

FRANCISCAN EARTH LITERACY CENTER



A newsletter about the programs and activities of the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center and Seeds of Hope Farm

May 2010

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Plans are Underway for Third Annual Gala

The third annual Summer Harvest Gourmet Gala is set for August 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the St. Francis Campus in Tiffin. This premiere food and wine tasting event showcases the talents of regional chefs and features a sampling of wines from Ohio vintners.

The Gala is also a fundraiser for the FELC and is designed to offer guests a unique culinary opportunity: to taste gourmet fare featuring the locally grown produce from Seeds of Hope Farm and to meet

the chefs who prepared the dishes.



Chef Keith Mosser at the 2009 Gala

Proceeds benefit environmental education programs for children and

adults at the Center and the Farm.

Individual tickets are \$75 per person or \$55 per person if purchasing a table of eight. Invitations will be mailed in early July.

Volunteers are welcome to join the committee. If interested, contact Gala committee chair Joe Moore at 567-230-0249.

For more information about the Gala, contact the Center at 419-448-7485 or earthliteracy@sbcglobal.net.

Get Ready, Get Set for Summer Camp!

It's not too late for parents to register their child/children for FELC's Summer Camp programs. This year's camp schedule begins June 7 and runs until August 12. Camp fees range from \$60-\$80 for the week. More information and a registration form are available by clicking [here](#).

Farm Stand Open for the Season!

Seeds of Hope Farm is beginning its fifth year of operation and opened its farm stand on the St. Francis Community campus in early April. Patrons can purchase early seasonal items such as lettuce, spinach, rhubarb,

asparagus and chives along with eggs and whole meat chickens.

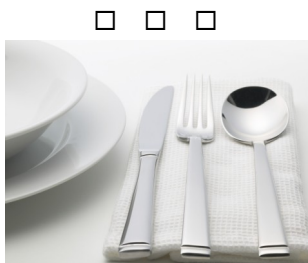
This season, some new produce has been added to the farm stand selection. Look for broccoli, leeks, poblano and ancho peppers, kohlrabi, heir-

loom tomatoes and bok choy to be available throughout the summer.

The self-service stand is open daily, 9:00 a.m. to dusk. For directions, look for signs pointing the way on St. Francis Ave.



Revolver Restaurant to Host Fundraiser for FELC



Revolver Restaurant is located at 110 East Sandusky Street in downtown Findlay. Regular business hours are Monday through Saturday, opening at 5:30 p.m. for dinner only.

Revolver Restaurant in Findlay will serve up a special event on Thursday, June 3rd. That evening, the restaurant will close its doors for regular business and instead, welcome guests as a fundraiser for the Center. Chef and owner, Michael Bulkowski has invited a few of his culinary friends to assist him in preparing a extraordinary meal. Guest chefs include Erin

Moody, a pastry chef at BLT Steak in Atlanta, James Lohse ,chef de cuisine at Rathbun’s in Atlanta, and Val Bolon, a personal chef and contestant from season four of the hit Bravo show, *Top Chef*.

Two seatings are being planned and the restaurant holds 40 guests. The first seating will begin at 5:30 p.m., with another one to follow at 8:30 p.m.

The price for the multi-course meal is \$120.00. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the restaurant at 419-424-4020.



FELC Barn Gets “Floored” by Eagle Scout Project



Student Dillon Bogner is pictured outside of the FELC this spring. His repair work of the barn floor earned him an Eagle Scout award.

Dillon Bogner, a student at Bridges Community Academy on the St. Francis campus was looking for an Eagle Scout project last year. So he made a call to Michael Conner, the director of the Center and from that conversation, he found his mission: to replace half of the flooring in the hay loft of the barn.

The second floor of the barn (which was once an operating dairy barn for the Sisters of St. Francis until the 1960s) had seen better days and was unus-

able and in dire need of repair. In the meantime, the Center was hampered by a shortage of storage space for seasonal farm equipment, and needed to free up space on the ground floor of the barn. So, renovating the second floor was a pressing need. Dillon jumped at the chance to do the repair work and quickly recruited some friends and family members to assist him in this rather ambitious undertaking.

The cost of the new flooring came in around \$1,100

and Dillon was able to raise \$400 towards the cost. He also received a donation of all the screws needed for the project from Tiffin Hardware. The crew kept other costs low by using their own tools.

