

COMIN' RIGHT UP!

Finally, our capacity at Community GroundWorks (CGW) is beginning to catch up to our aspirations, and are we ever busy!

Troy Farm's passive solar greenhouse is almost ready for use. The public is invited to tour it on May 15 (see page 6). The CSA at Troy Farm still has a few openings for new members, who receive a weekly supply of organic produce from June through October. See page 2 for contact information to receive your brochure and sign-up form.

At East High Teen Farm, our collaboration with East High School and the Goodman Community Center, the market garden grown by teens led by CGW staff will be increased to a quarter-acre this year. Right now the East High teens are starting and tending hundreds of seedlings in the school's greenhouse. CGW and East High staff are working on a curriculum funded by the Department of Workforce Development called *Seed to Table*. The project will continue to provide food to the Goodman Community Center Food Pantry and Meal Programs.

The Learning Community at Troy Gardens is filling out with the addition of dozens of seasonal interns who will be working with CGW staff in the Natural Areas, Kids' Gardening Program, and Troy Farm. Some interns are paid; many are graduate and undergraduate students who work for educational credits and job experience.

Troy Kids' Garden is brainstorming and fundraising to build an Outdoor Kitchen in the garden, featuring bike-powered grain mills and hand-cranked blenders, so that kids can exercise and experience the fun of good healthy food at the same time—what we call Meaningful Fitness.

And Troy Community Gardens chugs along as always with its brilliant diversity of people, plants and techniques. Several gardeners organize an annual Plant Sale every year for Memorial Day weekend (see page 7), featuring heirloom tomato and pepper plants they start in their homes to benefit Troy Community Gardens.

You can celebrate all of this with us at our annual Savor the Summer Festival at Troy Gardens on August 7 (see back page). Enjoy a free community gardens feast, dig live acoustic music featuring the Boys and Girls Club Black Star Drumline, and much more!

Community GroundWorks is pleased to celebrate our collaboration with the Northside Artist Group (NSAG) with the opening of an art exhibit called *Celebrating the Land: The Joy of Troy Gardens*, at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St. on Friday, May 7 from 5-9pm.

During the past year NSAG members have been creating artworks which express what Troy Gardens means to them through photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, mixed media and other art forms.

From May 7 through June 28, *Celebrating the Land* will be on display at the Pyle Center; and then at Olbrich Gardens through September. There will be another public reception at Olbrich Gardens on July 8, from 5 to 7 pm.



This photo of Felix Hoyer-Winfield, taken by his mother Lily, is part of *Celebrating the Land: The Joy of Troy Gardens*. Lily writes: "My family and I were fortunate enough to move into a home across the street from Troy Gardens a few years ago. Little did we know how connected we would become to Troy's every season. I have been so moved to see the first signs of spring, the ripening of summer, the energy of the fall and the still of winter at Troy Gardens. It has moved my artwork from a solitary indoor activity to an outdoor family affair. This piece is a reflection of how the spirit of Troy Gardens is in my children."

GROWING OUR STAFF

As perennials stretch from the Madison soil toward the bright blue skies of spring, Community GroundWorks is experiencing significant growth, too.

Board members and staff examined the organization's capacity, goals and needs over the past several months, and have reorganized our staff structure to best implement our vision of a world in which more people cultivate sustainable abundance in their communities.

To that end, we've added an Associate Director position responsible for fundraising, donor relations, community and public relations and other tasks. **Christie Ralston**, who has filled in admirably as Interim Executive Director for the past year, will take on this important role that will add sustainability and stability to Community GroundWorks.

Jill Jacklitz

In this half-time position Christie will continue the outstanding work she has done building strong community relationships; she'll continue her other half-time CGW job as Natural Areas Coordinator, where as a community-based naturalist she coordinates our Volunteer Stewardship Program, which restores and maintains the native tall-grass prairie, maple woodlands, and edible landscape at Troy Gardens while teaching participants new environmental skills.

We're pleased to announce that **Jill Jacklitz** has joined our team as Executive Director. Jill formerly led the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and is a lecturer at the UW School of Social Work.

