

# DIGGING IN

At Troy Community Gardens  
Madison, WI

## PLANT & EQUIPMENT SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

Troy Community Gardens held their third annual Plant Sale on Sunday, May 24, and brought in \$1,235, surpassing last year's total by more than \$700. Sales included:

Equipment	\$120
Eco Bag	\$3
Purple Cow Compost	\$36
Chickity Doo Doo	\$16
Books	\$15
Plants for Timedollars	8.5 hrs
Plants	\$1,045
<b>Total Real Dollars</b>	<b>\$1,235</b>
<b>Total Timedollars</b>	<b>8.5 hrs</b>



pepper starts and soil), and Dr. Dennis Stimart and Johanna Oosterwyck of the Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin (donated plants).

We would like to thank the following volunteers and organizations for their time and generous donations: Marge Pitts, Pat Woicek, Chris Stuesser, Jenny Ohlsen, Kathryn Satewicz, Barbara Jenkin, Martha Worcester, Winnie Bade, Bryce Keel, Kurt Schneider, Pierce's Northside Market (space to sell), Jim Sommerfeld of Happy Grass (discounted compost and fertilizer products), Jamie VandenWymelenberg, Head Grower, and Sue Klein, Owner, of Klein's Floral and Greenhouses (donated

## WORK DAY

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 20  
9 AM -12 NOON**

If it is raining on June 20, the work day will be changed to June 21, at the same time.

Hnub ua haujlwm pab dawb yog 6/20/09, 9 a.m. txog 12 teev tavs, yog los nag muab pauv rau 6/21/09 tib lub si-jhawm.

### Día de Trabajo

El Sábado 20 de junio  
9 am -12 medio día

Si llegara a llover el 20 de junio, el día de trabajo será cambiado para el día 21 de junio a la misma hora.

## Aluminum Can Fund Growing

So far in 2009 we have collected \$94 in aluminum cans. The price for aluminum has been low for the last few months but recently went up, so please continue to bring your empty, preferably crushed, cans to the gardens each Saturday work day (3rd Saturday of the month). If you'd like to drop off cans between work days, place them in plastic bags behind the shed next to the City recycling container but not inside. Thanks.



## FISKARS TO DONATE GARDEN TOOLS

Fiskars® is generously donating several garden tools to Troy Community Gardens. Fiskars will be interested in our feedback regarding the durability and usability of their tools. What better place than a community gardens for this type of testing.

We hope to receive the following items:

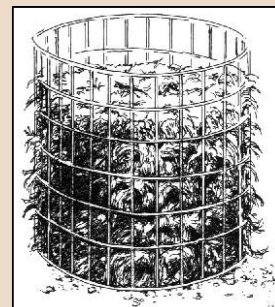
- 4 Long Handle Digging Shovels (steel)
- 2 D-Handle Digging Shovels (steel)
- 4 D-Handle Garden Forks (steel)
- 4 Garden Rakes (aluminum)
- 4 Garden Hoes (aluminum)
- 2 Cultivators (aluminum)

When we receive the items, we will be marking them with the date we start to use them. Fiskars will also be providing some survey material for us to provide feedback. As a comparison to the Fiskars tools, we purchased one MasterForce garden fork from one of the big box stores. We'll be looking for feedback comparing Fiskars' tools to this garden fork and other previously purchased forks. We will provide an update once we received the tools and they are available for gardeners to use. Stay tuned.

## COMPOSTING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT TROY

As you know, Troy's garden rules dictate that gardeners must compost weeds and garden debris within their own plot or remove them from the property. Some gardeners are familiar with methods to compost their weeds but others are not. Therefore, Troy Community Gardens will be hosting a Composting Workshop to help educate gardeners on different methods to deal with garden weeds/debris. Plans for the workshop are still being finalized, but the likely date for the event will be Saturday, August 15.

We are planning to have an experienced composter demonstrate the bin method of composting. We will also have a demonstration by one of our Hmong gardeners, showing a method she and other Hmong gardeners use to deal with weeds and garden debris. Troy gardeners who attend will earn volunteer hours for their attendance. We plan to invite other community gardeners to the event. The workshop will be translated into Hmong, Spanish and Lao as needed. Please watch for confirmation of the date in July's newsletter. An abbreviated work day will follow the workshop if the date chosen is August 15, which is our August work day.



## Avoid Sprouting Yellow and Red Flags



Wind-borne weed seeds and spreading crab grass can be a problem not only for you but for your neighbors. If you are absent from the garden for a long period time, please get a friend or family member to weed in your stead. This will avoid stressing out your neighbors, keep you on better terms with them and may preempt a formal weed complaint. If you can not find anyone to weed, please contact the Plot Monitoring Subcommittee, and we will see if we can work something out with you. Email [plotmonitoring@gmail.com](mailto:plotmonitoring@gmail.com), drop a note in the small mailbox on the north side of the shed or leave a clear voice mail message at the Community GroundWorks office (240-0409) with the best time to call back.

Thank you.

## Save those Jung Dollars and consider donating them to Troy Community Gardens !!!

You can mail them to Community GroundWorks at the address below or bring them to a work day.

Community GroundWorks • 3601 Memorial Drive, Suite 4 • Madison, WI 53704

# NEW STRUCTURES AT TROY GARDENS

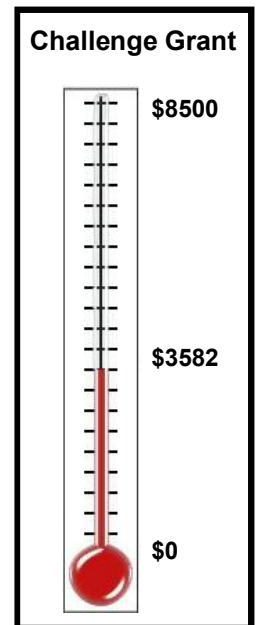
The Community Gardens is just one program area within the Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens organization. Other program areas under the Community GroundWorks (CGW) umbrella include our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, the Educational Programs, including the Kids' Garden, and the Natural Areas. A couple of these other areas have been busy planning additions to the property.

