

Troy Gardens Gazette

Harvest · Harmony · Home

SUMMER 2005 VOL. 3 No. 3

Grateful From the Ground Up



Troy Gardens has received so many generous contributions of money, time, skill and hard work from so many people that the appreciations are bursting out like ten pounds of potatoes in a five pound sack!

In this issue we say THANK YOU! to some of the people who care enough about Troy Gardens' potential to endorse our work with their effort and support.

We can create a green, peaceful, and healthy model of urban development at Troy Gardens—all we need is a whole lot of help from people like you!

Toby Harrison-Noonan, a teen in Troy Gardens' Farm & Field Youth Training Program, earned his Eagle Scout badge by helping to build a chicken coop for Troy Kids' Garden, with help from his dad, Troy Farm member Dennis Harrison-Noonan, and Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Peter's Catholic Church on Madison's Northside. THANK YOU! Meet the chickens on Wednesday, June 29. Three sweet hens will be clucking and accepting free hugs from children and grown-ups from 6-7pm at the Kids' Garden.

Save This Date! Saturday, August 6 **Savor The Summer Festival at Troy Gardens**

We invite you to the Savor the Summer Festival at Troy Gardens! All day long on Saturday, Aug. 6, we'll offer plenty of activities—like our traditional Flower Festival at 10am, and a Kids' Tent complete with games & crafts, and story telling by our friend Clare Norelle.

A bike tour of Madison's Community Gardens ends up at Troy at noon, with Mayor Dave Cieslewicz leading the way. We'll install the Community Mosaic Stepping Stones after that (see page 6).



From noon-2pm, discover a Mexican delicacy grown at Troy Farm—at the Huitlacoche Festival cooking and tasting

demonstrations, in the Crossroads of Troy Gardens. Later, tour the land and our project areas. Visit the Madison Area Community Land Trust housing site to learn more about the 30 Garden Townhomes coming soon. Enjoy the music of Bohemios Klan, noon-2pm in the Crossroads, and Spectak West African Drumming, 2-3pm in the Prairie Council Ring. At 3pm, enjoy the Young Shakespeare Players' performance at the Hmong Herb Garden. Pick up a free Troy Farm Cookbook, and take your chances at our raffle with prizes donated by area businesses. Come for the day or just for a while—rain or shine under the big tents!

Natural Areas Restoration



FTG is lucky and proud to welcome Amy Martin as our new Natural Areas Restoration Manager. Briana Meier, who formerly held the position, is now helping the Urban Open Space Foundation create Madison's Central Park on the isthmus. THANK YOU, Briana and UOSF, for establishing Troy's Natural Areas Restoration and Volunteer Stewards Program! Now Amy Martin will build on

your achievement.

After graduating from Cornell in 1997 with a degree in Natural Resources, Amy worked a variety of jobs in the field, from the Sahel in North Africa to remote Hawaiian islands.

Currently Amy is researching prairie restoration techniques on the Leopold Memorial Reserve in Baraboo for her masters thesis at UW-Madison. She has focused her education to learn about ecosystems and organisms — so if you see a bizarre insect, bird or plant drop her an email and she'd love to help you identify it!

Amy is an avid organic gardener, and enjoys canning fresh produce from her garden and local farmers. Her most recent venture is a batch of dandelion wine. If it turns out well, she promises to bring some to share at the Savor the Summer Festival at Troy Gardens on August 6.

Amy is delighted to be working at Troy Gardens where two of the things she is most passionate about, gardening and natural areas restoration, are intertwined. THANK YOU, Amy Martin, for bringing your talents to Troy Gardens!

Funding hope for the future We salute our supporters!

