

Salem Community Gardens

Monthly members' newsletter

<http://growsalem.org>

Vol. 2, Issue 1 June 2010

Potluck Kicks off 2010 SCG Season



Salem Community Gardens celebrated its second-annual pot luck on May 2, at the Winter Island Pavillion. Warm weather and friendly faces reconvened to mark the beginning of

our fourth season of organic community gardening.

This year's party not only signalled the start of growing season, but also the new growth within SCG. With

the addition of the 105 raised beds at Winter Island Park, SCG now has expanded to three locations within Salem, tended by nearly 200 gardeners—and there's still a waiting list!

We are delighted to see this growth in community spirit and environmental awareness. Thank you all for being a part of this effort!

Meet Your Garden Captains

It's vacation week and you need someone to water your garden so the lettuce doesn't die. Who can you turn to? Your friendly neighborhood garden captain! These special volunteers have committed to help make each garden site run more smoothly. This year's captains are...

Mack Park: Shannon Bott and Asyim Dalmau
(MP@growsalem.org)

Palmer Cove: James Tierney, Daryl Stoner, and Cresene Sanglap
(PC@growsalem.org)

Winter Island: Lorena Hawkins, Sharon Smith, and William Hanger
(WI@growsalem.org)

We are so grateful for the willingness of these gardeners to step forward and help out in such a big way. Don't forget to thank them when you see them in the garden!



Planting Deadline Is June 15

Garden plots should already be completely weeded. The planting deadline is June 15th. If you do not have plants in the ground by that date, your plot will be reassigned to an applicant on the waiting list. Please contact Shelby at registrar@growsalem.org if you are concerned about making the deadline.



Volunteering Made Easy

If you've been unable to join us for a work day, there's still plenty to do. Check out the volunteering opportunities on the calendar at www.growsalem.org (scroll to bottom of webpage). Look for a volunteering shift that needs people (starts with "NEED"). Then sign up by

e-mailing volunteer@growsalem.org. Please be sure to include the shift you would like in the e-mail, and we'll get you on the calendar. If you suddenly find yourself with free time, you can always e-mail your garden captains to see what needs doing.

Volunteering Calendar				
Salem Community Gardens				
Today ◀ ▶ June 2010 ▼				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
30	31	Jun 1	2	
General Maintenance @ PC: J. Tierney	Compost Work @ PC: J. Tierney			
NEED 1: General Maintenance @ MP: C. Barrett	General Maintenance @ MP: C. Barrett			
NEED 1: Mowing and Trimming @ MP: N. MacDonald	Mowing and Trimming @ MP: N. MacDonald			
NEED 1: Mowing	+4 more	+6 more	+5 more	+6 more
6	7	8	9	
Compost Work @ PC: E. Loftus	General Maintenance @ PC: E. Loftus			
General Maintenance @ MP	NEED 1: Compost Work @ MP			
Mowing and Trimming @ PC	NEED 1: Compost Work @ PC			
+4 more	+4 more	+4 more	+5 more	+6 more

Discount at Cornerstone Books

Cornerstone Books offers a 15% discount on three of our favorite gardening titles:

- All New Square Foot Gardening* by Mel Bartholomew
- The Garden Primer* (2nd Edition) by Barbara Damrosch
- Four-Season Harvest* by Eliot Coleman

Just mention that you are a Salem Community Gardener when you purchase any of these titles.

Mack Park News

If you built or own one of the fence boxes at MP, put your name on it before June 15th. After that date, these spaces will be made available to whoever wants them.



Seed Exchange

The seed swap basket is back at Crunchy Granola Baby. Stop by to choose from the extensive selection of seeds available. It's a great opportunity to try something new, or save money on an old favorite! You can also drop off any labeled extra seeds you have.

SCG on Facebook

SCG has extended its web presence to Facebook. Visit our page for reminders and news updates, or post your latest garden photos. It is also a great forum for exchanging ideas with fellow gardeners.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=72081295119&ref=ts>



Don't Waste the Water

Now that the warm weather is upon us, all good gardeners should do their best to use water responsibly.

