



# Bear Prints

Volume 12, Number 14

September 14, 2009

Some of you may have noticed that Mike has been doing a little bit to fix the house up. I've joked for years that we have a white house with blue trim (tyvek), but Mike doesn't have much time to do such things. In the winter he works for the Town, plowing and the weather isn't conducive.

## Farm News

Mike has continued to spread the lovely black compost he's made. We probably have enough this year to put some on all the fields. He spread a bunch and planted some old cover crop seed at the top of the hill. He was nervous about germination, but it seems to be coming up fine. It is a mix of winter rye, vetch and oats.

The season is starting to wind down in terms of veggies. There will be less in the coming weeks, but the winter squash crop is still looking good, so we should have a bunch of that for the end of the season.

For those of you who visit the goats and sheep on a regular basis, you may have noticed that Timmy is starting to look a little under the weather. Timmy is a Katahdin sheep and is dark brown. He sheds his wool, unlike the Tunis sheep we have and he looks more like a goat than a sheep. He has a very deep voice. We got him a few years ago when his owner was moving. She had him a long time and didn't want him to go to slaughter, so we agreed to keep him as a pet. He was old when we got him, and I think he is starting to go down due to natural causes. He must be over a hundred in people years. He still has a fine appetite, but he stumbles a little. Just thought we'd give you a heads up.

It rained at the farmer's market again. That's the second time in three weeks. We have been incredibly lucky about avoiding rain on Sat. mornings in Marblehead. Sometimes it's even raining at home when we leave and when we get to Marblehead it's fine.

Guess this would be the year for it! Hopefully we'll get back on our sunny schedule for the rest of the season.

The good news is that it has forced us to can some stuff for us for the winter.

## What's New In Your Share This Week

New this week are **sun jewel melons**. We've had them in other years and really enjoyed them. They are an Asian melon with an unusual oblong shape. The flesh is white and crisp even when ripe. Just scoop out the seeds and eat the flesh, like a cantaloupe. If we don't have enough for everyone this week we'll give them out next week, too. Unfortunately now that they are ripe the deer have found them, too.

We plant melons most years, but they don't always make it to get transplanted into the ground and sometimes they just don't grow well. They really prefer hot, sunny weather, not what we had this season.

I can't believe the **big party** is only a few weekends away! **Sat., October 3rd** is the date, so don't forget. We start around 4 p.m. and go into the night. Come at anytime. It is no stress potluck, meaning you can bring whatever you want. For 12 years we've been doing this and we never say "a-g bring dessert, etc". and it always works out fine. In fact, we've had some pretty amazing meals! We provide hot dogs and hamburgers and soda and juice, but bring anything you want to drink and eat. We will have it rain or shine, but hopefully we'll have good weather so we can sit out around the big bonfire. Bring your musical instruments!

*No Second Page This Week—Sorry!*

**Bear Hill Farm CSA**

Anne & Mike Gagnon

14 Davis Road

Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Phone: 978-692-4224 we have a new answering machine, but we unplug for storms

**best is 978-846-4577 for now**

Email: bearhillfarm@aol.com

*PICK UP MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, OR  
FRIDAY  
3 PM UNTIL 7 PM*

*(Please make arrangements at least one week  
in advance to switch your pick-up day.)*

***CSA Since 1998***

COME ANYTIME —  
THIS IS **YOUR FARM!**

**Recipes:**