



Feed Fannin News



Feed Fannin Inc.

Fall Harvest 2016

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Ada Street Garden

I am so proud, amazed, grateful and in awe of what we have accomplished in the garden this summer...and our job is not over yet! When you look at the weight in lbs. of all we harvested in a year of heat, humidity, insects, disease, and drought, you will understand what I mean. We have had a group of about 20 individuals who have shown up at one time or another since we planted, and that is much appreciated. But there has been a core group of about 12 volunteers who have consistently shown up every week from one to three days per week for six months! That is dedication, and I commend their efforts. Bob Seeger, Feed Fannin Chairman, has been a great leader and trained two more tractor drivers and has put in additional hours picking up supplies and hay and attending meetings regarding the well, coordinating the parade and other events, and the list goes on and on. We are winding down with produce, but beginning to prepare to clean-up the garden in anticipation of seeding cover crop for winter.

Going into the planting season, Bob and I had several goals and challenges we wanted to focus upon and improve from previous years. First we wanted the garden to "look good". If it was worth the effort, let's have a great presentation. Second was keeping our volunteers educated while having fun. Third was increased production over 2015 with a goal of 7,000 lbs. of produce to donate to the pantry; Fourth was fewer weeds; and fifth was extending the length of the bearing season.

The wonderful garden volunteers eagerly worked with us and together we kept the garden immaculate and looking great with fewer weeds and less disease which accomplished goal #1 and 2, and ultimately Goal #3, 4 and 5. Goal #5 involved keeping the excess and damaged leaves pruned from primarily the squash, tomatoes and pumpkins. This pruning process while tedious, opened up the plant for better air circulation and less disease, and kept new blossoms coming. We began harvesting squash from 2 rows on June 15 and after over 90 days, the plants are slowing down, but still yielding. We also planted a second crop of squash on July 19 that is adding to our squash harvest which is currently at 1,751 lbs. from the 4 rows. I cannot begin to describe what 2,774 lbs. of sweet potatoes looks like, but it is a lot! Here are a few other highlights. Tomatoes 1,032 lbs... cucumbers 577 lbs... green beans 357 lbs... cabbage 733 lbs....corn 221 lbs... red potatoes 785 lbs... peppers 326 lbs. What a harvest!!!

Our pumpkins have been hit recently by borers, so say a prayer the pumpkins make it to harvest in late October. They are looking good.

We appreciate those who have partnered with us and have grown produce and contributed to our efforts. Faith Presbyterian Church Forge Mill Garden, Cherry Log Christian Church Garden, Jim and Meredith Yacavone garden, and several other friends of Feed Fannin members have contributed a combined total of about 300 Lbs. to add to Ada Street for a grand total of 8,684 lbs. WOW!!! I don't know if we can top that next year.

In short, we are so happy with the garden! It has far exceeded our expectations...thanks to our team efforts. We hope others will consider joining us in the garden next year. It is fun and hard work but so rewarding to see the clients at the pantry excited to get fresh produce. It makes it all worth the extra effort.

- Kathy Beck, Garden Chair



Thank you Jim Yacavone for building this wonderful cleaning table!



Thank you Ham Kimzey and Guy Gooch for mowing.





Education News

Did you know those pesky weeds in your backyard could actually help you feel better? In Feed Fannin's final class on Herbs with Patricia Kyrtis Howell, we learned that the Golden Rod plant is great to use for allergies, upper respiratory inflammation and makes a nice tea! Patricia is the Director of the *BotanaLogos School of Herbal Studies*. A little over 40 participants learned of medicinal uses for native plants, herbs of autumn, and the identification of useful plants. Following the presentation, participants enjoyed a light lunch and fellowship. The *BotanaLogos School of Herbal Studies* is located in Rabun County, in the northeast corner of Georgia. If you would like more information, visit their website at <https://www.wildhealingherbs.com/home.html>

As the Education Committee winds down the season, we would like to thank everyone who volunteered, hosted a class and participated in a class this year. **You** are what make Feed Fannin a successful organization and we appreciate all of you. A special **thank you** to Judy Seeger and Meredith Yacavone for their hard work and dedication to the Education Committee.

