

Red Wiggler Community Farm

<http://www.redwiggler.org>

Creating fertile ground to nourish a healthy and inclusive community

Red Wiggler Community Farm
P.O. Box 968
Clarksburg, MD 20871
Phone: 301-916-2216

We create fertile ground to nourish a healthy and inclusive community.

Red Wiggler Community Farm is a 501(c)3 non-profit founded by Woody Woodroof in 1996 to create meaningful, fully included jobs for adults with developmental disabilities through the business of growing and selling high quality, home grown vegetables here in Montgomery County MD. The backbone of our farm is our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program which, by its nature, creates and nurtures a healthy and inclusive community. We also work to provide opportunities for area youth to participate in small scale farming. Finally, all our activities occur in cooperation with nature and through the lens of environmental stewardship.

We are back to planting seeds and growing great food! (04/07/08)

OUR CSA IS NOW SOLD OUT FOR 2008 (updated 01/22/08 12:20 pm)

We sold out today in 3 hours! We are grateful for the incredible interest in our Community Farm and in particular our CSA. THANK YOU. We plan to slowly grow our CSA in an attempt to meet the rising demand in local produce. In the meantime we suggest you visit the local farmers markets and orchards.

We will be offering new shares the day after Martin Luther King Day 2009.

For info on the Red Wiggler CSA

Red Wiggler Community Farm



Our Vision

We create fertile ground to nourish a healthy and inclusive community.

This vision has us serving four different "target populations". This approach creates a vibrant, dynamic and inclusive community farm where each participant has a place at the table.

1. Meaningful employment for adults with developmental disabilities.
Our growers - adults with developmental disabilities - plant, care for, harvest our crops and meet the customers who buy their produce. For many of our growers, their relationship with Red Wiggler goes back 8 years and provides them with employment as well as vocational satisfactions they would not otherwise enjoy. Adults with developmentally disabilities are our primary target population.
2. Educational opportunities through "service learning" for area youth to participate in all aspects of the growing cycle. Youth with and without disabilities join the farm team to ensure that our vegetables and flowers are given what they need. They help with harvests and often glean food from the fields for delivery to area food banks. Service Learning opportunities are incorporated with educational lessons about environmental stewardship issues. Area youth are our second target population.
3. Environmental stewardship. We actively preserve open farmland, create and maintain fertile ground using sustainable agricultural practices and open our doors to groups interested in visiting our farm to see how we make it all happen in concert with nature. Those who participate in our CSA program and the general public who learn from Red Wiggler about environmentally friendly farming practices are the third target population
4. In February of 2006 our Board of Directors voted to include our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in our Mission Statement. Our CSA program really is the backbone of our activities at Red Wiggler. The CSA is the vehicle that propels us towards our Vision of creating a healthy and inclusive community.

Core Values

Red Wiggler Community Farm believes in:

1. Reconnecting people with the source of their food and the local community.
2. Creating an environment of respect, cooperation, integrity, and innovative thinking.
3. Ensuring purposeful work and equal treatment for all stakeholders.
4. Fostering opportunities for outreach and meaningful education of youth, adults, and employees.
5. Building local food security for our community.
6. Being a catalyst for community collaborations and volunteerism.
7. Practicing environmental stewardship through ecologically sensitive best practices

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Please be sure to read carefully through this page, the application (posted below) and these links:
[list of CSA crops](#) | [CSA FAQ](#) | see our blog for more info on actual harvests for past years.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is about sharing--sharing the food we produce, the risks we take, and the community we all create. CSA is a unique option for people seeking fresh, local and seasonal produce for their table. By investing in a CSA you are also investing in the sustainability of farming, food, the local community, and our program here at Red Wiggler. We have run a successful CSA here in Montgomery County MD since 1996. Our CSA has grown gradually from 12 "shares" to 80 "shares" in 2008. Many members return year after year while some find that CSA is not for them at this time. Our happiest customers live nearby (within 15 miles) or join up with neighbors and rotate who picks up. Our average CSA member lived 11 miles from the farm in 2006. In general, if you enjoy cooking and being challenged in the kitchen to try new vegetables you will have a good experience. We encourage CSA members to treat their season like they would a continuing education experience. Try new things in the kitchen, ask the growers how we prepare kohlrabi or hakurei turnips. CSA members utilizing the "pick your own" flower and herb garden on a regular basis also get the most out of the experience.

