

Salem Harvest News

Spring 2012

Get Ready for the 2012 Season!



TRY OUT OUR NEW LADDERS

Thanks to a generous grant from the Barbara Emily Knudson Charitable Foundation we now have our own 12-foot aluminum orchard ladders.



They got their first tryout at two pruning sessions at Norman McDonald's apple orchard. The ladders will be loaned to volunteers who have received a ladder safety orientation at each harvest. Volunteers can skip the ladder orientation and get first turns with the ladders if they have passed an online test. We hope this will save us all more time for picking! Go to the [Volunteer](#) page and click on the Ladders button at the bottom to read the primer and take the test. You can take the test as many times as you want, but only once each day.



Cherry Harvest, July 2011

McDonalds Dedicate Apple Trees to Salem Harvest

After two years, three harvests and more than 19,000 pounds picked by Salem Harvest volunteers, Norman and Kay McDonald have dedicated four rows in their organic apple orchard exclusively for Salem Harvest. In March, 80 volunteers spent a day at the orchard pulling blackberry vines and pruning trees to help prepare the best crop ever. Thank you, Norman and Kay McDonald!

Calling All Farmers

This spring we have been getting news of Salem Harvest out to local growers. The [Capital Press](#), the Northwest's leading agricultural weekly, ran a [story](#) on Salem Harvest in April, and we are distributing our new [brochure](#) to local farmers. Growers often have crops that cannot be efficiently harvested, are in excess of contracted amounts or are unsuited for commercial packing, and many homeowners are unable to harvest their trees. Salem Harvest provides a compassionate alternative to tilling under leftover crops or leaving them to rot. Utilizing the labor of 2,000 willing pickers, acres and tons of fresh produce can be harvested.

The generosity of local growers underlies everything we do. Working together, we can celebrate our rural and urban abundance.

Farmers and backyard growers can [register their crops](#) online.

New Help Page for Volunteers

Over the winter we have made many changes to the website to help volunteers stay informed and to streamline harvests. The new [Volunteer](#) page has all the latest.

Information

Get the scoop on how to participate in Salem Harvest as a volunteer. Even if you have been to a harvest, you can brush up on details as the season approaches.

Update

Your first registration stays active from year-to-year, so there is never a need to re-register. However, if your contact information has changed, use this link to send us an update.

Signups

All of us occasionally forget to write down harvest information or lose the email that is sent. Visit this page to request another email with harvest information.

Ladders

Read the Ladder Safety Primer or take the Ladder Safety Test. Passing the test will allow you to skip ladder orientations at harvests when you use one of our new orchard ladders.

Attendance

Click here to get an email with your past participation at harvests.

Salem Harvest is an all-volunteer organization that relies on the enthusiasm of our volunteers to make harvests happen.

While we welcome your help during harvests, we are also always looking for people who want to help *prepare* for harvests. If you are interested in learning how to be more involved, contact [Melody](#) or [Alicia](#).



Melody Parr, Farm Harvest Director

Meet a volunteer

Melody Parr grew up tending a garden before becoming truly "city-fied." After her children came along, she started paying attention to what we eat and where it comes from, and realized how lucky her family was to have access to good, healthy food. Melody wants all children to have access to nourishing food, not just empty calories. She met Amy Barr, a Salem Harvest founding board member, at a friend's house and was interested, so she started attending harvests, volunteering to help at harvests and eventually training to become a harvest leader. "I enjoy being a part of such a great group of people with a passion for the mission. The dedication and hard work that goes on behind the scenes is amazing. Often we see a problem in the community and think, 'Someone should do something about that.' The people of Salem Harvest saw a problem and said, 'Why not us?'"



Apple Harvest, December 2011

2012 SEASON SPONSORS

We want to welcome three new sponsors for the 2012 season, and also thank five returning sponsors. Click on the logos to visit their websites.



CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO SALEM HARVEST

You can [make a gift](#) to Salem Harvest, or make a donation in a friend's name. Your donation helps pay for harvest equipment, signage, software fees, liability insurance and more. We have no paid staff or office fees so all donations go directly toward our core mission – connecting people to fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste. Contact [Alicia Bay](#) for more information.



Salem Harvest is an all-volunteer organization established in 2010. Our mission is to help hungry families gain self-sufficiency, build community, and celebrate sustainable lifestyles.

Salem Harvest connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteers who harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. More than half of each harvest is donated to the Marion-Polk Food Share or its affiliated food agencies.

Last season, more than 92,000 pounds of fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables were harvested at more than 50 harvests.



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