"My career has focused on creating healthy conditions for children and their families," Jill reflects, "first working directly with children from violent homes and later as an advocate for health, education and anti-poverty policies. Community GroundWorks feels like a natural next step for me. The planet is calling on all of us to rethink our patterns of consumption. We are seeing a steady increase in health concerns like childhood obesity and widespread economic insecurity. CGW is at the forefront of creating solutions to these pressing community issues."



Megan Bjella

Megan Bjella recently joined CGW as Administrative Assistant. Megan is eager to get her hands dirty working for an organization dedicated to growing wholesome food for the Madison community and putting sustainable principles into action.



Christie Ralston

Troy Gardens is located on the 500 block of Troy Drive on Madison's Northside.



Staff

Megan Bjella

Administrative Assistant

Megan Cain

Program Manager

Jake Hoeksema

Troy Farm Assistant Manager

Jill Jacklitz

Executive Director

Nathan Larson

Education Director

Christie Ralston

Associate Director/Natural Areas

Coordinator

Claire Strader

Troy Farm Manager

Phone: 608-240-0409

Email: info@troygardens.org

Web: www.troygardens.org

Board of Directors

Gerianne Holzman, President

Troy CSA Farm

Anne Pryor, Vice President

Troy Community Gardens

Martha Worcester, Secretary

Troy Gardens CoHousing Community

Tom Popp, Treasurer

At Large

Terrie Anderson

Northside Planning Council

Joanna Balsamo-Lilien

At Large

Phil Bower

At Large

Sam Dennis

UW-Madison

Marge Pitts

Troy Learning Community

Gergens Polynice

At Large

Samuel Pratsch

At Large

Kurt Schneider

Troy Community Gardens

Holly Sledge

At Large

Vincent M. Smith

UW-Madison

MADISON FARMWORKS OFFERS URBAN GARDENER TRAINING

Madison FarmWorks is a for-profit business of Community GroundWorks, now in its second year. The concept is to teach and develop urban agriculture in Madison by designing, installing, and maintaining organic vegetable gardens at private homes, businesses and schools.

The business offers a range of services, from instruction and advice to performing all or part of the physical work. Teaching people is central to the business plan.

“We combine the professional skills of farming with the small scale beauty of the home garden to help you produce local food right where you are,” says Megan Cain, Program Manager. “Our passions revolve around empowering people to grow their own food.”

Madison FarmWorks is offering a new Urban Gardener Training this year. Staff will come to the client’s garden three times throughout the growing season for

one-on-one instruction, tailored exactly to the client’s needs and goals.

“It’s great for beginning gardeners to help guide them through some of the common mistakes of gardening,” Megan says, “but we also work with established gardeners who want to delve more deeply into organic gardening and build their skills in certain areas.”

Madison FarmWorks works with individual gardeners to help them figure out what to plant, when to plant it and how to reach their gardening goals. Staff then prepares a Garden Plan for the client, a personalized map of the client’s garden accompanied by a written plan with suggestions on how to improve the garden, along with a small handbook that highlights several important organic gardening topics. See page 2 for contact information.

We Salute Our Supporters!

Alliant Energy Foundation

American Girl’s Fund for Children

Anonymous Fund (a component fund of the Madison Community Foundation)

Blooming Prairie Foundation

Capital Times Kids Fund



Pancakes with real maple syrup, cooked outdoors and served with hot cider, were relished by Rumi Sheber McCoon at our Maple Tree Tapping and Tasting Day, March 20. Madison’s Hy-Vee Grocery donated food and supplies for this event.

Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems

Common Future Fund of RSF Social Finance

Community Action Coalition

Dane County Youth Commission

David S. Bourne Foundation

Evjue Foundation

Findorff

Glass Nickel Pizza Co.

