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# **Events - This Week and Beyond**

## **Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Conference Jan 3-5**

Over 60 Educational Sessions—Concurrent Tracks for Apples, Berries, Grapes, Ag Tourism, and Fresh Vegetables! Located at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Conference Brochure:

<http://www.soils.wisc.edu/extension/upcoming/current/wffvc2010.pdf>

## Growing Communities Workshops

ACGA is hosting Growing Communities workshops over the next few months:

January 15-16, 2010 - Atlanta, GA

January/February 2010 - New York City

March 2010 - Chicago

The primary training offered is an in-depth, 2-day, hands-on. Participants learn proven strategies that community organizers use to develop dynamic leaders and create strong gardening programs through a participatory approach to community building.

Specific topics covered include: Community Organizing, Leadership Development, Grassroots Fundraising, Communications Planning, Coalition Building, Asset-Based Community Development, Meeting Facilitation, and Developing a Board of Directors.

For more information:

<http://communitygarden.org/learn/training/growing-communities/index.php>

Or contact the ACGA office: 877-275-2242 or [info@communitygarden.org](mailto:info@communitygarden.org)

If your organization is interested in hosting a Growing Communities Workshop contact ACGA board member Betsy Johnson at 617-536-1711 or [betsy@bgjohnson.com](mailto:betsy@bgjohnson.com)

## School for Beginning Market Growers Jan 15-17

Intensive three-day school demonstrates what it takes to set up and run a successful organic market garden or small farm. Topics include: soil fertility greenhouses pest management tools and equipment post-harvest handling marketing and more!

The course attracts a wide variety of folks, from people wanting to start a small market garden in their backyard, to people with one to two acres who see this as a part-time job, to people looking to grow 10, 20, or more acres of vegetables for various retail and wholesale markets. The grower-instructors, who range in farm scale and marketing strategy, help meet the variety of interests and needs brought by students.

Brochure:

<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2008/07/smbg-brochure-2010.pdf>

Website:

<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/education-and-training/school-for-beginning-market-growers/wisconsin-school-for-beginning-market-growers-2/>

## Planning for an Enabling Garden at Troy Gardens - Jan 16

Join us to plan the installation of an enabling garden at Troy Gardens and help make gardening more accessible for people of all abilities! Professor of Landscape Architecture, Sam Dennis, will lead a design forum early next year and we want your input.

### **Mark your calendars:**

When: Saturday January 16th, 2010, 10am-1pm

Location: Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd, Madison

Contact Christie at (608) 240-0409 or [christie@troygardens.org](mailto:christie@troygardens.org) to learn more about this project.

## 12th Annual Midwest Value Added Ag Conference & 4th Annual Wisconsin Local Food Summit - Jan 20-22

The Conference and Summit will be filled with agricultural and business information, education, and networking.

The *Value Added Agriculture College* will have seven sessions including: Post Harvest Handling for Vegetable Production Quality and Success; Food Safety on the Market Farm; Shaking the Federal Money Tree; Making Decisions about Local Food Sales Opportunities Using the Holistic Management™ Framework; Wisconsin Acidified Canned Foods Training for Small Food Processors; Practical Agroforestry and Permaculture: Creating your Disaster proof, Perennial Farm; and QuickBooks 101 for Farmers.

### **General Session Speakers:**

Will Allen

"Growing Food and Community in the City"

9:00 AM, Thursday Jan. 21, 2010

Michael Perry

"Never Stand Behind a Sneezing Cow"

7:00 PM, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010

Melinda Hemmelgarn, M.S., R.D

"Feast or Famine, a Fork in the Road"

8:00 AM, Friday, Jan. 22, 2010

### **For more information:**

<http://www.rivercountryrcd.org/currentevents.html>

## City of Madison Community Gardens Committee Meeting - Jan 26

Community gardens serve as grass roots training grounds where neighbors acquire the leadership skills necessary to build strong and diverse communities. The Madison Common Council, concerned with the escalating loss of community gardens in the City of Madison, established the Community Gardens Committee (CGC) in 2005. Charged with preserving, expanding and enhancing opportunities for community gardening, the Community Gardens Committee works to raise the visibility of community gardening and create better understanding of its many benefits.

