



TWO SMALL FARMS

Community Supported Agriculture

November 17, 18, 19 2010

Note from Andy

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It's hard for retail's darker angels to parasitize a celebration that is essentially an observation of gratitude. And I've got a lot to be thankful for. This year I'm thankful that we've made it through to the end of the season in relatively good order. We've had our challenges.

The weather didn't help this year. The exceptionally cool, overcast summer caused the heat loving crops like sweet peppers, tomatoes and eggplant to grow slowly. Then, all of a sudden we had 104° temperatures and the peppers especially, weren't ready for it. Almost every pepper got roasted on one side by the blaze of the sun; an almost total crop loss. But that's farming. Thankfully, other crops preferred the cool weather, and the tomatoes struggled through against the odds— maybe not in the quantities that I needed to afford our supporters a nice U-Pick this year, but there's always next year.

Family life was far more challenging than farming this year. Julia was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. There were anxious months of appointments and waiting, tests and waiting, struggles with the insurance company and waiting, prescriptions prescribed and waiting. Thankfully, things could be a lot worse. Julia was accepted into the breast cancer program at UCSF and her program treatment has begun. She feels like she's in good hands. The prognosis for managing the disease is good, and she feels well when she's not feeling the side-effects of the chemo drugs. I want to thank Gayle, our book keeper, and Shelley, your CSA administrator, and all of Julia's friends, for the support and loving attention they've given her.

This year I've sometimes felt distracted and stressed by the competing demands of farm and family, but thankfully Julia and I have got a great crew of people helping us out. I especially want to thank Gildardo, Jose, Ramon and Nato for keeping all the plantings on schedule. I first hired these men when I worked at Riverside Farms back in the early 90s. Then they worked with me when I was a founding partner in Happy Boy Farms. I've always been able to count on their work ethic and good will, but this year, seeing the worries I had, they really kicked it up a notch. I also want to thank Manuel, Lourdes, and Guillermo for their attentive work packing, and Elias, Adam, Miguel, and Gerardo for all their help with the

driving chores. Thanks to our crew, Mariquita Farm's fields are looking filled out, well groomed, and winter ready.

Julia's diagnosis has prompted us to reassess our priorities. The Two Small Farms CSA program started out over eight years ago when Julia and Jeanne would meet each other in the park with little kids pulling on their legs. They talked about what it meant to be married to farms and farmers. They speculated that two small, too small, struggling farms might not have to struggle so much if they cooperated, and that two struggling farmwife/mothers might not have to work so hard if they shared tasks. So Two Small Farms was born; Jeanne, Stephen, Julia and I working together to solve problems. And thanks to you all, our community of supporters, for eight years, the Two Small Farms CSA has been a success.

A lot has changed in eight years. The kids are older now and aren't pulling on our legs any longer, only stretching our patience- and our minds- at times. Each farm has developed into a sturdy little business; High Ground Organics with a new ranch, a farmstand, and a farmers' market stall, Mariquita Farm with a restaurant delivery route, a bulk sales delivery program, and additional leased acreage to farm. Julia has "retired." She works too hard and she likes to work too much to actually stop doing things for the farm, but she needs the liberty to pay attention to her health. I need to focus my efforts on our issues and can no longer hold up our end of the Two Small Farms partnership. I'm not "retiring" from

farming or from community supported agriculture; that's not an option or a desire. But each of the two small farms is now strong enough and diversified enough to stand alone, and I want to focus on a farming program and business plan that fits my life. Starting in the 2011 season Two Small Farms CSA will once again become two small farms; still small, but no longer "too small." And finally, I want to thank Jeanne and Stephen and the crew at High Ground Organics for eight great years of growing together.

Going forward, each farm's CSA share-box prices and policies will stay the same in the 2011 harvest year, and the quality and variety of the produce we each grow for you can even get better. Look for details on how we're dividing up the CSA delivery routes between High Ground Organics and Mariquita Farm in our Two Small Farms December e-mail newsletter. And thank you for all your support.

This Week

Fennel ^{MF}

Escarole ^{MF}

Salad Mix ^{HG}

Italian Parsley ^{MF}

Collard Greens ^{MF}

**Sugar Pie OR Rouge Vif
d'Etampes Pumpkin OR**

Chantenay Carrots ^{HG}

Red Radishes ^{HG}

Mystery ^{MF}

Mystery ^{HG}

Flowers: Mixed Bouquet ^{TF}

Note from Steve and Jeanne

It's hard to believe that it's been eight years since we started Two Small Farms. We will always be grateful to Julia and Andy for all that this partnership has done for us—all that we've learned from them, all the times we were able to depend on Andy to come up with a truly remarkable essay for the newsletter, Julia's untiring drive to find good recipes among her vast cookbook collection, and the way that together we really were able to come up with something that was more than the sum of its parts.

