



“Dibbles and Buds”



Fort DuPont Garden Newsletter

July 2011

“Hello” from the Interns

Hello to all the Gardeners! You may have noticed some new people floating around the garden this summer. We are interns who work for Fort Dupont and are a part of the Student Conservation Association. Molly, an Arlington native studying at Stanford University, gardens as a hobby and also practices crew. She’s hoping to gain a hands-on approach to gardening and the opportunity to apply her classroom learning to the field (pun intended). Brad, a senior at University of Maryland, is majoring in Environmental Science and Policy. He says “the garden will be a great chance to learn how to

his own food. Magalee is a graduate of Oberlin College with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. She hopes one day to own a homeopathic health spa, and hopes this internship will teach her how to grow medicinal herbs.

Re-Vamping Compost Facilities -See those pallet-bins full to overflowing with branches, garbage and yellow-jacket’s nests around the park? These eyesores are soon to be replaced by a new and more managed set of compost bins. Behind the pumpkin patch the SCA interns are establishing a demonstrative education-

station on the compost process, as well as do’s and don’ts. In addition to providing better and less harmful soil for the plots, the interns hope the new bins will help to educate fellow farmers on an organic alternative to chemical fertilizers.

Getting a Plot-Our strictly organic garden is free and open to the public for the growing season, which lasts from April 1st to December 1st. Applicants are assigned one 25’x25’ plot to be renewed every year.



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Getting to know the interns

“DAB” (Dibbles and Buds) needs

Bulletin Board

Today’s Organic and Turf Tidbits



“People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us.” --Iris Murdoch

Words Among the Weeds

Dibble- a stick or tool that makes planting holes in the soil or media, and... **Bud**- a dormant growth point that is usually covered by scales.

Black-Eyed Susan- the Black-Eyed Susan is the state flower of Maryland. It is a type of sunflower that is yellow with a black center and is a good pollinator flower

Pollinator flowers- flowers, generally native to a specific area, which tend to attract pollinators. They are good for helping grow healthy gardens. Look for these kinds of flowers to begin growing around the edge of our garden in the near future

DAB still needs enthusiastic folks to help us “cultivate” the following areas of the newsletter:

- Feature articles
- Intern welcome

Important Phone Numbers to PLANT in your head:

Park Police Emergency: 202-610-7500

Park Police Non-Emergency: 202-610-7505

Fort Dupont Activity Center: 202-426-7723

Revamping compost Facilities



Bulletin Board:

The Park unfortunately does not have a tiller to lend.

Fort Dupont Web Page

<http://www.nps.gov/fodu/index.htm>

TODAY's Organic and Turf Tidbits:

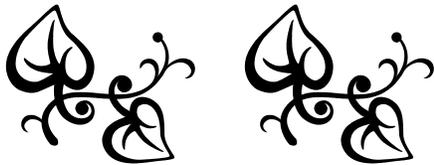
As you all know, the garden has gone completely organic. Since synthetic pesticides are no longer allowed, here are a couple suggestions for protecting your plants:

- *Chili powder.* Most bugs and animals find it distasteful, so sprinkling this in with your seeds will help keep out pests
- *Fences.* Nothing, and I mean nothing, serves as a better barrier for animals than a physical barrier. These fences should be tall and sturdy.



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- *Planting marigolds.* These flowers attract bugs. "But wait, aren't bugs what we want to get rid of?" you might ask. Well, the bugs marigolds attract eat the bugs that kill your flowers



Those Kids in the Garden

Pollinators— Some have been curious about the white boxes adjacent to the new shed, well as of June 1st we are hosting one honey bee hive to help promote pollination in the Garden. These 30,000-50,000 bees well especially help with the squash family. The SCA interns have also set up some native mason bee hives that will only encourage the honey bees to pollinate the veggies!

As part of a beatification effort for the community garden and an aid to the beehive in the southern half of the plots, the SCA garden interns will be planting a series of native wildflowers around their own model plot and at the north and south ends of the garden. In addition boosting pollination in the area, the flowers are expected to help control erosion in the slightly graded land.

Moreover, the interns will assist the National Park Service in creating two managed meadows near the earthworks-fort and Fort Davis drive. The managed meadows initiative is part of a project to reintroduce native

wildflowers and grasses into the area, and facilitate better pollination.

Kids n' the Garden:

Living Classrooms: A DC based camp which utilizes urban and natural resources to facilitate youth and community development, has signed up with the National Park Service to create a model plot in the middle of the garden. These children have selected a series of plants and herbs. They will learn about organic gardening and pesticides from a truly hands-on perspective.

Fort Dupont's CampFit: The park is hosting more than bees! This year we are helping to lead a kids camp that promotes active lifestyles and eating healthy. Both camps will be coming in and out of the garden throughout the summer, make sure to stop and stay hello!



On The Table for Discussion!

This is a "guest" we had that got tangled up in some garden fence equipment left in the woods. One of the reasons we have regulatory measures on storage is so that critters like our comrade here can be out monitoring rodents and invasive grasshoppers, so that our plants can thrive.