## Passive Solar Greenhouse

This is an exciting year for Community GroundWorks. We are about to begin construction on the new passive solar greenhouse, the first and only such greenhouse in Madison. The greenhouse will not only provide much needed growing space for our farm and Kids' Garden seedlings, it will also make our organization more financially self-sufficient. With the greenhouse we will be able to grow and sell certified organic seedlings to area gardeners, extend the season on our wholesale herb business, and offer interesting workshops to the public. With a greenhouse, our existing programs will be able to offer many more learning opportunities in our community.

Best of all, this greenhouse will be designed to rely on power from the sun for heating and cooling, with little or no use of fossil fuels. It will also incorporate sustainably harvested, local, whole tree timbers for added strength and beauty.

We are approaching our greenhouse fundraising goal of \$65,000 (for construction and initial programming). Recently a very generous anonymous donor contacted us (through the Madison Community Foundation) with the offer of an \$8,500 challenge grant. If we can meet this challenge by the end of June, we will reach our fundraising goal and complete our greenhouse. If you would like more information or if you are interested in making a contribution towards this project, please contact Christie Ralston at 240-0409 or [christie@troygardens.org](mailto:christie@troygardens.org).



## New Kids' Garden Shed

As you may have noticed, the Community Gardens and Kids' Garden both share one shed at Troy Gardens (commonly referred to as the 'yellow shed'). Since the storage requirements for the Community Gardens and Kids' Garden differ and we both need more space, the Kids' Garden area will be constructing a new shed to be located directly behind the 'yellow shed'. Construction is slated to start in the next few weeks. If the group of volunteers erecting the new shed has the time, they will also be raising up the 'yellow shed' and placing it on concrete blocks. The 'yellow shed' has flooded in the past, and this should help alleviate the problem during unusually heavy rains. The tools and watering cans should be accessible to gardeners throughout the project.



on the side of the wooden bins at the north end of the gardens. The hope is to attract hawks and other raptors who would in turn make meals of the various rodents who do damage to our crops. When you are at the gardens, glance toward these poles to see if they are occupied by a hawk.

## Raptor Poles

Two new raptor poles were recently added to the Community Gardens. One belongs to gardeners, and it is erected within their plot near the top of Section O. A second raptor pole was built by Kurt Schneider, Equipment Subcommittee Leader, and erected at the May work day by volunteers. It is located





## Upcoming Events

### Troy Gardens Night at Roman Candle Pizza

Fri. & Sat., June 19 & 20, 4 pm - 8 pm  
(see details to the right)

### Community Gardens Work Day

Sat., June 20, 9 am - 12 noon

### Herb Garden Workshop

Sun., June 28, 9 am - 12 noon  
Led by volunteer Natural Area Stewards Nancy and Marie, followed by 2 hours of volunteer work weeding, harvesting and re-mulching trails. To register, contact Christie at number below.

### Community Gardens Work Day

Sat., July 18, 9:00 am - 12 noon

### Savor the Summer at Troy Gardens

Sat., Aug. 1, 3 pm - 7 pm  
(see details below)

### Composting Workshop

Tentatively, Sat., Aug. 15, 9 am - 10:30 am  
(watch for more info in July newsletter)

For details about any of these events, please call the Community GroundWorks office at 240-0409.



## Troy Gardens Night at The Roman Candle Pizzeria

1054 Williamson St., Madison

June 19 & 20

4:00pm - 8:00pm

Proceeds will be donated to  
Community GroundWorks  
at Troy Gardens

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Composting Workshop** - Date TBD - (See article on Page 2.) We need Troy gardeners to help plan and setup for this event. If you are interested in helping out, contact Jill Schneider at 241-1821 or schneiderjill@charter.net. Any time spent helping will count toward your volunteer time commitment (3 hours per plot).

**Savor the Summer** - August 1 - We are seeking volunteers to plan and help out during the Savor the Summer event. We're paying Timedollars for all help. Alternatively, gardeners can count their time against the volunteer time commitment (3 hours per plot). Please contact Marge Pitts at margepitts@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in helping.

**Enabling Garden** - Troy Community Gardens would like to construct a gardening area for those who are differently abled. We envision raised beds that are wheelchair accessible from the parking area to the east of the gardens. If you'd like to be involved with the project, please contact Christie Ralston at 240-0409 or christie@troygardens.org. Any time spent helping with this project counts toward your volunteer time commitment (3 hours per plot).

## Apples are a-coming

A quick survey of the Mendota Apple Orchard reveals another good crop for the Harvest Festival. Mark your calendars for the **Community Gardens Harvest Festival** planned for Saturday, Sept. 19, noon-3 pm, immediately following the work day.

**Savor The Summer at Troy Gardens**

Tour the Gardens, Farm and Natural Areas  
See What's Happening at Troy

Activities for Kids  
**SLIPPY SLIDE!**  
Crafts & Games

Meet & Greet Toby and Tag, The Troy Gardens Horses

Homegrown entertainment  
West African drums & more!

Visit The Chickens

**FREE WATERMELON!**

**A GREEN FESTIVAL**  
Bring Your Own Picnic

**Saturday, Aug. 1**  
3pm-7pm  
**Free Family Fun!**