



October 2014 Newsletter

Hi everybody! As we approach the end of our fourth year here, I'd like to thank you all for supporting us through another season of growth. I should let you know first off that we'll be hosting our annual **Fall Potluck** here on Sunday October 26th from 1:00 to about 4:00 pm. We'll have a bon fire and mini-pumpkin decorating for the kids. Bring a dish, all are welcome. Also, **the last pick up days are Tuesday/Wednesday November 18th and 19th, and Friday/Saturday November 21st and 22nd.**

We are open for membership renewals. The new commitment form is attached to this email, and we'll have some in distribution for you. For the present we are not raising our prices for the 2015 season, but that could change as we figure our 2015 budget, so if you sign up early you'll lock in this year's rate. Early renewal will allow us to get through the winter and place our supply and seed order in December, before favorite varieties sell out, and we can take advantage of early buy discounts from our suppliers.

I saw some dramatic improvement in our soil fertility this year, due in large part to the cover crop program I started here last season. The Spring and Autumn greens did wonderfully, I saw the best sweet corn we've grown yet, and the tomato volume was shocking. Our winter squash harvest is by far outstripping last year's. We are augmenting the soil building program, with help from our horse farm neighbor, by starting large-scale horse manure composting. By closely following the Organic regulations for composting, weed seeds and pathogens are destroyed, and any medicine administered to the animals is broken down in the aerobic composting procedure we follow. We still have a long way to go to get our fertility up to the level I'd like to see, and we devote a large part of our time and resources to that end. I saw this in the lower-than-last-year potato yield, the pokey cucumbers, and the smaller garlic, peppers and eggplant. But we press on with hope for continued growth next season, and I see that we're definitely on the right track, thanks to your support as members, and the excellent help of the workshare crew, who do the majority of the harvest work each week, as well as helping with transplanting and weeding.

The share for the rest of the season will consist of the greens we've been getting, as well as some more potatoes and onions, though they will run out before the last pickup. There are really nice beets coming (yay!), and carrots, purple-top turnips, storage radishes, plenty of sweet potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, some regular cabbage, and butternut squash and pie pumpkins. And we'll get another shot or two of sweet peppers. Thanks again for a great year, and I hope to see you at the pot luck.

Steve and Robyn

Left, beds of mesclun mix, arugula, and salad turnips; right, the butternut squash harvest on its way down to the greenhouse to cure in the warmth before they're ready for distribution

