

August 2008 Issue

# The Shoving Leopard Leaf

Shoving Leopard Farm: 845-758-9961 Garden Manager: Marina Michahelles Garden Assistants: Louis Munroe, Jen Carson, Gretchen Poullet and The Chicks

## News from the garden

This July was a hot one with a few rainless weeks early on. Some of the little starts – some carrots, beets, and new greens - suffered, but what has made it through is now thriving. I watch in amazement as 4-pound "Mortgage lifter" tomatoes ripen on the vine, as the volunteer pumpkin takes over the front bed, and as sweet corn makes a miraculous recovery from the dry spell. The flowers are growing, some of the copper amaranth are over 10-feet tall!

Cucumbers and summer squash have been hit hard by cucumber beetles and squash bugs, which have been squished and squashed on an almost daily basis; Japanese beetles and tomato horn worms – some covered in parasitic wasps as evidence of organic gardening in action – make delectable snacks for the chicks.

I have built yet another chicken house, this one reminiscent of the wompa wompa bird cage in "The Twits" by Roald Dahl. There are two nesting boxes that Gretchen has become territorial-Flowers of, and where she continues to lay an egg a day. One of the auracana hens is showing signs of broodiness, as she hovers over the egg when Gretchen is foraging for bugs and grass. I think they'll be happy in this one through the fall.



### At the stand

Open with extras on fair-weather weekends!

Beginning August 16<sup>th</sup>, the stand will have:

- -Beans (haricots verts, dragons' lingerie, more)
- -Zucchini and other summer squash

-Heirloom tomatoes, peppers (hot and sweet)

-Okra -Herbs

-Sam's Rokeby Bees' Raw Honey

-More if there are extras from the CSA



SHOVING LEOPARD FARM

Tee-shirts with Shoving Leopard Farm logo available for \$8!

Choose from a variety of styles, sizes, and colors!



#### Recipes of the month, by Abra

#### Picallily

4 C apple cider vinegar 2 C water 1 C sugar 1 C dry mustard ½ C horseradish 1 T black pepper 1 t all spice 1 T salt

Combine and pour over blanched veg Jar and process

#### **Pickled Sweet Cherries**

1 ½ C red wine vinegar
1 ½ C red wine
1 C brown sugar
4 tsp salt
thyme and bay or black pepper and sage

Bring all except the spices to a boil and pour over cherries that have filled sanitized jars. Add spices and herbs Put on sanitized lids and seal in a hot water bath.

#### Ratatouille

1 large eggplant 2 zucchini or summer squash 1 onion 3 cloves garlic Pinch of chili flakes 1 bell pepper 1 tablespoon of capers 2 large tomatoes (Any other summer vegetables you'd like to add) Parsley, basil or marjoram to garnish

Sweat the onion, garlic and chili flakes in olive oil Add the roughly chopped tomatoes and let them cook down Meanwhile salt the sliced eggplant and then sauté until dark brown in a separate pan Add the rest of the veg including the eggplant and capers Taste and adjust for seasoning. The texture should be reduced but still slightly liquidy.

PYO Flowers Tuesday-Sunday 10-7

845 River Road Barrytown, NY 12507

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#### The Nutrition Corner, by Rosalind

#### Kale – the Headless Cabbage

Nutritionally kale offers you beta carotene, vitamin C, vitamin K, calcium, lutein, and zeaxanthin. Those last two, you will remember, are considered enormously helpful for the eyes, especially if you might be prey to macular degeneration.

Kale is, furthermore, a source of **manganese**, one of those trace minerals we can't do without. Why not? Because it seems to cover a lot of territory: enzyme activation, mineral absorption,

vitamin C utilization, bone and muscle strength, and nerve wellbeing, among other functions.

Beware, however, of too much kale if you take anticoagulants (e.g., warfarin) as the vitamin K in kale may increase the blood thinning beyond what's desirable. If for that reason you aren't supposed to eat it, you can instead visit Marina's garden to look at it. The purpleand-green variety is very decorative indeed.

rosalind@nutrition-matters.info

#### A Local Hotspot

PYO Flowers Tuesday-Sunday 10-7

The farm stand is open on Sat and Sun, from 11-6. It is accessible from Rokeby or from the Poet's Walk, both off of River Road in Barrytown.



Austin and Axel have caught the entrepreneurial bug and have opened a crêpe stand in the back of Migliarelli's farm stand at the corner of 199 and River Road.

#### Raw Honey, by Sam's Bee

#### 2008 Price List

-1 lb. jar raw honey- \$7 w/ honeycomb - \$10 -2.5 lb. jar - \$15 w/ honeycomb - \$18 -Cut comb, 4 inch square - \$10 -Beeswax t-light candles - \$1 or 6/\$5

All in LIMITED QUANTITIES for the next few weeks till goldenrod comes into full bloom.

Sam Comfort, Anarchy Apiaries 406-396-8357, anarchyapiaries@hotmail.com Both savory and sweet toppings are offered, and feature local, seasonal fruit. They are open Wednesday through Sunday (I think!), and usually run out of batter by 3:30 PM, so hurry up!

#### **Upcoming Events**

\* NOFA 34<sup>th</sup> Summer Conference, August 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> at UMass, Amherst, MA.

\* Seeds and Salsa Workshop, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:30 at Poughkeepsie Farm Project. \$8 members, \$10 non-members. Register in advance at info@farmproject.org.

\* Hot canning workshop – relish and salsa, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 at Poughkeepsie Farm Project. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Register in advance at info@farmproject.org.

\* Dutchess County Fair, August 19<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-10 at the Dutchess County Fair Grounds in Rhinebeck. Purchase tickets online in advance to save a few dollars for a few extra rides!



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#### How to find the stand

