



Munnell Run Farm News

March, 2008

Join Us For Our 9th Annual Earth Day Celebration

Our Ninth Annual Earth Day Celebration will take place at Munnell Run Farm on April 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The day's activities will include a short Earth Day program, tree planting, and lunch! *There is no charge for this event.* All participants will be eligible to win door prizes furnished by area businesses and friends of the farm.



Earth Day 2007

Pre-registration is requested by April 11, 2008. The program fills quickly and is limited to 150 participants, so please register early. You may register via our website: www.munnellrunfarm.org or call 724-662-2242 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Spring Fun at the Farm: Preschool Programs To Begin

Our annual series of spring pre-school programs for children ages 3, 4, and 5 will be held at Munnell Run Farm on consecutive Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., April 9-April 30, 2008 and *are by pre-registration only*. The fee for each program is \$2.00 per child and may be paid the day of the visit. **ALL CHILDREN IN THIS AGE GROUP MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.** We recommend bringing a drink and a small snack. Permission slips are required and will be kept on file. Register online at www.munnellrunfarm.org or call (724) 662-2242 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs fill quickly, so please register early. Preschools and day care centers with groups of 10 or more children may call to request a separate program.



It's not too late to get involved in the garden challenge!



There are still a couple of garden beds available. Call 724-662-2242 to sign up or for more information.

Adult Gardening Program Scheduled for May 13

On Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. Munnell Run Farm will offer its third annual adult gardening program. Certified arborist Tom Kavanagh, of Cottage Gardens, will present "Pruning 101: How & When Do I Prune That?" He will discuss the basics of pruning and how different techniques apply to the variety of plants found in your landscape. In addition, landscape designer Shannon McConnell, also of Cottage Gardens, will present "Design Inspirations for the Homeowner," which will give examples of how to create the feeling of various outdoor spaces in a residential setting. A \$5 donation is requested to help support the programs at the Farm.

Paper or Plastic? Neither!!!

Think of all the paper and plastic bags you have used while grocery shopping over the past year. A lot, right? Americans use 100 billion plastic shopping bags each year. Plastic bags start as crude oil, natural gas, or other petrochemical derivatives. They don't biodegrade, they photodegrade over hundreds of years, eventually breaking down into smaller, toxic components that contaminate soils, waterways, and enter the food web.

What about paper bags? Though paper bags are easier to recycle and more likely to be recycled, making plastic bags uses less energy and water and creates less air pollution and solid waste. They also take up less landfill space. However, many plastic bags never make it to the landfill, becoming airborne and getting caught in fences, vegetation, trees, getting eaten by animals, clogging gutters, sewers, and waterways. And only a very small percentage (0.6%) of the billions that are produced actually get recycled each year.

So, which is better? Neither! The best alternative is to pack your groceries in reusable cloth bags. They are strong, reliable, hold more than plastic bags, and are good for the environment. Challenge yourself and your friends to reduce and then eliminate the use of paper and plastic bags at the grocery store and all stores at which you shop.

Munnell Run Farm now has heavyweight 100% cotton canvas tote bags for you to purchase! They are 17 inches wide by 18 inches deep and are \$10.00 each. Friends of MRF get 10% off! All revenues from these sales fund the programs and projects at MRF. So, support Mother Earth and Munnell Run Farm at the same time! Go to www.munnellrunfarm.org or call the office to order.

A list of resources for the article and additional resources to check out are available on our website.

Your Memberships Will “Build the Bathroom”

If you've ever visited Munnell Run Farm and needed to use the “facilities,” you know they are primitive, at best. After more than ten years of public programming, often with hundreds of visitors on site at the same time, we finally have plans to build adequate restroom facilities. The grant we recently received from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has some funding attached to help make this much-needed building a reality. We've also been “sitting on” \$5000 donated for a restroom by the Shenango Valley Foundation—please pardon the pun! However, the cost of the restroom is estimated at \$43,000 and may increase once construction actually begins.

The plans include hot and cold running water, and we are excited to be utilizing the latest “no flush” technology to demonstrate our commitment to conservation. Part of that decision, too, was based on avoiding an *additional* \$23,000 in sewer tap-in fees.

Why are we telling you all of this? Because we still need to offset approximately \$15,000 of the expected construction cost. For every membership we receive from now until the end of the year, the full amount will be applied to the “restroom fund”—unless you specify otherwise. Other donations in any amount are also welcome. Help us provide you and our other visitors with the “comfort” you all deserve. Donate today! Please fill out the form on this page, send it to MRF, and you will then receive your membership card and free MRF grocery tote bag.

Quilting Class to be Offered in June

Calling all quilters! Learn to make a watermelon placemat at a one day class to be held at Munnell Run Farm's Education Building. The class will be taught by local quilter, Jean Wanchick, and will be held on Tuesday, June 17 from 6-9 p.m. A donation of \$15 is requested and goes to help support the programs at the Farm. This project is easy for beginners (some knowledge of cutting and piecing is required) yet fun for advanced quilters. When you register for the class you will receive a supply list and instructions for pre-cutting the fabric before class.

Pre-registration by June 2 is requested, and you may do so online at www.munnellrunfarm.org or by calling (724) 662-2242 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Spring Bulb Sale

The Munnell Run Farm Foundation is currently holding a spring flower bulb sale through Flower Power Fundraising. Over fourteen different types of spring and summer-blooming perennials are available to purchase, some of which include Erlicheer Summer Daffodils, Pink Coneflowers, Peacock Orchids, Caladiums, and Early Glow Strawberries.



Peacock Orchids

To view the whole list, please log onto our website at www.munnellrunfarm.org. You may order the bulbs by filling out the order form from the website, calling the office during business hours at 724-662-2242, or e-mailing munnellrunfarm@hotmail.com.

The best news is that **MRF receives 50% of the profits from this bulb sale**—so your generous support will help improve the farm as well as your landscape!

Friends of Munnell Run Farm Membership Form

Membership Category	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40.00

Munnell Run Farm Foundation, Inc., is a nonprofit organization with IRS 501c3 status. Your contributions are tax deductible and much appreciated. Please fill out this form and mail it to MRF with your donation. Make checks payable to Munnell Run Farm Foundation, Inc.

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail Address

Munnell Run Farm
747 Greenville Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Phone: 724-662-2242
Fax: 724-662-3905

Website: www.munnellrunfarm.org



**Free gift w/membership:
grocery tote bag**