

ELAWA FARM FOUNDATION

Spring 2014



Elawa Farm: A Time For New Growth

Dear Friends of Elawa Farm, It is an exciting time at Elawa Farm with spring finally upon us, buds beginning to swell on trees along with blue scilla and yellow daffodils starting to emerge. Soon the season will be in full swing, our garden will be flourishing with a large assortment of vegetables, and the flowers will be showcasing their enormous array of vibrant colors across Middlefork Savannah.

As I write this first column to you in my new Elawa Farm Foundation leadership role, my memory has flashed back nearly 20 years to early discussions surrounding future development of this dormant and benignly neglected gentleman's farm building complex and surrounding 200 acres of property. Designed by one of America's pre-eminent architects nearly 100 years ago and named for its first owners (Elsa & A. Watson Armour), Elawa Farm functioned as a working agricultural and livestock farm. It continued to flourish under its second owners through most of the second half of the 20th century. Then, following years of planning and spirited debate, the entire property received approval to be subdivided. It was sold in September 1998 in a contemporaneous transaction to 4 separate entities – Lake Forest Open

Lands, Lake County Forest Preserve, the City of Lake Forest and the Middlefork Farm residential developer.

Subsequently, a newly assembled group of area residents began brainstorming a vision for restoration and adaptive reuse of Elawa Farm grounds and buildings. This group evolved into an early version of today's Elawa Farm Foundation Board and the City's Elawa Farm Commission.

Now, 15 years later, Elawa Farm activities include a vibrant and growing garden, kitchen and market (which will seasonally open 3 days/week). Nearly 300 volunteers make up the equivalent of several seasonally full time workers and in-kind donations add another 3 seasonally full time workers – all supported by 4 full time employees who plan and manage the enterprise.

Scores of events, from weddings and special occasion celebrations to cooking classes and meetings add to the vibrancy of the farm today. Governed by a board of over 25 directors and nearly a dozen active committees, day-to-day management is led by Executive Director Joanne Miller and her staff including Jesse Rosenbluth, Mary McMahan and our newest employee Natalie Moore. Welcome to Natalie and our new 2014 board members

and many thanks to those who have completed their term.

While our annual budget has grown to half a million dollars and we are consistently in the black while reinvesting in programming expansion, we need your ongoing participation and financial support. Revenue sources include lease and event income, garden and holiday market sales and your donations.

The next governance step in our evolution is a recently signed agreement with the City of Lake Forest. It has been concluded after 3 years of work during the Foundation's growth – and gives us both freedom and responsibility to manage Elawa Farm for the benefit of our local communities. While we have developed dramatically in the past 15 years, we must continue to evolve our governance and financial sustainability.

In addition, the reactivated Elawa Farm Commission, consisting of 7 Lake Bluff and Lake Forest residents, provides oversight to the Lake Forest City Manager and City Council. It also serves as a sounding board for the Foundation. With approval of the new agreement, it will become more active – including review of the Elawa master plan, annual budget, proposed major capital initiatives and periodic operating reviews.

We will be kicking off our busy season with our Spring Plant Sale coming up on May 16 and 17. Our Garden Market is getting ready to open, which will feature fresh organically grown produce, aromatic flowers and bouquets, as well as some unique gifts and beautiful things for the home. In addition to our market, Elawa Farm provides a perfect setting to celebrate weddings and other events, take classes in cooking, photography, flower arranging, gardening, or just a place to come and enjoy a breathtaking sunset.

Like many other public-private partnerships, no municipal real estate tax revenues are used to support Elawa Farm. Volunteers and contributors are the quintessence of our existence.

Elawa Farm would not be what it is today without the much appreciated generosity of our donors, the work put in by all of our volunteers and event attendance by our residents.

We welcome you to come and experience the beauty, rich history, wonderful staff and volunteers, and panoramic scenery at Elawa Farm throughout the year.

