

LITTLE SPROUTS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SHARING THE HARVEST COMMUNITY FARM

DARTMOUTH YMCA
A DIVISION OF YMCA SOUTHCOAST

March 2012

www.ymcasouthcoast.org



PHOTO FROM 2011 YOUNG FARMERS CAMP

HEAD-FIRST IN 2012

Greetings, volunteers! The season is upon us. While the weather may be cold and the daylight hours short, it's time to start preparing, because, in no time it will be spring, and a tremendous amount of work will be before us.

To get things started, we will begin our Volunteer Drop-In hours on March 12th this year. We have lots to do, and there's no better time to start than early! The drop-in hours will be similar to last year; see page 2 for the detailed times.

As usual, if you're interested in volunteering and your schedule doesn't align with our openings, please call or email us, and we'll do what we can to work something out.

Typically, we do start the farm season by unpacking the items stored for the winter (wheelbarrows, carts, bins, etc.), inventorying our greenhouse supplies and farm tools, rehabbing the greenhouse benches, and, of course, starting to seed in the greenhouse.

As a rule, we generally work in good or bad weather as the greenhouse is nice and warm even on the most uncomfortable days, but do dress in layers; it's almost always windy here, and the wind can make it feel quite a bit colder here than you'd think.

Please, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by email at harvestfarmer@ymcasouthcoast.org or by phone at 508-993-3361.

IN THIS ISSUE

Mid-Season Report!

Did You Know?

Fresh Idea: Volunteer

Faces Around the Farm

ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you think may find it useful, or visit our website at www.ymcasouthcoast.org for more information and links to photos, videos, and more.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Dartmouth YMCA
A Division of YMCA Southcoast
276 Gulf Road
Dartmouth, MA 02748
508-993-3361 x13
www.ymcasouthcoast.org

Daniel King
Farm Director
Derek Christianson
Farm Consultant
Derek Heim
Executive Director

2012 Volunteer Hours To Date:
0 Hours

2012 Harvest Weights To Date:
0 Pounds

2012 Servings Provided To Date:
0 Servings

FRESH IDEA: VOLUNTEER

Volunteering at Sharing the Harvest Community Farm can be a very rewarding experience. Not only are you volunteering your time and energy to help your own community, but you're also getting outside, getting in the dirt, and remembering what nature's all about.

Volunteers help in every aspect of farming here at Sharing the Harvest. You can expect to prepare beds, plant seeds, transplant seedlings, cultivate plants, harvest fruits and vegetables, layout irrigation, and fertilize. Each day brings surprises at the farm.

During early spring, volunteers can expect to work mostly in the greenhouse, seeding trays and preparing for the spring. On warmer days we'll start organizing tools and supplies for outdoor planting.

For those interested, drop-in volunteer hours are:

- **Mondays 9:00am - 12:00pm**
- **Tuesdays 9:00am - 12:00pm**
- **Wednesdays 9:00am - 12:00pm
2:00pm - 5:00pm**
- **Saturdays 9:00am - 12:00pm**



If you'd like more information about the farm, or want to volunteer, but cannot visit at any of the listed times, please contact us directly either by phone at 508 993 3361 ext. 13, or by email at sharingtheharvest@ymcasouthcoast.org.

SHARING THE HARVEST STATISTICS:

Departing from our normal routine of production-related numbers, I wanted to discuss the extent to which we rely upon your financial support, most notably through our Volunteers Growing Healthy Communities Campaign.

This year, it will cost roughly \$75,000 to operate the Sharing the Harvest Community Farm. That money covers employee costs, program supplies, equipment, infrastructure, and everything else under the sun (and in the office). While you may not know it, your support and gifts through our appeal contribute nearly half of the total amount spent on the farm. Our appeal goal this winter is \$32,000. That \$32,000 will come from individuals, families, businesses, and local civic organizations. Whether your donation is \$5, \$50 or \$500, it all goes to support the same goal, allowing us to operate this wonderful farm called Sharing the Harvest. The remainder of our operating expenses are (hopefully) covered by grants and foundations (to whom we are equally grateful).