Our CSA is the backbone of our mission and core values. We create meaningful employment for adults with developmental disabilities. This is why we were formed and it is at the core of everything we do. The jobs created by the CSA enable our activities at Red Wiggler to thrive. Please take a moment to look over our entire web site. Our vision is to create fertile ground to nourish a healthy and inclusive community. At this time we are actively seeking to ensure that low-income adults with developmental disabilities are included in our CSA program. Local food security is one of our core values. The CSA is integral to our mission and our core values are imbedded in our CSA program. more

2008 CSA INFORMATION - Updated January 22 2008 (12:20pm)

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Below is the 2008 information for people interested in the 2009 season.

Here are some details about the 2008 season: (changes will be made for 2009 in an effort to expand the CSA to better meet demand)

This year we are instituting a new "Membership Fee" of \$50.00 and this fee is a fully tax-deductible contribution to Red Wiggler Community Farm.

Your Membership Fee will be utilized to:

- 1) **Provide reduced priced CSA shares to area Group Homes serving people with developmental disabilities.**
- 2) **Maintain meaningful on the job training opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.**
- 3) **Ensure "Service Learning" activities on the farm for youth and adults both with and without disabilities.**
- 4) **Sustain our efforts to act as stewards of the land by utilizing the best practices of organic agriculture while actively creating habitat for wildlife. In particular we are focused on developing habitat for the Monarch and Baltimore Checkerspot Butterflies and Eastern Blue Birds.**

Members will pick up their share at the Farm (Ovid Hazen Wells Park, 23400 Ridge Road). driving directions on either Wednesdays (2pm-5pm) or Saturdays (9am-12pm)

The REGULAR SEASON spans 20 weeks with 18 weeks of delivery. Membership Fee: \$50 CSA Participation for 2008 \$450 = \$500

There are no harvests the week of the Annual Farm Tour in late July. And no harvests the week of our Annual Supper and Silent Auction in early September. For your "Regular Season Share" price we commit to harvest and offer:

- 1) 18 weeks of fresh, chemical free, seasonal vegetables that you pick up on the farm (Note: you'll choose Wednesdays from 2-5pm or Saturdays from 9 to noon)
- 2) An expanding "Pick Your Own" flower and herb garden
- 3) Hard Copy Newsletters with seasonally appropriate recipes and farm news each week for 18 weeks
- 4) A blog ([click here for a link to the blog](#))
- 5) The opportunity to meet the people who grow your food each week. You are always encouraged to ask questions about how your food is grown, how to use the vegetables etc..

We also offer an optional 5 weeks of an "EXTENDED SEASON ". These fall shares are picked up on Wednesdays (2pm-5pm) The cost of an extended season share is \$125 and are only available to existing members. Space in this option is limited to 25 shares

In 2008 We will be offering an ALTERNATE WEEK share. This option has been developed in an effort to make more shares available to the many people who seek to participate in CSA. \$50 tax-deductible membership fee + \$250 CSA Alternate Week Share = \$300

For an "Alternate Week Share" participants will:

- 1) Choose to come to the farm to pick up a weekly share every other Wednesday from 2-5pm.
- OR
- 2) Choose to come to the farm to pick up a weekly share every other Saturday from 9am to noon.

Alternate week participants will:

- be grouped into two groups, and "A" group and a "B" group
- Pay \$250 + the \$50 tax-deductible membership fee for a total of \$300 to be paid in full before the first harvest.
- Enjoy all the same benefits of a regular CSA share every other week.
- Understand that actual harvest amounts vary with the season and that Red Wiggler makes no guarantees with respect to the total value delivered over the course of the 2008 season.

Be sure to look over our CSA FrequentlyAskedQuestions (FAQ) page for more details.

