

THE ITHACA COMMUNITY GARDENER

The Newsletter of the Ithaca Community Gardens

June 2014

It is officially summer and the gardens are flourishing as more and more people are tending to their plots; weeding, planting and harvesting the first bounty of herbs and veggies! It's an exciting time to be a gardener and we at the newsletter are grateful to the folks who have worked so hard over the years to keep the Community Gardens going. We're also excited to see where it goes from here and are restarting this newsletter for us all to share news, information, gardening tips and inspiration! We have heard from many returning gardeners that there seems to be a lot of energy already this year. As you may guess, it takes much more than the required four hours per person to keep the Gardens going so we're thrilled to see people stepping up and getting more involved. In this issue we are highlighting new gardeners who jumped right in on a special project, some upcoming events and more. We hope to make future issues longer with contributions from all of you. So while you're reading, think of things you'd like to share!



ICG IN THE ITHACA FESTIVAL PARADE

The Gardens' participation in this year's Ithaca Festival Parade, which took place on Thursday, May 29th, was spearheaded by new gardeners Ryan and Jackie Maher and their daughter, Gia.

Despite being new to Ithaca and the garden, Ryan took the lead on the task. "I wanted to build ties with gardeners and step up to get involved," he says. With Jackie's creative talents as a crafter and Gia's love of dressing up, though, it quickly turned into a family project. By parade day, they even all had costumes - Ryan as a scarecrow, Jackie as a flower and Gia a bumblebee!

As ideas started rolling, several gardeners came together to decorate a float with giant sunflowers making it colorful, beautiful and truly representative of the Gardens. "When we discussed how to brighten the public face of the garden and get involved in community events, the parade was low hanging fruit. I was lucky to have a core group of active members from the start, both first-time and returning gardeners," says Ryan. Next time, the hope is to go plot to plot and bring even more gardeners out on parade day.

The garden-themed float was, of course, pulled by a tractor. Unfortunately, there was confusion around tractor registration and it was forced to make an early exit from the parade. That didn't stop the gardeners, though! They marched on, pushing antique farming tools (brought by Will Parker), holding a banner and stamping the hands of every child along the parade route with a flower or butterfly stamp. Each block, shouts of support for the Community Gardens could be heard from countless parade-goers.

KNOW YOUR FELLOW GARDENERS

Having ties to Central New York, Ryan, Jackie and Gia moved to Ithaca from Minneapolis last summer. Ryan took a position at Cornell and Jackie started a chiropractic practice here. "We have always looked for a way to garden," Ryan says. "We are fortunate, ICG is in a tremendous location, Fall Creek's backyard." According to Ryan, they most enjoy being out in the garden all together and growing Sun Gold tomatoes and basil for pesto to last into the winter. Though, it is suspected that Gia is really in it for getting to water the plants with her very own watering can and digging for worms.

COMMUNITY EVENTS (FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

Celebrate Finger Lakes Food Thursday, June 26 @ 6pm

Learn how we can protect our local food system from the threat of hydrofracking. Speakers, live music and local food. Fee: \$5 or free with help of promotion, setup or breakdown - contact bob@TheSEEN.org.



Compost with Confidence - "Getting Started"

Saturday, June 28 11am – 12pm
This workshop covers how to set up and manage a compost bin in any setting. To sign up in advance, call (607) 272-2292.

Location: Compost Demo Site at Community Gardens (RR side)

International Mud Day

Saturday, June 28 1pm – 4pm

A Day of Mud Play in The Anarchy Zone! Be prepared to GET MUDDY! Mud slides, Mud pools, Mud pies, Mud art = MUD FUN!
Location: Ithaca Children's Garden, Rte. 89, Cass Park

Ithaca Community Gardens

July Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 8th @ 7:30pm

321 N. Albany Street

All gardeners are welcome!

Learn to Can Series

**Thursdays, July 10 & July 17
5:30pm – 8:30pm**

(must register for both classes)

Part 1: Boiling Water Bath

Canning

Part 2: Pressure Canning

Fee: \$30 total for both classes

Location: CCE

615 Willow Ave. Ithaca

(607) 272-2292

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER!

At this point I'm sure you are wondering how you can participate in making this awesome newsletter even better. Well, we're glad you asked... We are seeking submissions for upcoming newsletters and would love to hear from you. Do you have photos of workdays or especially lovely garden plots? Gardening tips to share with your fellow gardeners? How about delicious veggie recipes? Is there a specific topic that you would like to see covered? What about a gardener you would like to highlight? Please email any and all contributions to newsletter@ithacacommunitygardens.org and we will try our very best to fit it all in. And if email is not your thing, then come find us (Oona and Casey) at plot 215.



FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR ITHACA CARSHARE

Ithaca Carshare is waiving membership application fees for Community Gardeners (a \$40 savings). Ithaca Carshare offers 24/7 self-serve access to fuel-efficient cars, a minivan, and a truck conveniently located in Ithaca. Their mission is to enhance community access to transportation while reducing negative environmental and economic impacts.

Ithaca Carshare

215 N. Cayuga Street
(ground floor Dewitt Mall).

Office hours:

12-5pm Monday-Friday

607-277-3210

email: info@ithacacarshare.org

website: ithacacarshare.org

Board Members 2013-2014

Judith Barker, President

Marishya Weiss, Secretary

Doug Dylla, Vice-President

Will Parker, Board Member

Ronda Porras, Board Member

Sheryl Swink, Treasurer

Honorary Board Members

Daniel Hoffman

Carolyn Peterson

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