American Girl Fund for Children
Bradshaw-Knight Foundation
City of Madison Community Enhancement Program
Evjue Foundation
Madison Community Foundation
Quixote Foundation
Sowing Seeds Donors
Therese Foundation
Williamson St. Co-op Community Reinvestment Fund
Wisconsin Arts Board with funding from the State of WI
Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Program
W.K. Kellogg Food and Society Initiative
Friends of Troy Gardens Mem-

PHOTO BY KERRI FLIPPIN-JOHNS

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The Friends of Troy Gardens Board of Directors

Gerianne Holzman, Co-Chair, *At-Large Member*

Rita Cairns, Co-Chair, *Northside Planning Council*

John Bell, Secretary, *Troy Gardener*

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Steve Lendved, *Northside Resident*

Marge Pitts, *Madison Area Community Land Trust*

Pat Woicek, *Northside Resident*

Steve Ziegler, *Urban Open Space Foundation*

Executive Director's Report



By Sundee Wislow, Executive Director, FTG

Spring is here, and brings us change indeed.

One change afoot is my arrival in

Madison to join the team at Troy Gardens. I am thrilled to become part of this extraordinary community-grown project. I look forward to meeting the many of you who created a project here that was so exciting it stirred me to uproot from Chicago.

Like many of you, I am a CSA member, community gardener and nature lover. For the past three years I have worked with communities in the Midwest to develop agricultural projects that improve nutrition, generate income and build community. I now look forward to focusing on Troy Gardens and helping make it all we dream it can be. I hope to see you on the land soon.

In the spirit of profound gratitude, we'd like to acknowledge Chris Metz, who with his brother Alex was one of the first and most loyal Troy Natural Areas Volunteer Stewards. Chris passed away this spring. His gentle, willing spirit is part of this precious landscape forever, and he will be missed. His family held a memorial service on the land, and plans to donate a tree to be planted here in his honor.

My Grandmother, Vivian Wislow, also passed away this spring. In her last days, she encouraged me to make the move to work with Troy Gardens. After she passed, my family agreed that in lieu of flowers, my Grandmother would be most honored by people making donations to their favorite organizations. Troy Gardens received generous donations in memory of Vivian, and we are very grateful to all of you who will keep her memory alive here.

THANK YOU to everyone who has given Troy Gardens a gift on behalf of a departed friend or family member. Your contributions to commemorate loved ones will keep the goodness of their lives resonating into the future.

Sharon's Good-Bye

By Sharon Lezberg, former Executive Director, FTG

At the end of February, my husband and I, with our three year old daughter Zoey, traveled to China to adopt a second child. Our daughter, Sarah Xuelian, joined the family on February 28, at 14

months old. Since then, we've all been adjusting to each other and me to being a full time mom. Our family is doing very well, and I feel fortunate to be able to spend time with my kids during their young years.

I miss the excitement of working at Troy Gardens—of daily watching plans unfold and the land take shape. I miss seeing kids, gardeners, farm crew, and volunteers out at Troy Gardens, each sharing their skills and gifts. I miss working with a very dedicated Board of Directors. I miss both the challenges and the rewards of nurturing the Troy Gardens vision, as it unfolds before our eyes.

Nevertheless, this year I'll get to experience Troy Gardens from a different perspective. I'll be out in my own garden plot, watching plants, gardeners, and landscape unfold as a beautiful tapestry. I'll only have to be attentive to the ramblings of my two children. The backdrop of funding challenges, administrative tasks, program planning, and event preparation that fuels the work at Troy Gardens I leave to the very capable staff of FTG.

I look forward to a long-term personal commitment to the land and the FTG organization. I'll continue to enjoy relationships with others at Troy Gardens, at events or just walking and working on the land. If you see me and my kids out at our plot, please stop by to say hello.

I think I might not plant anything this year. I'm only going to go out to pull weeds—very therapeutic for a busy mom!



Educational Workshop Series

Troy Gardens is committed to education, so that kids and adults can expand their abilities and enhance their appreciation of what this earth has to offer. In this spirit, our staff is offering an Educational Workshop Series continuing through the summer. These workshops entail a modest fee, reduced for FTG members, and participants must register in advance. The “walking workshops” are free and do not require registration.

Take a look—one or more of these may be right for you!

For a registration form or more information, see our website at www.troygardens.org or call Dan Durica at 240-0409.

