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Community GroundWorks is sad to announce the departure of two terrific staff members -- Jill Jacklitz and Megan Cain

Jill Jacklitz, Executive Director

Jill Jacklitz is moving on to a new position with a local health care provider. Jill has done an outstanding job leading our organization. She succeeded in mapping a path to greater financial stability, clarifying our image, and unifying our programs around our vision: people cooperate to create and sustain healthy communities by growing food and caring for nature within their urban environments.

If you are someone who has participated in any of the programming at Community GroundWorks, you know how the land and the people get into your blood, so you'll understand that leaving for a new opportunity has been a difficult decision for Jill, and she has vowed to stay involved. We look forward to seeing her on a couple of committees and around the land.

Jill will be with us through the second week of November. We have started the search for a new executive director and hope to have someone on board early in the New Year. The job description is posted online at http://communitygroundworks.org/jobs

Megan Cain, Programs Manager

Megan Cain is moving on to some new adventures and projects, including a trip to Ghana to work with artists and teach a few mosaic classes. Megan just finished her 7th season with Community GroundWorks (and Friends of Troy Gardens). She began as the creator and first program manager of the Troy Kids' Garden. Her vision set in motion a program that has become a national model in the youth gardening movement. After a few years building the Kids' Garden programming and a short break (which included co-coordinating the community art project that produced the garden's mosaic fenceposts), Megan returned to manage two new programs -- Madison FarmWorks and the Goodman Youth Grow Local Farm. Both have flourished under Megan's guidance, organization and hard physical work. Megan will be greatly missed but she reminds us that between her home in the cohousing (which is itself a model of how a tiny yard can produce a LOT of vegetables), her community garden plot and CSA share, she will be around. Safe travels, Megan!
Good Food Garden Party Good All Around

Rain during the festive evening did not dampen spirits at the annual Good Food Garden Party on Saturday, September 8th at Troy Gardens. This elegant outdoor fundraising event provides an opportunity for guests to stroll the land while enjoying fine food and drink provided by local purveyors with some special touches - local chefs on site sharing delectable seasonal creations with produce from Troy Community Farm and an opportunity to see our working landscape first-hand. Thanks to our many sponsors and partners for helping us carry on what is becoming a magical tradition and a reflection of our vision to support hands-on education in urban gardening and farming for all ages. Check out some great photos in Madison Magazine HERE.

Workplace Giving Through Community Shares

Community GroundWorks is a proud member of Community Shares of Wisconsin (CSW). We are most grateful for the donations received each year through Community Shares -- through C.H.I.P. and workplace giving. The CSW workplace giving campaign allows employees to pledge gifts to nonprofits through payroll contributions. If your employer participates in CSW, please consider including Community GroundWorks in your pledge. If you would like your employer to offer workplace giving through Community Shares, please visit CSW's website.

Drought 2012 - Natural Areas

In the spring, many new trees and shrubs were planted along the Edible Trail and beyond. Baby trees require careful watering which is tricky since there is no water in that area of Troy Gardens. In a normal year, tree watering would just be a supplement to carefully monitored rainfall. This was not a normal year. In this BLOG, intern Kate Reichert explains how our Natural Areas staff, interns and stewards worked for weeks to keep the baby trees alive through the worst drought in southern Wisconsin in decades.

Kids Learn Lasagna Gardening and Put the Kids' Garden to Bed

No, not lasagna eating. Lasagna gardening ... a technique to smother weeds and build soil without a lot of digging. Kids' Garden Manager Ginny Hughes writes all about it in this BLOG.
New Trail Signage for 2013 -- Thank you Alliant Energy!

Thanks to the Alliant Energy Foundation the signage on the kiosks dotting the landscape at Troy Gardens will be refreshed. The existing signage dates back to our beginnings when Community GroundWorks was known as the Friends of Troy Gardens. The new signage will complement the existing design and include inspirational pieces written by participants in a creative writing course at Troy Gardens taught by Board member Marge Pitts. The signage will also continue to be an educational resource giving visitors insights into the sights and sounds around them. We'll be working on the project this winter. We invite you to visit Troy Gardens any time but check out the land next Spring to see our fresh new look!

CGW Hosts Urban Forest Summit

An outpouring of creative ideas and energy describes the 2012 Urban Forest Summit held in September at the Fitchburg DNR and organized by Community GroundWorks Natural Areas Manager Patricia Lindquist. The summit was a key piece of our WDNR Urban Forestry Grant program work plan to foster strategic partnerships to prepare for the invasion of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Dane County. For more information visit the Summit blog.

CAC Garden Day

Community Action Coalition’s (CAC) Garden Days were a chance to celebrate community gardens all over Madison. Troy Gardens hosted a terrific event on September 29 with cooking demos, workshops, drumming and much enjoyment of a lovely fall day. A stunning amount of apples were pressed into cider with a diverse group of children doing much of the hand cranking. By the way, the apples came from the ancient orchard at the Mendota Mental Health Institute which is maintained by our Natural Areas Stewards.

News News News

- Claire and Megan were on Larry Meiller's Garden Talk radio show last month. They report that it was fun. You can listen at WPR.org. Scroll down to Friday September 7.
- All of Community GroundWorks' newsletters are archived on the website. These include The Gazette (general news), Urban Roots (the weekly CSA newsletter) and Diggin' In (the community gardens newsletter). Every Urban Roots includes a much beloved recipe from the farmers.
• Closing day of the Community Gardens is October 27. It is also the final workday for garden work hours -- 9 a.m. to noon.