Goodland Tree Works

Goodman Community Center

The Great Dane

Home Depot

Hooper Foundation

Hy-Vee

John A. Johnson Foundation (through the Madison Community Foundation)

Junior League of Madison

Madison Community Foundation

Madison Gas and Electric

Madison Metropolitan School District

Madison Rotary Foundation

Mendota Garden Club

Northside TownCenter

Office Depot

Pierce’s Northside Market

QuickSilver Press

Roman Candle Pizzeria

The Old Fashioned

UW Health

West Side Garden Club

Whole Foods Market

Williamson Street Cooperative Community Reinvestment Fund

Wisconsin Farm Bureau

Federation – Wisconsin

Agriculture in the Classroom

Wisconsin Department of

Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board

Wisconsin State Journal Youth Services, Inc.

Zeigler Design Associates

Community GroundWorks donors like you!

MADISON YOUTH GROW LOCAL CONFERENCE



More than 150 formal and informal educators from around the state gathered to discuss gardening with youth at the recent Madison Youth Grow Local Conference. The day-long event, held on February 20, was organized by Community GroundWorks' staff in partnership with Community Action Coalition, Goodman Community Center, and several other organizations.

Area professionals shared their expertise in various workshops including Seed Starting, Cooking in the Garden, Garden "Tool Shed," Garden Curriculum and Hands-

on Garden Activities. The most important outcome of the conference was to build a network of youth garden educators to share ideas and resources in the future. Fostering this kind of "horizontal" wisdom is Community GroundWorks' primary goal in creating a Learning Community at Troy Gardens. Educators in youth gardening—even those not at the conference—are able to access this network of support and information through the Youth Garden Portal on our website, designed specifically to assist garden educators, which includes audio and visual presentations from the conference.

The degree of enthusiasm for the conference exceeded our expectations—in fact, it sold out so fast we added extra capacity to accommodate everyone. There is a growing interest in educating youth outdoors, and a growing need for the work your support enables Community GroundWorks to do.

OLBRICH GARDEN TOUR AT TROY GARDENS, JULY 9-10

Experience a world of garden wonders on Olbrich Gardens' annual Home Garden Tour. The two-day event—Friday, July 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, July 10 from 9am to 3pm—will be based at Troy Community Gardens this year. Many of the gardens on this year's tour creatively include edible plants, and Troy Gardens was selected as an example of how gardening can be a community effort.



Photo by Marilyn R. Meier-O'Brien

Some gardeners on the tour have chosen to plant a large vegetable garden, while others have simply added vegetables or herbs in containers. The tour also highlights creative patios, soothing water features, and bold, attention-grabbing plants. See the possibilities as you wander through intimate, shady backyards or stroll through sunny areas dotted with vegetables. Tour private home gardens in northeast Madison neighborhoods and collect ideas for your own garden

Pastries and sandwiches from Manna Cafe will be available for purchase at Troy Gardens during the tour. The new Troy Gardens cookbook, featuring a children's story and coloring book illustrations, will also be available for purchase at the event (see page 7).

Four local "green" builders are building outdoor structures which will be raffled off at this event. Buy a chance for a chicken coop, a play shed, a garden shed, and a gazebo. Raffle details will be posted on our website soon.

Tickets for the tour are available beginning May 1 at the Greeter Desk at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and at several ticket outlets throughout Madison. Check out www.olbrich.org for more information and ticket locations.

GREENHOUSE OPEN HOUSE MAY 15

After a long construction process, Troy Farm's passive solar greenhouse is finally nearing completion. On Saturday, May 15 from 10am until noon, the public is invited to tour the greenhouse with Farm Manager Claire Strader.

Heating and cooling the greenhouse will be primarily the work of the sun and some ingenious engineering. Electricity will be used only to operate air circulation fans and to provide power in the germination chamber.

On sunny days, heat that builds up in the greenhouse will rise and be captured at the top of vertical tubes that stand parallel to the whole tree columns that support the building. In-line duct fans at the top of these tubes will force warm air from the peak of the roof down into perforated horizontal tubes which run through the gravel base under the soil of the growing beds. The recaptured heat will warm the soil and protect the plants in that soil. The thermal mass of the warmed soil and gravel will hold heat so effectively that we'll be able to harvest herbs through the winter.

