

ELAWA FARM FOUNDATION

Spring 2009



2008 - A Year of Celebration

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Calendar of Events 2009

ANNUAL BENEFIT
Barn Bash - June 19

The Garden Market
opens for the season on
June 23

Garden Conservancy
Open Gardens - July 26

On June 13th and 14th, 2008, Elawa Farm celebrated with over 500 friends its re-opening as a wonderfully restored community resource. Two beautiful benefit evenings—A Country Life and A Summer Solstice—that were punctuated with torrential rains, rainbows and glorious sunsets, paralleled the restoration of the Farm itself: decrepit ruins, the vision and resources of so many faithful donors and the result of reconstructed buildings awaiting a new generation of use. With great music, food and friends, over \$50,000 was raised during this celebratory weekend to help defray construction costs.

This was indeed the highlight of our year, but before and after told a much larger story.

Construction of the Phase II spaces began the previous fall, thanks to the enormous generosity of Liz and Dick Uihlein, the Hunter Family Foundation and many others. The southern Living Quarters became three flexible classrooms, the Men's

Quarters was converted into a working kitchen for the Gardeners and caterers, the Wagon Shed developed into the Garden Market, the old greenhouse was converted into the Garden Club workroom, and the Ice House on the north end has now become the working office of the Elawa Farm Foundation. The old Dairy Office is now home to the Visitor Center and The Wildlife Discovery Center office. Visitors are now able to rest and refresh after hiking or biking on the trails and enjoy a growing library about the Middlefork Savanna.

New sewer and tile connections between the buildings—thanks to our landlord, the City of Lake Forest—plus foundation work, and a complete new slate roof on all the buildings set the stage for new hardscape and foundation plantings, which together all recreated an improved but reflective landscape from the original 1917 plan.

Then we celebrated. But we are far from finished! The Foundation continues to

raise funds for restoration of the historical aspects of the buildings—shutters, signage, additional tuck-pointing and most importantly, the Cupola, as the crowning jewel of the Main Barn. Following that we will begin to focus on the endowment of the farm complex, as well as maintenance and operations.

To that extent we are beginning to work on a Strategic Plan for our future as an organization. Becoming more of an overall operational organization in addition to fundraising—similar to the Gorton or Ragdale Foundations—is our long term goal. We will look forward to input from all aspects of the community as we proceed in this refocused direction.

Elawa Farm Foundation expects the year ahead to be as exciting, rewarding and beneficial for the community as our efforts that have led up to this year of celebration. Please come out and visit this beautifully restored farm and help us continue our mission.



Pear Tree by Phoebe McMillan

THE GARDEN MARKET

at Elawa Farm

opens on

June 23, 2009

Tuesdays, Fridays & Saturdays

10 to 4



Things just keep getting better in the garden here at Elawa. Last year we opened an on-site garden market where we sell the produce and flowers grown in the garden as well as breads, soups and pestos made with garden produce. A loyal customer base developed quickly in our first year of operation because there is strong community interest in fresh, locally grown, healthy food. Customers were pleased to buy lettuce, beans and basil picked an hour earlier, and breads, muffins and scones warm from the oven.

The garden market will open for its second year of operation in 2009 just after the first day of summer. It will run from June 23rd until mid- October on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm. All sales from the market are “plowed” right back into garden operation and garden restoration. Like the garden, the market is run by volunteers. Ask veteran market volunteers Beth Teich and Karen Dailey about what’s new on the menu when you come to shop. Denise Scherck, Nancy Isham and Phyllis Siegle have created Elawa’s flower bouquets for several years now, and every market morning they are here early, putting freshly cut flowers into beautiful arrangements. Irene Constantinitis, a garden volunteer from day one, continues to suggest new flower varieties for us to grow for our bouquets.

The “secret ingredient” to the garden market’s breads, pestos and soups is our certified chef, Sarah Bellini. With the restoration of the Elawa Farm buildings, came a gorgeous certified kitchen, which the Gardeners at Elawa use on market days to create tasty foods made from garden produce. Sarah keeps the kitchen humming, and is a pro at taking what we give her from the garden and turning it into delicious food. The smells of her fresh breads waft through the farm buildings on market days. Alice Falls has shared her secret bread recipes with Sarah.

The restoration and care of the garden itself, our core mission here, continues, of course. Sales from the garden market will greatly aid in this on-going effort. The primary push in 2008 was continuing development of the vegetable acre. We created over 25 new vegetable beds and planted more cover crops for making compost. 2009 will see continued development of the vegetable acre. We are delighted that C.R.O.Y.A will be joining us this growing season and will be in charge of production in a section of the vegetable acre. C.R.O.Y.A will donate the food grown to a social service organization of its choosing. Summer high school and college volunteers continue to be the backbone of the garden work all summer long. We also are thankful for a core of regular com-

munity volunteers who enjoy the beauty as much as we do out here, and are willing to weed and dead head and water with us. Uline, in its fourth year with us, and Manfredini Landscapers have sent crews to help us with heavy work in the garden. All that new ground in production needs compost and we are grateful to D K Organics and Land and Lakes for their generous donations of compost over the years.

