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The Regen. Gazette

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April-June In Review

Breanna Datuin

Quarter Two marked our busiest time of year, with many exciting events taking place, such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program's open house, Peach Tree Senior Living ribbon-cutting ceremony, and Americas Competitiveness Exchange site visits. In addition to these events, we have been hard at work despite rising temperatures, from harvesting at our urban farms to cultivating native plants at our nurseries to landscaping at our development sites. With more hands on deck thanks to our summer intern cohort, we're making sure we're up to speed as the latter half of

CYFM SHOPPER



the year approaches. The heat also isn't stopping us from providing fresh produce to the community, whether that be through the Mobile Grocer, Cooper-Young Farmers Market, and most recently, the South Memphis Farmers Market. We're happy to supply you with high-quality produce for all of your summer recipes!

Partnership Spotlight: The Giving Grove

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Partnership Spotlight: The Giving Grove

by Breanna Datuin

Memphis Native Tree Works is proud to partner with The Giving Grove, a national nonprofit dedicated to increasing food access and tree canopy in areas that experience high food insecurity and low tree coverage. This partnership will bolster existing Memphis orchards and add new native fruit and nut trees, providing a plethora of benefits beyond the dual mission of addressing food insecurity and tree canopy inequity—benefits like cleaner air, better soil, and climate regulation. With support already provided to 14 orchards across the Memphis area, The Giving Grove Community Orchard project will continue to expand its number of orchards, ensuring that Memphis residents have access to healthy calories, more shade, and a community anchor that promotes sustainability.



MARY AT LICHTERMAN NATURE CENTER



RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY WITH PROJECT PARTNERS

Peach Tree Living Center

by Breanna Datuin

The Works, Inc., along with ComCap Partners and a coalition of public and private organizations, was happy to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Peach Tree Senior Living Center on April 30th. Located in the Frayser neighborhood, the new 79-unit development for seniors features a community room, computer center, verandas, and outdoor gathering spaces, all of which will ensure its tenants age happily and comfortably in a place they can confidently call home.

Also situated next to the Steele Street native plant nursery, Peach Tree Senior Living demonstrates the connection between our regenerative initiatives and mission to increase availability of affordable housing. This development will serve as an impactful addition to restore the underserved Frayser neighborhood, allowing the area to thrive through a multi-faceted approach.



GARRETT HARVESTING CHIVES

An Equal Exchange: Our Relationship with Local Restaurants

by Breanna Datuin

Just like market goers rely on our produce to make tasty meals, restaurants depend on us to supply the material for their businesses, creating a mutually beneficial relationship that includes many perks, such as reduced carbon footprints, increased investment in the local economy, and best of all, fresh food for everyone. Our restaurant partners choose us as their suppliers because they know that locally grown, organic produce will not only offer the best taste but also the necessary support to allow our local community to flourish.

In much the same way, demand from local restaurants drives the operations on our urban farms, prompting us to consider multiple factors in the growth process, like soil quality, effective irrigation systems, and weed management. While farming conditions can often be unpredictable, our team is dedicated to maximizing produce quality by rapidly responding to the needs of the crops during every stage of growth. Each season presents its own challenges to our farms, but our team, equipped with watchful eyes and experienced hands, is ready to manage any problem.

Because of our commitment to the community we serve, we remain a reliable source of produce for local restaurants. The connection between our farms and their tables is one that will continue to strengthen community bonds for years to come. For those interested in wholesale, please reach out directly at jalen@theworkscdc.org to receive our weekly availability list and stay updated as new crops come online.

RCPP Open House

by Breanna Datuin

On April 14th, The Works, Inc., in partnership with the MidSouth Development District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, hosted an Urban Agriculture Subcommittee meeting to educate and immerse attendees in regenerative agricultural practices. The meeting, part of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program intended to reach producers across the region, consisted of farmers, researchers, and community members from Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Those in attendance listened to presentations from the NRCS, TN Department of Agriculture, Xerxes Society, and The Works, Inc. before participating in a hands-on workshop on the Knight Arnold Urban Farm, where speakers discussed the implementation of methods like alley cropping, high tunnels, and bioswales to improve regenerative efforts on urban agricultural land. All of the practices discussed are aligned with NRCS conservation practices, which go beyond simple land maintenance. Rather, the practices approved by the NRCS are meant to enhance the land entirely, from improved soil health to increased biodiversity.

The workshop was also open to the public, with nearby schools Cornerstone Prep and Memphis Merit Academy Charter School participating. This fall, The Works plans to collaborate with these elementary schools to offer educational programs to students, continuing efforts to increase public knowledge of urban land use by teaching the next generation of agricultural stewards.



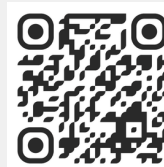
RYAN AND STEVE WITH RCPP ATTENDEE

Regional Conservation Partnership Program: Financial Assistance

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program can offer technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices on your land

- Soil Carbon Amendment (336)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Silvopasture (381)
- Field Border (386)
- Tree and Shrub Establishment (612)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

For more information, visit <https://www.midsouthdd.org/rcpp>



RCPP Application >



**MidSouth
Working Lands
Partnership**

Restoring Ecosystems • Supporting Producers • Strengthening Communities

“What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.”
— Aristotle