The committee is getting ready to plan for next season's classes and we need your help. If you would like to lend us a hand through volunteering or you have an idea for a topic you would like on the agenda for next year, please let us know.

Send your suggestions to: aspeessen@gmail.com or feedfannin@gmail.com or by phone 706-502-0940.

We look forward to serving you in the spring!

- Anna Speessen, Education Chair



Bob Seeger, FF Chairman

Feed Fannin Officers 2016

New officers were recently elected to serve two year terms for Feed Fannin. Bob Seeger was named the new chairman with Connie Galloway serving as second vice-chair and Jane Kinzey serving as first vice-chair. Other officers elected were Tammy Scalia as secretary, Colleen Coats as co-secretary. Phyllis Stewart was named treasurer, while Lucy D'Amico was named co-treasurer.

The board of directors, who serve one-year terms, are: Barbara Ferer, Bill Voyles, Bob Seeger, Catherine Sugg, Connie Galloway, Jane Kinzey, Jim Stewart, Kathy Beck, Kathy Corey, Ken Banwart, Kim King, Lucy D'Amico, Phyllis Stewart, Priscilla Cashman, Tammy Scalia, Sheila Wofsey, and Zora Ugolini Herr.

Remember Feed Fannin in Future Plans

You can consider Feed Fannin when you make a bequest of assets in a will or trust, which could be a specific amount of money or assets, a percentage of the money or assets, or the residual money or assets of the estate. Ask us about it. Contact information is listed below:

Email: feedfannin@gmail.com or

Call Feed Fannin at (706) 946-1001 and leave a message.



**FEED
FANNIN**



ONE COMMUNITY, ONE SPIRIT



Feed Fannin's Youth Garden Club

It's fall again. School has started and there is still time to plant in the garden. That means a return to digging in the dirt and the beginning of garden club at Blue Ridge Elementary School! During the Cool Kids Grow After School Garden Club, we will explore the tools of our trade; what is needed to get the garden planted and producing fresh veggies. We'll grow seedlings in the greenhouse, dig and plant in the raised beds, build habitats for insects and birds, and make tasty treats from our fall garden. This year there will be garden club every week at BRES. Every second and fourth Thursday, the level 1 students will have garden club. Returning club members will be in the level 2 club on the first and third Thursday of the month. We have 21 raised beds, numerous pots and general beautification projects that we tend as a service component of the club. The first session of Garden Club (Level 1) was an exploratory introduction to the garden sites. We headed out to the gardens and let all our senses do the walking as we tasted, felt, smelled and saw many amazing plants, animals and insects on our exploratory tour of the school gardens. Observation and interdependence were the key themes of the session as we talked about all the ways that humans, plants and animals are dependent on one another. We also explored the ideas of metamorphosis as we looked at the life cycle of butterflies. This group is raising 24 Monarchs to release in mid-September. The first session of the Level 2 Garden Club built on what the students already knew about pollination, migration and metamorphosis. The students pressed different host plants for 6 specific butterflies that are native to Georgia. We will construct a book that contains these pressed plants and what the larva, chrysalis and adult stage of each corresponding butterfly looks like. This group planted a pollinator bed and planned the crops that they will plant in their cool season garden plots. Each of these members will have their own garden to tend throughout the year. Fall is in full swing and honeybees and butterflies are busy pollinating the flowers in the garden. During the sessions in October the group will dress up as beekeepers and our resident honeybee keeper and friend, Glen Henderson, will come to visit. Through an observation window, we'll be able to observe bees making new honeycomb, passing pollen, and working in community. Glen will discuss honeybee production and beekeeping. In the classroom, we will taste 5 different kinds of honey, make beeswax candles, and herb butter. Both groups will plant cool weather gardens and we will make yummy treats to sample the fruits of our labor. Finally, we will celebrate the culmination of fall by putting our gardens to bed. We will go on a nature hike to look at different tree species and to collect and press leaves for our leaf books. We will learn about chlorophyll and how tree pigments determine leaf color. A harvest party will follow and include bobbing for apples, carving pumpkins and eating caramel apples. Isn't gardening fun!

