

ELAWA FARM FOUNDATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019



Dear Friends,

Welcome to springtime at Elawa Farm!

Spring is a time of rejuvenation and beginnings. It is also a great time for everyone in our community to visit and walk the garden to see what the early signs of warmer weather are bringing. Peek into our greenhouse and see what's sprouting for our beautiful gardens. In the few short years that I have been working and volunteering at Elawa Farm, the garden has grown in size and produces over 7,500 pounds of produce, plus beautiful cut flowers and pumpkins, annually.

From a historical perspective, Elawa Farm is a beautiful complex of 1917 farm buildings designed by Alfred Hopkins and David Adler for A. Watson Armour. It was designated by the White House Millennium Council as one of "Save America's Treasures" through the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Foundation was established in 2002 and its board set out to raise the funds needed to save and renovate the historically relevant and irreplaceable farm buildings with the restored Garden – the keystone of Elawa Farm. The bountiful garden supplies our Garden Market and kitchen with fresh produce grown without chemicals.

Elawa Farm is inspiring to people of all ages. There is always something fun and educational happening, along with our fundraising events – the summer Beer Garden in June and the popular Harvest Dinner in September. Support the Foundation's mission and celebrate together as a community.

The Elawa Farm complex is owned by the City of Lake Forest and managed by the Elawa Farm Foundation. As a 501c-3 non-profit, we are dependent on the work of our volunteers and donors – without whom we could not serve you. We are grateful for the dedication of Joanne Miller, our Executive Director for the past 10 years, along with a terrific and enthusiastic staff. On behalf of the Directors of the Elawa Farm Foundation, a heartfelt thanks to our entire community for your ongoing financial support and participation at Elawa Farm activities.

Finally, this newsletter has been sent to 15,000 people in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. If each recipient donates \$25, we would raise \$375,000 in just a simple appeal, and \$100 each would raise \$1,500,000. Won't you please consider a small donation – an investment in our community. You can also donate online at <https://elawafarm.org/donate>

Alex Hodges, President, Elawa Farm Foundation





From the Garden at ELAWA FARM

Preparations are underway for another successful growing season of bountiful vegetables and beautiful flowers at Elawa Farm. I'm excited to have recently joined Elawa Farm as the Garden Manager after having previously worked at Prairie Wind Family Farm in Grayslake and The Talking Farm in Skokie. We have also added an Assistant Garden Manager to the team this year. Please join me in welcoming Ana Poznanski to Elawa Farm!

I've spent the many quiet and cold winter weeks getting familiar with how we've been gardening at Elawa Farm and planning our 2019 growing season. Our crop plan is complete, seeds, supplies and some new tools have been purchased, and seeding in the greenhouse is now underway. It's exciting to water in the greenhouse daily and watch our seedlings germinate. It's a signal that we'll finally be regularly working outside in the garden in the coming weeks.

In addition to selling our sustainably grown vegetables and flowers at our weekly garden market, we are continuing to offer our successful Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. CSA members receive a weekly box of fresh, locally grown produce for 20 weeks from June through October. Space in this program is limited, so if you're interested in joining, please contact us soon.

Elaine Madansky, Garden Manager

From the Garden Market at ELAWA FARM

The flowers are blooming, the bees are buzzing and our Sandhill cranes are back. It's officially time to get excited about Elawa Farm's 2019 opening weekend - May 17th and May 18th from 8am-1pm. We will be welcoming back a variety of local vendors including Chia Leah and MPOwering Health, Dave's Tool Sharpening, Eggceptional Eggs (our friends up the road), Gretta's Goats, Lake Forest Farms Microgreens, Little Bison Farms, Ludwig Cheese, River Valley Ranch, The Zen of Slow Cooking and Sitka Salmon.

We continue to place a strong emphasis on offering healthy, delicious food from the Elawa Kitchen & Garden, including our Elawa Farm honey. These items, along with other local food items and artisan gifts, make a visit to the Elawa Garden Market a weekly must.

Our volunteer opportunities at Elawa Farm are posted on our website and offer a great way to get involved in the Elawa Farm community. Come make bouquets to sell at market, help harvest veggies or share your culinary skills with the Elawa kitchen. Stop by for a visit to get some fresh air, walk the gardens, shop the market, savor a freshly baked scone and enjoy all Elawa Farm has to offer.

Catherine Gregg, Garden Market Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

Garden Market Hours

May 17th - October 26th | Friday & Saturday | 8am - 1pm





From the Kitchen at ELAWA FARM

It is an absolute pleasure to join the Elawa Farm team as the new Chef. I look forward to continuing the tradition of providing healthy, seasonal food to our community.

While our gardens have slept through our cold winter in the Midwest, the kitchen has remained warm and thriving throughout the winter months with our annual Take and Bake Program – featuring hearty, “good for your soul” dishes made from scratch. We appreciate all who have supported the Elawa kitchen throughout the past several months. This program has been a huge success and we hope to see many of you at the market this season.

