

DIGGING IN

At Troy Community Gardens
Madison, WI

The Broadfork

By Jill Schneider

Meet Larry Cooper of Gulland Forge Broadfork. Larry's been a blacksmith for over two decades, and in 2008 started manufacturing and marketing a garden tillage tool, the broadfork. Larry has graciously donated one of his hand-crafted broadforks to Troy Community Gardens. It was personally delivered by Larry at our recent July work day along with a demonstration of how to use it to loosen the soil readying it for mid-season plantings. Several gardeners gave it a spin and were surprised how easy it was to use with proper instruction. In addition to loosening soil, Larry told the group that harvesting potatoes and other root crops is another perfect job for the broadfork. He wasn't kidding, either. Kurt and I harvested some potatoes later in the day using the broadfork which made a satisfying harvest even easier. You simply rock the broadfork down into the soil a short distance from the plant and gently lean the handles back to expose the potatoes.

According to Larry's website, the broadfork dates back several centuries, and thus it was perfected at a time when tools were powered either by humans or animals. Toolmakers in those days worked hard to design tools that fit the dynamics of the human body, and the

broadfork exemplifies a high water mark in human powered tool technology.

In just a few seconds, by stepping on the crossbar, one side then the other and using only body weight, the tines are set completely into the soil.

Using the tremendous leverage of the long handles, the soil is loosened by working the handles forward and backward in a kind of rowing motion. It's the kind of tool that almost anyone can use effectively. Videos demonstrating use of the broadfork can be viewed at the Gulland Forge Broadfork website www.gullandforge.com.



Larry Cooper with Broadfork
Photo by Karen Stack

What a broadfork IS: In mature soils and garden beds, the broadfork is used to loosen soil to prepare for planting or for adding soil amendments such as compost, fertilizer or mulches. It will open and loosen soil while minimizing damage to its living strata of flora and fauna that provide the nutrients for the garden bed. The broadfork is also a great tool to choose for harvesting potatoes, beets, carrots, etc.

What a broadfork ISN'T: Though it is a tough, durable tool, it's not supposed



WORK DAY

**SATURDAY
August 21
9 AM - 12 NOON**

If it is raining on August 21, the work day will be changed to August 22, 9 a.m.

Hnub ua haujlwm pab dawb yog 8/21/10, 9 a.m. txog 12 teev tavs, yog los nag muab pauv rau 8/22/10 9 a.m.

Día de Trabajo

El Sábado 21 de agosto 9 a.m. -12 medio día
Si llegara a llover el 21 de agosto, el día de trabajo será cambiado para el día 22 de agosto 9 a.m.



Harvesting Potatoes

to replace a tiller in compacted, dense, or rocky soils. Picks and spades are best for initial groundbreaking and once the sod busting is done, the broadfork makes quick work of further improving the texture of the soil, providing deep aeration. The tool can be damaged if it is used improperly.

