

# Atchingtan Newsletter

First Edition - February 2016



*"We are at peace in this serene and private space where we, and invited guests, learn from one another and the land, connect with mother earth, and live in the moment. With help from earth-loving souls, we enable the land to care for itself and provide food, medicine, materials and habitat."*



## What's new?

Let us start with this **newsletter!**

We are going to be sending out a monthly newsletter so you can see our progress, events and plans, and learn how to get involved. It is winter so we are currently inside, working on our 2016 calendar of projects.

In other news, Atchingtan is proud to announce that we are now members of the Greater Mille Lacs Chapter of the Sustainable Farming Association (SFA). This means that we are networking with like-minded people in Aitkin County to develop sustainable practices, and to supply the needs of the local area.

## Recent Events

In 2015, we started implementing the first phases of our outdoor educational site and we opened up the land to the community. Some of the completed projects include: installing electrical service to our camping area, implementing an R.V. area with electrical, and creating a full off-grid shower system for the events we have hosted. We have started on some of our gardening projects using permaculture principles. We hosted several events, including a Spring festival in May, and a week-long Sacred Harvest Festival in August. The reviews were fabulous and showed us that we were heading in the right direction.



*Photo credit - Jack Green*

## Upcoming Projects

2016 is going to be very exciting with many new projects. Our short term plans include:

- Building bat and bird houses for pest control.
- Adopting barnyard animals, such as chickens, goats, etc.
- Expanding the camping areas.
- Clearing new trails through the forest.
- Completing the infrastructure to enable planting in our polytunnel.
- Planning our Memorial Garden (See below).
- Starting the Atchingtan Orchard.
- Finalizing our planting plans for the Deer and Pollinator Gardens.
- ... *and more*



## Schedule of Events

Atchingtan is planning to attend various permaculture and sustainability events. It is still early days, but as we confirm these dates, we will include them in subsequent issues of our newsletter.

We are working with various organizations to host their events. As we confirm the schedules of these events, they will be communicated through the newsletter and posted on the [Events page](#) of the Atchingtan website.

If you have an event that you would like to host at Atchingtan, or any ideas of events you would like to participate in, please contact us and we will be happy to discuss it with you. For more details on what we can offer, please see the [Site Amenities](#) section of the Atchingtan website.



## Volunteer Opportunities

2015 was very successful for Atchingtan, and it would not have been possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers. We demonstrated how community can come together and do great work. Our volunteer program is expanding this year, and we hope you will come out and be part of this amazing adventure - creating together a sustainable outdoor educational center that will benefit our communities. In upcoming newsletters, we will be announcing work-weekends where you can join us in realizing some of our projects. The weekends will be fun, productive, and challenging. You will have a chance to share your skills, learn something new, and come together as community.

If you are interested in our volunteer program, please [contact us](#) and let us know what you are interested in, what skills you have to offer and your availability. To see what benefits volunteering with Atchingtan provides, please see below!

## How does volunteering with Atchingtan benefit you?

Volunteers can expect a rewarding experience, working with new and old friends to create beautiful and useful spaces in an outdoor setting. You will learn new skills, feel the thrill of passing on your knowledge, and be immersed in a positive community setting. Projects may include a range of things: planting seeds, clearing trails, organizing events, and much more. Volunteers will share in food harvests, have access to special volunteer appreciation events, and enjoy contributing to a budding outdoor educational center.



## The Memorial Garden Project



In a short span of time, we have lost a lot of great people. Musicians, friends, family - connected directly or indirectly. Many people are having a hard time with this, which is understandable. However, it is important that we not only mourn at our own pace, but also honor those who have left us for the other side. In addition, to offer love and support to the families, friends and fans of those who have crossed over.

The Atchingtan leadership team has decided to implement a memorial garden to honor those who have passed on. We welcome you - this Spring - to come and plant a tree in the Memorial Garden to honor those close to you. As you plant your tree, think of all the good memories that person gave you. Then, as you return to Atchingtan over the years, you can see your tree grow and think of those good memories. The Memorial Garden Project has been envisioned for those who do not have space to plant a tree. If you are unable to plant your tree or come to Atchingtan to do it yourself, we will be taking orders and will be happy to plant it for you on your behalf.

More information on the Atchingtan Memorial Garden Project will soon be available on our website. In the meantime, feel free to [contact us](#) with questions and/or suggestions.

## The A-Team

Atchingtan

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