

Pinehold Gardens *Field Notes*

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A DAY IN THE LIFE

A few of you will remember that my dad meticulously kept track of our garlic harvest and sales. Little did we know that he also kept track of just about everything that happened in his life. During the tedious process of cleaning out my parent's house, David and I have found a treasure trove of notebooks and lists. Among other odd facts I learned about my life, I now know that I had 45 pairs of shoes during my first 16 years of life, their size, style, price and of course the purchase date and store.

The discovery of hundreds of photos going back to the late 1800s of the relatives from Germany that settled a block north of us is quite amazing. My family is well rooted in Oak Creek.

The process, however, has given me great motivation to clear out things I have accumulated over the 30 years that we have lived here.

FIELD NOTES

We probably don't need to remind you, our members, that last year was a wet year, both spring and fall. What

you may not have realized was that with rain comes clouds and with clouds comes no sunshine. In fact in all of 2019 we had only 46 fair or clear days. Madison did not do much better in this category for once. Our colleagues there experienced only 50 clear days.

We are certainly hoping that this is not a three-pete. That said we are also not simply relying on hope. We are going to switch some of our crops to raised beds. That type of growing is something we used to do when we were smaller and were able to hand transplant many of our crops.

This year we hope to use our mechanical transplanter on the raised beds by off-setting the tool so that we might



plant one side of the bed going one direction and then plant the other side going the other direction. This is not something we really want to do, although it does give us a chance to experi-

ment with permanent bed agriculture. Rather it is something we feel compelled to do. Losing crops in ground so saturated that rain water ponds and drowns the plants is a situation that has become all too frequent in these days of climate crisis. Since we are dedicated to the prospects of growing local food for our community, we will do whatever we need to do in this 2020 season and beyond to provide those crops.

CSA UPDATE

Our CSA is one third sold, which is a little behind the past few years, but not bad. Please pass along the word that we still have openings.

The 18th annual CSA open house will be held on Saturday, March 7, from 11am to 3pm at the Urban Ecology Center. Please pass this information along as well. Sitka Salmon will also be there if you would like to learn about a sustainable fish CSA.



Thirty years ago this old girl was quite a looker, as graceful of a willow as you would ever see. Then she began falling apart. Safety dictated removal. So sadly, piece by piece, we laid her down. But a climate crisis world needs more trees not less so we intend to nurse her progeny.