In 2009 we also plan to address drainage issues in the lowest and wettest part of the garden. We will continue with our on-going effort to get rid of the quack grass still “infecting” areas of the garden so that the ground is “safe” for the strawberries, asparagus, raspberries and fruit trees we hope to plant as part of the garden’s Master Plan. Because we avoid the use of herbicides, we are in the process of “smothering” the quack grass with landscape fabric, section by section. At least two years of “smothering” are required in each section! We will continue with more planting of shrubs and trees as the ground comes ready.

Please come visit the garden this growing season. And if you have the time to volunteer on a regular basis, please join us. We have a good time out here together. For us, the Garden at Elawa is the most beautiful place on earth and we feel very, very fortunate to be here.

2008 Activities at Elawa



Thank You to our 2008 Donors and Volunteers

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 Claudia and Todd Altounian
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Every effort was made to list the names of all donors. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please contact the Foundation office.

Lake Forest & Lake Bluff Schools at Elawa Farm



Buddies discussing the milkweed plant at Elawa Farm

This past fall, over 750 students engaged in the study of the life cycle of the milkweed out at Elawa Farm, enhancing their existing environmental science curriculum. This very unique multi-district, K-12 initiative, includes service learning as well as an emotional wellness piece that has surfaced from the Elawa Buddies program. The Elawa Bud-

dies program offers a special opportunity for students to utilize both indoor and outdoor facilities in an exceptional environment that promotes multi-disciplinary learning. Few students in this country have access to a field-based science class. The program begins by building the relationship between freshman/sophomore LFHS science

students with second graders from Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. Students are introduced through post-card activity and then matched up with each other as they share the bus ride to Elawa Farm. This spring the same buddies will return to Elawa Farm to observe the milkweed's patterns of change.

The Garden Conservancy



Once again we are proud to be a part of The Garden Conservancy's 2009 Open Days to be held on Sunday, July 26, 2009 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please park at Lake Forest Hospital where

shuttle service will be provided.

The Garden Conservancy is a national organization dedicated to preserving America's exceptional gardens and believes that the best

way to learn about gardens and to appreciate them, is to simply spend more time in them.

The Garden at Elawa Farm is one of 300 gardens that will be open in 2009.

Wildlife Discovery Center



Rob working with Curly

The Wildlife Discovery Center is

gearing up for a busy spring! Over 12 school districts will complete one day field trips as part of their science requirements. This internationally acclaimed program provides unique experiential education for students in grades 4-8. With the beauty of Elawa and the Middlefork Savanna we are able to

provide life changing experiences for students.

Recently, we started to train "Curly" the popular Red-tailed Hawk to free fly outside of his mews. Curly has been with us for 12 years but never experienced the freedom of flight until now. Each day, we take him out for 100 to 200 yard

flights and he sure loves to fly! We do allow limited public viewing on certain days. Migratory birds have arrived such as red winged black birds and sandhill cranes, and soon, bob-o-link and barnswallows will be flying around the farm! For more info call us at 847.615.4388.

Foundation's New Community Development Director

The most important addition to all the Foundation efforts, came to us in October as we celebrated the hiring of our first staff member in our ten year history. Joanne Cook Miller became our Community Development Director, a position she recently held

with GLASA. Joanne, a life-long Lake Forester, has had significant experience in banking, philanthropy, community relations, marketing and program development and oversight—both professionally and as a volunteer. She is a member of the Woman's Auxiliary of Lake

Forest Hospital, where she served as President, the Board of Directors of Lake Forest Hospital, Lake Forest Infant Welfare, the Jr. Garden Club and Allendale Shelter Club Associates Board.

Her help will be invaluable as she will maintain the

Foundation office on site, assist with fundraising and program development, and overall operations. Continuity and consistency that Joanne's presence will provide will move the Foundation forward with a professional approach. Please stop by and say hello to her.

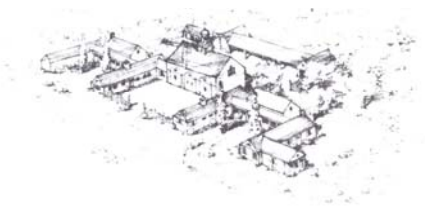
ELAWA FARM FOUNDATION

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A Community of natural splendor
and historical significance



Rental Space

Newly renovated spaces available for public use include several conference and classroom spaces, a kitchen learning center and garden and art workshop areas.

If you are interested in renting space out at Elawa Farm, application forms are available at City Hall or on line at www.cityoflakeforest.com Please return it to City Hall, 220 Deerpath, Lake Forest, IL 60045 or fax it to 847-615-4289, attention Shelley Walker.

As a nonprofit organization, **Elawa Farm Foundation** relies on the generosity of donors to provide the continued historic restoration of the garden and buildings. Local schools, organizations and businesses are using the farm for public and private special events, celebrations, garden workshops, programs and meetings. Elawa Farm is open to the public and offers a community of natural splendor and historic significance. Please help us continue our mission.

Donate on line at www.elawafarm.org or fill out the enclosed envelope and mail it in.

Memorials and Tributes

By making a gift to the Elawa Farm Foundation you can honor or remember a loved one. We acknowledge all gifts to their recipients and keep the exact amount of the donation confidential.

Matching Gifts

The amount of your gift may be doubled at no expense to you if you work for an employer who matches the charitable gifts of employees. Simply contact your company's human resource department.

Stock Gifts

Please contact the office for instructions to donate stock. 847-234-1966