It took Dillon approximately 24 hours over several weeks to complete the work.

Thanks to Dillon and his team of helpers, the new flooring in the hay loft has made an old barn seem new again. And given an Eagle Scout his due reward.

Project S.T.R.A.W. Gears Up for Phase One

There are exciting developments concerning Project S.T.R.A.W. on the horizon, according to Jim Bailey, FELC Board Member. As chair of the Project S.T.R.A.W. Committee, Jim recently reported that final construction drawings have been received from the architect and natural builder and were reviewed by the committee. The next step is approval of the plans by

the FELC Board of Trustees.

Some revisions were made to each phase of the construction plan in order to develop a more realistic timeline, contingent upon raising enough money to complete each phase. Phase One now includes laying the foundation, completing the framework and the roof. This phase is tentatively

scheduled to begin sometime this summer.

Donations raised to date in support of Project S.T.R.A.W. total \$34,764.

With the impending decision by the Sisters of St. Francis to install solar panels on the campus and at the FELC, there is the likelihood that the straw bale house will produce more energy than it uses. A very recent decision has

been made to use a type of sub-floor insulation made from recycled glass. This would be the first time this kind of insulation is used in North America.

The committee continues to raise awareness of the project by making presentations in the community, attracting volunteers and submitting grant requests.

Children's Garden at FELC Gets Growing



The Children's Garden at the FELC is a designated plot of land designed specially for teaching children about the ways a garden can positively impact their lives. This year's garden has several themes and was designed by FELC educator, Melissa Fensler. The first section is a Giant's Garden and will

grow extra large produce such as walking stick cabbage and yard-long green beans. Another area is a Sunflower House with an herbal walkway nearby. The remainder is dedicated to a pizza garden which will produce topping favorites such as bell peppers, cherry tomatoes and zucchini.

Melissa explained that the Children's Garden is incorporated in some way into all of the FELC's summer camps but is the star attraction of the "Roots, Shoots and Boots" Camp scheduled for June 7-10. For more information about this camp, click [here](#).

FELC's Adult Education Committee organized an exciting and well-received slate of workshops which ran from January through May. The series will resume in early fall. Look for more details about upcoming workshops in future issues of this newsletter!

Ready to Make a Low Impact?

In April, FELC's Adult Education Series featured a workshop on the book, "No Impact Man," by Colin Beavan. Information was shared on practical ways to lower our impact on the earth and reduce

our carbon footprint. The workshop presenters, FELC Board Chairperson Michael Brown and volunteer Merre Phillips are hoping to continue the discussion on ways to live more lightly upon the

earth as part of an ongoing reading circle. Anyone interested in the program can contact Mike at 419-618-1054 or Merre at 419-618-8586. If enough people are interested, a six to eight week guided discus-

sion group could start in mid-June. For more information about the book, access the No Impact Man website by clicking [here](#).



Make Earth Literacy Happen!

At the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center, we believe that understanding our environment and the relationship between people and nature is an important and critical issue for our future. Research shows that real-life, hands-on learning effectively *reaches and teaches* people of all ages.



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We promote active learning through environmental education using on-site natural resources such as woods, farmland, wetlands, and gardens. Teaching others what inhabits this property and how these species interact and depend on one another is what “*earth literacy*” is all about. Ongoing financial support helps the Center make earth literacy happen every day! If you’d like to make a donation to the FELC, click [here](#) and then click on “Give a Gift.” On behalf of the children pictured above, we appreciate your support!

Solar Panels Possible Energy Source for Campus

In recent months, the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center, along with the larger St. Francis Community have been researching ways to reduce utility costs and make the campus more “green” and efficient by using alternative sources of energy.



One option is to install solar panels

at strategic places on the campus.

Two locations are being considered: the roof top at Elizabeth Schaefer Apartments (due to its flat roof surface) and on the ground at the FELC.

Combined, these locations would equal slightly over 80 kilowatts of power, 64kw at ESA and 16kw at the FELC.

The St. Francis Community is currently in talks

with several third party contractors who would fund the project and provide tax credits and grants available through the Ohio Department of Development and the State of Ohio.

The benefits of solar panels are derived from not having to use coal-generated electricity, less cost and educating others about using an environmentally sound and clean energy source.



Franciscan Earth
LITERACY CENTER

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