We receive a tremendous amount of interest in our CSA program- we apologize for not being able to assist each interested potential CSA member individually. We hope that this newly updated page will help answer some of the questions you may have regarding the 2008 CSA season. Additionally we are looking into new software that may help us manage the interest in joining our CSA. Until then- if you are interested in joining our CSA in 2008 please send us an email with "CSA 2008" in the subject line. Please include your snail mailing address in the email.
info@redwiggler.org

People

Red Wiggler, as a 501(c)3 non-profit, enjoys the benefit of an all volunteer Board of Directors.

As of January 2007 our Board includes the following community leaders:

Marlene Michealson, President | Jon Pratt, Vice President |
Chris Bruch | Nancy Everett | Jack Dillon | Jim Hochron | Jean Hochron

Our Staff includes:

Woody Woodroof, Founder and Executive Director
Adrienne Altstatt, Farm Manager | Beth McCormack, Service Learning

Our seasonal Growers:

are referred to us by agencies like the Arc of Montgomery County, CSAAC, and SEEC-Maryland who provide adults with developmental disabilities support services. Thank you to the Arc of Montgomery County for providing support for our growers.

In 2005 there were 12 growers helping to produce the finest and healthiest vegetables in Montgomery County Maryland. More about the growers

Our Community Supported Agriculture program:

is made up of 80 local households who participate in our seasonal vegetable subscription service. These community members visit the farm once a week throughout our 20 week harvest season. These people form the backbone of our activities here at Red Wiggler. They not only provide us with much needed revenue but they help cultivate the Red Wiggler vision of creating fertile ground to nourish a healthy and inclusive community. These families often learn along side our growers which vegetables grow in which season (no, tomatoes aren't harvested in June!), how different vegetables grow in different conditions, and connect with where their food comes from.

The bottom line here is that this program provides valuable social and business interaction for our growers. more

Our Volunteer and Service Learning program: exists to provide for the needs of our Community Farm while also cultivation learning opportunities for area youth with and without disabilities. In 2006 we enjoyed the support of more than 200 youth volunteers and nearly that many adults. Again, the bottom line here is that our growers enjoy a shared sense of accomplishment when they are working alongside others in the community towards the common goal of producing the healthiest, most delicious vegetables in the area. Our volunteer program contributes significantly to our vision. We are grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who have contributed their time to Red Wiggler since 1996. more

Creating fertile ground to nurture a healthy and inclusive community.



Woody Woodroof
Founder and Executive Director

Woody grew up in Richmond VA attending the Collegiate Schools and then graduating in 1984 from Blue Ridge School in St. George VA. He graduated from Denison University in 1988 with a B.F.A. in studio art - photography. Many of the photographs on this web site and the blog were taken by Woody. After several years employed as a freelance photographer he found himself in a part-time job working with adults with developmental disabilities. The experience led him to develop and ultimately implement a creative approach to the employment needs of adults with developmental disabilities.

Today the Red Wiggler Community Farm exists to cultivate meaningful jobs that are an integral part of our community and a source of pride for the people who hold those jobs. Additionally, the farm runs a youth program in the summer, contributes fresh produce to area food banks and sells produce to more than 70 families in our Community Supported Agriculture program. In 1996 Woody received a Pyramid Award from Montgomery County MD's Department of Health and Human Services for his work supporting adults with developmental disabilities. In 2001 he received the Myrtle Wreath Award from the Washington Area Chapter of Hadassah for achievement in the area of public service. Red Wiggler itself has received a number of awards too.

GROWERS

We cultivate meaningful employment for adults with developmental disabilities. Red Wiggler Community Farm (a recognized 501c3 non-profit) is located in Montgomery County, Maryland. Founded in 1996, Red Wiggler's main tenet is to provide gainful employment for adults with developmental disabilities through a unique horticulture program. The bulk of this program focuses on building a vocational structure that identifies and builds on the abilities of our clients with developmental disabilities such as Autism, Downs Syndrome, and Mental Retardation. We call our clients "growers". We assign the grower's farm tasks based on their individual abilities. These abilities are nurtured by our staff. Tasks undertaken by the growers include growing and selling vegetables, taking care of a chicken flock, and maintaining fields, barns, and equipment. Our growers cultivate vegetables on six acres in Montgomery County, MD and then sell or donate this produce to the community. We serve the Montgomery County community in the following ways:

