



Community Gardens of Dane County Community Action Coalition for South Central WI Inc.

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Special Points of Interest:

- What to do with all those apples you picked...
- Find funds for your new community garden project
- Check out Madison's Food Pantry Gardens in the Cap Times
- Learn how to compost in winter with-

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Early Fall E-Newsletter

September 22nd, 2010

CAC's Community & Food Pantry Gardens Harvest Potluck Thursday, October 21st 6-8pm

Please join Community Action Coalition gardens staff in celebrating the harvest and all of our committed gardeners' hard work at our Fall Harvest Potluck. All community and food pantry gardeners are welcome. The purpose of this event is to acknowledge those who put in the extra effort over the summer that has made our gardens successful. We are asking for nominations for fellow community or food pantry garden volunteers whom you feel deserve to be recognized for their contributions. Please send us their information and a brief explanation of why they deserve to be recognized.

In addition to CAC's gardens staff providing an overview of

highlights of the summer, this evening will also be a great opportunity to find out what's going on at other gardens, including the food pantry gardens. We will have a time for people to break into smaller groups during dinner and share experiences or lessons they have learned with one another. This time of sharing experiences will help both our communities and gardens grow stronger.

In the theme of a harvest celebration, our event will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass. This is your chance to show off your carefully grown fruits and vegetables, as well as your skills in the kitchen!



The event will be held at the **Catholic Multicultural Center** located at **1862 Beld St** from **6 until 8pm**.

Nominations must be sent in by Monday, October 11th in order to be included. Please send your nominations for outstanding volunteers as well as your **RSVP for the event to Michelle Shively at mshively@cacscw.org.**

2011 New Garden Fund Grant Applications Available Soon

The New Garden Fund Panel is pleased to announce a seventh year of grants to encourage creation of new community gardens and expansion of existing community gardens in the City of Madison. Applications will be due on Friday, January 14, 2011. Grants will be given out in late March 2011.

Who should apply?

Groups in the City of Madison that are eligible to apply include:

- Existing gardens hoping to expand (by adding new plots for new gardeners)
- Neighborhoods lacking community garden

space that want to create new gardens

- Existing gardens where leases are being lost due to development, etc. that need to be relocated

How are projects selected?

Community gardeners representing neighborhoods throughout Madison are serving as the selection panel for the New Garden Fund grants. One or more groups will be chosen to receive grants by the selection panel, based on criteria chosen by the panel, including scarcity of plots in the neighborhood, and increasing access to low income families, minorities and

Volunteer Spotlight: Sean Gere

Here in Madison, we are fortunate to live in a city that values and supports community gardens. This is a community full of committed people who devote time and energy every season to help broaden and deepen our people-to-people connections and strengthen our public commons, while growing sustenance for themselves, friends, and family.

Sean Gere is one of those individuals. Some of you may know Sean from gardening with him at the Bridge-Lake Point-Waunona Community Garden, or maybe you saw him in the spring delivering wood chips to your community garden, or ran into him while you were volunteering to help plant a local public orchard.

Sean is a community gardener and owner of Gere Tree Care, Inc. (www.geretreecare.com), a local company that provides “safe, professional, and environmentally aware... quality tree care while working with nature as opposed to trying to control it.” He’s an ISA-certified arborist (International Society of Arboriculture), a Wisconsin tree-climbing and North American arborist skills champion, and has helped write books, appeared in videos, and traveled internationally to train people as arborists.

Sean and his company have generously donated time, equipment and resources, as well as expertise to a variety of local organizations including Community Action Coalition’s (CAC) Gardens Program, Willy Street Park, Friends of Ya-

hara Parkway, Friends of Garner Park, Madison Area Permaculture Guild, Olbrich Gardens, Madison Fruits and Nuts, the UW-Arboretum, Edgewood College, Badger Rock School, Madison Area Community Land Trust, and Growing Power-Madison.



When asked what inspires him to be so committed both personally and professionally to these local efforts, Sean responded:

“Nature and food are two priorities in my life. Moving out of Madison for 8 years and being back for 1 year has truly made me appreciate how many good things are going on here. I consider my wife and I to be very lucky to have a good life, and I know that other people aren't as fortunate, so it is great to be able to help out. So many people are doing great things for the Madison area community that it is nice to be a part of that.”

