

Pinehold Gardens *Field Notes*

Vol. 25, Spring

May 1, 2019

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Happy May Day! According to Wikipedia the earliest known May celebrations appeared with the Floralia, festival of Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers, during the Roman Republic era. A fading tradition is the giving of May baskets of flowers or sweets and leaving them anonymously on a doorstep. I remember during grade school making paper flower bouquets to hang on the door of our house and surprise my mother.

Speaking of paper, we are being kept busy by paperwork, yard clean up and seeding trays. We have given a half dozen or so CSA presentations at workplaces and health fairs and David has been a monthly guest on WUWM's Lake Effect. And if anyone has any questions about wills, deeds, trusts, IRAs, life insurance policies, and Medicaid I would be glad to try and answer them as I have acquired quite a bit of knowledge dealing with my parent's estate, life skills I didn't know I needed.

FIELD NOTES

The old saying of April showers bring May flowers said nothing about snow. The snow took its toll on our beautiful daffodils and surprisingly killed some ferns and lovage, an early perennial herb plant. And only time will tell if the record low temperature of 25 degrees on Sunday night in areas away from the lake killed this year's apple and pear crop as the trees most likely had started to blossom.

Between the wet snow and rain over three inches of precipitation fell in April adding too much moisture to already soggy fields. While our main fields are too wet to plant, in fact most have some standing water, we have our hoophouses planted in tomatoes, beets and carrots. On our drier "hill" we planted a delivery's worth of pota-

toes and sugar snap peas. Our overwintered garlic looks great and knock on wood, it looks like the strawberries survived the winter rains, the polar vortex and whatever else the weather threw at them.

We could really use some warm weather and sun. Even the asparagus, rhubarb, dandelions and tree leaves are behind.

Last year May was the wet spring month and we didn't get into the fields to plant the bulk of our crops until May 29th so let's hope that this year April will be our wet spring month.

And as you might expect, we are not alone. More than a third of the state's farm land has excess moisture.

NEW DROPSITE

Our good friends and fellow farmers, Chuck and Terry of Full Harvest farm decreased the size of their CSA so we welcome their former Racine members to our CSA. We now have two Racine drop sites, one just north of the zoo on Main Street and the new site near Kinzie and Hayes.

CSA MEMBERSHIP

If we can rely on historical data, we are on track to reach our goal of 150 paid members, but we still need 40 members so its not too late to sign up or tell your friends about us.

This year we offered two alternative CSA options, a nine week every other week share and a farm stand market dollar share. The every other week option is SOLD OUT.



Tomatoes, garlic and strawberries as of May 1.