The committee fosters collaborative partnerships and leverages limited resources by harnessing support for gardens from within the community and multiple units of city government. The Community Gardens Committee provides an invaluable public forum --a place where garden advocates and city government work together to build a productive and sustainable system of community gardens in Madison.

Representatives of certain city committees (Plan, Parks and CDBG), citizen gardeners, and staff (from the Mayor's office and Community Action Coalition) comprise the committee. Membership is open to anyone with an interest or role in Madison's community gardens. The committee meets monthly (except in the summer months).

**All meetings are open to the public**, with Hmong and Spanish interpreters available to facilitate participation by all attendees.

**Next meeting:** Jan. 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Where: City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Rm. 103A

For more information about the Community Gardening Committee:

<http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/committee%20update%20report.doc>

To access the city Web Site:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/residents/communitygardens/index.cfm>

## Fundamentals of Beekeeping - Jan 30

A hands-on full day class for those interested in becoming a beekeeper. Saturday, January 30, 2010, Warner Park Community Center, 1625 Northport Dr., Madison

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Class starts at 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Registration includes: full day class, morning coffee, Lunch, soup and sandwich and salad bar, one year membership in Wisconsin Honey Producers Association and Dane County beekeepers Association.

For questions or additional information, please contact Jeanne Hansen, 608– 244-5094 or [jeanniealabeannie@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanniealabeannie@yahoo.com)

Cost Prior to Dec 30, 2009—\$50, after Dec. 30, 2009—\$60. Please make check or money order payable to Dane County Beekeepers Association. Send to Jeanne Hansen, 824 Jacobson Ave, Madison WI 53714

For more information on this or other workshops:  
<http://www.wihoney.com/about.html>

## **Madison Youth Grow Local Conference - Feb 20**

Do you want to learn more about gardening with youth? Connect with others who are involved in the youth gardening movement, learn about seed starting, cooking in the garden, hands on activities, how to access community resources for your garden & much more!

Sponsored by Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens, Community Action Coalition (CAC), and Goodman Community Center.

Saturday, February 20th, 8:30am – 1pm, Goodman Community Center  
Workshop and registration information is not yet available. It will be posted in January e-news.

For more information email [elizabeth@troygardens.org](mailto:elizabeth@troygardens.org)

## **ACGA'S Annual Conference - Aug 5-8**

Conference location - Atlanta, Georgia

Topic - Holistic Approach to Building Sustainable and Healthy Communities, the Choice is Yours

Reserve a spot today at the early, early bird rate of \$200.

To register go online to: [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org) and indicate that payment is for conference.

## **Grants**

### **2010 New Garden Fund Grants (for City of Madison) Due - Jan 29**

The New Garden Fund Committee is pleased to announce a sixth year of grants to encourage creation of new community gardens and expansion of existing community gardens within the

city of Madison. Applications are due Friday, January 29, and grants of up to \$2000 each will be given out in early March 2010.

**Please contact** Nicole Craig, Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc - Food & Gardens, at 246-4730, Ext. 208, for a grant application and a resource packet on how to start your own community garden in Madison.

**Grant applications** are available on our website:

[http://cacscw.org/gardens/New%20Garden%20Fund/new\\_garden\\_fund\\_grants.htm](http://cacscw.org/gardens/New%20Garden%20Fund/new_garden_fund_grants.htm)

## Welch's Harvest Grant (School Gardens Only) - Due Feb 6

Welch's is sponsoring the 2010 Welch's Harvest Grant in partnership with Scholastic to foster educational efforts promoting the value of sustainable agriculture and healthy eating. Recognizing that gardens provide a dynamic setting for learning, the grant program will provide gardening supplies to 100 schools nationwide to help them grow their own fruit and vegetable gardens.