We want to thank Sean and his crew at Gere Tree Care, Inc. for all the work they’ve done for Madison’s community gardens!!

Is there someone you’d like to recognize for his or her work with community, school or pantry gardens? We encourage you to nominate them to be featured in our upcoming newsletters. Nominations can be sent to Jason Clay at Jasonc@cacscw.org.



New Garden Fund Continued

How much are the grants?

Groups from anywhere in Madison can apply for support for their new garden project. Requests can be up to \$2000. Eligible groups are also encouraged to apply for other City funding for their garden through the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program, and/or the People for Parks Grant Program and/or the Community Development Block Grant office. In addition, a few gardens could receive continuing support from CAC and the City.

What are the grants used for?

Items funded in the past include fencing, hoses, water system, plowing or tilling, raised beds, tool sheds, wheel barrows, tools, lumber and building materials, mulch, compost, educational workshops, insurance coverage and city fees.

Grant applications will be available in early November. 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 will also be available on the CAC website, at <http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/>.

In addition, two positions on the New Garden Fund panel are currently vacant. Panel members are responsible for reviewing and choosing New Garden Fund grant recipients. Panel members meet 2-3 times per year as a group, in addition to a few site visits in small groups to meet with garden grant applicants on-site. New Garden Fund panel members do not need to be community gardeners, but knowledge of community gardens is preferred. Interpretation is available at meetings. For more information, or if interested in being a part of the New Garden Fund panel, please contact Nicole Craig at 246-4730 Ext 208 or nicolec@cacscw.org.

Community Gardens on Roof of Library Still A Possibility

Submitted by Sue Rosa (236-9374, sarosa@wisc.edu) for the Downtown Community Gardens Group

Putting the world's first community garden on a public library rooftop still can be a reality in Madison. We have found overwhelming support for this idea while collecting signatures at the Farmer's Market in 2009 and this year. We have signatures from every alder district in Madison in support of the idea. Last November, the Common Council voted 19 to 1 for a budget amendment directing city staff to explore the feasibility of putting a rooftop community garden on the new library. You can support the idea by coming to the next public meeting on the design of the Madison Central Library on Tues, Sept 28, 7-9pm. at the Madison Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin Street,

Today, despite the fact that the 1999 City of Madison Action Plan proposes "strong governmental support to community gardens" and states that "It is important that all parts of the city that need gardens, get gardens," the only community garden currently in downtown Madison is Reynolds garden in the 600 block of East Mifflin Street, which has just 26 small plots and a two to three-year waiting list. From our petition signers, we have identified over 100 people who would like a community garden plot downtown.

We are also involved in an exciting collaborative project with the UW-Madison Department of Engineering in which a group of engineering students have taken on the challenge of

designing a community garden for the top of a downtown parking ramp.

Finding appropriate sites for community gardens downtown offers unique challenges including high property values and contaminated soils. Cities all over the world are putting gardens on rooftops. We have explored all possibilities: vacant land, surface parking lots, parking ramps, and rooftops.

The Downtown Community Gardens Group supports the maintenance of current community gardens, the preservation of those under threat, and the creation of as many more permanent community gardens as is necessary to meet the needs of city residents.

We have a 20-minute presentation about getting community gardens downtown that we are eager to share with anyone who is willing to watch. If you are interested in seeing this presentation, or if you are interested in getting involved in any of our projects, please visit us at the Farmers' Market at the corner across from Inn on the Park where we are most Saturdays between 10 and noon. Or visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-WI/The-Downtown-Community-Gardens-Group/137670911949?v=info#/pages/Madison-WI/The-Downtown-Community-Gardens-Group/137670911>. For more information contact Jane Anne at 251-2784 or Kevin at Kevin.schies@gmail.com.

Area Classes

Vermiculture: Building and Maintaining a Worm Farm

When: 10/02/2010 (Saturday), 9:00 AM

Location: Focuscorp, Inc., 3201 Latham Drive, Madison

Registration: \$40, visit

www.fitchburgfields.org to register.

