

BIGGER THAN TROY GARDENS

Back in 1997, when the concept of the Troy Gardens we know today finally caught some traction, and this complex project combining urban agriculture, natural areas volunteer stewardship, community participation and education looked like it could actually happen—and our coalition could actually do it—the idea that Troy Gardens would be a model for other projects in other places was already firmly in place.

We eventually changed our name from the Friends of Troy Gardens to Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens, and in 2009 we began to find work away from the 26 acres we hold most dear, bringing the expertise we've garnered and the experience we've gained at Troy Gardens to new projects and new collaborations.

With crucial support from an anonymous benefactor, we launched Madison FarmWorks, a new business that brings Troy Gardens' know-how to private homes and businesses. Madison FarmWorks offers a broad array of services from consultation to installation and upkeep, to people who want to transform their conventional urban landscapes of lawns and shrubbery to productive and beautiful urban agriculture.

In its first season Madison FarmWorks, led by our new staff member, Megan Cain, has attracted an impressive number of clients. We've created several home garden plans, including the garden at Village Cohousing on Erin St. We've helped elderly clients regain the upper hand in their gardens, young families who needed help establishing new gardens, and businesses leading a green revolution in the corporate landscape.

Recently, a local couple decided, as a tenth anniversary gift to themselves, to rip out their lawn and replace it with an edible landscape. They hired us to create a master plan which includes raised garden beds, fruit trees, a cutting flower garden, a strawberry patch and stone paths. They called together a group of their friends as volunteer labor, and in one weekend—dubbed the “Brownyard Blitz”—Madison FarmWorks led the crew to implement the design. Everything is ready for planting next spring. Check out our client's blog for the whole story and photos: <http://brownbuilt.wordpress.com/>.



Students from the East High Farm deliver their vegetables to the food pantry at Goodman Community Center. Photo by Megan Cain

Megan Cain splits her time between Madison FarmWorks and a new collaboration of Community GroundWorks, East High School and the Goodman Community Center called the East High Community Farm.

Located on a piece of open space adjacent to Kennedy Elementary School on Madison's East Side, the farm involved some 15 teens from East High School from spring through October. They started from square one, removing sod, turning soil, building beds, planting, tending and harvesting.

Most of the food they grew was delivered to the food pantry at the Goodman Community Center, where demand has been on the increase. One of the teens' favorite parts of the summer was working at the food pantry. “We sent a group each week to help out there and meet the people who are eating the food we grow,” Megan reports.

Over the winter, the Goodman Community Center will work with our staff and East High School to create a curriculum that is tied to the farm, and will be offered to East High students as a Science class in January.

URBAN FORESTRY FORUM



Troy Gardens' maple woodland.
Photo by John Beck

Community GroundWorks (CGW) is co-ordinating a multi-part Urban Forestry Forum, with support from the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. The Forum seeks to increase public awareness of urban forestry issues, specifically the threat of the emerald ash borer, which can devastate urban landscapes where ash trees have long been a commonly planted species.

Our next Urban Forestry Forum will take place on January 12, 2010, at the Monona Public Library, as part of The Natural Step Monona's series "Green Tuesdays." City Forester Marla Eddy will talk about our urban forests, and CGW staff will add information about introducing fruit and nut trees into our public lands as a way to augment species diversity and increase local food sources.



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NEW GARDEN FUND

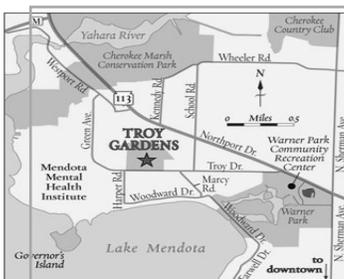
Troy Community Gardens has donated 10% of its plot fees, close to \$800, to a New Garden Fund, which will be held by the Madison Community Foundation and administered by the Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin (CAC). The fund will assist new gardens with start-up costs and help existing gardens with expansion.

Currently the required elements to receive funding include:

- garden located within the City of Madison
- commitment of substantial core group of gardeners (at least 10 families)
- neighborhood support
- scarcity of open garden plots in neighborhood; more demand than supply
- available or affordable space where garden could be located long-term

Each year CAC will grant up to 25% of the fund. Each garden will not get a big chunk of money but they will get enough to do some projects.

