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Horn Farm Center for  
Agricultural Education  
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# Around The Horn . . .

## News from the Farm

### COMING EVENTS:

**Community Gardens**  
Open from April 15 to  
October 31

**Pizza Patch Project**  
May 16 – Oct 31 (See  
details this page)

**Farmstand Tour** (In  
partnership with York  
County Ag Business  
Council)  
Date TBA

**Summer Camp**  
Conducted by  
Unique Physique  
Children, Ages 5 - 10  
June 15– July 31  
(holiday break from  
July 1 - 7th)  
10:30 AM –12:30 PM  
Call 755.2639  
(See more details on  
last page)



## GROW YOUR OWN PIZZA SAUCE !

This year the Horn Farm Center's garden patch project will be a **Pizza Patch Project**, located in the same area as last year's Corn Patch Project. Once again, 12'x12' plots will be available for gardeners and their families to rent, and this year the plots will be used for those plants that produce the basic ingredients used for making pizza sauce.

Cost for each plot is \$30 and the price includes:  
Plants to fill one plot and ready for planting:

- 6 Big Beef tomato plants
- 6 Roma tomato plants
- 6 Revolution Red Bell pepper plants

- 6 basil plants
- 6 oregano plants
- 2 Jalapeno pepper plants (optional)
- 12 onion sets
- Planting session with instructions
- Session on care of plants
- End of the season pizza party

The project begins on **Planting Day, Saturday, May 16**. On that day, the plots will be tilled and ready for planting, the plants will be distributed and instructions will be given for planting.

On **Saturday, May 30**, a **Growing Tips Workshop** will be held.

**A Pizza Party**, possibly with pizza-sauce making demonstration, is **scheduled for August 15**.

Plots will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis and are guaranteed after payment is received. Contact the Horn Farm Center at 717.757.6441 or at [info@hornfarmcenter.org](mailto:info@hornfarmcenter.org) for a registration form or more information.



## More Good Reasons To Buy Fresh, Locally Grown Foods

(based on information from our partner *Buy Fresh/Buy Local of South Central Pa*)

- Most fruits and vegetables that are found in supermarkets are shipped from distant states and countries and can spend as many as 14 days in transit before they arrive on supermarket shelves.
- These fruits and vegetables are chosen for their ability to withstand industrial harvesting equipment and extended travel, not for their taste.
- In contrast, locally grown fruits and vegetables are usually sold within 24 hours of being harvested.
- Produce picked and eaten at the height of ripeness has exceptional flavor and, when handled properly, is packed with nutrients.
- By choosing local produce at farmstands, farmers' markets, grocery stores and pick-your-own farms, you pay for maximum freshness and taste, not for excessive transportation and packaging.
- Local farmers often grow a large assortment of unique varieties of products to provide the most flavorful choices throughout the growing season.

The Horn Farm Center has available free copies of the booklet **Growing Traditions**, produced by the Lancaster-York Heritage Region. This booklet includes an extensive and up-to-date listing of sources for locally grown food products and a map to help you find them, as well as interesting stories connected to the local farms and farmers that produce these foods. Contact the Horn Farm Center at [info@hornfarmcenter.org](mailto:info@hornfarmcenter.org) or 656.6441 to arrange to pick up your copy.

## Horn Farm Center Celebrates National Agriculture Day

On March 20 the Horn Farm Center opened the doors of the farmhouse to welcome more than 50 invited guests to enjoy the ambience of the refurbished first floor, the newly organized display room and the delicious refreshments prepared by Board members Eileen Campbell and Barbara Rooney. Although the weather was a bit on the chilly side, a number of those present accompanied HFC guides on tours along the interpretive trail which included a discussion of past and future events and projects at the Center.

A welcoming ceremony was held in the living room and featured greetings from HFC Board President Rob Wood and Department of Agriculture Region VI Director Doug Kilgore. Cheryl Bohnert, from Rep. Keith Gillespie's office, read the PA State Legislature's Resolution honoring the HFC, and York County Conservation District Director Patricia Sueck gave a tribute to Olin Sims, former National Association of Conservation District President, in whose honor a Red Maple was planted. (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).

