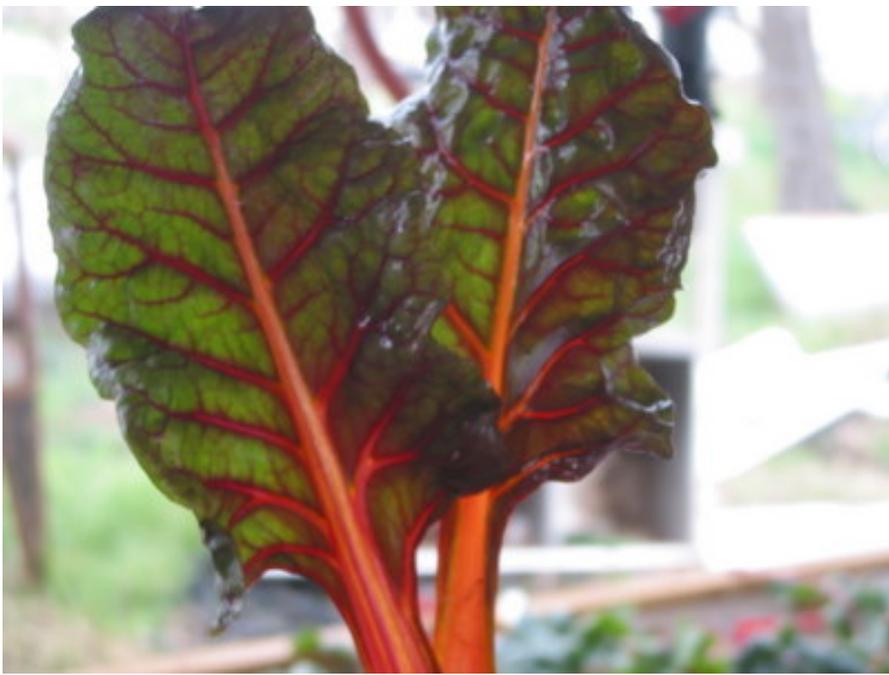


Johnson's Backyard Garden, March 7th

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1) In Your Box Next Week

Baby lettuce heads

Spinach

Mars Oranges

Rio Star Grapefruit

Onions or Garlic

Spinach

Chard

Brussels Sprouts

Bok Choi

Kohlrabi

Mystery Items???

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

Last week we were busy planting tomatoes, making tomato cages, spreading compost, and finishing up with brush clearing..



2) Another Farm Perspective – Caroline Hummer



Since moving to Johnson's Backyard Garden about 3 months ago with my boyfriend the farm intern, Will, I have witnessed first hand Brenton's drive and passion that has created this farm. So many things have changed on the farm in less than a quarter of a year that stepping back to review it all is almost overwhelming.

Driving onto the farm, the first thing that comes to notice is the former parking lot between the intern trailers. One lazy Sunday morning, Brenton showed up grinning at our door with a proposal to till up our yard right then and there. As a result, our former parking lot/ compacted road-base filled lawn is now well on its way to becoming a beautiful garden.

Continuing along the drive, the big red barn looms immediately in the forefront. This formerly stereotypical barn, complete with a dilapidated, nearly-falling down roof and side walls remains, but only in color and function. It has been drastically renovated by the farm's master carpenter Chalen, much to the relief of all walking underneath. Two months ago, Brenton and Will laid cement on the north and east facing sides of the barn. Since then, Chalen has set up four custom-built washing stations and a monstrous assembly line for packing boxes. Formerly open to the elements and potential mischief, the interior of the barn is now securable by means of a sliding sheet-metal door and a long, elevated shelving unit shoring up the wall.



At the southeast corner of the barn is Brenton's new office (also single-handedly built by Chalen), visually confirming his position as full-time farmer. The office is fitted with numerous sliding windows, allowing for an inspiring, panoramic view of the farm from the desk chairs. The high ceilings and custom made bookshelves give the office a feeling of comfortable efficiency. Next time you find yourself at the farm, ask Brenton to show you his window that operates on a pulley system - he will be glad to show you this ingenious design.