The venting system is just as important as the heat recapture system in keeping the greenhouse climate optimal for plant growth. The venting system is not yet fully operational and the greenhouse can currently heat up to well over 100 degrees on a sunny spring day. Once all the vents are opening and the system is fully functioning, the greenhouse air temperature should not rise to over 85 degrees on a normal day.

There are three vents on the south wall of the greenhouse and three on the north side. The vents open and close automatically when the inside air temperature



Three of the glass-like panels on the south-facing front of the greenhouse are vents which open automatically without using electricity. Similar vents are installed in the roof on the north-facing back of the greenhouse. When the vents open, air circulates within and keeps the interior from getting too hot.

reaches 70 degrees. The vent openers operate with a wax that melts at 70 degrees and forces the vent open. Conversely, when the temperature cools the wax solidifies again and the vents close. These automatic, non-electric openers will allow the farm staff to be away from the greenhouse during the day with confidence that the vents will open and close as necessary on their own.



White tubes stand next to the whole tree support columns of the greenhouse. Fans installed at the top of the tubes will force warm air into perforated black tubes running through gravel in the base of the planting beds. The heat will be captured and re-routed to where we need it.

There remains a punch-list of tasks to be finished, culminating with installing worm bins and worms. One of the first things farm staff will do in May is to begin receiving green waste from the Willy Street Co-op production kitchen for composting in our worm bins. This type of partnership with local businesses is exactly what we're looking for at Community GroundWorks. It's great for the Co-op to have a place to compost its waste, rather than throw it away. And it's great for Troy Farm to have access to this material to create soil— through vermiculture— for use in our greenhouse potting mix and perhaps, if we can generate enough, for our farm fields as well.

Farm staff will probably not be growing any starts in the greenhouse this spring. Instead they'll focus on getting herbs planted and established in the growing beds. We anticipate harvesting and selling greenhouse herbs through the winter months. Interns from Troy Farm and the Kids' Garden—along with children from the Kids' Garden program—will help with both the herb and the vermiculture projects.

FUNDRAISER AL FRESCO



On Monday, August 9, something will happen at Troy Gardens that's never happened before: a catered dinner party of up to 150 people, hosted by Troy Farm managers Claire Strader and Jake Hoeksema.

Organized and staffed by Outstanding in the Field, a company out of Santa Cruz, CA, this fundraising event will raise a tidy sum for Community GroundWorks.

The company's mission is to re-connect diners to the land and the origins of their food, and to honor the local farmers and food artisans who cultivate it. Outstanding in the Field bills itself as "a roving culinary adventure – literally a restaurant without walls." They create formal catered events in farm fields, at the seashore, in greenhouses and museums. "Wherever the location," according to their website, "the consistent theme of each dinner is to honor the people whose good work brings nourishment to the table."

Ingredients for the meal are almost all local, and generally prepared by a celebrated chef of the region. For the Troy Gardens event, Kris Noren and Ben Hunter, from Madison's Underground Food Collective, will provide and prepare the evening's menu.

After a tour of the site, participants will all settle in: farmers, producers, culinary artisans, and diners sharing the long table in the long evening sun.

Tickets for the event cost \$180 and are available online at www.outstandinginthefield.com. Upwards of 60 tickets have already been sold, so book yours now!

WEBSITE MAKEOVER

Community GroundWorks has launched a completely updated website. We encourage everyone to take a look. Here you'll find well-organized information about who we are and what we do, along with upcoming events and an interactive blog—where we hope to engage people in interesting and useful conversation.

The site can be accessed by two web addresses: www.communitygroundworks.org; or www.troygardens.org.

Our Resources page provides a wealth of publications, links and free curricula that can be very helpful to educators and others who seek to expand connections among people and nature in their communities.

The site provides a secure portal for online giving to Community GroundWorks as well.

We thank webmaster Jesse Morton for his excellent work designing and implementing our new website.

*Community GroundWorks is a proud member of
Community Shares of Wisconsin.*



*Support us through Community Shares of
Wisconsin's workplace giving and community CHIP.*



Dane County Timebank

Timebank members—donate some of your Timebank Hours to us and we will use them to pay volunteers for helping out on the land and in our office. It's easy to do online at www.danecountytimebank.org.