Among the guests present, in addition to HFC Board members and other friends and neighbors of the HFC, were Rep. Eugene DePasquale (PA 95<sup>th</sup> House Dis-

trict), Rep. Ron Miller (PA 93<sup>rd</sup> House District), Brenda Arnold from PA Sen. Mike Waugh's office, Hellam Township Supervisor Steve Wolf, Lower Windsor Township Supervisor Mary Caldwell, Hallam Mayor Paul McCleary, Kristin Baker from the York County Community Foundation, Michele Zettle from the York County Convention and Visitors Commission, Tom Donley, President of the York County Chamber of Commerce, York East Rotary Representative Elizabeth Wolf, York County Agriculture Business Council representative Michele Grove, Executive Director Sean Kenny from the Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County, several Hellam Township municipal office staff members and Frank Reed, Board Chairman of the York County Master Gardeners, as well as several other Master Gardeners.

Guests were enthusiastic about the progress the Center has made and about its plans for the future – an encouragement to all who have helped bring the Center to life. Many offered helpful suggestions for partnerships and other ways to work together to further the HFC's mission and goals. All in all, it was a delightful way to celebrate the first day of Spring, National Agriculture Day and the beginning of another exciting year for the Horn Farm Center!



From left: Rob Wood, Board President of the Horn Farm Center, Cheryl Bohnert representing Rep. Keith Gillespie's office and presenting the PA State Legislature's Resolution honoring the Horn Farm Center, and Dept. of Agriculture's Regional Director, Doug Kilgore.

### Quotable Quote:



*"To see things in the seed, that is genius."*

**Lao-Tzu  
Father of Taoism**

## Horn Farm Completes Strategic Plan

Last fall the Horn Farm Center Board hired Ann Barton Brown, consultant for the nonprofit community, to help guide them through a strategic planning process. The process was funded by a grant from the Stan Brown Foundation and included hosting three planning meetings to review the mission, undertake a self-assessment of the organization and identify goals and objectives and the steps to achieve them. The Strategic Plan was completed in February and adopted by the Board in March.

During the planning sessions the Board discussed both long-range and short-term goals and objectives for the Center. The following comprehensive goals were identified by the planning process and will guide the Horn Farm Center:

- I. Build a strong administration for the Center
- II. Establish financial stability for the Center
- III. Market the Center in a meaningful and appropriate way
- IV. Educate the public about the importance and benefits of sustainable local agriculture

- V. Demonstrate the viability of small-scale farming
- VI. Explore York County's rich agricultural heritage

The Plan includes specific action steps needed to implement these goals and to support strategic objectives. It also designates accountable persons and/or committees and target dates for completion of the action steps. In addition, it lists the critical indicators that will be used to measure the progress and success of the goals, strategic objectives and action steps.

The Strategic Plan has seven appendices, including information about funding sources and a list of more than 40 potential partners who have interests in common with the Center, some of whom the Board has already begun to work with.

As with any Strategic Plan, this one is a working document and will be revisited each year by the Board and updated as needed.

Copies of the Strategic Plan can be made available upon request.

## BACKYARD GARDENS: *Here, There, Everywhere—including the White House!*

In York County vegetable gardening has long been a way of life. Most farms had large gardens close to the farmhouse, and farm family members raised the foods that would feed them through the seasons. County residents with no space to grow their own have always flocked to our roadside stands, farmers' markets and pick-your own farms for their fresh, locally grown produce.

Today as folks check the increasingly high costs of food, worry about the safety of foods coming from unknown and far-away sources and long for the fresh and unadulterated taste of home-grown fruits and vegetables, many without the advantage of farmland space have decided to "grow their own," in backyard and community gardens. Harkening to the World War II days when Victory Gardens were popular, these local gardens are springing up everywhere.

Recently First Lady Michelle Obama, with the



HFC Board member Deb Livingston's raised bed garden in Hellam Township.



### IS FOR APRIL AND ASPARAGUS!

Here is a favorite, and easy, recipe for asparagus from HFC Board member Eileen Campbell:  
Steam asparagus lightly so it is still crisp.  
Immediately bathe it in cold water.

help of a crew of fifth-graders from a Washington elementary school, began turning over 1100 square feet of White House lawn in preparation for an organic vegetable garden that will produce fresh foods for the White House family and staff. She pointed out the many advantages of this project, including education for both children and adults about the importance of locally grown food to our health in a time when obesity and diabetes are in epidemic proportions in our society. She also spoke about why it is so important to buy and eat locally grown foods, not only for reasons of better health but to reduce reliance on the huge industrial farms that require large amounts for oil for transportation and chemicals for fertilizer. The White House backyard garden will be comprised of raised beds fertilized with compost, Chesapeake Bay crab meal and other natural mineral amendments. Instead of pesticides, the gardeners will use beneficial insects such as lady bugs and praying mantises to control harmful bugs. Fifty-five varieties of vegetables are planned, tailored to the tastes and requests of the First Family and the White House chefs.