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA): This is a unique program in which families "subscribe" to our vegetable harvest during the summer for a set price. Weekly for 18 weeks each subscriber comes to the farm to pick-up an overflowing box of whatever vegetables are being harvested that week. In this way, the customer supports our social mission while also enjoying delicious vegetables at an affordable price. Not only do customers learn which vegetables grow in which season (no, tomatoes aren't harvested in June!), how different vegetables grow in different conditions, and understand where their food comes from, but they also provide valuable social and business interaction for our growers. In 2005, Red Wiggler hosted 72 families in its CSA program. These 72 shares included shares for 2 group homes in Montgomery County.

Local Markets: We also sell at local markets and to local restaurants. One of our favorite markets is the Leisure World Farmer's Market in Silver Spring. Leisure World is a large retirement community where we market our fresh produce once a week throughout the summer. We are happy to be able to provide a senior population with nutritious, homegrown, affordable vegetables. The transaction between customer and grower provides immeasurable pride and reward for our growers. We held 6 farmer's markets at Leisure World Maryland in 2005 during the peak of tomato season.

Gleaning for Food Banks: Additionally, our growers harvest and deliver food to the Manna Food Center in Rockville, Maryland. We have donated over 18,000 pounds of vitamin-rich, fresh produce to area food banks since 1996 (averaging 2,180 lbs. in 45 trips annually). This transaction allows our growers the sense that they are giving back to the community, which again, is a source of tremendous pride and reward for these growers. We delivered 2,459 pounds of produce in 50 trips to MANNA in 2005.

Youth Volunteer Position Description

Position Title: Youth Volunteers

Age: At least 12 years old or in the sixth grade - unless with a group

Supervisor: Volunteer Coordinator and Farm Manager

Purpose / Function: To meet the daily or on-going needs of the farm. The farm provides meaningful jobs for adults with developmental disabilities. Students may work with a grower/client or with other volunteers to complete the daily needs of the farm.

Hours of Volunteering (Weather Permitting):

March - November, Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:30/ 1:00 PM

One Saturday a month during the growing season 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Time Commitment: Two or more hours occasionally, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Generally booked from 9:00 – 12:00/12:30 followed by lunch with farm staff/growers during the weekdays

Qualifications:

- Mature, Patient, Friendly, Punctual, and Reliable
- Accepting and Non-judgmental of all people
- Ability to treat Growers/Clients, Staff, and fellow Volunteers with respect
- Able to do general farm work (may include transplanting, planting, weeding, mulching, harvesting, and lifting)
- Supportive of the agency's mission

Major Responsibilities:

- Students not accompanied by a teacher or supervisor must have filled out a Youth Volunteer Application and have all Parental Consent Forms signed
- Read and follow the agency's policies and procedures
- To notify agency if unable to come for the scheduled hours
- To complete the assigned farm job (may include transplanting, planting, weeding, mulching, harvesting, and lifting) and return materials used to complete the job to their proper place

Opportunities for Volunteer:

- To participate in meaningful educational, social, and vocational training.
- To complete Service Learning requirements
- To develop gardening skills
- Self enrichment
- Future work referrals and recommendations

Training and Preparation:

- The Red Wiggler Community Farm will provide training
- Training topics will include policies and procedures, the service learning requirement, and steps needed to complete the assigned farm job

Here are some highlights from our 2006 growing season.

In 2006, growers worked 2,465 hours and earning 30% more than 2005.

Our growers work hard, earn money, pay taxes, and keep the farm running. Red Wiggler provides an inclusive and nurturing work environment where our growers are able to flourish and function just as "everyday" individuals earning a living. The growers worked 9 CSA pick-ups, 6 Leisure World farmers' markets, and made 55 trips to MANNA Food Center in Rockville. Each of these

activities provides valuable interaction with our customers but also with the community at large. By meeting our customers and delivering our food face-to-face, our growers are able to grasp the value of their hard work in the field.