Bob Shaw, President
Elawa Farm Foundation

**THE GARDEN MARKET
AT ELAWA FARM**

May 16 - October 31, 2014
8 am—1 pm
**Wednesdays, Fridays,
& Saturdays**



Volunteer at Elawa Farm

If you are interested in
volunteering at Elawa Farm
Garden, Market, Kitchen
please call 847-234-1907 or
email volunteers@elawafarm.org



The GARDEN at ELAWA FARM

April showers are happening in earnest. The rain is thudding into sodden soil, stirring up dormant roots and washing away the too long winter. The garden is taking full advantage of this respite, rhubarb is poking up pink and green curls, green onions sit like nubby pencils in the newly turned beds and tulips and daffodils are pushing north. Plans have been made and I sit excited for the new season, peeking from the window for breaks in the rain to run out and stir awake a new vegetable bed. We're eager for the return of our volunteers, our customers and the countless visitors who walk through Elawa each season. We've got new programs, new flowers and baked goods, but we're excited to be bringing the same commitment of quality and freshness that we always have.

Spring Plant Sale

Elawa continues to build and grow, and nowhere is this more evident than at our bustling farmers market. We continue to provide locally and organically grown vegetables and flowers, fresh baked goods, incredible jams and pies and beautiful plant starts for your garden. So mark your calendars for the **Spring Plant Sale, May 16th and 17th**. It's a perfect chance

to pick up supplies for your garden in preparation for spring. Be sure to also sample our offerings of local jams and honey as part of our new pantry offerings. Enjoy spring lettuce mixes, crunchy and spicy radishes, bright green onions and aromatic herbs grown right here at Elawa. The Spring Plant Sale kicks off the market season and will run through October. Each month will feature new flower specials, fresh produce picked that very day, and an ever evolving array of baked goods, soups and treats.

Work Share Program

We're excited to be announcing our new work share program. The work share program aims to reward our dedicated volunteers and help them develop new skills and roles here at Elawa. The work share program requires you to commit to a minimum of 4½ volunteer hours per week at the farm for an eighteen week period (June – Mid October). In exchange for your work you'll receive a weekly vegetable & flower share starting the second week of June. Whether it's in the Garden, the Kitchen or the Market, we're excited to have you join our new program!

Stewardship Saturdays!

Join us the last weekend of every month for our Stewardship Saturday Series. These weekend work parties will introduce new gardening techniques and projects dedicated to the improvement of the Elawa Flower and Vegetable Gardens.

All are welcome and encouraged to join!

Contact our garden manager for details on our next event:

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering at Elawa Farm, please contact our Garden Manager:

Jesse Rosenbluth
jrosenbluth@elawafarm.org
847-234-1907

Garden Conservancy's Open Days at Elawa

Elawa is proud to continue our tradition of collaboration with the Garden Conservancy, serving as a stop for their Open Days program. The Garden Conservancy's mission is to *preserve exceptional American gardens for the education and enjoyment of the public*. Elawa is honored to be counted as such a garden. During the Conservancy Open Days Event, **June 22nd from 10 AM – 4 PM**, Elawa will be throwing open its doors for garden lovers, historians, horticulturists, i.e., to all and everyone. Market is open, too!

HOSTING AN EVENT? Elawa Farm offers beautiful and unique event sites for your meeting, event, or special occasion. You'll find a variety of settings to choose from, indoors and out. Whether you're looking for a place to have an intimate gathering, class reunion, or wedding reception, we can accommodate your party of 2 to 200. Uniquely situated adjacent to both the Middlefork Savannah and Lake Forest Open Lands, Elawa Farm provides a stunning backdrop for your next function.



Visit our website at:
www.elawafarm.org
For more information
on renting our facility





From Musical theater to singing with the band, Lindsey has performed locally and all the way to the west coast.

Bee Boppers with Lindsey Smithwick

This summer, we are happy to offer Bee-Boppers Music at Elawa Farm! Join singer/songwriter Lindsey Smithwick as she play and sings songs that will make your little one want to move and groove. Lindsey offers traditional, simple melodies as well as original tunes in a fun environment that encourages participation, movement and just plain silliness.

Lindsey has been performing since she was about as young as your little tike. From musical theater to singing with the

band, she has performed locally all the way to the west coast. It wasn't until Lindsey had her own little bee-bopper that she combined her love for music and kids and created Bee-Boppers, Inc.

Her goal is to help children create the foundation for musical skills-whether it's keeping a beat, singing a tune or, most importantly, the excitement and emotion of connecting with loved ones through music. Come fuel those little bodies and minds on the beautiful

Elawa Farm this summer. And why not make a day of it? Stop by our Elawa Market and the Wildlife Discovery Center after the show!

Geared for children 0-3 (one adult per child please).