You'd like a steady supply of rich composted manure but don't have room for a cow or horse? No problem! In a space no larger than a medium size plastic storage bin, hundreds of red worms will work to turn your kitchen waste into rich worm castings that will greatly enhance your soil. And worm vermicompost doesn't smell, so you can keep a worm farm in your home. In this workshop you will build and learn to maintain a simple, inexpensive and easy to care for worm farm from a plastic storage bin.

The workshop fee includes a bin, bedding and worms to get you started. After using this type of worm farm for the past few years, lifelong gardener Allen Pincus has become a vermiculture convert and with his simple worm bin design, you'll become one too!

Canning Fruits & Applesauce

When: 10/16/2010 (Saturday), 9:00 AM

Location: Hy-Vee Club Room, 3801 E. Washington Madison, WI 53704

Registration: Reduced to \$15! Visit www.fitchburgfields.org to register.

Learn to can fresh fruits and make applesauce with produce from your own garden or the local Farmer's Market. Certified Master Food Preservers Mike Quieto and Julianne Ruege will share the hands-on knowledge you need to can

fruits, fruit medleys and fruit sauces at home. Participants will take home a jar of applesauce and fruit canned in syrup, along with instructions for safely canning many more

Grassroots Leadership College: Free Fall Workshops

GLC is now accepting applications for its three fall workshops: Taking on City Hall on Sep. 30th, Using Social Media for Social Change on Oct. 26th, and Framing Issues to Inspire Social Action on Oct 28th. All sessions have interpreting for Spanish speakers, childcare, dinner provided, and are open to adults and teens. Please visit their website for details and registration information. www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org



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FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN, INC.

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online: [www.cacscw.org/
gardens/index.htm](http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/index.htm)



Community Action Coalition

CAC is a community action agency, which is a non-profit organization established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty". Our mission is to develop the economic and social capacities of individuals, families, and communities to reduce poverty in Dane, Jefferson, and Waukesha Counties. Since its founding in 1966, CAC has engaged communities in the struggle to eliminate poverty. By creating and operating a wide variety of programs through specialized divisions, we strive to enhance the skills, knowledge and capacity of people experiencing poverty so they may improve their social and economic circumstances.

Check Out Gardens in the News

The Cap Times released a great article about local efforts to grow nutritious food and reach out to low income families. Multiple projects from the Madison area are highlighted including many of our community and food pantry gardens. Check out this link to read the full article. http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/article_4003c3e6-bac1-11df-9efa-001cc4c03286.html

Do You Like To Get Your Hands Greasy?

The Gardens Program is currently looking for a volunteer to assist us with some small engine repair. Our machines are an important part of keeping our garden space looking nice. Many are used quite a bit, and some are unfortunately out of order currently. We have a need for both repair and general maintenance on mowers, weed whackers, and other small engines. If you have some experience with small engine repair and are available to help out the CAC gardens staff, please let us know! You may contact Joe Mathers through email at joem@cacscw.org or give him a call at (608) 246-4730 ext. 212.

Get Involved With Madison Area Community Gardens

How Can You Help CAC Community Gardens?

There are many volunteer opportunities available assisting the community gardens in the Madison area. Read more about the [current opportunities](#). For more information, email Jason Clay at jasonc@cacscw.org or call 246-4730 ext. 209.

Join the City of Madison Community Gardens Committee

The City of Madison Community Gardens Committee (CMCGC) is currently seeking new citizen members to represent community gardeners in Madison. Representatives of certain city committees (Planning, Parks, and CDBG), citizen gardeners, and staff (from the Mayor's office and Community Action Coalition) comprise the committee. Membership is open to any Madison resident who has 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.

The CMCGC was established in 2005 and given

the charge of preserving, expanding and enhancing opportunities for community gardening in Madison. The 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.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 28, 5-6pm
Where: City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Rm. 108

For more information about the Comm. Gardening Committee: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/residents/communitygardens/index.cfm>

If you are interested in being a member of the City Community Gardens Committee, please contact Nicole Craig at nicolec@cacscw.org or call her at 246-4730 ext. 208.