Our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) group grew to 74 households including 3 group homes serving low income adults with developmental disabilities. Additionally, we extended our harvest season by 4 weeks for a group of 20 households. We held Wednesday evening and Saturday morning pick-ups in the barn this year. Many of our customers enjoyed the Pick-Your-Own garden and the many delicacies it had to offer. The CSA provides a foundation for jobs, volunteer opportunities, community interaction, and education. All our customers are a valuable part of this multi-dimensional framework and we utilize this educational opportunity to endorse fresh, local food as we work towards creating local food security in our community.

Growers delivered 3,170 pounds of food to MANNA Food Center in Rockville in 2006, a 29% increase from 2005. Not only do we recognize the inherent value in providing our local community customers with good, nutritious food, we also emphasize the importance of contributing to and the nourishing of, a healthy community that includes those that may not be able to afford good food. Their hard work nourishes not only our paying customers but those less fortunate.

Youth with disabilities completed 188 hours of service-learning activities on the farm in 2006. Special education school groups visit the farm regularly each year to participate in some type of on-farm service-learning activity. Often, these school groups come more than once a season and enjoy a wide range of activity. Over time, they have built relationships with our growers and also are able to visualize job opportunities for their own futures. In total, 260 youth (with and without disabilities) doubled volunteer hours from 2005, a 106% increase. Several independent youth and school groups visited the farm during the 2006 season and worked side by side with growers, staff, and other volunteers. In addition to the valuable interactions with our customers, growers have always enjoyed working along side volunteers helping in the gardens.

Not only do youth volunteers work to ensure our farm meets our goals for growing the finest vegetables around, they learn about sustainable agriculture and farming methods in the process. And underneath the volunteer work we find that a deeper sense of community is being developed through the shared work.

2006 Environmental Stewardship Highlights

On June 9, 2006, a Baltimore Checkerspot (Euphydryas phaeton) butterfly was spotted on Red Wiggler Community Farm. Our bordering wetland habitat is an ideal setting for "The Baltimore's" host plant- White Turtlehead. This sighting was extremely important. There are only 11 known colonies in Maryland. Red Wiggler will create a "butterfly garden" in the spring of 2007 to ensure a protected habitat for the "Baltimore" as well as monarch and other beneficial insects. This garden will create paid work for our growers, great service-learning opportunities for youth with and without disabilities and help to further the invaluable part of our mission dedicated to stewardship of the land and its creatures. And we need your support to realize this valuable opportunity!

In October, Red Wiggler hosted a stop along the 16th Annual Metro Washington, D.C. Tour of Solar Homes and Buildings. The Solar House when fully installed will provide ultra energy efficient "workforce" housing and with a 27/7 presence we will finally be able to bring animals back to the farm! We are still raising money for our Straw Bale insulated Farm building which will provide our growers with four seasons of work on the farm as well as a place to make arts and crafts for sale during the winter months. But we still need to raise the last 20% of funds necessary to complete construction.

Sponsors and Financial Supports

Red Wiggler is a 501(C)3 non-profit.

We are grateful to the following businesses, organizations and individuals who, through their generosity, help to create fertile ground to nurture a healthy and inclusive community.

THANK YOU

Our 2006 Annual Supper and Silent Auction was a huge success.

Please follow this link to see a list of supporters that made the event better than ever

Businesses

Abundant Life Seeds
Biohabitats of Virginia
Boys Presbyterian Church
Brown and Associates
Common Market Foods
Davidson and Associates, CPA's
Down to Earth Architecture
EDAW of Arlington

Focus Data Solutions
Whole Foods of Kentlands
Gaithersburg Ford-Kubota Tractor Co.
High Mowing Organics
Home Depot
Hunting and Associates

IBM
IMF
Innisfree, Inc.
Johnny's Selected Seeds
Maryland Gardens
Second Sight Design
Southern States Garden Center
Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP
Takoma Soy
Whitney, Bailey, Cox and Magnani Engieneers

Private Foundations:

Atticus Foundation
CAS Cares Foundation
Charles S. Abell Foundation
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Engle Family Foundation
Fannie May Foundation
Foundation Carinoso
Jerome and Grace Murray Foundation
Joanna Foundation
Kiwanis Club Foundation of Leisure World
Knights of Columbus of Montgomery County
Montgomery County Community Foundation
Phase Foundation
United Way of the Capital Area
Verla K. Regnery Foundation

Local Government Agencies:

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County

Maryland National Park and Planning Commission
Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services
Montgomery County Dept. of Solid Waste
(see the Leaf-Gro web site)
Up-County Regional Services Center
University of Maryland Solar Decathlon Team

Federal Government:
USDA- CSREES-

USDA Awards \$4.6 Million in Grants for Community Food Projects

News Release Contact:
Scott Elliott, CSREES Staff, (202) 720-7185

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21, 2006 - Deputy Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner announced today that 32 grants totaling \$4.6 million have been awarded to community organizations to help low-income Americans to eat healthfully.

"These grants give more Americans access to nutritious foods," Conner said. "They are innovative programs that increase self-reliance of communities by giving them the opportunity to create partnerships and programs to meet their own food, farm and nutrition needs."

Community Food Projects (CFP) awards will aid non-profit organizations in 19 states and one territory to carry out projects to help low-income communities.

This year, for the first time, small grants of up to \$25,000 were awarded for planning projects to help communities assess local needs and build collaborations that will lead to community food security projects. The grants are administered through USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES).

The CFP grants, first administered in 1996, help eligible private, nonprofit entities that need a one-time infusion of funds to carry out community food projects. Projects are funded for one to three years in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$300,000. The grants require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources. The matching amounts come from a variety of sources including the grantees, partnering collaborators or local agencies. Funds have been authorized through 2007 at \$5 million per year.

The fiscal year 2006 grant awards are:

- Jones Valley Urban Farm, Birmingham, Ala., \$145,000.
- Girls 2000, San Francisco, Calif., \$280,000.
- Whittier Area First Day Coalition, Whittier, Calif., \$25,000.
- Thai Community Development Center, Los Angeles, Calif., \$20,000.
- Middle Way House, Bloomington, Ind., \$280,000.
- Mid North Food Pantry, Indianapolis, Ind., \$6,560.
- New Orleans Food and Farm Network, New Orleans, La., \$265,000.
- Red Wiggler Farm, Clarksburg, Md., \$11,010.
- United Teen Equity Center, Lowell, Mass., \$290,000.
- Somerville Community Corporation, Somerville, Mass., \$25,000.
- Groundwork Lawrence, Lawrence, Mass., \$24,435
- Warren/Conner Development Coalition, Detroit, Mich., \$299,884.
- Allen Neighborhood Center, Lansing, Mich., \$240,000.

- West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Grand Rapids, Mich., \$24,100.
- Youth Farm and Market Project, Minneapolis, Minn., \$25,000.
- Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Columbia, Mo., \$73,898.
- Open Harvest Natural Foods Cooperative, Lincoln, Neb., \$275,982.
- Taos County Economic Development Corporation, Taos, N.M., \$280,900.
- Farm to Table, Santa Fe, N.M., \$199,924.
- City Harvest, New York, N.Y., \$288,793
- Lower East Side Girls Club of New York, New York, N.Y., \$270,000.
- Broadway Market Management Corporation, Buffalo, N.Y., \$25,000.
- Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, Kinston, N.C., \$90,735.
- American Community Gardening Association, Columbus, Ohio, \$150,000.
- Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Athens, Ohio, \$94,000.
- Toledo Area Ministries, Toledo, Ohio, \$25,000.
- Legacy Cultural Learning Center, Muskogee, Okla., \$13,895.
- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, Fredericksburg, Texas, \$124,000.
- Lynchburg Grows, Lynchburg, Va., \$299,912.
- Garden-Raised Bounty, Olympia, Wash., \$269,972.
- Cascade Land Conservancy, Seattle, Wash., \$25,000.
- Growing Power, Milwaukee, Wis., \$132,000.

CSREES advances knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov>.