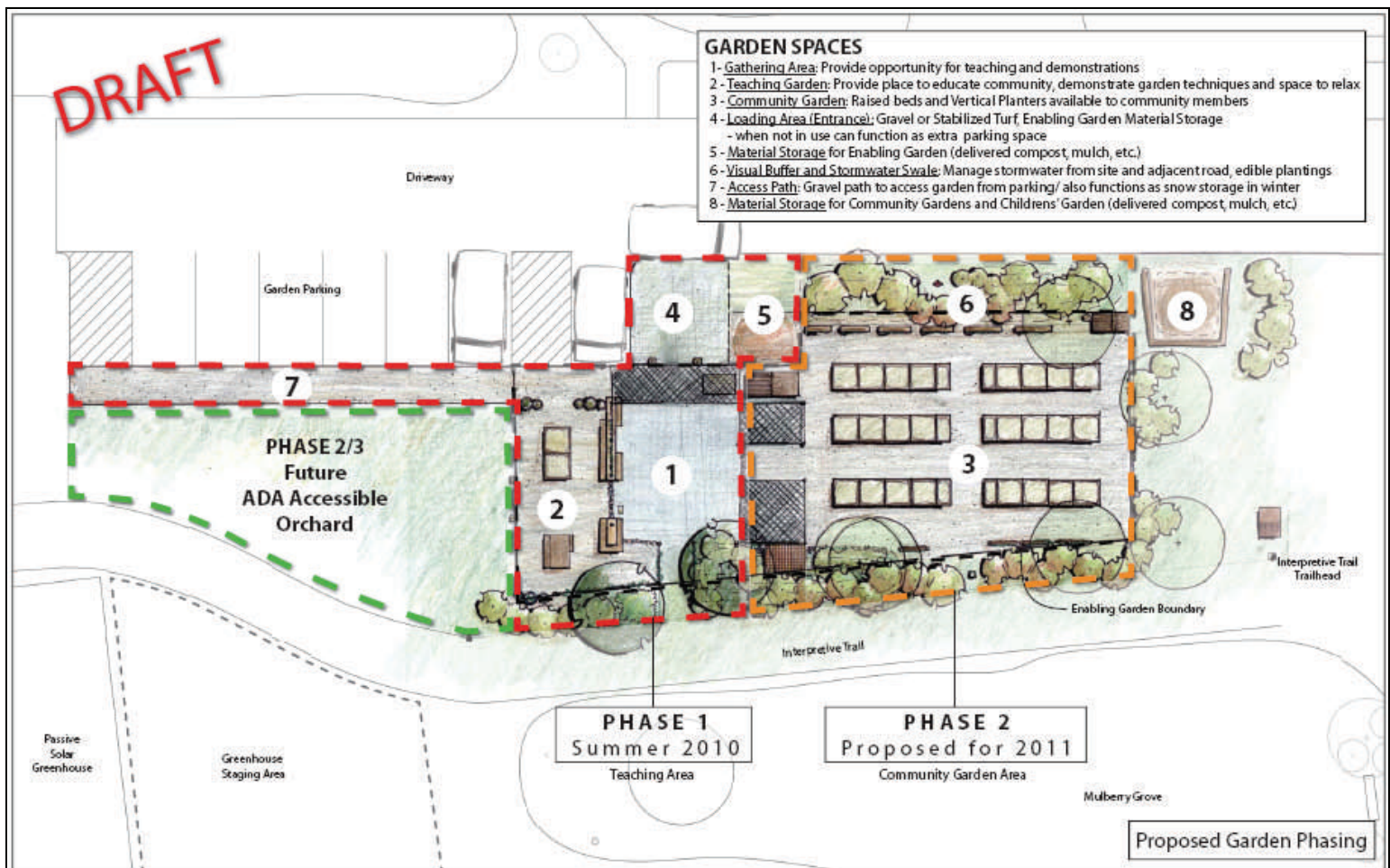
Our new wonderful tool is in the garden shed along with two other broadforks we already owned. Please use the new tool thoughtfully and enjoy harvesting those potatoes the beetles mostly ignored this year.

Enabling Garden Project

It has been a long-term goal of Community GroundWorks to create an Enabling Garden that demonstrates gardening methods for those not able to garden at ground level and to provide spaces for community gardeners who don't have the ability to garden in our traditional community garden plots. Troy Community Gardens used to have a set of raised beds near the front of Section C, but they weren't accessible to wheelchair users or those who have difficulty walking on uneven ground as there was no hard surface path to the area.

Daniel Schmitt, a UW landscape architect graduate and current graduate student, has been hired as an intern by Community GroundWorks to lead the Enabling Garden Project. He recently presented the draft plans for the project to the Community Gardens Steering/Leadership Committee at their July 20 meeting. If the plans are approved by the Community GroundWorks Site Management Committee and other approvals are secured, Phase 1 of the project would start some time in August and include the gathering area, the teaching garden, the access path, and the loading area/entrance. Phase 2 would be scheduled for 2011 and include six sets of raised beds for community gardeners, a visual buffer zone to the east of the community gardens beds, and a materials storage area. The Enabling Garden is to be located east of the greenhouse and the Kids' Garden running along the existing parking spaces and south of there behind the trees east of the Kids' Garden (see draft plan below).