Troy Bird Walks

Date: Every Tuesday, 6:30pm-8:00pm
Place: Meet at Welcome Sign in front of Troy Gardens.
Instructor: Pat Woicsek
Cost: Free, no registration necessary

Come wander Troy's fields, woods, and prairie with Pat Woicsek. Witness bird life change with the seasons. People of any skill level in bird-watching are welcome. The objective of these walks is to spend time on the land and learn from others. You may want to bring a pair of binoculars and a bird book.

Exploring Mendota's Indian Mounds

Date: Tuesday, June 21, 7:00-8:30pm
Place: Meet at Governor's Island (call FTG for directions)
Instructor: John Bell
Cost: Free, no registration necessary

Southern Wisconsin was the center of Native American mound-building culture. Several animal effigy mounds are located on the grounds of Mendota Mental Health Institute. Join John Bell, a Troy Community Gardener, on the evening of the Summer Solstice to share your interest and appreciation of these ancient forms.

Don't give up now! Plan ahead for great vegetables into December

Date: Sunday, July 10, 10:00am to noon.
Place: Meet at Welcome Sign in front of Troy Gardens.
Instructor: Dan Durica
Cost: \$10 FTG members; \$15 non-members; Free to low-income participants

Don't give up planting in August! With a little forethought you can keep the gardening passion alive and have late season broccoli, cabbage, carrots, beets, cilantro and even warmer weather crops like green beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, and summer squash.

Tasting the legacy of your garden—Seed Saving

Date: Saturday, Aug. 13, 4pm to 5:30pm
Place: Meet at Welcome Sign in front of Troy Gardens.
Instructor: Dan Durica
Cost: \$10 FTG members; \$15 non-members

Some people are keeping alive the thousands of varieties handed down and improved upon over millennia. In this workshop, we'll explore plants in the Troy seed saving and heirloom tomato demo plots and find out how you can keep the heritage and flavor of heirloom plants alive in your own garden.

Kids' Educational Series

The Kids' Educational Series is taught by FTG's Kids' Gardening Program Coordinator Megan Cain. The cost for each workshop is \$5 per person for FTG members, \$7 for non-members. Kids ages 5-11 are invited. All children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For a registration form or more information, see our website at www.troygardens.org or call Megan Cain at 240-0409.

All About Worms in the Garden

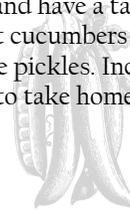
Date: Saturday, June 11, 10:00-11:30am

Learn about the importance of worms in the garden and in nature. Discover the fascinating parts of a worm, explore the worm bin, feed worms, read a funny book about a young worm, and make a worm-themed snack!

Kids Cook! Making Pickles

Date: Tuesday, July 19, 6:00-7:30pm

We will learn about different kinds of cucumbers and have a taste test. Then we'll harvest cucumbers and learn how to make pickles. Includes a recipe and sample to take home.



Kids Cook! Making Salsa

Date: Tuesday, Aug. 16, 6:00-7:30pm

Come explore the Kids' Garden at Troy Gardens. We will learn how the different ingredients of salsa grow in the garden. We'll harvest the ingredients and have a taste test. Then we will make our own salsa to snack on with some chips. Includes a recipe and sample to take home.

Troy Calendar June–August

Meet at the shed in Troy Community Gardens for all Volunteer Workdays. Visit www.troygardens.org for directions and more information about our programs.

Buy Troy Vegetables! **Every Thursday, Troy Farm Stand**, Troy Dr. at Lerdahl St., 4:30-6pm.

Every Sunday, Northside Farmers' Market, Sherman Plaza, Sherman Ave. at Northport Dr., 8am-1pm.

Every Tuesday, Eastside Farmers' Market, 201 S. Ingersoll St., 4pm-7pm.

Quest Cards and WIC Vouchers Accepted at Troy Farm Stand & Northside Farmers' Market

June

Saturday, 6/11:

- Community Gardens Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon
- Natural Areas Stewards Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon

Saturday, 6/18:

TROY NATURAL AREAS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY, sponsored by Urban Open Space Foundation, FTG and Ziegler Design, 10:00am (see below)

Saturday, 6/25:

Natural Areas Stewards Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon

Wednesday, 6/29:

Meet the chickens! Troy Kids' Garden, 6:00pm-7:00pm. Bring your kids!

