

LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION, 2015

501c3 non-profit organization.

For more information contact:

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MISSION:

Cultivating Soil, Seed and Community through ecological stewardship and biodynamic agriculture.

VISION:

Traditionally, farms throughout the world have been places where human beings can learn about and participate in life processes. When someone sows a seed, then harvests seed from the same plant, they see the unfolding and development of a life from beginning to end. Through the Living Environment Foundation (LEF) we wish to invite the wider community to connect with and learn from the vital mosaic of the farm's living environment. LEF promotes opportunities in cultural, social, therapeutic and economic life within the living fabric of farms that provide them their nourishment. Lastly, we intend to help farms go into the future by searching for ways to hold the land and manage it through land trusts and trained young agriculturalists.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

We offer hands-on learning experiences in organic farming activities for farmers, the general public, individuals with disabilities, and public or private schools at our family farm or in your classroom. We can also customize and create new classes or tours as needed. Call for an updated schedule since we are always adding classes.

*Blooming Tour seed garden: JULY

*Introduction to Seed Saving: AUGUST

*Professional Seed Saving for Experienced Vegetable Agriculturalists: LABOR DAY WEEKEND

*Various types of on-farm apprenticeships available. Contact us for more information.

FARM Tours and Activity OPTIONS throughout the year:

We can work with teachers or home-school leaders to adapt the farm tour to incorporate what is being learned in the classroom!

*Tours of the seed gardens throughout the spring, summer and fall. In the spring, tours can also include activities such as visiting the greenhouses and baby animals. In the fall, tours can also include activities such as harvesting vegetables and visiting the animals. Groups are welcome to visit more than once to observe the different stages of the plant cycle throughout the different seasons. If you can only visit the farm once, several stages of the plant cycle can usually be observed at any time of the year on the farm. Carrots are a special favorite because in the fall we dig them up, then we select the best carrot roots to save to replant in the ground in the spring to grow for the next generation of seeds. Our CSA members commented often on the good flavor of our varieties such as carrots! Many of the varieties are originally from European biodynamic on farm breeding where they select for outstanding flavor!

*Volunteer on the Farm. Call to schedule a day. Harvesting is often done on Thursdays, and is a fun day to come work with us!

*Baby animal visits during the spring...piglets and calves!

*Nature walks with Nathan. He is a trained naturalist and has been watching nature cycles for over 40 years. He enjoys sharing his love of nature with groups of adults and/or children.

*Festive celebrations and cultural events throughout the year TBA. Call for an updated schedule.

-The Annual Autumn Bean Stomp:

-Christmas Caroling with the Farm Animals:

CURRENT FUND-RAISING PROJECTS:

Besides our educational programs, we are in the process of establishing a comprehensive on-farm cleaning and processing facility for harvesting and cleaning vegetable seed from around the USA to maintain the diversity of ecologically grown vegetables.

Supporting our educational programs keeps our farm open to the public as an education resource. Donations to our educational programs and other fund-raising projects are tax-deductible, and greatly appreciated. Please contact us for more information.

Founders of Living Environment Foundation: Beth Corymb Everett and Nathan Corymb Clark have been involved in an international non-profit organization working and living with people with special needs, called Camphill Village (www.camphillvillage.org) for over 25 years in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New York state as well as England and Switzerland. They lived in Camphill Village USA, Copake, New York from 1998 until 2010 where they founded Turtle Tree Biodynamic Seed Initiative (www.turtletreeseed.org), which is a sheltered workshop for people with special needs as well as an organization growing and selling organic/biodynamic seeds. They returned in 2010 to grow seed at Beth's family farm in Scottsbluff, NE where Beth's grandparents homesteaded in the 1800's. The farm has been certified organic since 2009. Beth and Nathan are life-long members of Seed-Savers Exchange, as well as the Biodynamic Gardening and Farming Association. For more information about Beth and Nathan's work, see the farm's website meadowlarkhearth.org.