**Wednesdays 11:15 – noon,
June 4 - Aug 27**

Pre-register at www.elwafarm.org

Chef Gale Gand's Master Classes

Chef Gale Gand is pastry chef/partner of the newly opened Spritz Burger in Chicago, a collaboration with The Hearty Boys, and partners in the Michelin one star, Tru, host of Food Network's "Sweet Dreams," and author of 8 books. She produces Gale's Root Beer, has received a James Beard Award, and is the mother of 3.

Summer/Fall classes offered:

June 16 - Summer Desserts and Drinks

July 9 - Backyard Buffet Entertaining

August 27 - Stone Fruit (Peaches, Plums, Apricots)

September 17 - Fall Harvest Desserts

October 15 - Pies

November 11 - Thanksgiving Sides

December 9 - Holiday Food Gifts

Tastes will be served. Classes are limited to 20 people and will be held from 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm. Cost is \$75 per person. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

To register please call 847-234-1966 or www.elwafarm.org

Don't miss Gale Gand's latest cookbook, *Lunch!* As Gale says, "Lunch is the new dinner!"



Don't miss Gale Gand's newest cookbook, *Lunch!*

Fermenting Classes



Tamara Mannelly is a Certified Health Coach, Blogger, and Real Food Educator

Tamara Mannelly, MEd, HC is passionate about Real Food and healthy living. She works with men and women who are tired of overly processed foods and helps them learn to transition to a more nutrient dense food lifestyle. She is also passionate about the healing powers of traditional foods and preparations, the ways our ancestors ate and prepared foods. These are foods and techniques that have been forgotten by recent

generations. One such preparation is fermenting foods. She teaches people everything they need to know about the art of fermentation: the importance of gut bacteria, the health benefits of fermented foods, the technique and many delicious recipes. She also blogs at www.ohlardy.com, which has become a popular website focusing on healthy eating and living.

Classes at Elawa Farm:

**May 29 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Probiotic-rich Dips & Sauces**

**June 12 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Probiotic-rich Fizzy Drinks**

Pre-registration required.

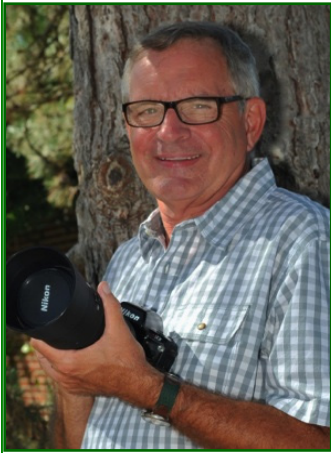
Tamara Mannelly

Certified Health Coach, Blogger and Real Food Educator

773-551-4802

www.ohlardy.com

Programs at Elawa Farm



Photography Classes with Jack Carlson

Photographing Early Spring at Elawa Farm - Fridays, May 9 & 16 from 9am -noon.

Spring is often subtle and late (especially this year!) in its arrival. This class will present the camera lens settings that are best to use when capturing those small hints of the changing season. Learn to recognize which perspective will best highlight these small-scale buds and shoots. See website for more information.

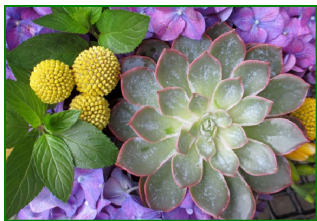
Exploring Elawa (with Cameras!) - Fridays, June 6 & 13 from 9am - noon

Flowers and vegetables will soon be on the way to vase and market. Don't miss this time to capture wonderful images of them while still in their natural environment. Photo topics will include discussion and practice in perspective control and highlighting the subject.

Intermediate Photography: The Next Level - Saturdays, June 14, 21 & 28 from 9am to noon

Now that you have a working knowledge of your camera, join us for this new 3-meeting class. This course will concentrate on finding a subject then photographing it using selective focus, lead lines and a suitable aperture. Additional time will be available to photograph the sites of the Middlefork Savanna

Floral Arranging Classes by Alison Buck - techniques taught in all classes are environmentally friendly and sustainable (no floral foam!)



Floral Arrangement with succulents

Sat., June 7 10am - noon

Succulents add a beautiful, unexpected element to your floral arrangements! Learn how to incorporate them in an arrangement of your own.