It may not seem like it when you're reading our appeal letter, writing the check, or just mulling it over, but any amount you give assures that we'll be able to buy seed, fertilizer, diesel--all of the equipment and supplies necessary for operating this hunger relief farm. Without you and without our legion of volunteers donating their time, we'd be nothing so I'd like to thank you for your consideration, and hope that this discussion helped paint a clearer picture of the farm.

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that reducing, reusing, and recycling are very effective at controlling waste and limiting spending? They are.

Two years ago, after we built our greenhouse, we needed benches for it. Well, greenhouse benches can be quite cost-prohibitive, so we sought an alternative solution.

Around that same time, we were planning on demolishing our old raised beds and building new ones, as the old wood had become somewhat rotten, cracked, etc.

Rather than spend extra money on greenhouse benches, we reused the old raised bed sides to build more than a dozen greenhouse benches. Now, more than two full years later, the (temporary) solution is still working and working well.

This is just another example of how the 3 Rs can be effective at controlling waste and controlling spending by using some creativity!

FRESH IDEA: GO GREEN!

Help keep our fields "GREEN"

Support Sharing the Harvest by purchasing a reusable shopping bag for \$2.00. All proceeds help support Sharing the Harvest and the growth of healthy, fresh crops.



A CLOSER LOOK:

In this March newsletter, we're going to take a closer look at some of the common trees you'll find around the Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, and on the grounds of the Dartmouth YMCA.

Most of the native trees you'll find here are slow-growing hardwoods or deciduous trees. Among these, you will most likely see white oak, red oak, pin oak, Norway maple, sycamore, American ash, American beech, and gray birch. All of these types of trees have varying characteristics like bark color, leaf shape, growth height, growth girth, and longevity.

Although we have primarily deciduous trees, we do have some coniferous species that commonly grow here. We have white pine, red pine, white spruce, hemlock, and white cedar (arborvitae). The biggest difference between conifers and deciduous trees is that conifers do not lose their leaves (needles), but rather keep them year round.

Additionally, at the Dartmouth YMCA you will see several cultivated varieties of trees on the main grounds (not in the woods). By the campfire circle you will find basswood and sweet gum. By the cold storage room you'll find sugar maples that get tapped each year for maple sugaring projects, and you'll find flowering ornamental cherry trees west of the basketball courts.

Trees are an amazing part of nature, filled with diversity and unique characteristics; next time you're here, take a closer look!



GROWTH OF THE HARVEST WISH LIST

Much like our field volunteers who help us grow in the fields, Sharing the Harvest's donors and supporters keep us growing in terms of our infrastructure and our capacity. As an ongoing part of our newsletter, below is our Growth of the Harvest wish list.

Fertilizer spreader, \$2,500
Rotary mower, \$1,000
Harrow, \$500
Pallet forks, \$1,100
Produce trailer, \$800

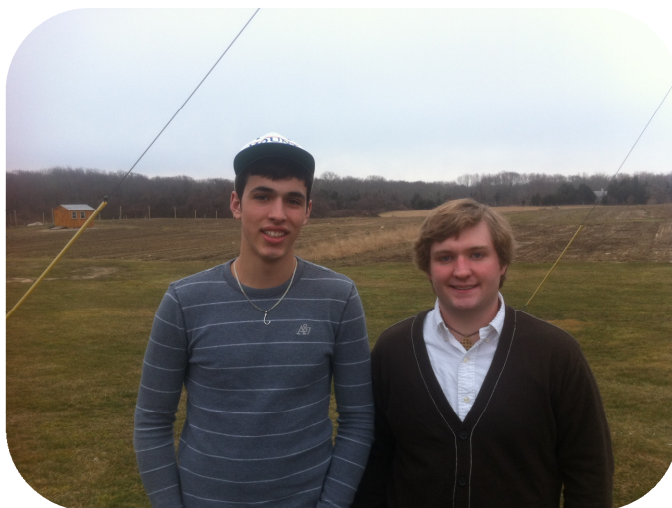
Thank you for your support!



FACES AROUND THE FARM

This month, we're proud to introduce the newest members of the Sharing the Harvest team, UMass-Dartmouth Endeavor Scholars Patrick McCarthy and Timothy Doolan.