Continuing past the barn-office complex and the Johnson's home, underneath the majestic trees in the first pecan orchard and along the quintessential, bumpy farm roads, you are greeted by a cleared fence line and lots of tilled earth. The second pecan orchard, a low producing, overly mature block of pecan trees, was removed a few weeks ago and the land is cleared and tilled under, awaiting planting.

Moving on, notice that not only is the fence surrounding the former cow pasture gone, but all that remains is a monstrous brush pile. Over the past month Brenton, Will and the volunteers have been working hard to clear the brush from the sides and interior of the pasture. By the time you are reading this newsletter, most of the brush in the cow pasture will have been chipped up by a large volunteer chainsaw work crew on Saturday.

Change is happening all over the farm, and everyday things get more efficient, more streamlined and more like an ideal farm. The changes this farm undergoes every day are small, but they add up to big differences. I am really looking forward to being here to witness it grow and succeed. So much of its success is due to the support of its CSA members, and, because I love this farm, I (and everyone on the farm) is so deeply appreciative. Thank yall!



3) CSA Sign-up Reminder

Now is the time to send in your CSA membership payment to continue to receive our weekly vegetable harvest. The last box for the winter session was Feb 20th for Wed deliveries and February 23rd for regular Saturday pickups. Since the sign-up reminder in our last newsletter we have been filling up our membership slots fast.

A few of our members last week forgot to renew their member ships and picked up a box anyway and just wrote in their name on the sheet. If you take a box any your name is not on the list someone else will not have a box. **PLEASE HELP US AND DO NOT TAKE A BOX IF YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE CHECK OFF LIST.**

New Web Sign-up Procedure – Start at anytime...Pay in 10 or 4 week increments

Some of you may have noticed our new [sign-up form](#) on our website. We are changing our CSA membership a little and we will no longer have individual 10 week sessions. We are also working on our website to allow credit card payment and also allow members to login to their account and change pickup days if they are out of town.

4) New South Austin Pick-up Times

Also please note on the sign-up form the pickup times for each location. Some have changed slightly....notably the South Austin pickup times for Saturdays. We are working on buying a refrigerated delivery van and so we had to adjust pickup times slightly to allow one vehicle to make all of the deliveries.

5) Donations needed for our Second Intern House

Thanks to all the CSA members that provided a number of items to help furnish the house for our interns Caroline and Will. Now that our farm manager Brad is recently moving on to pursue other endeavors we are now in need of more items to furnish another intern house on the farm. To make the place livable we will be happy to pickup any extra housing items that you may have. We could use the following items: furniture, lamps, kitchen table, chairs, couch, rugs, coffee table, mirrors, plants, pictures, paint (interior or exterior), washing machine, drying rack, clothes pins, bed frame and mattresses, sheets, blankets, night stand, dresser, hangers, towels, cooking and kitchen stuff. Basically anything for the house!

If you come across anything that you think we could use for the place I would appreciate you letting me know.

6) CSA Work-share



Interested in work sharing in exchange for a veggie box? Our CSA is a little different than most in that veggies each week are harvested mostly by CSA members. If you are interested in having more involvement in the farm please e-mail us for information on our work share program. In exchange for working from 8-12:30 on Saturday mornings we provided a CSA share of veggies in trade. Our CSA is growing rapidly and we always need plenty of friendly and energetic members to help with the harvest. We also accept volunteers on weekdays too, however most work-share members come on Saturdays. E-mail us if you are interested.

7) Irrigation Work



A couple of weeks ago we had to repair our irrigation mainline. This really turned out to be a big job taking a couple of days and the wrenches required were over 3 feet long! All I am going to say is that the problem resulted from fire trucks on the farm in the middle of the night!



8) Subscribe/Unsubscribe To Newsletter

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

9) Johnson's Backyard Garden Contact Information

Johnson's Backyard Garden
Organically Grown Vegetables

512-386-5273

9515 Hergotz Lane, Box E

Austin, Texas 78742