Floral Arranging with Summer Fruits & Blooms

Sat., July 19 10am - noon

Incorporating the unexpected in your arrangements really helps get them noticed! Learn how to prepare and add beautiful edible items to your arrangements.



Divine Seasonal Arrangement, A Celebration of Nature

Sat., August 9 10am - noon

In this class, we will be creating large, lush arrangements filled with local greens and Elawa Farm's finest flowers of the season. Real show stoppers



An Autumn Arrangement of Fall Colors

Sat., Sept 27 10am - noon

In this class, we will learn about the sophisticated autumn palette, and incorporate many of its beautiful textures in our designs.

Jam and Jelly Classes with Elizabeth Madden

Sunday, May 18 - Sunday, June 8

Join Elizabeth Madden, founder of Rare Bird Preserves, as she brings her expertise on fruit preserving techniques to Elawa Farm. Elizabeth Madden's love affair with preserving fruit began as a student at the French Pastry School in Chicago, where she was moved by the beauty and simplicity of the process. Her preserves flavors are made seasonally with high quality fruit and paired with unique flavors such as spices, flowers, teas or chocolate. She started Rare Bird Preserves in 2007, lives with her husband, young son, and dog in River Forest, Illinois.



Plant Based Nutrition—Think Fresh, Seasonal, and Local by Integrative Nutritionist Carol D'Anca MS, CNS, LDN

Current classes offered at Elawa Farm:

Tuesday, May 13 - 12:00 to 2:00 | Tuesday, June 17 - 6:00 to 8:30

Plant based eating is definitely in vogue because it delivers high powered nutrition with serious health benefits. But, Plant based diets have been the traditional way of eating for centuries across the globe. Learn about the health benefits for you and your family and how to incorporate more of these wonderful additions in your diet. A tasting buffet will follow.



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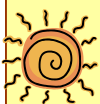
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The Associate Board of Elawa Farm
 presents **HERE COMES the SUN**

Cocktail Reception followed by Dinner & Live Music

Saturday, June 21, 2014

6:30 pm ~ 10:30 pm

Purchase your tickets at www.elawafarm.org or call 847-234-1966

The Garden at Elawa Farm

INVITES YOU TO A FEAST FROM THE FIELD

A celebration of local food, highlighting
 produce grown in the Garden at Elawa Farm

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Cocktails at 6:00 pm Dinner at 7:00 pm

Tickets available soon at www.ewafarm.org or call 847-234-1966

Wildlife Discovery Center



Rob Carmichael, Curator at Wildlife Discovery Center, holding a pair of baby spectacled caiman (cute little buggers).

The Wildlife Discovery Center's spring school field trip season will attract close to 1500 students from around Lake County. These students will be completing a one day environmental education experience that focuses on wildlife and their habitat. This past season we took our "Zoo To You" program to the tornado victims in Washington, Illinois for a full day of wildlife programs. Our animals were a huge hit and

brought a lot of smiles to the faces of these folks who have really struggled since last November. Our popular Zoo-keeper Mentorship Program that meets on Saturdays has 20 participants (ages 10-14) and the program continues to grow. Summer camps are right around the corner and if you are looking for a great camp experience for your child (ages 4-9) take a look at what we have to offer! And last, thanks to a

wonderful donor, the WDC is pleased to announce that we will be open on Sundays! Our new public drop-in schedule will be Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10am to 4pm (closed on major holidays and religious holidays). For more info go to our website www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org or contact: Rob Carmichael, Curator at carmichr@cityoflakeforest.com

ELAWA FARM FOUNDATION

1401 Middlefork Drive
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045
Mailing Address
PO Box 181
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045
847-234-1966

foundation@elawafarm.org

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Our mission is to advance and promote Elawa Farm as a center for education and enjoyment of architectural preservation, history, gardening and the environment.

As a nonprofit organization, **Elawa Farm Foundation** relies on the generosity of donors to provide the continued historic restoration of the garden and buildings. Local schools, organizations and businesses are using the farm for public and private special events, celebrations, garden workshops, programs and meetings. Elawa Farm is open to the public and offers a community of natural splendor and historic significance. Please help us continue our mission.

Donate on line at www.elawafarm.org or fill out the enclosed envelope and mail it in.

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By making a gift to the Elawa Farm Foundation you can honor or remember a loved one. We acknowledge all gifts to their recipients and keep the exact amount of the donation confidential.

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