Westcott Neighborhood Bulb Project Announces Initiative Award

The Westcott Neighborhood Bulb Project recently received an Initiative Grant from Syracuse University through its Campus-Community Entrepreneurship Initiative. This grant has enabled us to upgrade our 2009 web site, www.bulbproject.org and add new features which include:

- A Bulb Project slide show on the neighborhood
- List of our 2009 raffle prizes and how to purchase tickets
- Photos and reports from last six years
- A downloadable brochure on the history of the project
- List of 10 books for gardening with children all available at Onondaga County Library
- Springtime Photo Contest Winners now in its second year
- Recent press releases
- How civic, church, schools & neighborhood organizations can request perennial bulbs for plantings in the neighborhood

Garden Art for Sale - Our newest feature

We are using a portion of the Kaufman Campus Initiative Grant to help artists from greater Syracuse, who produce garden related art and crafts to market their art. On our web site you can see photos, sales and contact information from artists who produce garden related art. Artists who create garden related art and are interested in having it featured on our Web site should contact us at pwirth2@verizon.net.

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News from Elderberry Pond

Our seeds are ordered, greens and other cool weather crops are doing well in the solar hoop-house. Fresh carrots and other root crops are in the ground covered by a thick layer of straw. The root cellar is brimming with potatoes, apples, shallots, garlic etc. The walk-in freezer is full to the door with pork, chickens and frozen fruit for desserts, cider and the meats we smoked over the long cold winter (ideal smoking weather).

The two big farm tasks for March are starting seeds in flats, and pruning apples, pears, plums, peaches, grapes, and berries. At the organic farming conferences we attended during January and February we learned about many new and interesting vegetable and fruit crops that we can grow in our area. We are anxious to try these with the idea of adding new fresh produce soups, salads, entrees, and deserts to the menu this season. We will be trying some new bean and edible soy bean varieties as well as several new broccoli raabs, kales, tomatoes, eggplants and peppers. We will also be selling many of these new items from the farm store. We will also be expanding our chicken flock this year, so you may see even more hens and roosters wandering the garden fields this summer, or visiting the pigs.

We worked on some new meat curing and smoking techniques this winter and plan to make charcuterie (prosciutto, cured sausages, and dry cured, hickory smoked bacon) part of our restaurant offering during 2009.

VISIT US AT WWW.ELDERBERRYPOND.COM

March 22nd, 2:30 – 5 pm
Half Day Workshop

Early Garden Treasures: Selecting and Planting Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs for an Early Spring Harvest

A fee of $10 will be charged for this session
Crop Focus: Spinach, Onions, Early Potatoes, Radishes, Hakurei, Turnips, Cabbage, Kohlrabi, Peas, Asparagus, Salad Greens. Indoor Seed Germination, Spring soil preparation and planting-organic fertilizers, Early season varieties-our favorite fruit, vegetable and herb varieties.

Our favorite seed and organic supply sources, Care of the early season garden-pest & disease control, Seed starting demonstrations,Kitchen food preparation demonstrations.

April 4th, 9 am – 4 pm
Intensive Day Workshop

Fruit Tree Pruning and Care Using Organic Methods.

In this session we will discuss the principles of organic orcharding, present the results from a recent grant we received to determine which varieties are best for organic production, and we will move to the orchard to demonstrate planting and pruning techniques as well as insect monitoring and trapping.

An Introduction to Organic gardening principles Apple Variety Selection Organic and Low Spray Disease Management Insect Management Orchard walk with pruning, scouting and insect trap demonstrations.

Fee for this session is $40 which includes lunch & handouts.
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The web site has been made possible through the design work of Denise Heckman, Associate Professor, Industrial and Interaction Design, Syracuse University and Alfred Chang, a SU student who did the recent upgrades.

Initiative (the Syracuse Campus-Community Entrepreneurship Initiative) is funded by a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, focusing on entrepreneurship in the arts, technology, and our neighborhoods. To learn more about Initiative, please visit www.entrepreneurship.syr.edu

The Wescott Neighborhood Bulb Project, now in its seventh year, works in conjunction with the Westcott Community Center. Recently featured in the March issue of the “The Good Life”, Central New York Magazine, the WNBP has facilitated the planting of 42,000 spring blooming perennial bulbs in the Westcott neighborhood since the project started in 2003.

Shovel-Ready Project: A White House Garden

By Jane Black
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, March 20, 2009; C01

For more than a decade, food activists have rallied, cajoled, even pleaded for a vegetable garden on the White House lawn. Now they're finally going to get it.

Today, first lady Michelle Obama will host a groundbreaking for a White House kitchen garden on the South Lawn. She will be joined by students from Bancroft Elementary in Northwest Washington, whose participation in the project will continue past today, as they help with planting in the coming weeks and harvesting later this year.

The 1,100-square-foot garden will include 55 kinds of vegetables, including peppers, spinach and, yes, arugula. (The selection is a wish list put together by White House chefs.) There will also be berries, herbs and two hives for honey that will be tended by a White House carpenter who is also a beekeeper. The chefs will use the produce to feed the first family, as well as for state dinners and other official events.

The White House will use organic seedlings, as well as organic fertilizers and organic insect repellents. The garden will be near the tennis courts and be visible to passersby on the street. The whole Obama family will be involved in tending the garden, White House spokeswoman Katie McCormick Lelyveld said.

Proponents of the garden see the move as a victory for fresh, wholesome food. With the Obamas as role models, it could also be a turning point in their battle to overturn the perception of organic food, farmers markets and gardens as the preserves of the elite.

"Nothing could be more exciting," said Alice Waters, chef of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, Calif., who has been lobbying for a garden on the White House lawn since the first Clinton administration.

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Pictures from our Canning Workshop