As our two small farm businesses have grown, we've started to more often find that we had more crops in common that we both wanted to grow. While the Two Small Farms model still had lots of benefits, we all realized that we could in some ways do a better job serving our subscribers if we didn't always have to work around what the other farm wanted to put in the box. Steve and Andy got into farming, after all, so that they could be their own bosses.

Going forward, we honestly feel that both farms can give you an even better variety of the freshest, tastiest, and most nutritious vegetables and fruits you can buy. We're approaching crop planning for next year with renewed excitement, as each farmer gets to grow things he hasn't been able to for awhile. Rest assured that both our farms will continue to provide the same level of quality into the future.

We understand that this change may raise concerns, and we want you to know that both farms are offering the same program for next year—no big changes, and we'll make sure every one of you who is currently getting vegetables will be able to continue. You can even sign up the same way. We will continue to have the same Two Small Farms website and phone number through the transition period, and Shelley will be there to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Finally, we appreciate all the support that you as a community have given us to be able to grow local organic food on a diverse small farm model. It is truly a community supported agriculture project and we hope that you will continue to consider us *your* two small farms, regardless of which farm is serving your pick-up site next year.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and please sign up early if you can!

Note from Julia about Andy's Note

So: cancer strikes again! I've started a little blog about this cancer nonsense called Four Crying Out Loud (stage 4 cancer... get it?) And while the docs tell me "I will likely ultimately die from this disease" we're looking at it as a chronic thing, with decades left in me. I feel good nearly all days, and I'm fired up about life. Yoga, kids, cooking, farming, traveling, art, music, all of it. Let's just say it's not the last you've heard from me. love, Julia

Job Opportunity - CSA Administrator

We need a new CSA administrator. Duties include managing our customer database, delivery routes, and pick-up sites, and producing weekly newsletter on e-mail and paper. We are looking for someone who has excellent office and people skills, and who is excited about local organic food. Contact Jeanne at csa@highgroundorganics.com or (831)786-0286.

Sign Up for 2011!

This is your final box for 2010. Please sign up for our 2011 season, which starts the week of March 16th, 17th, and 18th and ends the week of November 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2011. We'll continue the same policies, processes, and prices as for the 2011 CSA season.

You can refer to last week's newsletter for details of the priority sign-up schedule. The simple version is that you can sign up now for vegetables by sending a check to hold your place. We will not deposit checks until after January 1st. If you sign up for the full year by Saturday, February 12th you get a 5% discount. We will sign people up for flowers later.

Full year of vegetables by Feb 12th with discount: \$752

Full year of vegetables (check received after 2/12): \$792

First 9 weeks: \$198

Made checks out to *Two Small Farms* and mail to *PO Box 2065, Watsonville, CA 95077*.

Worried about Veggie-Withdrawal? Here's Where to Find our Produce This Winter:

High Ground Organics

Redman House Farmstand: just west of Hwy 1 at the Riverside Drive exit in Watsonville. Open Wednesday through Saturday (10-6) now; winter hours start the first week of December (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12-5 PM).

Mountain View Farmers Market: Sundays from 9 AM - 1 PM at Castro and Evelyn Streets in Mountain View.

Mariquita Farm

Ladybug Truck Deliveries and Cooking Classes: Check mariquita.com for ways to get winter CSA boxes in certain areas. Contact ladybugbuyingclub@gmail.com with questions

Thursday, December 2nd, in Los Gatos - Winter CSA Box and Cooking Class: "How to Cook Kid-Friendly, Vegetable-Centric Meals" with Chef Jonathan Miller, 5-8 pm.

\$45/person. Contact Shelley at csa@twosmallfarms.com

Friday, December 3rd, in San Jose near SJSU - Winter CSA Box 4-6pm

Thursday, December 16th, in Palo Alto - Winter CSA Box and Cooking Class: Vegan Cooking with your Veggie Box with Chef Jonathan Miller, 5-8pm. \$45/person.

Friday, December 17th, in Menlo Park - Winter CSA Box 4-6pm

Holiday Gift Idea: CSA Gift Certificates!

Looking for a great Holiday gift that's "taste-full", healthy and unique!?! How about a 4-week trial membership to Mariquita Farm or High Ground Organics? Order and send payment to Two Small Farms by December 18th and we can email you a gift certificate to give to your lucky recipient from the farm that will be serving their area next year! Send \$88 to Two Small Farms, PO Box 2065, Watsonville, CA 95077, or contact Shelley with questions.

From Mariquita Farm: Italian parsley, collard greens, fennel, escarole, mystery. From High Ground Organics: lettuce, potatoes, celery, mystery. From Thomas Farm: flowers.