We can’t wait for the Garden Market to open, showcasing all the glorious seasonal produce that our region has to offer. The Farm has been bustling with daily activity after a long, cold winter and we could not be more delighted. It is our goal, with the new market season upon us, to offer you the absolute best seasonal products, sourcing from both the Elawa garden and neighboring farms. At this year’s market, expect to see some Elawa classics including our signature pies, vegetable focused side dishes, soups, entrées and more.

Our kitchen program would not be what it is without the help of our team of dedicated volunteers. All are welcome, regardless of skill level. The Elawa kitchen is a great place to spend time, forge comradery, and help our community effort. We hope to see you in the kitchen over the summer!

Katie Merkle, Chef

New Initiatives at ELAWA FARM

Here on the farm, we are proud of our commitment to care for our land and environment. The entire Elawa Farm property is managed without use of chemicals, which is better for our bees, better for the wildlife that passes through and better for you, our customers, who shop here at our Garden Market. You can purchase produce and flowers at Elawa knowing there are no pesticides or fertilizers used to grow them. We have a few new initiatives we are kicking off this year. Join us in our efforts!

Goals for 2019

Reduce Waste

- 1) Eliminate all single-use plastics (plastic water bottles, plastic bags, etc.)
- 2) Increase on-site composting capacity to reduce waste entering the landfill

Education for the Community

Join us on Thursday May 9th from 9:30-11:30am for a panel discussion on “*Landscaping without Chemicals*”. We are bringing together 5 local experts in the landscape industry to talk about shifting away from chemicals in our home landscape maintenance. Bring your questions and concerns for the Q&A.

This event is FREE and open to the public.

Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB)

Every year, we go through thousands of bags at our weekly Garden Market. Help us build awareness around opting for reusable bags here at Elawa. Our paper bags will still be available this year, but for a small fee.

Erika Vernon, Director of Programs & Communications



Elawa Farm would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our 2018 donors and volunteers for your generous and much appreciated support.

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Landscaping Without Chemicals

Thursday May 9th
9:30-11:30am
FREE



Hear from local leaders in the landscaping industry on compost, benefits of native plants, working with your landscape company, the science behind healthy soils, practical steps to reducing and eliminating chemicals & finally, what you can expect from your chemical-free yard.

Join us for this free event. Each panelist will give an overview of their work, followed by an in-depth discussion and Q&A. Leave with the tools you need to create a safe lawn for your family.

Panelists

- Ryan Anderson, Community IPM Outreach Specialist, Midwest Grows Green
- David Gorter, Owner, DK Organics
- David Husemoller, Sustainability Manager, College of Lake County
- Vytas Pabedinskas, Soil Health & Compost Consultant, Save Our Soil Composting Solutions
- Leslie Rose, Project Manager, Manfredini Landscaping



GOAT CHEESE & GOAT MILK SOAP with Gretta's Goats

Gretta & Eric are goat farmers located near Pecatonica, Illinois and have been part of the Elawa community for a few years now. You will see them out at our Garden Market and also teaching in the Elawa Kitchen.

Come get your goat on!

Eric leads classes on making soft cheeses in your own kitchen at home. Learn the proper techniques and tools you'll need to get started.

Gretta leads creative sessions on making goat milk soap by hand, the old fashioned way. Choose your essential oil and know exactly what you are putting on your skin.

More dates to come with Gretta's Goats.



FLORAL ARRANGING with Katie Ford

Katie is a local floral designer serving the Chicagoland area. She loves spreading joy through creating beautiful floral arrangements

Mother's Day Florals Friday | May 10 | 1-2pm | \$85

Join Katie Ford of Flowers by Katie Ford for this floral workshop in honor of Mother's Day Weekend. Bring your mom, sister or friend to celebrate this special day.

Summer & Succulents Thursday | June 13 | 10-11:30am | \$85

Katie shares her knowledge and skill along with her creative spirit, as she spreads her love of flowers.

More dates for floral classes to come.



MASTER CLASSES with Chef Gale Gand

Gale Gand is a James Beard Award winning Pastry Chef, founding partner at Tru, and author of 8 cookbooks.

Great British Bake Off - Round 2 Monday | May 6 | 12:00 - 2:30pm | \$85

Back by popular demand, Gale is hosting round 2 of the "Must Know" British desserts. Learn some of the classic desserts necessary to compete on the Great British Bake-Off. Tastes provided.

Summer Desserts Monday | June 3 | 12:00 - 2:30pm | \$85

Celebrate summer with 3 fruit desserts you can make all season. Tastes provided.

Gale teaches in the Elawa kitchen every month. Check our website for upcoming classes.



BEE-BOPPERS with Lindsey Smithwick

BEEs will be buzzing and bopping at the farm this summer!

Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:15 a.m.

Join Miss Lindsey and her bee-bopping music class. From original tunes to covers, from simple standards to rock-and-roll.

Bee-Boppers is a great way to incorporate music and early socialization skills into your child's life in a fun, interactive environment.

For ages 0 - 4.

Also available for private parties! Classes available as drop in (\$15) or 4 pack (\$50)



Programs for the Soul

Elawa Farm is a gathering place
for the community.

Our programs here at the farm
are centered around growing
healthy vegetables & flowers,
cooking with seasonal & local
produce, gardening without
chemicals and reducing waste
through composting & recycling.

