

## Johnson's Backyard Garden, Winter Session - Week #8 February 4th, 2007

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#### **1) Spring Session Sign-up Reminder**

Now is the time to send in payment for our Spring Session 10 week CSA membership (the last week of Feb through the last week in April). Please send in a sign-up form and payment for the

spring session, to allow us time to process memberships before the start of the session.

For new or current members, each session please print out a [sign-up form](#) and send it in with your payment. The form is located on our web page under the join tab. Once we receive your payment we will follow-up to confirm your membership and provide additional details regarding pickup.

If you are a new member, please send in your membership ASAP to guarantee a membership slot.

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## **2) In Your Box this Week – Saturday (Last Wed was slightly different)**

In upcoming newsletters we plan to let you know what we think will be in the boxes for the upcoming week. Maybe this will help with meal planning and market purchases. The list below was included in the boxes last Saturday.

Broccoli  
Chard  
Baby Beets  
Bunch Dinosaur Kale  
Spring Onions  
Spring Garlic  
Green cabbage  
Brussels Sprouts  
Parsley  
Spring Mix  
Radishes  
Cracked Native Pecans

Checkout our [storage tips](#) on our website.

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## **3) Farm News**

First off let me start out by saying that I am sorry it has been a while since you have received a newsletter from us. The visit home to Alabama for the holidays to see family went great. The difficult part was the 2000 mile cross county trek in 7 days with 2 adults and four children crammed into a minivan for 13 hours each way. When we got back to Texas, Jim our 3 month old got sick and on New Years day he went to the Emergency Room with difficulty breathing. On Friday we went back to the doctor and baby Jim was admitted to the hospital. Beth and the baby stayed in the hospital for four days. He was diagnosed with a viral chest infection RSV or Bronchiolitis. Baby Jim came home Monday evening and then Beth got sick with a 105 fever. She was sick the entire second week of January. She had fever and chills for a week solid and I took care of the kids except for when I had to

pack CSA boxes. Thankfully everyone is now feeling better.

This past month has been a blur as we are getting settled in to a new routine and working to expand the farm. Now that we have a new farm office I plan to be in better contact with everyone.

January 4<sup>th</sup> was my last day employed by the Bureau of Reclamation. I am now officially farming full time and no longer working my government job! I am really happy to be devote all of my energy to farming. It is not so much work when you really love what you do.



#### **4) CSA Member Feedback Survey**

We designed this survey in order to judge to get important feedback from you on how to improve our service. Your satisfaction is the priority on the farm. We would really appreciate it if you would take the time to complete the survey.....and it is only 9 questions!

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mhoC6rrM2fT5bDR4k14Png\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mhoC6rrM2fT5bDR4k14Png_3d_3d)



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## **5) Breaking New Ground – Cultivated Land Expanded by 300%**

We are expanding the acreage of land we are cultivating from around 4 to 16 acres. We are planning to grow loads of tasty veggies this summer! For the past month the farm crew and volunteers cleared over a mile of fence rows, rolling up barbed wire and pulling up fence posts. Last week our neighbor, Jimmy Evans Inc. was kind enough to bring his huge D9 Cat bulldozer over and knock down a number of trees that were in the back pasture. Now that the trees are out of the way we are busy preparing new ground to plant in the coming weeks. Saturday and Sunday Will and I were busy on the tractor breaking new ground. The back of the farm looks entirely different than it did at the fall party that we had last year. Now our field is huge, it is over 2000 feet deep.



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## 6) New Web Page Online Payment

When Beth and I went home to Alabama for Christmas I was visiting with my step brother, Aaron. Since Aaron does web design, I showed him our farm the page. I told him that I spent a lot of time on the computer and was looking for ways to improve the CSA customer signup procedure.

The short of it is that we will soon be implementing a new signup procedure for the CSA. The new sign-up will still allow for customers to printout and send in a signup form, but additionally we will also offer customers:

- 1) The option of signing up and making payment online with your credit card
- 2) A box suspense option in case you are out of town.
- 3) The option of either paying for 4 boxes or 10 boxes at a time.
- 4) The option to automatically renew your membership each time it expires so you do not have to send in a new form each time.

We will keep you posted on how the work is going. Hopefully we will complete this project soon!



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### **7) Farm Highlighted – Rare Magazine Mind and Body Issue January 2008**

I was picking up coffee for our CSA deliveries last Friday afternoon at Texas Coffee Traders and I was flipping through a local publication on the counter. I was happy to see that we got a little press for our farm. Check out the article by clicking here or pickup a copy for yourself. Rare Magazine is a new publication and they feature lots of local businesses around town.

Mind and Body Issue January 2008

[http://www.johnsonsbackyardgarden.com/PDFs/Rare%20Article%20Jan%20\\_2008.pdf](http://www.johnsonsbackyardgarden.com/PDFs/Rare%20Article%20Jan%20_2008.pdf)

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**8) We encourage members to email us their favorite recipes and we also like to hear members just tell how you used your CSA box.**

### **CSA Member Blogs - RecipeZaar Cookbook and Kegs and Kitchen**

CSA member, Andrea Middleton, has created a cookbook for CSA veggies at

<http://www.recipezaar.com/cookbook.php?bookid=175985>. Andrea says “One of my favorite recipe websites is Recipezaar.com, and I've started a public cookbook with the recipes I'm saving to use for the produce you're including in our shares. I'll be updating it regularly, as the produce changes&#xu201D;

Andrea also has a wine blog at <http://www.wine-scamp.com/> with lots of reviews and recommendations -- check it out!

For beer lovers check out and Josh's Blog <http://www.kegsandkitchen.com/>. He reviews beers, local restaurants, and has a lot of cooking posts.



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## 9) Subscribe/Unsubscribe To Newsletter

If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to our email newsletter click [here](#).

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## 10) Johnson's Backyard Garden Contact Information

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