This project has minimal funds to get started, so Daniel will be working to secure free or inexpensive materials and resources for Phase 1. For the community gardeners, that translates to possible volunteer opportunities to earn time toward your volunteer commitment of three hours per plot. Stay tuned for updates and notifications regarding volunteer opportunities.



Phase 1 - Site Features/Possible Materials

- Shade Screen at entrance (greenhouse shade screen material)
- Hardscape in gathering area (pavers or gravel)
- Seating integrated into vertical planters
- Vertical planters (planting screens, hanging baskets)
- 1 Raised (tactile) bed 4'x8'
- Large Planters (concrete drain pipe, pots, etc.)
- Accessible Table
- Trellis

Emerald Ash Borer

By Laura Detert

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is on its way through Wisconsin! The emerald ash borer has been detected at several sites in the state and will soon threaten Wisconsin's woodland and urban tree populations. To educate the public on the invasive beetle, interns at Community GroundWorks, through a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, have started a pilot educational program on Troy Gardens' land. Dozens of ash trees in the woods at Troy Gardens will receive red ribbons around the trunk along with a yellow information card about ash trees, ecology and invasive species such as emerald ash borer.

Native to East Asia, the emerald ash borer is a metallic green, wood-boring beetle that feeds on the tissues under the bark of ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp). The beetle larvae spend their life entirely inside ash trees, disrupting the trees' ability to transport water and nutrients, starving and eventually killing



Adult Emerald Ash Borer

them. Adults exit the infested tree and can fly at least 1/2 mile to another ash tree to begin the cycle again. All of Wisconsin's ash species are susceptible to attack: green (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white (*F. americana*), black (*F. nigra*), and blue (*F. quadrangulata*), as well as horticultural ash cultivars. In Wisconsin ash trees make up nearly 7 percent of the tree population and around 20 percent of trees in urban areas, making the emerald ash borer a significant threat to the diversity and health of our trees. The beetle was first discovered in North America near Detroit, Michigan in 2002 after accidental transport in wooden shipping crates from China. It has since spread to several U.S. Eastern and Midwestern states, including Wisconsin, as well as Canada.

Attacks by the emerald ash borer to ash species are always fatal regardless of tree health, age, or size. Attacked trees usually die within 2-4 years of infestation. Symptoms of emerald ash borer infestation are similar to other tree diseases and stressors and include crown dieback, bark cracks, and excessive new branch sprouting (epicormic sprouting) on the trunk or near the base of the tree.

Homeowners with ash species on their property should decide on an action plan for these trees given the emerald ash borer threat. For those that would like to protect a valued ash tree, an arborist can administer preventative chemical treatment annually/bi-annually. Treatment has been found to be effective and often less costly than removing the tree. If the tree is removed entirely, a new species of tree or other plants can be planted in its place. Everyone can help by only buying firewood near campsites and keeping up to date on current statewide and local guidelines.

For more information on the emerald ash borer, visit www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov.

Laura Detert is a Natural Areas Intern at Community GroundWorks.



Martinis & Zucchini

an evening celebrating the bounty of Troy Gardens

Wednesday, September 15, 2010
5:00-8:00 pm

Troy Gardens, 500 Block of Troy Drive, Madison, WI 53704

Cocktails and delicious food by Marigold Kitchen/Sardine, featuring locally sourced products like produce from our certified organic Troy Community Farm and spirits from Yahara Bay Distillery

Tickets: \$65

Proceeds support Community GroundWorks' work to nurture meaningful relationships between people and the land.

To purchase tickets or to get more information, please call 608.240.0409, or visit our website at www.communitygroundworks.org



Do you like to write about your favorite places? Is Troy Gardens one of them? Join Community GroundWorks' Writing Workshop! We'll meet at Troy 3 times to choose topics, create first & second drafts, and share support & suggestions with one another. Essays, poems & short pieces. We'll present our work in a special reading at Troy Gardens Harvest Festival, Sept. 18.