Open the My Account page and choose the Deduct time box under the My Hours tab. Designate Community GroundWorks as the Service Provider. It's like paying someone else to volunteer!

ONLINE AUCTION

Last fall, we earned over \$1000 when we participated with three other organizations in an online auction. With help from our supporters both in offering items for auction and in bidding on them, we hope to more than double that amount in our next October auction. We'd like you to start thinking now about goods and services you could provide or solicit from others to offer for auction next fall.

Can you offer a service or item to help us raise operational funds? Are you a frequent customer of someone who could? Many businesses are happy to donate their services to nonprofits like us, as it's both good advertising and a tax write-off. Ask your favorite bed & breakfast owners, restaurateurs, candy-makers, massage therapists, farmers, florists, musicians or local celebrities if they can support one of your favorite nonprofits with the offer of a free night, session, lesson, lunch, performance, CD, tickets . . . We bet you have even better ideas than we do!

For more information or to donate items, please contact Terrie Anderson at 608-241-9080, or email terrieanderson@sbcglobal.net. She'll follow up and make sure that donors are graciously thanked for their support. Thank YOU for supporting us in this creative way.

Troy Community Gardens PLANT & EQUIPMENT SALE

Sunday, May 30

9am until 1pm

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

Hundreds of
Heirloom Tomato
and Pepper plants!



Herbs
Prairie Plants
Perennial Flowers
Purple Cow Organic Compost

Healthy plants in 3-inch or larger pots

Featuring: a limited number of refurbished
mowers & trimmers for sale!

All proceeds benefit Troy Community Gardens



TROY GARDENS SAVOR THE SUMMER COOKBOOK IS COMING SOON

SEND YOUR RECIPES AND STORIES NOW!

We're creating a new cookbook for Troy Gardens and Madison's Northside. This special cookbook will include a children's story, "The Animals' Recipes," by Marge Pitts with coloring book pictures by Diane Neukirch—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. Submissions are needed by May 15.

Email your recipes, stories & pictures to margepitts@sbcglobal.net

OR, mail to Community GroundWorks, 3601 Memorial Dr., Suite 4
Madison, WI 53704



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SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 3-7PM

SAVOR THE SUMMER IS COMING!

Troy Gardens' annual **FREE** summer festival—featuring:

The Boys & Girls Club Black Star Drum Line, 3pm

Community Gardens Feast

Hayrides through Troy Prairie and Farm

Kids' Crafts & Balloon Animals by Artterro

Eco-Friendly Art

Meet & Greet Toby the Timebank Horse

Troy Store featuring

the NEW Savor the

Summer Cookbook

And much more!



*Free Family Fun
Donations encouraged*



Emerge in Support of Community GroundWorks

Your gift to Community GroundWorks helps us to continue our mission: to grow wholesome and organic food for local tables, to cultivate a diverse learning community, and to nurture a meaningful relationship between people and the land. In fact, our very existence is made possible by donors like you. There are many options for giving.

Gifts of Cash: Send a check to our office or donate online at www.communitygroundworks.org. Consider giving monthly donations; contact our office to learn more!

Workplace Giving: We are part of Community Shares' workplace giving campaign.

Community CHIP: When you shop at the Willy Street Co-op, a portion of your "CHIP" will go to Community GroundWorks. For more information, visit www.communityshares.com.

Stock & Securities: You can avoid capital gain taxes while receiving a tax deduction by giving a gift of stock or securities.

Charitable Gift Annuity: Make a tax deductible gift while receiving a lifetime annual income from the gift. You must be 60 or older to establish a charitable gift annuity (CGA). We partner with the Madison Community Foundation to offer CGAs.

Planned Giving: Bequests are a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy. Gifts can take many forms: will provisions, life insurance policies, IRAs and qualified retirement plans such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans. We partner with the Madison Community Foundation to provide donors with the opportunity to give back to future generations.

**Our programs are made possible
by donors like you.** Contact Christie Ralston (page 2) to learn more about these options for giving. Please use the enclosed reply envelope, or visit our website to make your donation today.