showed up for the September 18 work day and were joined by a few others at noon for the potluck and cider pressing. The volunteers made swift work of picking several bushels of some of the most beautiful apples in years from the antique apple orchard on the Mendota Mental Health Institute property. After the picking was over, the cleaning, cutting, grinding and pressing commenced. We pressed over 14 gallons of delicious apple juice, and all in attendance either took home a gallon of juice, a bucket of apples or both! While enjoying a delicious potluck, the door prize drawing took place, and everyone in attendance received something. We'd like to thank the organizations and individuals listed below for their contributions to the event. And, again, we'd like to thank Paul Haack of Ridgeway for allowing us to borrow his antique apple press for the third year in a row.



Photo of press from 2008

Ace Hardware Center (1398 Williamson Street)

12 Quart-size Canning Jars/Lids/Rings for Door Prize

Willy Street Coop (www.willystreet.coop)

\$30 toward the purchase of Plastic Gallon Containers for Apple Juice and Gift Cards for Door Prizes

Community GroundWorks (www.troygardens.org)

Tote Bag, T-shirt, books, Community GroundWorks' Savor the Summer Cookbook, Best Buy gift card for Door Prizes

Badger Cab (www.badgercab.com)

4 insulated coffee mugs for Door Prizes

Anonymous

LED flashlights, Hula Hoops, Gardening Bag, Jung's Centennial Cookbook for Door Prizes

Savor the Summer Cookbook for 2010

The Community GroundWorks Savor the Summer Cookbook is now available! It's filled with recipes and tidbits from our friends and neighbors, plus a childrens' story called "The Animals Recipes—A Community Gardens Tale," by Marge Pitts; PLUS adorable coloring book illustrations by Madison artist Diane Neukirch. And at only \$6, you can afford one for everyone on your holiday gift-giving list. Savor the Summer Cookbooks can be purchased at the following locations:

Troy Farm Stand, 500 Troy Drive, Thursday afternoons from 4-6 pm, until October 14

Pierce's Northside Market, Northside TownCenter

Frugal Muse Bookstore, Northgate Shopping Center

Manna Café, 611 N. Sherman Ave.

Green Owl Restaurant, 1970 Atwood Avenue

Sunprint Café, 1 S. Pinckney St. (in the glass bank on the Square)

Jung Garden Center, 1313 Northport Dr.

Bloom Bake Shop, 1834 Parmenter St., Middleton

Germania Collectibles & Things, 524 E. Wilson St.



If you'd like cookbooks shipped to you, contact Marge Pitts@sbcglobal.net.