New Garden Fund applications will open in December and close at the end of January. Interested folks can check CAC's website for more information, at www.cacscw.org/gardens/New Garden Fund/new_garden_fund_grants.htm.



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

GREEN ONLINE AUCTION

Turn Black Friday Green for Holiday Shopping!

Support CGW by bidding on goods and services in our Green Online Auction. The Dane County Timebank, Wisconsin Partners for Sustainability, and WYOU-TV will share the proceeds.

The auction runs from Green Friday, Nov. 27 until Dec. 6. Bid on a variety of goods, from whoopee pies to artwork. Try for gift cards to local stores, eateries, and Wisconsin B&Bs. Services ranging from cleaning to web design, accounting and garden consultations are offered. You can link to the auction site from www.communitygroundworks.org.

Make a tax-deductible donation of goods or services to the auction. We're looking for unique services—cook for a dinner party, give a lesson in what you are good at, take someone to a UW sports event—and goods that espouse sustainability. Call Terrie at 241-9080 to donate.

Madison FarmWorks

Food from home



Vegetable garden design & installation
Garden maintenance
Garden coaching & planning
Classes, workshops & more



communitygroundworks.org

608-239-6205

madisonfarmworks@troygardens.org

We Salute Our Supporters!



Black Star Drum Line performing at Savor the Summer. Photo by John Beck

Alliant Energy Foundation

American Girl's Fund for Children

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

Capital Times Kids Fund

Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems

Hooper Foundation

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

Madison Community Foundation

Madison Gas and Electric

Madison Hours Cooperative

Common Future Fund of RSF Social Finance

David S. Bourne Foundation

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UW Health

West Side Garden Club

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Community Reinvestment Fund

Wisconsin Department of

Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program

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Wisconsin State Journal Youth Services, Inc.

Zeigler Design Associates

Community GroundWorks donors like you!

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: KIDS' GARDEN QUOTES

Troy Kids' Garden is truly a community resource. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the chickens, flower beds, living stage, mulberry grove, and outdoor kitchen-gadget orchestra. It's a wonderful place, but we're most proud of our Kids' Gardening Program, which this year involved some 1000 elementary and middle school children from spring through fall.

This summer, our programs served groups of kids five days a week. These lucky youngsters learned how to dig and plant, how to harvest, how to prepare and enjoy the harvest in our rudimentary outdoor kitchen (see next page). The kids were given the time and space to explore nature, healthy food, music and art. We accomplished that with the help and enthusiasm of our staff and interns. They guided the kids in whatever activities the kids choose; they came early to do the heavy work and stayed late to clean up. And they took notes, jotting down the sometimes amazing remarks of they heard. Now that the season is over, these quotes remain as priceless mementos of a season of learning, fun, and good eating at Troy Kids' Garden.

Our interns are students, learning just like the kids they're teaching. They came from diverse disciplines: rural sociology, dietetics, environmental studies, zoology (surprisingly, no education majors this year); but everyone was interested in working with kids. If this sounds like you, and you're looking for an internship next year, check out our website or contact Nathan Larson, CGW Education Director (see page 2).

With gratitude and respect, we salute the 2009 Kids' Garden staff and interns:

Hannah Lavold
Ione Machen
Erin Jobe
Davita Moyer
Kelly McKeown
Stevie Koepf

Anna Kaufman
Sara Lehnerr
Alison Watson
Anna Zeide
Elizabeth Gering



Potato harvest.

"Good luck, cucumber friend, I hope you grow big to become a pickle."

"I want to do the same thing we did last time!"

"Can we play with the chickens? Can we make pesto? Can we do art?"

"I'm gonna write a book called 'Chickens Don't Listen'."

"[Basil] tastes like someone sprayed perfume in my mouth."

"This is the only place where they really let you be free."



Sweet pickles, anyone?

HELP US BUILD AN OUTDOOR KITCHEN AT TROY KIDS' GARDEN

Troy Kids' Garden serves a diverse group of Madison children from area community centers, giving them a space to maintain their own garden beds, participate in garden arts and crafts projects, sample the fruits of their labor right off the vine, cook delicious snacks with garden produce, and often take home some of the produce that they've grown for their families. The program aims to improve the nutrition and health of participants by developing life-long interest in food production and healthful eating habits, and by building skills in gardening and food preparation.



