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The Regen. Gazette

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Summer Recap + What's Up Next

by Esbeida Ramos

The heat didn't stop us from having a busy summer. We finished up the market season at the South Memphis Farmers Market, continued harvesting produce for local restaurants, and prepared over 100 crops for the fall and winter harvest. In September, we hosted students from MUS where they helped pot trees at our Flicker Street Tree Nursery. In early to mid-November, we'll be looking for volunteers to help with planting at our Southside Orchard! Additionally, we're thrilled to announce the opening of a new walking trail in Frayser this November. Thanks to a gift from Tito's Handmade Vodka, this



South Memphis Farmers Market

project will install a walking trail that connects the Peach Tree Senior Apartments to the Renaissance Apartments, passing right by our Steele Nursery, and feature native, edible, and medicinal plants. Keep an eye out for details on the grand opening! Last but not least, fall is here which means we have native plants available for purchase at the farmers markets. Come grab yours - it's planting season!

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Partnership Spotlight: SMFM

by Esbeida Ramos

The Works, Inc. is proud to sponsor the South Memphis Farmers Market (SMFM), a true treasure to the South Memphis community. Located at 1400 Mississippi Blvd., the market pops up every Wednesday during the summer in the parking lot where various local vendors come to sell their produce and handmade goods. In addition to the SMFM, the on-site grocery store there, The Grocer, sells local produce and goods six days a week and even offers a grocery delivery service to residents in the community! The Grocer is also equipped with the space to host cooking classes and does so frequently, providing community members an opportunity to sharpen their cooking skills in a supportive, familiar environment. The SMFM is demonstrating what it looks like to reduce food insecurity, empower local communities, and promote public health by providing affordable, locally grown farm-fresh produce *and* supplementing it with the education that may be needed to utilize these ingredients.



SMFM COORDINATORS



KNIGHT ARNOLD ORCHARD

Orchards

by Esbeida Ramos

Last year, The Works Inc. and Memphis Native Tree Works restored a blighted property on Knight Arnold street in Oakhaven that had been used as a dumping ground for trash and turned it into a thriving urban farm, complete with an orchard, native perennials, and a bioswale. This summer, that Knight Arnold orchard alone produced over 100 pounds of apples and pears! Shoppers at our South Memphis Farmers Market were delighted to see locally grown fruit that is affordable, nutrient-dense, and delicious. Next year, we are looking forward to our biggest harvest yet as the Knight Arnold orchard enters its third and highest producing year.

In addition to our urban farms, we have now started over 20 fruit-producing community orchards throughout Memphis which have provided peaches, figs, and more to the local volunteers that help maintain them. These community gardens and orchards are equipped with regenerative farming practices to promote healthy soil and provide habitats for critical pollinators, creating a sustainable model that empowers local communities, reduces food insecurity, and benefits public health.



RECEIVORSHIP INSPECTION

Vincent Receivership

by Esbeida Ramos

The issue of inadequate, insufficient housing and abandoned, unsafe buildings is one Memphis is very familiar with. Vincent Sawyer, an attorney at The Works, has been a part of over 40 receivership projects and believes that receivership is the key to bringing a property back to life. The Works is a proud member of the Tennessee Receivership Group (TRG) whose goal is to support effective, efficient, and equitable receivership practices. A receivership is a legal process that allows any community member or organization to request that a nuisance property (i.e. a property posing a threat to the safety or health of the community) be placed under the charge of a “receiver” who is then responsible for resolving identified health and safety issues *at no cost to taxpayers*.

Renovating a property that has been designated a public nuisance is no easy task and requires a multi-sector approach. Memphis Native Tree Works supports these receiverships by ensuring that the properties are as beautiful, safe, and sustainable on the outside as they are on the inside. Trees and native plants are planted to provide shade (and perhaps even fruit), support biodiversity, and improve ecological health. Together, we are working towards safer, healthier, and happier communities for all Memphians.

Rural Farmers

by Jalen Prater

Melissa Medina-Sandoval, a doctoral student at the University of Memphis, is developing a digital tool to help small-scale farmers in the Mississippi Delta (western Tennessee, eastern Arkansas and northern Mississippi) identify which specialty crops, like fruits, vegetables, or herbs, are best suited for their land and how to grow them using regenerative practices that improve soil health and foster sustainability.

She has noticed that small-scale farmers, with limited time and resources, often have no way of knowing what opportunities their own land holds, or have no access to technical assistance that could greatly benefit them. She believes regenerative agriculture can help grow food that doesn't come at the expense of soil health and critical ecosystems. The project combines interviews with farmers and experts, geospatial analysis, and pilot testing on real farms to make sure the tool is practical and low-cost. We are proud to have had the opportunity to support Melissa by introducing her to 8 rural farmers that participated in her interviews and joined her for a tour of our farms to see these regenerative practices first-hand.



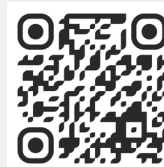
U of M PhD Student, Melissa Medina-Sandoval

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

“If you see someone without a smile today, give ‘em yours.”
— Dolly Parton