



Ozaukee Living Local

Working collaboratively for a more resilient and sustainable future.

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 2012

April Events

- **4/5 Transition Ozaukee Book Club** to discuss *Community—The Structure of Belonging* by Peter Block; [Niederkorn Library](#) Community Room in Port; 6:30pm; transitionozaukee@gmail.com for more information

A Nation of Gardeners by Steve Sandlin



When I close my eyes and picture my childhood, I see a peach: huge, ripe and red; the juice dripping down my chin with each bite.

My grandfather was a gardener and his garden, at the back of the house, was his sanctuary, a place where he could go to be alone with his thoughts. The

peaches were his way of enticing me to join him—a reward for pulling weeds, hauling buckets of compost and quietly working along side of him.

Not so long ago, much like my grandfather, we were a nation of gardeners. Before we placed the responsibility of producing food in the hands of an industrial food system, it was often the hand of the gardener that guaranteed a bountiful family table.

The ubiquitous image of the family garden was one that repeated itself across the rural and urban landscape of Amer-

ica. This kind of personal enterprise marked the rhythms of nature and promised a bounty of homegrown food.

The yearly ritual of working the soil, caring for plants and harvesting food was part of our collective history and the garden was a central and important theme in American family life. In addition, the simple act of growing food and sharing the surplus with friends and family helped to maintain strong community bonds.

However, in the mid 1900's, we looked eagerly forward to a bright and fantastic future as we enthusiastically abandoned the

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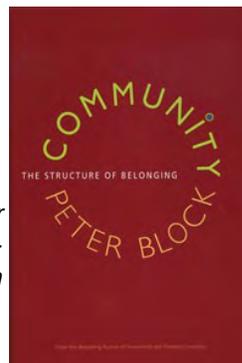
- **4/15 Hoophouse Building Workshop**; 8am-5pm at the Fondy Farm: 839 Co. Hwy P in Port Washington; Free (Bring a dish for a potluck!); [rsvp to Stephen Petro at: stephen.petro@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.petro@gmail.com) or call (262) 939-0733
- **4/19 Films That Matter—Permaculture: The Growing Edge**; 6-9pm at Riveredge; Free (\$5 suggested donation); www.riveredge.us
- **4/20 Green Committee of Unitarian Church North Screens Living Downstream**; 7pm at the Unitarian Church North: 13800 N. Port Washington Rd., Mequon; Free; (262) 275-3890
- **4/21 Earth Day Work & Learn Event**; 9am—noon at Riveredge; Free www.riveredge.us

Join the Discussion about *Community* by Mary Boyle

There's still time to run out to [Next Chapter Bookshop](#) in Mequon and get your copy of *Community—The Structure of Belonging* by Peter Block, read the first two chapters and join in the discussion with the **Transition Ozaukee Book Club** on Thursday, April 5th at 6:30pm at the Niederkorn Library in Port Washington.

"This book is written to support those who care for the well-being of their community. It is for anyone who wants to be part of creating an organization, neighborhood, city or country that works for all, and who has the faith and the energy to create such a place."

Mention the Transition Ozaukee Book Club and you'll receive 15% off your book—saving yourself some money and helping out a local, independent book seller at the same time!



- **4/22 Earth Day**
- **4/24 Science for Everyone Lecture Series: SOIL—It's Importance to Gardening and Good Food with Mary Ann Ihm of Wellspring**; 7pm at the Washington Co. Public Agency Ctr.; Free (\$5 suggested donation)
- **4/28 Port Washington Indoor Farmer's Market** 9am-1pm at [First Congregational Church](#), 131 N. Webster St., Port Washington; Hosted by the FCC & [PortFish, Ltd.](#)

Ozaukee Living Local

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HALES TRAIL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Port Washington's new community garden is in a sunny spot along the Ozaukee Interurban Trail, just south of Hales Trail.

COME BY AND SEE US!

15' x 15' plots available for \$25

For more information, contact ourgardeninport@gmail.com or see Hales Trail Community Garden on Facebook

Support the garden by buying your own garden seeds through us through the month of February!



A Nation of Gardeners *(Continued from pg. 1)*

garden in favor of industry and the promise of commercial abundance.

Today, we find ourselves less connected to the rhythms of nature and more harassed by the artificial rhythms of modern industrial life. Most of us, if we garden at all, spend our time cutting the lawn and trimming the ornamental hedges along the foundation of the house—activities that offer nothing in the form of a tangible harvest.

It is arguably a different time in America than it was during the early part of the last century. Never before in the history of our nation have we been so dependant on someone else to supply us with our basic nourishment. For all of its efficiency and promise, industrial agriculture stands precariously in the wake of its own complexity: utterly dependent on a steady supply of non-renewable and cheap fossil fuel, our food system teeters on the edge of profound and disturbing change. As worldwide demand for fossil fuels increases, sources will become strained, fuel prices will rise and, along with it, the cost of our food. As our energy-based economy becomes less reliable so will our centralized food system.

While it is always difficult to predict what change and turmoil our future may hold, we may find it beneficial to take a lesson from history: in good times and bad; in periods of economic turmoil and change; the garden has always been a refuge; a source of security and comfort and a place to slow down and acknowledge that here, at least, some measure of control is held in ones own hands.....the ability to grow food.

A simple backyard garden has much to offer: biting into a ripe, red peach—just minutes after it is picked—is a pleasure that no store bought imitator can equal. Perhaps now is the time to consider a homegrown revolution; to take time to reclaim some of the self-reliant spirit of the past, as well as some of its flavor, and step out into the garden to, once again, become a nation of gardeners.

Collective Farming at the Fondy Farm

Local resident and regular *OLL* contributor, Steve Sandlin, is working on a collective farming project at the **Fondy Farm**—right here in Port near the old Squires Golf Course (See the Hoophouse Building Project taking place there in the April Events on page 1!).

Some of you might be familiar with the **Fondy Farmer's Market**. Started in 2000, it is Milwaukee's largest Farmer's Market, and provides access to affordable, healthy food to inner-city residents. Most of the produce at the Market is grown by farmer's in Milwaukee, but some comes from the Fondy Farm.

The project, which Sandlin describes as a "participatory CSA," is a collaboration between the Fondy Farm and **Alice's Garden** in Milwaukee, as well as others, and Port Washington residents are invited to get involved—the goal being to grow food together, learn, share and have a great time doing it!

The project is still in its planning stages; however, if you'd like to learn more or get involved, contact Steve Sandlin at: steve@afterglowfarm.com.