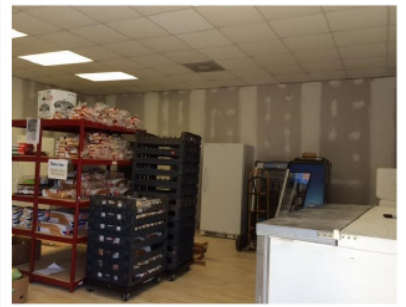
- Kate George, Youth Garden Chair



Food Pantry Improvements Underway

Feed Fannin volunteers who work at the Food Pantry at Family Connection will soon have a new and better work space. Family Connection is in the process of enlarging the pantry's work area. The expansion will include the installation of a larger entry door, two industrial sized refrigerators and additional shelving. The pantry will also purchase a pallet jack. The expansion was made possible by a grant from the Chattanooga Food Bank. Sherry Morris, Family Connection's Executive Director, was encouraged by the Chattanooga Food Bank to apply for the grant in order to increase the capacity of the Food Pantry. The new pantry area will be almost twice as large as the existing one. Morris explained that the larger work area will enable the pantry to store all the food it receives in one room making it easier for volunteers to access the food. The large refrigerators and additional shelving will increase the pantry's storage capacity. The larger entry door and pallet jack will enable volunteers to bring food pallets into the pantry for easier unloading and storage. "These changes will make the Food Pantry's operation more efficient and more organized and give pantry volunteers more room to work," Morris said. The new and improved Food Pantry should be finished by the time this newsletter is published. We can always use more volunteers to help out at the pantry. If you are interested in helping Feed Fannin feed the hungry you can contact Meredith Yacavone. at (727) 492-0837 or email her at MeredithYacavone@gmail.com.

-Jim Yacavone



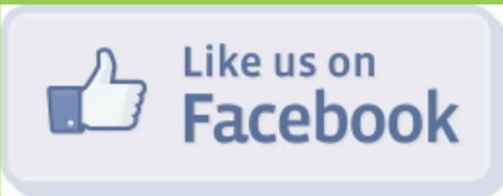
Feed Fannin Inc.

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Consider donating to a great cause! Mail form below or go online to feedfannin.com

We appreciate your support of our local community.

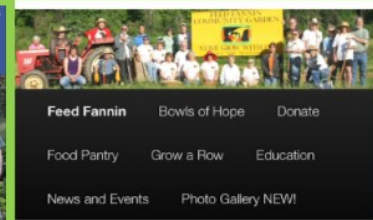


Two Great Ways to Keep Up With Feed Fannin

Facebook



FF Website



Feed Fannin

Founded in 2009, Feed Fannin is a volunteer organization working together to educate and encourage our community towards self-sufficiency while providing food for those in need. We are committed to eliminating hunger in Fannin County and the Copper Basin.

Key Activities

Our diverse group of volunteers apply their time and energy to help Feed Fannin through

Feed Fannin's Programs

Community Garden – We manage Community Gardens, located on Ada Street in Blue Ridge and at other sites in Fannin County, that provide space for local residents to grow fruits and vegetables.

Food Pantry – We support the Food Pantry by providing volunteer workers, food, and money to mitigate the costs of feeding the hungry in Fannin County.

Education Classes – We provide information, education, and training to those who want to learn to be more self-sufficient in growing, preserving, and preparing their own food.

OUR MISSION

Working together to educate and encourage our community towards self-sufficiency while providing food for those in need.

Volunteer with the Feed Fannin Family

If you're into hard work and having fun we would love to have you join us! Gardeners from all over are welcome. It is that time and we need your help more than ever.

However, you don't have to like to garden to be part of Feed Fannin. We have other things you can do.

To volunteer, contact Barbara Ferer at feedfannin@gmail.com, or call (706) 946-1001 and leave a message.

If you would like to speak with our Chair, Bob Seeger, call (706) 946-1001 and leave a message.

Donate



Feed Fannin Gift Form

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to be added to our email list to receive information about Feed Fannin? Y___ N___

Amount of gift donation: \$ _____

Need a tax receipt? Y___ N___

Please make checks payable to:

Feed Fannin, Inc

Mail form and donation to:

Feed Fannin
P O Box 1085
Blue Ridge, GA 30513

YOUR GIFT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

"Feed Fannin is a 100 percent volunteer organization"