



Learning Tree Farm Summer 2015 Newsletter

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Support us by becoming a member today!



Summer programming is in full swing! Thankfully, the rainy June hasn't dampened our visitors' enthusiasm. Many area day camps, daycare facilities, and city recreation centers have scheduled visits to the farm. Summer is a great time on the farm-the pace is relaxed, many vegetables are ripe and ready to eat and the kids love being able to spend the day outside running the obstacle course and interacting with all the new babies born this spring. Our winter wheat, a fun experiment in our garden

this year, will be harvested by the end of August, so come out to see it before it's gone. Finally, we're having work done this season to improve the farm driveway, so please check our website and Facebook feed for status updates before you visit. And while you're there, check out our upcoming programs and special events!

Loralynn Hickey, Director of Farm Operations

Summer Updates and Happenings

New Website Features



We are excited to announce our [website](#) has some wonderful new features-if you haven't visited in awhile, please check it out to see our new calendar of events, integrated Facebook feed, and staff-written blog. We love the new [events calendar](#), which makes it easier to see all of our special events at a glance and search for specific events to register. Our Facebook feed on our homepage will make it easier for you to find and connect to us, and other fans of us, in the social media space. Finally, the new monthly [staff blog](#) will be a way for us to share our experiences-our favorite things about each season, the types of work we do here, what it means to us-and for you to get to know us a little better. Our deepest thank you to the DP&L Foundation for the generous grant that makes our wonderful website possible.

Jackie Winfree, Marketing Coordinator

Sunflower Update

While all the rain in June made for some slippery hikes out to the tire swing in June, it has also given our new 10-acre sunflower field a great start! Chris Rieser, a wonderful volunteer who has been working in our garden, has been taking video of the field with his drone camera. We will be posting some videos and pictures online. He hopes to fly the camera every few days so we can show the progression throughout the summer. Follow our [Facebook](#) page for updates. We can't wait to see the blast of color that these beautiful plants will give the farm.



Loralynn Hickey, Director of Farm Operations

Summer Camp 2015: STEM on the Farm



June 22-26 was STEM Camp! Science, technology, engineering and math were the topics of the week. Their uses on the farm were explored when one of our hens became very concerned about the farmers' insistence on taking her eggs. She struck a deal with the campers and the Little Red Hen to hide her eggs in our wheat patch! During the week our campers investigated simple machines: inclined planes, pulleys,

wheels, screws, and catapults. They implemented these machines to move an egg from the nesting boxes inside the barn to the wheat field on the far side of the garden using recycled and vintage materials. The grand finale was an egg drop from a very tall ladder from the end of this Rube Goldberg-esque machine. We have some very skilled engineers and the chickens were very pleased with the results!



Meredith Florkey, Education Director

We depend on your support to keep the lights on and the animals fed. If you'd like to become a sustaining member of Learning Tree Farm, please visit our [membership page](#).

Seed Level: \$25 annually, individual member card good for free general admission.

Root Level: \$50 annually, family member card good for free general admission for your household and 10% discount for summer camps.

Trunk Level: \$100 annually, family member card good for free general admission for your household and 15% discount for summer camps.

Branch Level: \$500 annually, family member card good for free general admission for your household, 25% discount for summer camps and invitation to our Donor Appreciation Event.

Forest Level: \$1000 annually, family member card good for free general admission for your household, 50% discount for summer camps, an invitation to our Donor Appreciation Event and recognition in our quarterly newsletter.



Upcoming Events

Boomers and Beyond: Summer Herbs July 10, 8:30-10:00 AM

Learn and share uses for different herbs and enjoy a cup of tea made from herbs from our own Polly's Herb Garden.

Saturday Family Fun: Family Picnic July 11, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

A potluck picnic-bring a dish to share, and we'll provide the utensils, checkered blankets and farm games!

Little Red Hen Club: Yankee Doodle Dandy July 17, 9:00-11:00 AM

We'll visit our ponies, Flash and Flicka, and learn about their care, and make a pony to ride and take home!

Boomers and Beyond: Ice Cream Social August 12, 1:00-2:30 PM

Do you remember hand cranking the ice cream maker way back when? We'll use new tech to whip up some to enjoy on our front porch!

Little Red Hen Club: Three Billy Goats Gruff August 13, 9:00-11:00 AM

Is there really a troll living in the woods of our farm!? Come and find the truth, along with a new appreciation for our goats.

Saturday Family Fun: Sunflower Daze August 22, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Come see our 10-acre field filled with sunflowers! Learn about the importance of this plant and enjoy a sunflower snack and craft.

Out and About

We've been to Carillon Historical Park twice in the last two months to demonstrate sheep herding and wool carding and spinning. The dogs (Trip and Scout) and sheep always draw crowds. People also enjoyed learning the art of carding wool, which is the process of pulling apart the wool fibers to prepare them for spinning into yarn, and actually spinning some wool into yarn with the help of a Carillon staff member.



You'll be able to see us again on September 12, where Trip and Scout will showcase their talents again as part of the Dayton Area Carnival at Huffman Prairie at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park!

Autumn Fest is coming!



Visitors can try out the Pumpkin Chucker!



Enjoy a festive photo op!

Mark it on your calendar: **Autumn Fest** will be September 26 this year! Last year was one for the records books-over 1,500 people in attendance-and this year will be even better. Pony rides, face painting, hay rides and Pumpkin Chucker will all be there again, as will many other games, animals, crafts and more. As always, admission is free; food and beverages will be available for purchase. We're also planning to have live music! Come out and see us at our autumnal best, and while here, take part in our Cow Pie Plop Game. Purchase tickets with deed numbers on them and cheer our cows on as they make their "deposit" in the pasture (marked in a grid, with each square representing one deed); if your ticket's number matches the lucky spot, you will be one of three big winners! Visit our [game page](#) for ticket purchasing and other important information.



Thank you to our major sponsors:



We look forward to seeing you out at the farm!



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