

Pinehold Gardens *Field Notes*

Vol. 21 No. 1

Spring, 2015

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Despite the cold, the winter flew by. The 2014 season continued on into December with us attending a few winter farmers markets at Mileagers greenhouse in Racine in order to meet some Racine county residents and tell them about our CSA and our on-farm stand.

Other than that it was the usual off season tasks of seed ordering, taxes, attending workshops, planning for equipment upgrades and changes, meeting with chefs, and caring for my parents, now 86 and 90 and still living in their home. We also

Make sure to like and share our new Facebook page
[facebook.com/pinehold](https://www.facebook.com/pinehold)

got to enjoy a few great books, movies, plays and concerts.

The 2015 growing season has started with the planting of onions and the greenhouse tomatoes into seed trays.

YES, WE HAVE OPENINGS

The polar vortex last November must have froze our brains as we forgot to include our sign up form in most of the boxes, so no, you did not lose your form somewhere in your house. You can print out a sign-up form from our website, under the CSA link. Sign ups for most CSAs in the area are going rather slow this Spring. Is it the cold weather, too many CSAs for the Milwaukee area, too many home delivery services of organic food that people are confusing with the CSA concept, people cooking less?

SPREAD THE WORD

As we always say our best marketing, like many small businesses, is word of mouth. Please let us know if you have an avenue for distributing our beautiful color brochure and we will send you some. If people you know have questions about our CSA, our website www.pineholdgardens.com, under the CSA tab, includes a photo gallery of all of last year's boxes, charts of what was delivered the last four years, our brochure and a sign-up form.

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT PLAN

There are three ways to pay, the full amount with one check, 2 checks, one with today's date and one with a July 1 date or send as many post dated checks as you would like to as long as they total \$485.

ASSISTANCE FUND

Thanks to the generosity of our members we currently have a little over \$200 in our Assistance Fund which provides up to \$100 off of a membership. If you would like to use the fund, just call first to make sure that there are still funds available. And thank you to those who have already contributed.

NEW MEAT CSA

This year we are partnering with Morning Star Family Farm and offering our farm as a dropsite to our CSA members for their meat CSA. The cost is \$500 for five boxes, one per month, coordinating with the five months of our CSA deliveries. The meat will be frozen and you will need to come to the farm to pick it up. The sign up form and information about their farm and their CSA, including what was in



THE SAGA OF SEEDS

As I transitioned from gardening to farming, I moved away from open pollinated to hybrid seeds as we needed the productivity, reliability and concentrated harvest time that hybrids offered. Varieties came and went as new improved or at least changed and most likely more expensive ones became available. Then Monsanto purchased one of the main seed companies and I decided not to support Monsanto by choosing not to buy varieties they owned. Now seeds are being patented, including Utility Patents for traits where no one can breed a plant using that trait. One of these traits is for a multi-leaf lettuce where full size heads can be cut with one bottom cut to yield salad sized leaves. This trend is going to create moral and money issues ahead.

the boxes the last two months, can be found on their website morningstarfamilyfarm.net.

NEW DROPSITES

We have added David's sister's home in West Allis on 84th and Montana and my brother's home in Franklin on 46th and Drexel as new dropsites. The pickup day is Wednesday from 3:30-7 p.m. in West Allis and 3-7 p.m. in Franklin.

NEW EMPLOYEES

We will be welcoming Sarah and Heather as employees of Pinehold Gardens, with Sarah joining us three days a week and Heather for two. Sarah was with us last year on Thursdays to help out with restaurant deliveries and we look forward to having her take a more active role in the farm. Sarah came to

us with two years experience as part of the CSA crew at Driftless Organics in Soldiers Grove. Heather spent the last three years at Wellspring Farm in Newberg, one season as an intern and two as the Assistant Farm Manager.

NEW VEGGIES

We always get the question, will you be growing anything new this year? We concentrate on providing the basics, but we always like to introduce one or two new items each year. For 2015 they are a yellow watermelon and new fall Asian and Italian greens. Also we will once again be growing our own sweet potatoes.