As freshmen at UMass-Dartmouth, Tim and Pat are both part of the Endeavor Scholar program, which will help them develop into community leaders. We at Sharing the Harvest are very happy to have them on our team.



Tim, a Natick native, is studying civil engineering at UMass-Dartmouth with an eye toward green initiatives. A long-time community volunteer, he's looking forward to volunteering at Sharing the Harvest, not only because it's his first opportunity to volunteer at a community farm and help his community in a new capacity, but also in order to gain a greater understanding of how a non-profit organization operates.

A Franklin native, Pat is studying bioengineering focusing on pre-med. In addition to observing the full cycle of both the crops and the volunteers, Pat's intent on working hard towards a meaningful experience that he'll remember for years.

Welcome to the farm gentlemen!

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!



In addition to working on the farm, you can partner with us by sponsoring a crop, sending a personal contribution, or providing in-kind donations of materials, services, or equipment.

Each year, pledges to Sharing the Harvest from foundations, sponsors, and supporters help to keep our farm flourishing. It is through these pledges that our work is possible.

You can make a check payable to the Dartmouth YMCA and mail it to us at 276 Gulf Road, Dartmouth, MA 02748. Donations may also be made via credit card or drafted from a checking account, on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis.

For more information, contact Derek Heim, Executive Director at 508-993-3361 or via email at dheim@ymcasouthcoast.org.

2012 SHARING THE HARVEST DONOR RECOGNITION



2012 CROP SPONSORS (A GIFT OF \$1,000 & OVER)

- Bristol County Savings Bank
- Richard & Nancy Espindola & Family
- Richard J. Medicke
- Wal-Mart Corporation

2012 FRIEND OF THE HARVEST SPONSORS (A GIFT OF \$500 - \$999)

- Advanced Marine Technologies
- Charles & Rebecca McCullough
- Name Plates for Industry, Inc.
- Rotary Club of New Bedford
- Wayne J. McAuliffe

2012 CULTIVATOR SPONSORS (A GIFT OF \$250 - \$499)

- David & Beverly King
- Elizabeth Heim

2012 SEED STARTER SPONSORS (A GIFT OF \$100 - \$249)

- Gidwitz Family Foundation

2012 PLOUGHSHARE SPONSORS (A GIFT OF \$50 - \$99)

- Elizabeth Kramer

BRISTOL COUNTY SAVINGS BANK SUPPORTS STH!

Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB) and its charitable foundation awarded grants in fiscal year 2011 totaling just over \$1 million dollars. Sharing the Harvest received a pledge in that amount of \$7,500.00. BCSB distributed the funds to 143 different organizations within the communities it serves, including Taunton, Attleboro, North Attleboro, Raynham, Rehoboth, Dartmouth and New Bedford, Massachusetts and Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

The Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation (BCSCF) was established in 1996 as part of the Bank's 150th Anniversary celebration. Since the Foundation began, almost \$8 million in grants have been awarded to hundreds of 501(c)(3) organizations. The Foundation's purpose is to fund needs that contribute to the economic and the social well-being of the people and institutions located in greater Attleboro/Taunton and greater New Bedford/Dartmouth, Massachusetts, as well as the Pawtucket, Rhode Island, with particular emphasis in the areas of education and literacy, economic development and housing for the low- to moderate-income population.

"As a community bank, we feel it's vitally important to support local organizations that are doing all they can to make a positive impact during these challenging times," said Patrick Murray, President of the BCSCF and Executive Vice President/Treasurer & COO of BCSB. "The not-for-profit organizations we assisted this year are all building a stronger community in different ways and, in so doing, continually inspire us to keep doing our part."

Thank you BCSB for supporting our mission and work in the community!



Appearing in Photo Left to Right: Dennis Cody, Chairman of the Board, BCSB; Jean MacCormack, Chancellor UMass Dartmouth and BCSB Board Member; Koreen Santos, BCSCF Board Member; Patrick Murray, BCSCF President; Derek Heim, Executive Director, Dartmouth YMCA; Michael Patacao, Dartmouth Branch Manager & Dartmouth Y Board of Managers Member; Michele Roberts, BCSCF Clerk; and Dennis Kelly, BCSCF Chairman.