Community Writing Workshop

Sat. 8/21, 10 am: Intro session
Sat. 8/28, 10 am: 1st draft discussion
Sat. 9/11, 10 am: 2nd draft discussion
Sat. 9/18: Finished pieces shared at Troy Gardens Harvest Festival

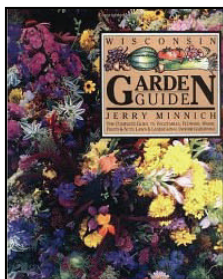
All sessions take place at Troy Gardens
Contact Marge Pitts to participate!
margepitts@sbcglobal.net
608-770-4344

Gardeners can earn volunteer time toward their 3 hr/plot requirement

Thank You Frugal Muse!

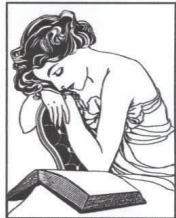
Community GroundWorks would like to extend a thank you to Frugal Muse for their generous donation of a copy of *The Wisconsin Garden Guide* to our community gardens resource library. The book was recently added to the resource materials located on the bookshelf in the tool shed.

[Midwest Book Review](#) says, "Jerry Minnich's exceptionally well written and superbly presented compendium is a complete and total guide to growing flowers, lawns, herbs, vegetables, fruits and nuts. Jerry covers every aspect of the gardening experience from soil evaluation, composting and mulching, to weather, insects, pets, and disease control (without having to resort to herbicides). Of special note is the informative chapter dedicated to indoor gardening. The Wisconsin Garden Guide is further enhanced with a segment on tools and sources, as well as a "gardener friendly" index. *The Wisconsin Garden Guide* is a core, essential, invaluable, comprehensive reference for every personal or professional Wisconsin gardening collection."



Frugal Muse is a small, independently owned chain of three bookstores serving Madison, Wisconsin, and suburban Chicago. The Madison East Frugal Muse is conveniently located at the North Gate Shopping Center (1193 N. Sherman Ave., 608.242.0000, www.frugalmuse.com). Stop in and check out their great supply of books, CDs, LPs and DVDs.

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BOOKS
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Upcoming Events



Community Gardens Work Day

Sat., Aug. 21, 9 am - 12 noon

Community Writing Workshop

Sat., Aug. 21 & 28, Sept. 11 & 18, 10 am (see details on Page 3)

Martinis and Zucchini: An evening celebrating the bounty of Troy Gardens

Wed., Sept. 15, 5 pm - 8 pm (see details on Page 3)

Community Gardens Work Day

Sat., Sept. 18, 9 am - 12 noon

Community Gardens Harvest Festival

Sat., Sept. 18, 12 noon - 3 pm (see details on this page)

All-Gardener Meeting

Sat., Oct. 9, 10 am - noon, Lakeview Lutheran Church (see more info to the right)

For more information about these events, please call the Community GroundWorks office at 240-0409.

Troy Community Gardens

Harvest Festival

Saturday - 9/18/10 - noon

Join us for a celebration of the harvest

Potluck - Door Prizes - Cider Pressing

Bring a dish to pass, as well as a plate, utensils and a chair for yourself

Enter to win one of many door prizes

Enjoy the company of your fellow gardeners!

Teb Troy Caij Sau Qoobloos Kev Lomzem

Hnub Vaxaum (Saturday), 9/18/10
thaum 12 teev tav su

Thov cov tsvv ua teb vaj zaub txhua tus tuaj ua kev lomzem txhawb nqa lub Caij Sau Qoobloos

Noj mov uake, muaj khoom plig pub thiab zom kua txiv haus

Npaj ib yam khoom noj tuaj faib rau lwm tus saj, nqa tais diav thiab rooj zaum rau yus

Muaj sau npe tau khoom plig

Tuaj sib txhawb thiab nrog cov phoojywg ua teb tham uake

All-Gardener Meeting

October 9 • 10 am-noon



Please mark your calendars to attend the All-Gardener meeting for Troy Community Gardens. An important topic of discussion will be converting more plowed plots to no-plow/organic plots for 2011. The plots under consideration for this conversion are plots H1 through H60. These are the plots west of the greenhouse, including the row that runs just north of the greenhouse. Please plan on attending to offer your input on this and other topics to be discussed.