

Northshore Locavores 11/22/09

Education session: Beekeeping, presented by John Skalko.

Meeting: Jo T facilitated. The next meeting will be January 24th with Jody A facilitating. Education session will be a discussion about foraging throughout the year with the goal of making a very general schedule of foraging outings, a list of those interested and plans for creating specific outings. On this topic there was some discussion about growing mushrooms in old maple trees.

Members reported on sauerkraut attempts. Cabbage that has been stored will be dryer and require you to make additional brine.

The March education session was scheduled .Duane M will present on sprouted applications for cereal.

We need someone to be updating the web page. It was decided that we could post the minutes on the web page rather than emailing the entire group. Sherry R will talk to Linda Holliday about posting the minutes on the web site every month. It was decided that we still want email notification that the minutes have been posted. Barb C. who maintains the email list is willing to send two notices a month, one noting that the minutes have been posted and one reminding members about the upcoming educational session. She noted that many email addresses are not working.

Jo T noted that she didn't realize that it was her responsibility as facilitator to open the building and that she would have liked an agenda to follow. Molly T will make a document that includes a standard agenda and information on obtaining keys that will be passed to the next meeting's facilitator each month.

Email list was sent around in order to confirm addresses and to add phone numbers. There was some discussion about reaching out to folks who were interested at the beginning but who no longer come. Is there less interest? Is information not getting out (being blocked by firewalls perhaps)? Members present who know folks who have stopped attending will make some phone calls.

Chicken discussion: Jo's egg production dropped off suddenly – happening to others as well. S&B – chickens were 5.5 months old before starting to lay. Jo T said that last year she had every chicken laying by the 5th month – this year has not been nearly as good. S&B use lights to extend the day for the chickens. Jo had questions about how much feed she should be going through with her broilers.

There was Discussion about the weird extended season we are having. A warm November has some greens continuing to produce and some vegetables like broccoli are showing new growth. This led to a discussion about over-wintering pepper and tomato plants indoors. A few members have experience with this and said that plants will

continue to grow and will be stronger, more productive plants the next season. Also tomatoes are easy to propagate. Cut stems will root in water within a few days.

Some discussion about beekeeping potential in the group. Duane M offered to help beekeepers during the labor-consuming chores like extracting in exchange for honey.

Sherry R expressed interest in developing a root cellar kit or plan. Perhaps this project could be grant funded. The idea would be to make building numbers of single family root cellars an efficient community project. There are a couple businesses locally making concrete septic tanks. Perhaps we could get them to make a tank geared toward a root cellar. Molly T will work on this with Sherry.

Minutes taken by Molly T