

Pinehold Gardens *Field Notes*

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Spring, 2017



A HOT COOL. Cleaned out and bleached, one of our walk-in coolers becomes a plant seed germinating chamber. Here some 40-plus trays are growing small onion and shallot plants, held in 70-80 degrees until they are planted sometime in April. Come June the space is again cleaned out and bleached and is a cooler once again.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Spring sprung a month early this year with the arrival of killdeer, red wing blackbirds, sandhill cranes and robins. We welcome the new healthy life spring brings even as health maintenance appointments for us outnumbered seeing concerts and plays this winter. We are two of the “older, poor” citizens who may not be able to afford health insurance if the ACA is replaced with anything close to what was proposed last week as our annual premium could be \$31,000. Many of the people who work at our farm also utilize the ACA.

CSA SIGN UP STATUS

We are at 59 returning

and 15 new members. Our goals are 95 returning and 60 new. If you no longer have the sign up form we now have a writable pdf included this with newsletter. If you would like to spread the word we have some new brochures featuring our smiling faces as surveys have found that knowing your farmer is more important than explaining your growing practices. Just send us an email with how many brochures you would like and we will send you some.

Also if your workplace is in our delivery range we would be happy to come and talk about workplace CSAs.

FARM DINNERS AND MORE

A benefit dinner for the

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms Bonding Farms, Farmers and Communities

across the United States and Canada are setting roots more deeply in the land as they unite under a community-developed CSA Charter that provides a clear definition of what CSA is all about.



With 30 years of history and development, over 7,500 healthy, sustainable community farms have been established in the U.S., and many thousands more in Canada. These sustainable farms are directly networked with hundreds of thousands of households in the towns and cities where they are based and provide weekly shares of fresh, healthy, locally-grown food.

Pinehold Gardens has signed onto this charter, and farms that do make clear to the public what the purpose of a CSA program is and how it is to function both to the benefit of the farmer and the community.

Why a charter now? The charter shows our, and every farm that signs on, commitment to this alternative food distribution system and creates a transparency to each farm's program that the general public may not recognize. And it's a way of banding with our brother and sister farmers for the great good of the communities and the healthy food we grow in partnership with our community members.

Eco Justice Center in Racine will be held on August 20 led by James Beard nominated Best Chef in the Midwest, Karen Bell of Bavette along with four other Milwaukee area chefs.

Our CSA member Sunday Supper will be held on September 10 once again led by Peter Sandroni, owner of La Merenda.

We are planning on having some children's art and gardening hours on Saturday mornings to bring more community to Pinehold. Details and dates to follow but if anyone has any ideas and/or would like to volunteer to lead or help with one of these hours, please contact us.