July

Saturday, 7/9:

- Community Gardens Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon
- Natural Areas Stewards Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon

Monday, 7/11:

Natural Areas Stewards Volunteer Workday, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Saturday, 7/16:

Community Mosaic Project, Part 1, 10:00am-1:00pm. Meet at Kids' Garden. Must register in advance, call Megan Cain at 240-0409

Saturday, 7/23:

Natural Areas Stewards Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon

Wednesday, 7/27

Community Mosaic Project, Part 2, 6:00pm-7:30pm. Meet at Kids' Garden.

August

SATURDAY 8/6:

SAVOR THE SUMMER FESTIVAL AT TROY GARDENS! 10:00am-4:00pm. Activities all day. See front page for details.

Monday, 8/8

Natural Areas Stewards Volunteer Workday, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Saturday, 8/13:

- Community Gardens Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon
- Natural Areas Stewards Volunteer Workday, 9:00am-noon

Saturday, 8/27:

Natural Areas Stewards Volunteer Workday, 9am-noon

Celebrating 10 Years of Stewardship at Home

Troy Gardens Natural Areas Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Join us in celebrating the completion of the Troy Gardens Natural Areas as we pass the stewardship torch from the Urban Open Space Foundation to the Friends of Troy Gardens and recognize the support that has made this project possible.

Sponsored by the Urban Open Space Foundation, Friends of Troy Gardens and Ziegler Design Associates

Saturday, June 18th, 10:00 – 10:45am. Reception and site tours will follow.

RSVP by emailing info@troygardens.org or calling 240-0409.

Speakers:

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

Governor Jim Doyle (*invited*)

Darren Marsh, Director, Dane County Parks

Scott Hassett, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

Dick Rideout, WI DNR State Urban Forestry Coordinator

Heather Mann and Sundee Wislow, UOSF and FTG Executive Directors

Chia Yang, Hmong Gardener Liaison

George Meyer, former Secretary, Department of Natural Resources,

UOSF President



Troy Natural Areas Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Sat. July 18, 10:00am

Community Mosaic Project

This summer local artist Marcia Yapp will teach interested people the art of mosaic. A two-part workshop will reveal how to make a mosaic stepping stone. The finished stones will be installed in a border around the picnic table at Troy Kids' Garden during the Savor The Summer Festival At Troy Gardens on Saturday, Aug. 6 (see front page).

The workshops are free, but you must register for both of them in advance. Adults of all ages, and kids accompanied by adults are welcome. All materials and tools will be provided. Before the first workshop, there will be an optional 30-minute tour of Troy Gardens for those not familiar with the land, or those who would like some inspiration before starting their mosaic. Meet for both workshops at the Kids' Garden.

Part One—Designing a Mosaic Stepping Stone, Saturday, July 16, 10am-1pm. Here you will learn the basics of applied mosaic, and create your own simple mosaic design on a square cement paver. We'll have a variety of materials on hand for you to use. Each stone will be designed and constructed by one or two participants—so this is something you can do with a friend.

Part Two—Grouting 101, Wednesday, July 27, 6pm-7:30pm. Now you'll learn how to grout your mosaic stepping stone, choosing a type of grout that enhances your design. This will complete your piece and make it ready for installation at the Savor the Summer Festival on August 6.

The Community Mosaic Project is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, with funding from the State of Wisconsin. But we still need supplies donated by someone like you.

Our wish list includes: safety glasses, latex gloves, firm sponges, clear contact paper, plastic table cloths, scrap pieces of stained glass, polished or unpolished pebbles, tile nippers, broken ceramic plates, broken terra cotta pots, 8-foot 2x4 lumber for framing.

If you can help, want more information, or would like to register, contact Megan Cain at 240-0409 or Marcia Yapp at 243-8988, or email FTG at info@troygardens.org.

THANK YOU!



