

Common Ground Farm, Inc.

* Newsletter *

numero uno

W e l c o m e

The founding mothers and fathers of Common Ground Farm warmly welcome you to our new, literally sprouting, community enterprise. We first met last September to discuss bringing the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) movement to the Beacon area. We were fortunate to have the guidance of Dan Guenther, the farmer at the Vassar Farm Project in Poughkeepsie.

Reeling from the 9-11 attacks, some of us took up this work as a way of putting a little hope into our lives. When we saw our logo - the man and woman in the circle of sun tending the earth by the flowing Hudson - designed by Rafael Figueroa, we knew we were on the right track.

Now we're seeing hope fulfilled. On our fenced, plowed acres at Stonykill Environmental Center, spinach leaves out, peas reach up to bend tendrils around trellises, onions and potatoes fatten under the earth and the sky unexpectedly sends rain, each drop precious.

Common Ground Farm is a reality thanks to the unique perspective, passion and vision of each Board member, supporters with the pioneer spirit to join us this first season, and especially the experience and practical yet heartfelt touch of our farmer, Linda-Brook Guenther. We'll have our first DISTRIBUTION DAY in June, yummy early goodies – *spinach, arugula, scallions, radishes, Asian greens, mesclun and other lettuces, herbs...*

O p e n H o u s e

But, before that, we invite all members, their friends and families to our first *Open House*, Sunday, May 19, 2-4 p.m. Please see attached flier!

S t o n y k i l l

Thank you, Stonykill, for welcoming us and being consistently helpful. It's a treat to meet the bluebirds, purple martins and other creatures. We connected with Stonykill earth before planting through a ceremony led by a shaman invited by our

events chairperson, Laura Perkins. Then we were part of Stonykill's EARTH DAY celebration on April 27, offering an educational activity led by Creek Iverson at our table and serving as a Hay Ride stop and a for the Scavenger Hunt question station.

A r e a s o f I n t e r e s t

Creek is our education chairperson . If you're interested in educational outreach, please let us know. Education's not for you? There are other ways to help – to name just a few: newsletter, publicity, events, recipes, specialty gardens.

One of our specialty gardens is a species of permaculture. Permaculture is, to put it simply, a form of gardening in which everything is mixed up. Nothing is in straight rows. Flowers among vegetables, vegetables among flowers, herbs among all. Our permaculture garden is a work in progress; so far, it includes blueberry bushes, American wild plum trees, meadow p[ants, favorite garden perennials and herbs.

Another specialty garden is the children's garden, dignified by a teepee trellis for peas and beans.

Of course our farmer can use help with any number of tasks. Stop by the farm and talk to her to find out how you can pitch in.

Please tell us your interests, skills, concerns. We hope this newsletter will carry your voice. (see contact info., below)

R e c i p e s

We'd also like to start collecting recipes. Some of us find the prospect of cooking with so much fresh food daunting; and there are certain foods, like turnips, for example, that are no longer familiar in many kitchens. If you have a great way of preparing any popular or unpopular veggie, be sure to share! We'd like to publish a few recipes in each newsletter. Contact Janet Ruhe-Schoen, 831-7567. Or: 37 Dutchess Terrace, Beacon, NY 12508. Or: Janetruhe@aol.com



W e ' r e e a g e r
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