Many hands make light work of mulberry picking.

The current Kids' Garden kitchen, however, lacks space and sufficient equipment to fulfill the demands of the program. The new Kids' Garden outdoor kitchen will be an expanded space with opportunities for Madison youth to experience an amazing range of culinary and nutrition education activities.

The new kitchen will be designed with a mosaic tile floor based on the mosaic patterns already integral to the Kids' Garden, as seen on the welcome sign, the posts throughout the garden, and the living stage floor. The kitchen will further incorporate existing elements of the kids' garden as well as new additions, such as hand-cranked blenders, a pedal-powered mill, and solar ovens.

This expanded and redesigned Kids' Garden kitchen will serve as a model for outdoor cooking in America. Few such kitchens-in-a-garden currently exist. It will become a space for community interaction; a place for cooking demonstrations by local chefs; a kitchen that can be used by the many flourishing school gardens around the city of Madison; and a real leader in kids' garden education.



Preparing mulberry crostini.

"You wanna see where the secret mulberry stash is? It's over there; there's a path and it goes in under these trees and it's like a big room full of mulberries! You can get like ten mulberries in three seconds!"

None of this can happen without your help. Please contribute to make Troy Kids' Garden outdoor kitchen a reality, whether you give as little as \$10 or as much as \$1000. Donate now, using the enclosed envelope or online at www.communitygroundworks.org.

"Life, life, oh lovely life."

"I like them berries! They go all the way down into my toes, and then all the way back into my head!"

"It's like a fountain of water out of heaven!... in other words, those are some good mulberries!"

"Ahh, I'm living the dream."



Mulberries that aren't eaten directly can be baked into a mulberry crisp with the use of a solar oven.

SAVOR THE SUMMER



Jolly Giant stiltwalker Jamie Rothfuss. Photo by John Beck

A feast supplied by community gardeners plus precision drumming made Troy Gardens' sixth annual Savor the Summer festival a golden day to remember.

This year, organizers Marge Pitts and Dale Matthews asked Madison community gardeners to donate whatever was ripe in their gardens the day before the festival. The next morning Dale, with a posse of helpers, created three delicious vegetable stews. With propane burners to keep things hot, they set up a serving line, and festival-goers came back for seconds and thirds of this wonderful food, provided by the earth through the hands of gardeners.

Black Star Drum Line, a precision drumming group comprised of young people from Madison's south side led by Joey Banks, rocked the Kids' Garden stage. Many people came to Savor the Summer who had never been to Troy Gardens before; many others were old friends, celebrating the community spirit that lives on this beautiful land.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Troy Gardens was one of the highlights of the Wisconsin's Book Festival's events on Food, Land and Community this fall. The Wisconsin Humanities Council, producer of the Book Festival, scheduled several Community Conversations at various times and places as part of the annual event.

Three conversations took place at Troy: "The Importance of Arts in the Garden," led by Anne Pryor; "Meaningful Fitness," led by Sam Dennis and Nathan Larson; and "Growing Local: Political and Biological Permaculture in Urban Agriculture," led by Kate Heiber-Cobb. Three local businesses—David's Jamaican Restaurant, Harvest Restaurant, and Willy St. Co-op—each donated a pot of soup. Once again, volunteer Dale Matthews set up a serving line in the Kids' Garden. Second and third helpings were gladly offered to some 40 participants.

Good food and interesting conversations at Troy Gardens proved a winning combination. So good that we hope to have more Community Conversations in the future, perhaps one in each season.



Photo by Sheri Dolfen

Thanks to Savor the Summer Sponsors & Volunteers!

Pierce's Northside Market	The Horses Toby & Tag
Culver's	Madison Community Gardeners
Arterro Eco-friendly Art Kits	Dale Matthews
Lakeview Lutheran Church	Martha Worcester
Dane County Timebank	Hannah Lavold
Black Star Drum Line	Steve Lendved
Jolly Giants Stiltwalkers	Terrie Anderson
Erin O'Brien	Ellen Barnard
Jenny Marquardt	Marge Pitts

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 Timedollars to us and we will use them to pay volunteers for helping out at 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!