Understand how much water you use. A garden hose measured directly through a meter uses water at the rate of 20 gallons per minute. Ten minutes of water uses approximately 200 gallons of water. When 50 gardeners water for ten minutes each, 10,000 gallons of water are used. With this in mind, we all need to do our part to reduce water waste.

Conservation tips:

- *Maintain 3-6 inches of mulch on top of the soil.*
- *Avoid overhead watering. Practice spot watering, or set the garden hose to trickle at the base of plants.*
- *Use intensive-spacing methods to create self-shading.*
- *Use compost to increase water retention in the soil.*
- *Avoid watering at the hottest time of day. Watering in the early morning or evening improves conservation and avoids plant disease.*

For more ideas on water conservation visit Boston Natural Areas Network's website: http://www.bostonnatural.org/cgGTips_WaterConsurv.htm

Free Classes and Workshops

Salem Community Gardens' own Lisa Spence will be holding an informal introductory gardening course on Sunday, June 7th at 7 p.m. Space is limited, so please RSVP at Lisa@growsalem.org if you'd like to attend. We'll cover the basics and answer your gardening questions.

If you need more inspiration, or want to learn some new techniques, check out Boston Natural Areas Network. They offer free classes, and info. Visit their website: Bostonnatural.org.

An upcoming BNAN class that may be of interest is: "Vegetable Garden Basics" on Saturday, June 12, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at City Natives, 30 Eggewater Drive, Mattapan.

Maximize your vegetable garden experience! Learn about soil building, plant spacing, water conservation and how to develop a garden schedule. BNAN's Jo Ann Whitehead will help give you answers regarding crop rotation advantages, succession planting and ideal planting times for the season.



Contact Us

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Calling All Cooks—Send Us Your Recipes

Daryl Stoner and her daughter Catherine Von Rauch, both Palmer Cove gardeners, have a passion for cooking and a desire to tap the SCG's collective knowledge. Last year Daryl started collecting recipes from SCG gardeners to make a cookbook that would be used as a fundraiser for SCG.

She had gathered 75 recipes to date, but needs 150 total to make a cookbook worth printing. Please

share your recipes! Most of us would welcome fresh ideas for dealing with the glut of cucumbers and zucchini that will soon be descending on us.

All profits from cookbook sales benefit SCG. Daryl is donating her time plus the printing cost to this project. Catherine is developing the design.

Send recipes to Daryl at Trogglesoup@yahoo.com by Sept. 1.



Companion Planting Improves Harvest

Carrots and dill may taste great together, but they make horrible neighbors. Whether you are familiar with the concept of companion planting or not, it is a useful thing to consider when setting your plants and seeds in the ground. Companion gardening, or the positioning of plants based on their compatibility, increases the productivity of many vegetables when

the right plants are paired, such as lettuce and cucumbers. It can also reduce productivity when incompatible plants are placed too close together, like carrots and dill.

For a quick guide to the compatibility of some popular vegetables, download the PDF from our home page.

<http://growsalem.org/>

On a Personal Note...

Do you have some news or info that you'd like to share? Send it our way: news@growsalem.org.

Friends of Winter Island Picnic on June 19

What could be a better way to celebrate summer than to picnic at Salem's own island retreat?

The Friends of Winter Island picnic is slated for June 19th, 4-7 p.m. All SCG gardeners are invited to attend. Bring your own picnic, or purchase delicious treats provided by Rothwell Catering. Live music, Rebel Shakespeare, and sailing with Sail Salem are among the featured activities. A \$10 donation is suggested for this benefit to preserve the island.

In addition, awards will be given for the most creative "green" transport to the picnic. So, pedal, paddle, walk, run, or swim to this benefit to preserve Winter Island!

For more info visit: www.winter-island.org.

