With all the rainy days of late, we were fortunate to have a perfect late summer day to celebrate the harvest at Troy Community Gardens. This year’s event focused on food with a community potluck, apple juice making, and even an eggroll sale (a fundraiser for Lindbergh School Community Garden). Some 60 or so people attended the gathering, with gardeners, neighbors, friends and family all enjoying a fantastic potluck spread and delicious apple juice.

Rather than borrowing an apple press this year, one of our gardeners, Todd, offered to make us a hand-cranked apple press. He incorporated a grinder from an old press and repurposed wood leftover from other projects.

After the first few buckets of apples, we realized the apples needed to be ground finer to yield more juice. Todd made several adjustments to the grinder, but the apples weren’t giving up the juice. We turned to our backup plan. We had borrowed a home-made apple grinder from a couple who read in the Northside News last year that Troy Gardens was looking for an apple press. This model required electricity as it was actually a sink and garbage disposal hooked up to a motor and mounted in a frame! It saved the day, grinding apples to a pulp. The pulp was then passed through Todd’s press producing gallons upon gallons of golden apple juice. With the juice flowing, we enjoyed the potluck spread and hot eggrolls. Many thanks to Todd who vows to improve the grinder for next year, and to Laura and Tony for letting us borrow their creative invention!

We also want to thank the local businesses listed above, who repeatedly support our event by donating door prizes. Those of us who garden at Troy are frequently told by visitors how lucky we are to garden in such a beautiful location. Yes, we are, but we are also fortunate to have such a supportive community of neighbors and businesses around us.

Thank You!

Door Prize Donors

Ace Hardware Center
1398 Williamson Street
608-257-1630

Banzo
www.banzomadison.com

Benvenuto’s Italian Grill
www.benvenutos.com/madison

Café La Bellitalia Restorante & Pizzeria
http://www.cafelabellitaliamadison.com/

Jim’s Meat Market
www.jimsofmadison.com

Klein’s Floral and Greenhouses
www.kleinsfloral.com

Manna Café and Bakery
www.mannacafe.com

Northside True Value
ww3.truevalue.com/mtv/Home.aspx