TROY GARDENS JOURNAL

BY MARGE PITTS

“Community Grows Best”

Every year the Madison firm Knupp & Watson selects several local nonprofits and develops free marketing services tailored to each one, in a 24-hour marathon they call “Goodstock.” This year Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens was one of the lucky recipients.

Knupp & Watson’s creative team devised a fundraising/marketing plan for us, which we’re utilizing in this very newsletter as we ask those of you with the means to help us continue, to please do so now. Knupp & Watson also secured a donation of \$700 worth of gardening tools from Corona Clipper, which will come in handy as we continue to teach people how to grow their own food and keep their own ecosystem alive. And they designed three posters to introduce people to our new name and our new mission: we used to be the Friends of Troy Gardens, but we aspire to be bigger than that.

The best of the posters means well, but contains what I consider to be exactly the wrong word:

“COMMUNITY GROWS BEST IN THE DIRT UNDER YOUR FINGERNAILS.”

Which brings me to today’s epiphany: DIRT? *DIRT?*

Dirt is what’s in my house, which I spend way too little time cleaning. Dirt is what makes the secret lives of other people so interesting. Dirt is *dirty*.

What’s under my fingernails, what I daydream about when other daydreams make me nervous, what makes me fall to my knees in jubilation, is SOIL. In fact, the awareness of the difference between dirt and soil is one of the precious few distinctions between myself and a hillbilly. Furthermore, awakening people to the abundance available at their feet is a serviceable metaphor for everything we aspire to do at Community GroundWorks.

Soil is a community comprised of microbes, earth’s original and most numerous inhabitants by far; plus inert particles of sand and minerals that have been here since day one; plus organic compounds which remain as a gift when all things die.

Soil microbes belong to four major tribes: bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes. Upon the stage of the root zone of plants, known as the rhizosphere, these four families enact an endless drama, replete with alliances, cross purposes, briberies and extortions, involuntary consequences, eternal feuds, tragedy and triumph,

life and death and life, over and over, forever.

Some microbes help plants. As a consequence of living in the rhizosphere, they enable plants to absorb what nutrients are present in the neighborhood. That’s why dumping artificial fertilizer on dead soil is a pointless endeavor. In return, plants exude simple sugars and proteins into the rhizosphere, exactly what the helpful microbes need to proliferate and continue benefiting the plant. It is a match made on earth.

Some microbes cause disease: wilt and rot, fallen soldiers in the garden. But wait, other microbes lurk about like incognito superheroes in a vast, dark metropolis, who can restore balance to the rhizosphere and make it safe for plants again. Plants pay their microbial allies with irresistible exudates—protection money, you might say, to keep the enemy of their enemies at hand; an offer that cannot be refused.

Soil microbiology is only boring if you call it soil microbiology. If you open your eyes to the genuine drama found in soil, and not found in dirt, you will see a blueprint for healthy community: diverse, interdependent creatures linked by their relationships to one another, utilizing the neighborhood’s natural resources without depleting them, navigating between conflict and attraction in a complex web of life designed for all to exist in balance.

If you understand the truth about soil, then you already know how community grows best.



COMMUNITY
GROWS BEST
IN THE
SOIL
UNDER YOUR
FINGERNAILS



Become part of our community by
visiting Troy Gardens or online at
communitygroundworks.org

Poster created by Knupp &
Watson, revised.



c/o Friends of Troy Gardens
3601 Memorial Dr., Suite 4
Madison, WI 53704

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HEARTH BROOM MAKING CLASS



Taught by Little John
Saturday Jan. 16th, 1-5pm
Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd.
Cost: \$60

Discover the art of hand-made brooms!

All materials are provided. Class is limited to 12 people, so register soon! Prepayment and registration is required before January 2. Sorry, no refunds. Register by calling or emailing Christie at (608) 240-0409 or christie@troygardens.org.



Come Out 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: In 2009, we are part of United Way's Campaign. In 2010, we will be part of Community Shares' campaign.

Community CHIP: Starting January 1, 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.