For more information about this grant: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/harvestgrant.asp>

For information on other kid's gardening grants: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/harvestgrant.asp>

## Project Orange Thumb Grants - Due Feb 19

Fiskars offers \$1,000 grants for green goods and gardening tools to help grassroots gardening efforts. Gardens and/or gardening projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture and/or horticultural education are eligible. Community garden groups, as well as schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities are all encouraged to apply. Only group applications will be considered; single individuals are not eligible for a Project Orange Thumb grant.

For application materials:

<http://www.projectorangethumb.com/pot/>

## City of Madison Neighborhood Grants - Due end of March 2010

It's time again to think of an idea and make it happen with the City of Madison's 2010 Neighborhood Grants Program. Are you interested in building a better community, starting in your own backyard? Perhaps your neighborhood has ideas for improving communication to help neighbors feel more connected and to increase safety. Maybe you would like to enhance the physical appearance of neighborhood entrances or, perhaps you have ideas for creating a neighborhood plan or special area plan for the business district?

Over the last eight years, the Neighborhood Grant Program has allocated grant dollars to help fund locally based projects to beautify a gateway or gathering place, or build leadership skills, or to plan for the future. Funding has also been approved for community garden improvements. A few of these projects include:

- Atwood community garden: water line expansion and garden murals
- Quann community garden: the Jessica Bullen Orchard and Quiet Garden, and the living fence surrounding the community garden on three sides
- Marlborough community garden: water line expansion and mosaic project (partial funding)

A previous year's 2009 grant guideline brochure is available to view on this link:

[http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/2009%20Grant%20Guideline\\_Webpage.pdf](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/2009%20Grant%20Guideline_Webpage.pdf)

The 2010 grant guidelines and application materials will be available starting in Jan. 2010 on this link, although currently it contains 2009 information:

[www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/grantprogram.htm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/grantprogram.htm)

A planned grant workshop is scheduled for January 21, 2010 from 6pm to 7:30pm at Hawthorne Branch Library, 2702 E. Washington Avenue, to review the grant guidelines and to answer questions regarding your proposed projects.

For more information contact:

Linda Horvath, Planning Division at 267-1131 or [lhovath@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lhovath@cityofmadison.com)

Rebecca Cnare, Planning Division at 266-4957 or [rcnare@cityofmadison.com](mailto:rcnare@cityofmadison.com)

## America the Beautiful Fund

Who May Apply: Community Groups

Amount: 100 to 1,000 Free Seed Packets

Deadline: Ongoing

Two disclaimers:

- 1) Seeds may be treated with fungicide  
Especially not recommended for distribution to non-English speakers
- 2) There will be a shipping fee

Contact: [http://www.america-the-beautiful.org/free\\_seeds/free\\_seeds\\_flyer\\_08.pdf](http://www.america-the-beautiful.org/free_seeds/free_seeds_flyer_08.pdf)

## Youth Garden Grants Program

Sponsored by the National Gardening Association and Home Depot

Who May Apply: Schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs.

Amount: \$500 to \$1,000

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/ygg.asp>

## **Job Opportunities**

### **Bookkeeper - Community GroundWorks**

Community GroundWorks seeks an experienced bookkeeper! We are a small non-profit organization that works to cultivate food security, sustainability and community empowerment with youth and adults from diverse backgrounds through urban farming, gardening and natural areas restoration. For more information about our organization, please visit [www.troygardens.org](http://www.troygardens.org).

The bookkeeper is responsible for the day-to-day financial affairs of the organization and also provides administrative support. This is a half-time position. A minimum of two years of related experience is required along with proficiency with QuickBooks and strong attention to detail.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume (electronic versions preferred) to Christie Ralston ([christie@troygardens.org](mailto:christie@troygardens.org)) by Friday, December 18.

## **FYI**

### **USDA to Launch High Tunnel Pilot Study to Increase Availability of Locally Grown Foods**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 2009 - Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan today announced a new pilot project under the 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' initiative for farmers to establish high tunnels - also known as hoop houses - to increase the availability of locally grown produce in a conservation-friendly way.