The Obamas are not alone in their desire for a backyard garden. Lots of people are turning sunny corners of their backyards into gardens, buying seeds at a record rate that has caused some popular seed companies to sell out and restock. Even a small yard can accommodate a fine garden of raised beds that can produce plenty of produce for a couple or family.

For those without space for a backyard garden, there are community gardens. This year the Horn Farm Center offers for the

Drain and pat dry.  
Sprinkle with a little salt (or lemon salt) and pepper.  
Top with shaved Parmesan Reggiano.  
Serve at room temperature or chill and serve later.

first time the opportunity to rent 20' x 20' plots, located on its rich farmland soils. As of the time this newsletter went to "press," just before the March 31 plot registration deadline, the response from the public for this new project had been tremendous, with more than 55 plots requested. Come to the Horn Farm Center this summer and see our gardeners in action! Maybe you, too, will be inspired to grow your own and reap the many benefits of backyard gardening!

(For more information on the White House vegetable garden, see the March 20 *New York Times* article "Obamas to Plant Vegetable Garden at White House.")

#### HFC WISH LIST



Paper cutter (capable of cutting more than one sheet at a time)  
Small step ladder (for inside use)  
Digital camera and camera cards  
Vacuum cleaner with attachments  
Small tools (especially tape measure, pliers, etc.)  
Shop vacuum  
Gardening hand tools  
Garden hose, nozzle and holder  
Buckets/watering cans  
Pots for planting  
Metal shelving units (for basement storage)  
Free standing interior fans  
Mailing supplies (stamps, envelopes, labels, etc.)  
Color printer  
Copier paper (white and colored)  
Misc. office supplies (paper clips, thumb tacks, staples, rubber bands, pens, pencils)  
Sanitary items (paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, garbage bags)  
Cleaning supplies (rubber gloves, multi-purpose cleaner, bathroom cleaner, air fresheners)  
Biodegradable paper products (plates, bowls, cups, napkins, utensils)  
Dish towels and dish cloths  
Gift cards (Lowe's, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Office Max, Staples, Ace Hardware, Borders, etc.)



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## **FUN AT KIDZ ON THE MOVE SUMMER CAMP!**

Mom and Dad, do you need just a bit of time for yourself? This summer, you can get that time to work out, run errands or work on projects all while your child is having fun with friends at *Kidz on the Move* summer camp!

*Kidz on the Move* is conducted by Unique Physique Fitness Center. This camp prepares your child to MOVE ahead physically, mentally and socially while having fun and enjoying the outdoors. It combines agility training, nutrition, self esteem exercises, community service projects and outdoor activities. We'll even be growing and working on our own "Pizza Patch Garden" at the Horn Farm!

**What:** Kidz Camps

**Who:** Children ages 5-10 years old

**When:** June 15-July 31st (4th of July holiday break from July 1-7th). *Special date:* May 16 - Pizza Patch Planting at Horn Farm Center. For those who can't make it then, we'll plant again in June

when camp officially starts.

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Where\*:** Monday: Springettsbury Park

Tuesday: Rocky Ridge Park

Wednesday: Springettsbury Park

Thursday: Horn Farm

\*In cases of inclement weather, classes will be held at Unique Physique Fitness Center.

**Cost:** \$250 per child (less than \$5.25 per hour) this includes snacks, camp t-shirt, Pizza Patch, plus other giveaways.

Deadline for registration: June 10, 2009

Two ways to register:

- Stop by at Unique Physique, 3432 East Market St. York
- Call 755.2639.

You don't have to be a member of Unique Physique to sign up for the *Kidz on the Move* summer camp!



## **A LIVING LEGACY TO OLIN SIMS**

At the March 20 Open House at the Horn Farm Center a native red maple tree was planted near the Horn Farmhouse by the York County Conservation District as a tribute to Olin Sims, who served as the National Association of Conservation District's President from February 2007 until his untimely death in December of that year. He was a beloved Conservation District leader and a man who put a high priority on caring for the land. The tree was planted as a living legacy to him and as a symbol of the Conservation District's dedication to being good stewards of the environment.

As York County Conservation District's Pat Sueck said so eloquently at the Open House ceremony:

"We plant this memorial tree today at the Horn Farm because of the common mission shared by our organizations: promoting the rich heritage and wise stewardship of our land and the fundamental importance of local agriculture to the health and well-being of our community, our economy and our environment."

Many thanks to Chris Thompson, HFC Board member and York County Conservation District representative, who arranged for this dedication and the planting of the tree.