We seek to instill a passion for
food, agriculture, gardening,
cooking and flowers. Through
our classes, internships and
volunteering, we aim to engage
people of all ages in activities that
fit their abilities and passions.

If you'd like to see a class that we
are not currently offering, get in
touch and let us know. We are
always interested in hearing from
you, our community, and we
would not be here without your
participation and support.

We look forward to seeing you
out at the farm this season.



MICROGREENS *with Elliot Hirsch*

*Elliot, owner of Lake Forest Farms,
brings his microgreens expertise to the
Elawa Farm kitchen.*

Microgreens at Home
Tuesday | Apr 23 | 10:00 - 11:30am | \$65

Join Elliot to learn everything you need to
know to successfully grow microgreens at
home. Elliot shares his expertise on starting
many different types of microgreens from pea
shoots, to broccoli, to dill, to sunflower and
more.

At the end of the class you will have a full tray
of 8 varieties of microgreens to bring home
with you to start your new adventure.

*Elliot also offers a microgreens subscription
delivery service right to your front door.
Visit www.LakeForest.Farm for more information.*

baguette & butter



THE SEASONAL KITCHEN *with Chef Amanda McLemore*

*Amanda, owner of Baguette & Butter,
brings experience as both a gardener and a
chef on her journey of working with seasonal
produce, preserving & stocking your pantry.*

Spring Capsule Cooking
Tuesday | May 28 | 11am-2pm | \$100

Spring Capsule Lunch
Tuesday | May 28 | 1-2pm | \$45

Class plus lunch or lunch-only options.
Join Amanda for a workshop based on her
Spring Field Guide of the Midwest. She
will walk through spring produce and work
through a few recipes. Enjoy a meal together
afterwards in our beautiful Hay Barn.

*Learn more about Amanda on her blog
focused on local, seasonal produce.
www.baguetteandbutter.com*



ELAWA FARM INTERNSHIPS

*Elawa Farm hires interns each season who are
an integral part of the Elawa Farm team. We
seek candidates who are passionate about
local food, cooking & engaging customers at
our twice-weekly Garden Market.*

Kitchen Intern
with Chef Katie
20 hours per week
\$10/hour

Garden Market Intern
with Market Manager Catherine
20 hours per week
\$10/hour

Full descriptions at www.elawafarm.org

Send resume & cover letter to
info@elawafarm.org and we will get back
to you as quickly as possible.



The **HARVEST DINNER**
in the garden
at ELAWA FARM

September 7th

Save the Date for a celebration of local food, highlighting produce grown in the Garden at Elawa Farm.

For more information and for sponsorship opportunities please call the Foundation Office at 847-234-1966

BEER
ELAWA'S GARDEN

Saturday, June 22th

Our second annual Elawa Beer Garden tasting event features 6 local breweries, plus spirits & wine for the non-beer drinkers. Catering by City BBQ.

Tickets are available in limited quantity.
www.ElawaFarm.org



Corporate Meetings & Events

Elawa Farm is a unique and picturesque getaway for your next meeting, seminar or retreat.

Spooktacular

Saturday October 26th

10am-1pm

Petting Zoo & Pony Rides

Live Music with Bee Boppers featuring Lindsey Smithwick

Costume Contest

Games & Prizes

Cider & Donuts



Summer Camp at Elawa Farm



We'll have a variety of activities with a focus on food & the garden, including scavenger hunts, harvesting veggies, preparing food in the kitchen, arts & crafts, and of course, getting our hands dirty!

For kids entering 1st or 2nd grade.

Session 1

Monday - Friday (5 days)
June 10 - 14 | 9 - 11:30am
\$250/child

Session 2:

Monday - Friday (5 days)
August 5 - 9 | 9 - 11:30am
\$250/child

*"And at the end of the day, your feet should be dirty,
your hair messy & your eyes sparkling." -Shanti*





ELAWA FARM FOUNDATION

1401 Middlefork Drive • Lake Forest, IL 60045
www.elawafarm.org | 847.234.1966

*A Community of Natural Splendor
and Historical Significance*

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OUR MISSION

Elawa Farm, a restored gentleman's farm and garden, enriches our community as a unique center for hands-on learning and inspires an appreciation for gardening, healthy living and historic preservation.

As a nonprofit organization, **Elawa Farm Foundation** relies on the generosity of donors to provide the continued historic restoration of the garden, the buildings, and to grow our programs and educational opportunities. Your support makes all the difference on our progress. In 2017 we celebrated the farm's 100th year and we are looking forward to our next 100 years. Please help us continue to grow.

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

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

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 amount of the donation confidential.

MATCHING GIFTS

The amount of your gift may be doubled at no expense to you if you work for an employer who matches the charitable gifts of employees. Simply contact your company's Human Resource department.

STOCK GIFTS

Please contact the office for instructions to donate stock at 847-234-1966.

THE GARDEN MARKET AT ELAWA FARM

OPENS MAY 17TH AND RUNS THROUGH OCTOBER 26TH • FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS • 8AM - 1PM