Merrigan and other Obama administration officials highlighted opportunities available for producers in a YouTube which shows high tunnels recently installed in the White House garden: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2009/12/16/planting-winter-garden>

"There is great potential for high tunnels to expand the availability of healthy, locally-grown crops - a win for producers and consumers," said Merrigan. "This pilot project is going to give us real-world information that farmers all over the country can use to decide if they want to add high tunnels to their operations. We know that these fixtures can help producers extend their growing season and hopefully add to their bottom line."

The 3-year, 38-state study will verify if high tunnels are effective in reducing pesticide use, keeping vital nutrients in the soil, extending the growing season, increasing yields, and providing other benefits to growers.

Made of ribs of plastic or metal pipe covered with a layer of plastic sheeting, high tunnels are easy to build, maintain and move. High tunnels are used year-round in parts of the country, providing steady incomes to farmers - a significant advantage to owners of small farms, limited-resource farmers and organic producers.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide financial assistance for the project through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the EQIP Organic Initiative, and the Agricultural Management Assistance program. NRCS will fund one high tunnel per farm. High tunnels in the study can cover as much as 5 percent of 1 acre. Participating states and territories are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Pacific Islands, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

To sign up or learn more about EQIP assistance for high tunnel projects, contact a local NRCS office.

For more information:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

## City of Madison Approves the Library Rooftop Garden Amendment

The amendment reads as follows: "In their evaluation, development and design of the new Central Library, City staff is directed to study and consider the feasibility of including either a rooftop intensive community garden and/or a green roof."

The Downtown Community Gardens group announced that we're still far from getting more gardens downtown. Now is a great time to pledge support in the future. We are resolved to see to it that the feasibility study ends in a 'yes'. Our next meeting will be on January 21st, at 6:00 for dinner or 6:30 for the meeting, at 225 East Lakelawn Place. Please respond if you plan to attend.

If you or anyone you know is interested in a plot downtown, please get back to us. The possibility of opening up Brittingham or James Madison Park to gardens looms near the horizon. While we're busy keeping an eye on the library YOU could be turning over the soil this spring for the first time ever at a downtown park.

For more information: contact Sue Rosa by phone 236-9374, or email Kevin Schiesser: [kevin.schies@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.schies@gmail.com)

## Community Gardens Act - Support Needed

ACGA continues to advocate for additional federal support for community gardening. H.R. 3225, filed by Rep. Inslee of Washington State is titled Community Gardens Act of 2009. Its purpose is to provide funds for community gardens, and other purposes.

Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and enter H.R. 3225 in the bill search for the complete bill language and current list of co-sponsors.

ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO CO-SPONSOR THE BILL. (Simply go to <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml> for an online form.) If your Representative is already a co-sponsor, send them a thank-you.

## YouTube - Grocery Store Wars

In the event the holidays are getting you down, this Star Wars spoof on organic vs. conventional agriculture may be just what you need. May the "farm" be with you!

Not long ago in a supermarket not so far away. Help fight the dark side of the farm by gardening organically in your community garden.

To view:

[http://www.youtube.com/user/FreeRangeStudios#p/u/7/hVrlyEu6h\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/user/FreeRangeStudios#p/u/7/hVrlyEu6h_E)

## Seed Savers Books

### **Fruit, Berry & Nut Inventory - 4<sup>th</sup> Edition**

This is the only book of its kind, a reference guide to the fruit, berries and nuts available to growers through mail order catalogs and websites in the United States. This fourth edition provides access to 275 mail order nurseries with 8,750 varietal descriptions, including 3,076 apples, 523 peaches, 327 plums, 757 grapes, 97 raspberries, 137 strawberries, 97 pecans and 105 bananas. At the end of each description is a coded source list. This book will prove to be of practical use to both hobbyists and agricultural professionals alike, as it builds on the heritage of plant breeding and seed preservation in the United States. Growers and breeders have developed regionally adopted varieties with superior taste, disease resistance and countless other virtues. Fruit, Berry and Nut Inventory is a must resource for serious orchardists and horticulturists.

