

Pinehold Gardens *Field Notes*

Vol. 24, Issue 3

Pre Season, 2018

Season Start Delayed

The calendar and the weather have conspired to mess up our planned start date, pushing it off by one week. This year the Fourth of July lands on a Wednesday. We didn't think it would be a good idea to have everyone disrupt their plans for the holiday to pick up a box. Plus the cool, cloudy spring, for the most part, has made for a slow growing season for the crops. As a result the first delivery will be **Wednesday, July 11**. For those with a Friday delivery, it will be **Friday July 13**.

Next week you will be receiving another newsletter that will explain all the details concerning drop-site locations and pick up times and any other germane details to the start of the season. Look for that.

If you have chosen to not be a CSA member this year, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. If you want to stay on our mailing list, please email us and let us know you want to continue receiving the newsletter.

Strawberries, Ugh!

After last season's successful strawberry u-pick we were excited about a repeat. Alas, it wasn't going to be. This year's strawberries succumbed to the deer — their favorite food — and an onslaught of thistles brought on by the saturated ground. We have planted about another 2,000 plants for next year and so far they look great. So we are looking forward to next year's patch and repeat, one year removed.

It's a Fall Festival Year

Continuing with our every other year plan, this year we will host members and friends at our Fall Festival in September. Food and drink will be provided and we, as always, encourage families coming to bring a dish to pass.

There will be activities and time to just relax in the "park-like" confines of Pinehold. We will pass along more information on that as we get closer to a date.

In the meantime, for all those wanting a delicious relaxing meal al fresco consider going to the Eco-Justice Center's on-farm dinner on Sunday, August 26. Some of you may have attended the successful Eco-J dinner last year on our farm. Well this year, their dinner has moved to their fabulous environment. This Farm-to-Table fundraising dinner is about half filled already. Here's a link in case you are interested: www.racinedominicans.org/eco-justice/eco-jfundraiser.cfm.

Rain, Rain Go Away

The rain is affecting our farm, but the crops are hanging in there. The biggest problem is waiting for the fields to dry so we can plant, weed and



Despite the crazy weather, radishes, chard, kale, carrots and beets are among the crops finally coming around in the fields. We hope to have a nice selection for delivery July 11.

cultivate. We usually have a day, maybe two, and then the next rainy period arrives. Then there's the epic mosquito population. Sandy is allergic to them.

Still a Few Open Spots

We have 10 spots for you or your friends.

A Proper Place

There's been a buzz around Pinehold about the dragon flies this past week — hungry Green Darters and their kin gobbling up mosquitoes, of which we seem to have plenty. Pinehold certainly has its share — mosquitoes and dragon flies that is. But I associate dragon flies more with lakes and ponds than I do with farms. A proper farm's bug predator is the barn swallow.

The swallow is not the mosquito slayer that the dragon fly is, but its presence is more keenly felt. We enter the field and swallows are flying tight circuits around the tractor. Flashes of iridescent blue and bronze, the swallows slice the air in pursuit of prey. I am in the center of a whirl, feeling grounded, weighted, unable to move, left only to wonder.