

Subject: Atchingtan - December 2016 Newsletter

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Date: 12/31/2016 10:55 AM

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Photo Credit: Teresa Frank

Atchingtan Newsletter

Sixth Edition - December 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



The wheel has turned again... Here we are on New Year's Eve, 2016, looking back over the year, and looking forward to the year ahead in 2017. Sadly it is 6 months since our last newsletter - we had big ambitions, but life got in the way! Janette had knee replacement surgery, and then started a new job at the Audubon Center of the North Woods. While this was happening, the Atchingtan home extension began - more than 4 months later, the builders have left and boxes have started to be emptied. The Studio is coming along, and will be finished very soon. We are very excited and optimistic about the year ahead.

Achievements of 2016



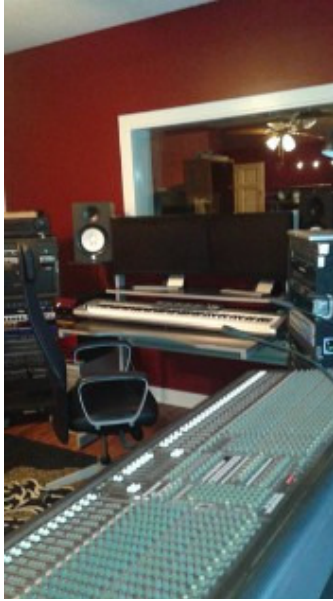
We again hosted the earth-based festival for a week in August; the Orchards got planted; we cleared a trail to the creek; the Memorial Garden was started; and over 200 Spring bulbs were put into the ground before it froze.

We picked many buckets of crabapples; canned 7 gallons of crabapple jelly and syrup; made crabapple butter and crabapple sauce; bottled up chives, oregano, lemon balm and catnip; and harvested the rest of the herbs. None of that would have been accomplished without all the help given by our phenomenal volunteers.

We are so grateful to all of them. We established our chickens and rabbits, and they are happily cohabiting and sharing food. You may remember the picture of the little fluffy black chicks that hatched - they are now enormous... We have been blessed by gifts of incredible artistry from friends, which will only enhance Atchingtan as the years go by.

Upcoming Events

We will be hosting a Hospitality Suite at a convention in March, to publicize Atchingtan, and again hosting the earth-based festival in August. Our favorite part of this particular fest is seeing how the children continue to grow and turn into teens, and how the teens become wonderful, responsible adults. We have been approached to host some private events, retreats, and classes, and will be firming up the details in the new year. Otherwise, we will be building on what we learned and started in 2016. As a reminder, if you are looking for a new home to host your event, please contact us at contact@atchingtan.org and we will be happy to discuss this with you.



Atchingtan Studios is just about complete! The new studio was built into the extension to provide a larger space for full ensemble recording projects. We are excited to complete the studio and expand our offering of full service recording capabilities. Many of our clients are ready to return to work on their new projects while new client inquiries continue to come in. 2017 will be a great year for the studio. We intend to open mid January 2017. New promotional pictures will be available soon. Check the Atchingtan [Facebook](#) page for more information.

There have been a lot of celebrity deaths this year, as well as many personal losses. This is why we envisioned and set space aside for the Memorial Garden. We are very committed to the Memorial Garden, and are asking for your help to continue bringing the vision to life. It is in a lovely location, fairly secluded but accessible, and we are creating it to offer a space for people to commemorate loved ones, whether 2- or 4-legged. We encourage those who don't have their own space to bring a tree or something else to memorialize their beloved departed.



We are still looking into the pros and cons of making Atchingtan a non-profit organization, and we will update you if that goes ahead. We are continually blessed to receive gifts and donations for the land, as well as all the labor that is so kindly donated to us, and if we can make it easier for donors to claim back tax, we will. However, we don't want to jeopardize the vision, so will be moving slowly on this, and taking professional advice.

In the meantime, we are registered with iGive.com, and should be grateful if you would choose us as your cause on iGive. Please login to iGive.com and choose Atchingtan as your cause, or click here <https://www.iGive.com/Atchingtan/?p=20120&jltest=1> , then install the iGive button (it's free, and doesn't compromise your system). If you shop online, you probably access one or more of the over 1,700 Online Stores that donate to the chosen cause. Any proceeds from this will be used to further the Atchingtan vision.

Current Events

Whether you are excited or disheartened about the outcome of the recent election, the fact is that there will be a new administration in January, and it will have a different focus. For the next four years, we know that Executive Actions on the environment will probably be undone, that environmental regulations will be rolled back, and that progress in clean energy and climate change will be reversed. Mother Earth will continue to be at high risk.

While this may be a difficult thing to witness, we at Atchingtan now have to concentrate on accomplishing the essential task of promoting the Atchingtan mission and vision. For People and Life will be even more important.

Our work to provide education respecting Mother Earth, to develop abundant organic food sources, and to provide a safe haven for all those who require peace and stability, will be more important now than ever before. Partnering with those with similar visions will be another focus for Atchingtan.

We need to focus RIGHT NOW, even more than before, on supporting what we have begun to build. All of you have in one way or another contributed to this, and we ask that you continue to do so. For the community, for the environment, and for the future. In short, we are asking all of you for your continued support and help in establishing the Atchingtan vision for the mutual benefit of us all. At Atchingtan, we will continue to do our best to provide a safe place For People and Life.



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.

And finally

To sum up: as 2016 comes to an end, we thank everyone for the best year yet. We all accomplished a lot once again in a short period of time. Our family of volunteers has grown, and we seem to be close to a good running system up here. We have not been able to keep up on our newsletter, and apologize for this, but as you know, we have not been idle with regard to planning and promoting Atchingtan, and maintaining what we have already established. The growing this year has been incredible. We experimented with many different types of planting to understand what works in our climate and the soil. We were able to get some winter planting in the polytunnel and that seems to be going well.

All of this year's successes will drive the planning for 2017. We feel, regardless of specific outcomes nationally, that we here at Atchingtan will be able to confront any challenges that could threaten our vision. We will continue to learn, and surround ourselves with those who will learn and educate, so that we can provide a sustainable retreat for those who believe in the Atchingtan vision.

We owe so much to all our full and part time volunteers. Without their help, Atchingtan would not be. We have a long way to go, and those who share the vision will always be welcomed.

Thanks to everyone, all the best for 2017, and remember to contact us should you wish to be part of this incredible family up here. "For People and Life".



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