

## New Season; New Beginnings

Hello and welcome back! Thank goodness the heatwave has subsided. I hope you have been able to relax by the pool or on the beach, do some gardening, hiking and spend time with your families. We are gearing up for the Summer and Fall harvest season. I look forward to seeing you all at our August volunteer BBQ.

Amazing! We formed in 2001 and we are still thriving. Just think of all the hard work and remarkable things we have accomplished: formed a successful agri-tourism business, expanded fruit crops, added fresh produce, pumpkins, nurtured and reclaimed 167 acres of farmland, educated over 20,000 students, installed solar panels, erected new buildings, irrigation, wells and purchased equipment. The list is endless and remarkable for a group of volunteers.

The farm is humming and bustling with activity— not just from bees but from our staff and volunteers. We are excited to let everyone know that we have embarked on an orchard renewal program. We recently removed several acres of old McIntosh and Marshall McIntosh trees to make way for new crops. In the section near the road, we will be planting about 800 dwarf apple trees. The new trees will include some early varieties including Ginger Gold, Zestar, Graveston and Sweet IMAIA along with later varieties such as Evercrisp. We will also be adding pears. The new section will give more options in the early half of the season and the end of the season. We believe that, though Sholan Farms can be many things, at the center it is a working place where food is produced. One of the greatest global challenges we face is to grow food in harmony with nature. We are confident that even in our difficult Massachusetts climate, we can grow apples which are nutritious for us and good for the land. We pledge to improve our growing methods each season in service to this ideal. The community that supports our farm is as crucial as the soil in which crops are grown.

The work in an orchard is endless. Come and join in the fun and connect with Mother Earth. You will not be disappointed—in fact, you will be able to network with some incredible people. We need your help to keep this dream alive. Some of the skills we are looking for are: grant writers, carpenters, teachers, artists, musicians, retail helpers, apple pickers, fundraisers, gardeners, architects, engineers, farmers, plumbers, electricians, irrigations specialists — whatever talents you have — we need them.

Sholan Farms is a not-for-profit farm set up to nurture interest in sustainable farming by creating a vibrant community farm within an urban environment. We fund our own operating expenses through membership dues, the proceeds of various events and product sales. We rely on trust and respect from members and residents to maintain a safe accessible environment.

Come join us for a very exciting new season. Help keep this legacy alive!

Joanne DiNardo  
President

## Board of Directors

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Special thanks to the Friends' Board of Directors who volunteer their time throughout the year to make Sholan Farms succeed. *A sincere thanks goes to family members who* have also given of their time and support the board members which enabled them to make such a commitment to Sholan Farms.

Thank You All

## **Mike Meehan, Orchard Manager**

Good Day, all! It is a very exciting time up at the farm. Lots of things happening, lots of irons in the fire, and I would not have it any other way! We are fully into berry season at Sholan (great crop of blueberries, raspberries and blackberries this year), with the peaches not far behind (if not already by the time this newsletter is published). And then, shortly after, the moment we have all been waiting for...Apples! We should be picking our very first apples around the third week of August. The first variety to ripen at Sholan is the Ginger Gold. If you have not had one, please make your way to farm to try one out! They are easily the best apples we grow here. I look forward to them every year.

You know what else I'm looking forward to this year? Hopefully getting a little back to normal. I miss you people! I can't wait for the Welcome Back BBQ (there should be an invite with this newsletter), so we can all say hello.

Why wait till then, though? Come on up and say hi anytime. Also, if you want to help out a little, we are always looking for volunteers for some summer farmwork. Weeding, berry picking, veggie harvest, etc...Give me a call at 978-660-4556 if you want to help out.

Until then, though, I wish you all well. Hope to see you at the farm!

Mike Meehan, Orchard Manager

## **New Girl in Charge!**

I want to announce that Cindi Manuel is taking over as Community Garden Manager this year. It was a little difficult in the beginning with no face-to-face registration, but Cindi was up to the task. She has been one of our gardeners for about six years and understands the routine. I will be helping her as she needs me and will keep in touch with the gardeners, they have become my friends.

Cindi has a good technical knowledge of gardening, something that I do not have! My method has always been trial and error. Thankfully, Sholan garden soil is very rich so even beginners do well.

Joe LeBlanc, BOD

## **Cash Register Training**

Andy will be holding two cash register training sessions. We ask that anyone who would like to work the register attend a session, even if you've been on the register in the past. Many things change every year so we want to be sure that everyone is ready and informed.

**Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6pm**

**Saturday, August 21, 2021 9am**

**“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”**

**—Anonymous**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
ANNUAL VOLUNTEER  
WELCOME BACK**



Tovx.com

**WHEN: THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 5PM**

**WHERE: AT THE FARM!**

**We'll cook the hamburgers and hot dogs along with a sampling of Nate Monat's Smoker Skills! You bring the sides. We can use appetizers, dips, cut up veggi's, condiments, pickles, potato salad, pasta salad, cole slaw, baked beans, corn on the cob, tossed salad, and desserts.**

Give Patti LaGrassa as call by August 24

at 978-514-4473 or email

patricialagrassa@gmail.com

Let her know if you can join us and what

You will bring. Guests are welcome!



friends of  
**Sholan Farms**®

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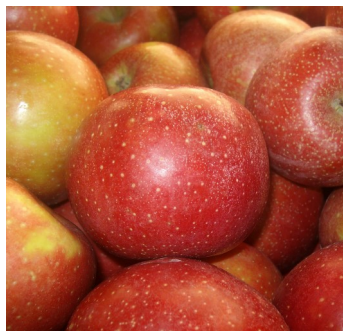
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***Growing Apples for your Health!!***

## FRIENDS OF SHOLAN FARMS

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This newsletter was compiled and  
edited by Patti LaGrassa

### **About Our Organization**

The Friends of Sholan Farms is a non-profit corporation that relies solely on the support of its members, sponsors and volunteers. We are formed under the 501(c)3 statutes and all donations are a tax write-off. Founded in 2001.



### **Calendar Notes**

#### **July**

Blueberry & Raspberry U Pick starting on July 13. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11am

#### **August**

August 21-22, Opening Weekend & Art Show

August 26, 5pm-Volunteer Welcome Back BBQ

#### **September**

September 4 Traveling Museum Art Show

#### **October**

October 9, Harvest Festival

#### **Sholan Farms Staff**

Mike Meehan, Orchard Manager

978-660-4556

[mikemeehan@sholanfarms.com](mailto:mikemeehan@sholanfarms.com)

Give Mike a call if you would like to help in the orchard or