Margaret Cain has donated more than \$2000 in the last two years to Troy Gardens Youth Programs—Farm & Field Youth Training and Troy Kid's Gardening Program. **THANK YOU, MARGARET!**

The Mendota Garden Club donated \$1000 this year to FTG. Member Pat Woicek is a devoted member of the Board of Directors of FTG, and a Troy gardener and neighbor. **THANK YOU, MENDOTA GARDEN CLUB!**



Because of Nicole Strader's generosity, Troy Farm was able to purchase a fine tractor in 2004. Troy Farm Manager Claire Strader, Nicole's sister, officially named the tractor

"Nicole." If you would like naming rights for a pickup truck—the next thing on the Farm's must-have list, contact Claire at 442-6760. **THANK YOU, NICOLE!**



Troy Garden Journal

Jason is hungry for our newsletters and brochures, especially updates



By Marge Pitts

For three years now, students in a vocational horticultural training program have donated all the flower and vegetable plants that go into Troy Kids' Garden.

The students are men, of varying ages. They order the seeds and plant them in the greenhouse located on their campus. They tend the seedlings until they are well rooted below and leafy above. When the plants are ready, the instructor, Jason Garlynd, emails us, and I have the great pleasure of driving a borrowed pickup out to his campus to pick up 30-40 flats of gorgeous plants.

The odd thing is that the campus is a minimum-security prison—Oakhill Correctional Institution in Oregon, Wisconsin. The students are inmates. Jason Garlynd's job is to teach them something they can use when they get out.

His students have made mistakes to get here; they have offended. When faced with a choice of bad to worse, these men chose worse. But one day Jason's students will rejoin the rest of us. And Jason wants them to know what a positive connection to a community feels like before they find themselves on the other side of the chain links.

The connection between Oakhill and Troy Gardens doesn't end when I drive off loaded with a fortune in free plants. It could, but that's not what Jason wants. Jason is determined that his class should follow the evolution of Troy Kids' Garden. They should see the good that flows from their hands, through these plants, into the community of Northside kids who are lucky enough to be part of FTG's Kids' Gardening Program.

about the Kids' Garden. His men need pictures, stories, evidence—that the work they're doing in their confinement results in a positive contribution in the free world. That feels good. It's the beginning of a healthy relationship with society. It's a feeling that can grow into a successful and meaningful liberty, when the time comes for each of these men.

I find this connection, and Jason's belief in the human spirit, quite exciting. I adore wallowing in what Troy Gardens means to me, but what's really important is what Troy Gardens can mean to everyone. I'm glad we stage our events in the middle of the property now—away from the street with its insurmountable curbs, loud noises, and unsafe traffic. Now our disabled friends can arrive via the cinder lane; our elderly friends can hear themselves think; our moms and dads can let their little ones run about without anxiety. I like to glance around at Troy Gardens and think, "Ah, no one is missing."

So I offered to be the liaison to Oakhill. I visit Jason's class several times during the growing season, with photos and anecdotes. The men ask intelligent, thoughtful questions. We look each other in the eyes with respect and interest. Jason calls each man "Mr."

On my first visit I brought pictures from the Kids' Garden taken that morning. The Vera Court kids were there at the time. The first man to look at the pictures suddenly exclaimed, "Hey, that's my niece!"

Yes, sir. Your whole family is here.



Jason Garlynd and the men from Oakhill's Horticultural Vocational Training Program, THANK YOU!

The Friends of Troy Gardens

Room 171, Building 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704

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Savor The Summer Festival At Troy Gardens

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

CELEBRATE · EAT · WALK ·
ENJOY!

10:00am—4:00pm on
the Land at
Troy Gardens

Free and Open to Everyone
Activities on the Land all Day

Rain or Shine Under the Big Tents!



Yes! I want to join the Friends of Troy Gardens

Members receive our quarterly newsletter as well as notices of volunteer opportunities, educational programs, and community events at Troy Gardens.

Sign me up! I want to

<input type="checkbox"/> Propagate	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Harvest	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Transplant	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustain	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Plow	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve	\$200+

The Friends of Troy Gardens is a non-profit corporation. Your gift is fully tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to: **Friends of Troy Gardens** and mail with this form to

FTG
Room 171, Building 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704

Preservers receive an FTG T-shirt and a copy of *Troy Garden Journal* by Marge Pitts



Name _____
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Thank You!