

Growing New Roots in 2010

Dear Friends,

Grab your strongest magnet and stick this calendar to your refrigerator. Pin it near your desk at work. Copy it and give it to your favorite person. This calendar is *your personal reminder* from Wasatch Community Gardens of our upcoming workshops, volunteer days and events. After all, we know just how despondent you would feel if you could not remember the times of the Annual Plant Sale (8am-1pm) or how downhearted you would be if you missed *the best sandwich party in town* (Tomato Sandwich Party, Sept. 11th)!

Before you forget, turn this page over and explore our 2010 calendar of events. Did you notice anything different? For the first time, we are not only offering classes and workshops to teach you how to seed and weed, but also what to do with your home-grown produce once you harvest it. Come to our seasonal cooking classes for expert chopping advice and bring everyone to our family-friendly workshops on selected Monday nights.

Our enhanced calendar is an answer to public demand for best practices on how to utilize your garden space, the produce you grow, and cultivate sustainable communities and neighborhoods. The driving force behind important decisions like expanding our workshop series stems from our new strategic plan approved by the board in De-

ember 2009. Focus groups, personal interviews and over 300 of your responses to our online survey helped us recognize and prioritize what is most important to the community, and thus, to the direction of Wasatch Community Gardens. This plan will serve as a vital and detailed road map for the next three years. A summary can be found on our website.

Providing more garden space was strongly emphasized by the community through the needs assessment and therefore became a primary goal in our strategic plan. Truthfully, it seems like Wasatch Front residents can't get their hands on enough land in order to grow and eat their own healthy, organic, local food. Even the Salt Lake County government noticed the strong demand for gardening space and launched the Salt Lake County Urban Farming Initiative, taking publicly owned lands that are currently lying fallow and leasing them for urban farms and community gardens. We proudly serve on the advisory committee for the project, and have jointly applied for funding to help start more community gardens throughout Salt Lake County. In the mean-



time, we will work with community organizations and local governments to create a thriving network of sustainable community gardens.

We are also happy to announce that we will launch a new yard-sharing site in partnership with Urban Villages this spring. Yard-sharing is a project that connects under-used space with passionate people who need land to garden. Keep an eye on our website to learn how to provide or find garden space in your neighborhood.

From providing more garden space for Salt Lake County residents to printing this very newsletter that you are holding, our ability to carry out our work depends on the ongoing support and generosity from individuals, foundations and companies (big and small) that assist us throughout the year. We are deeply grateful for the funds, time and resources gifted to our organization, allowing Wasatch Community Gardens to serve the community into our 21st year. Again, thank you for your commitment to continually grow with us.

Sincerely,

Claire Uno, Executive Director

P.S. The plant sale is coming up! Did you know that if you donate \$250 or above to us prior to the Plant Sale, you are invited to the coveted Pre-Sale! This means short lines and first pick of your favorite heirlooms and perennials!