

Subject: Atchingtan - May Newsletter

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Atchingtan Newsletter Fourth Edition - May 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."

Recent Events



Photo Credit: Brent Colquhoun



Photo Credit: Joe Zukauska

We recently celebrated our Open Day. The weather was glorious, and we were amazed by all the people who showed up, including those who had never been to Atchingtan before. Paul took everyone on a hay wagon ride round the land, and a great time was had by all. The ground was prepared for our upcoming tree planting weekend, beds were cleared, and seeds were planted. All in all, despite a little sunburn in places, everybody seemed to really enjoy themselves. Atchingtan is now open for the season. If you are interested in organizing or attending events, classes, etc, please let us know by [contacting us](#). The

description of our amenities is available by [clicking here](#).

We were so thrilled to receive these words in a message from a new volunteer after the Open Day weekend: *“Spending the day out there was the best therapy and peace I have had in years.”*

THIS is what it’s all about. This is why we worry and stress, plan and invest, and beg for volunteers to help us achieve the Atchingtan vision. For People and Life! It would be so easy just to sit back and watch television, and enjoy looking at our land through the window, but our vision has always been to provide a place where people can reconnect with nature, and experience the joy of connecting with Mother Earth.

If you feel called to volunteer, you will not only share in the harvest, eat and drink in community, and receive Atchingtan swag. You will also hopefully experience the peace and therapy that our friend talks about.

Upcoming Events

Our next major Work Weekend is May 6th, 7th, and 8th – Tree Planting Weekend! We are proud to be working with the Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and their 2016 Tree Program, and are buying dozens of bareroot trees from them, primarily for the Atchingtan Orchard, but also for the Memorial Garden. We will need help getting them all in the ground on Saturday, May 7th!

The ground should still be quite soft, but in any case, we are not expecting superhero strength from those who help out – there are also tasks for little hands, or sedentary people. The point is not to exhaust or hurt yourself, just to feel a part of building our little community, and to look forward to the pleasure of picking fruit from these trees in due course, and telling your children/friends/self: “I helped plant this!”

In return for your help, we will of course feed you, and give you Atchingtan swag, as well as facilitating drumming and dancing, etc. You will be able to camp all weekend for free, or just come up for the day if you prefer. We have plenty of room for tents, and electric for RVs.

Plus - if you would like some of these trees for yourself, the cost to you is only \$1 (one dollar) per bareroot tree, plus weekend help!

This is the list of bareroot trees (mostly 18" - 24" high, depending on variety) available for only \$1 each plus volunteer time:

- Juneberry (Serviceberry)
- Highbush Cranberry
- Pin Cherry
- American Plum



- Flowering Crab (Red Splendor)
- Nannyberry
- Rugosa Rose
- Chokecherry

You will not just be able to enjoy the beautiful land, and get a little exercise at the same time - you can also be proud that you are helping to create a fabulous community space that people can enjoy for years to come.

If you can come, please RSVP by emailing us at contact@atchingtan.org, so we can be sure of having enough food and drink for everybody!

We are planning other Work Weekends, and will let you know about them on our [Facebook page](#) , and in our newsletters.

MCTC Herbal Studies Program Visits Atchingtan

We are proud to welcome the Herbal Studies Program of MCTC (Minneapolis Community & Technical College) to Atchingtan for a weekend field event, which will include camping, plant identification, medicinal herb harvesting and medicine making. This will be the first of such visits, and we are excited to be hosting this in May. We encourage other educational groups to hold similar events. Contact us at contact@atchingtan.org

Atchingtan Memorial Garden



There have been quite a few losses already this year – both of celebrities (we in Minnesota are of course still mourning Prince’s passing), and of loved ones. Closer to Atchingtan, Janette recently lost her uncle Royston Nash, pictured left. He is the last real connection to her father, who died when she was 4, and will be greatly missed. We know others who also lost cherished family members this year. While we know that what is remembered lives, and that these people will remain alive in our memories for many years to come, it does help to have a focus for our memories, and a place to visit where we can speak to them, and feel the comfort that can come from immersion in Nature. We will be planting a tree in the Memorial Garden to honor Royston’s life and achievements, among other trees, and if you would like to plant a tree to memorialize someone you mourn, please let us know by [contacting us](#).



Volunteer Opportunities

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!

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.



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