For more information: <http://www.seedsavers.org/Details.aspx?itemNo=B1256>

## **Garden Seed Inventory - 6<sup>th</sup> Edition**

Comprehensive inventory of 274 U.S. and Canadian mail-order seed catalogs with varietal descriptions and ordering information for 8,494 standard (non-hybrid) vegetables. This updated and expanded Sixth Edition lists 2,657 newly introduced varieties, many of which are heirlooms obtained from Seed Savers Yearbook or Heritage Farm's seed collections. Vegetable gardeners can search everything commercially available to locate varieties perfect for their climate and resistant to local diseases and pests. Unique sourcebook widely used by gardeners and plant breeders as a preservation tool to purchase endangered varieties while sources still exist.

For more information: <http://www.seedsavers.org/Details.aspx?itemNo=B778>

## **ACGA Gift Ideas**

### **People with Dirty Hands the Passion for Gardening**

By Robin Chotzinoff

There's no better antidote to the dreary non-gardening months than a great read, and in this gallery of colorful portraits, Chotzinoff, a columnist for Garden Design, delivers one of the most amusing, eclectic gardening books in recent memory. Curiosity led her to some unusual corners of the U.S.-locales as different as a Louisiana bayou, a New Mexico chile farm, an elegant Virginia estate and Manhattan's wild underbelly to name just a few-where she met with diverse and offbeat gardeners to find out what makes them tick.

### **A Place to Grow: Voices and Images of Urban Gardeners**

Edited by David Hassler and Lynn Gregor; Photography by Don Snyder.

Community vegetable gardens--and the hope they bring for changing people's lives--are at the very heart of urban renewal. With seeds, soil, and sweat, inner-city gardeners work steadily, with genuine passion and commitment, to make their neighborhoods better places to live. Read the Gardeners' own stories--what got them started, how their gardens have enriched their lives and nourished their communities, and the ways in which they see their gardens as places of contemplation and prayer.

### **The Garden**

Video directed by Scott Hamilton Kennedy

Scott Hamilton Kennedy's Oscar nominated documentary THE GARDEN brilliantly captures the ways that greedy developers, inept politicians, and misguided "community" leaders can run roughshod over the lives of working-class families fighting to save the largest urban farm in America: a 14-acre oasis in South Central Los Angeles that emerged in the wake of the 1992 LA riots.

To view these and other American Community Gardening Association gift ideas:  
<http://www.communitygarden.org/acga-store.php>

## Holiday Horticulture Sing-Along

**Note: Text for all songs is included in this post as an attachment.**

### **Let It Grow**

(To the tune "Let It Snow")

### **White Fungus**

(To the tune "White Christmas")

### **Blue Hydrangea**

(To the tune "Blue Christmas")

### **O Compost, Ye Faithful**

(To the tune "O Come, All Ye Faithful")

### **O Bradford Pear**

(To the tune "O Christmas Tree")

### **Silent Blight**

(To the tune "Silent Night")

### **Deck the Deck**

(To the tune "Deck the Halls")

### **What Weed Is This?**

(To the tune "Greensleeves")

### **Here Come Catalogs**

(To the tune "Here Comes Santa Claus")

### **O Holey Leaves**

(sung to "O Holy Night")

### **God Rest Ye, Weary Gardeners**

(sung to "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen")

### **I Saw Three Seeds**

(sung to "I Saw Three Ships")

### **Grandma Got Run Over By a John Deere**

(sung to "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer")

**Sing-Alongs provided by:**

Lisa Johnson, UWEX Dane County Horticulture Educator

[lisa.johnson@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:lisa.johnson@ces.uwex.edu)

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**Please send a note to Patty Zehl at: [pattyz@cacscw.org](mailto:pattyz@cacscw.org) if you would like to get off this email list, add a friend to it, or share an announcement with your fellow community gardeners in the Madison area. If you receive this email more than once, please contact me so I can remove duplicate messages.**