



SPRING 2017 - 2ND EDITION
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

RIO GRANDE FARM PARK

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Rio Grande Farm Park Quarterly Newsletter!

Thank you for taking the time to learn about what the Rio Grande Farm Park has been up to lately. The Park has been working hard the last few months to provide trainings for the incubator farmers, develop outdoor recreation and environmental education programs for the upcoming summer, update the strategic plan with the governing committee, and more! Planting season is right around the corner, which means the farm will soon be in full bloom.

Some exciting things to look forward to include a Mother's Day weekend walking extravaganza, Outdoor Storytime & Summer adventure camp, Weekends on the Rio activities, 205 new trees, bees at the park, new farm stand & weekday market, a new irrigation & solar system, and the hiring of Jesse Marchildon, our new farm manager. Make sure to follow us on Facebook (and check out our new Instagram account) to stay up-to-date.



About the publication

This publication is brought to you by the staff, volunteers, committee, farmers, and members of Friends of the the Rio Grande Farm Park. These publications will be published quarterly (our quarters go by season- Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall) and future publications will be made available to Friends of the Rio Grande Farm Park members both online and in print.

Become a member today!

Visit www.riograndefarmpark.org/friends-of



STORIES FROM THE FARM

SUBMITTED BY FARMERS, VOLUNTEERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
STAFF, AND FRIENDS OF THE RIO GRANDE FARM PARK



NEW FARMER CO-OP FOR INCUBATOR FARMERS

BY BRYCE HOSTELTER

With help from the Rio Grande Farm Park staff, volunteers, and Dan Hobbes from the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, participants in the 2017 Rio Grande Farm Park incubator farmer program are forming their own service co-op. The farmers will collectively decide what crops each farmer will grow to ensure that there is a variety of wonderful vegetables, flowers, and herbs for their customers. Another benefit of forming a co-op is that they can file for insurance as a group instead of individually – thus cutting down greatly on one of the larger costs commercial farmers at the RGFP face. The co-op will have organic certification by mid-July. Please come support our new Wednesday Markets at the park this summer!

MISSION:

PROVIDE GOOD PRODUCE FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY

GOALS:

TO LEARN AND SHARE THIS NEW KNOWLEDGE WITH CHILDREN
INCREASE FARMER INCOME
GROW PRODUCE THAT PEOPLE DESIRE
WORK TOGETHER AS A CO-OP

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mondays at Noon: Caminos del Valle meets at the Park

April 22nd: Earth Day at the Rio Grande Farm Park

May 5th-7th: Leadership Training with Westwood Unidos

May 12th-14th: Caminos del Valle Walking Extravaganza & Mother's Day Storytime

May 27th: Farm Park Workday

RIO GRANDE FARM PARK PROFILE

MEET RIO GRANDE FARM PARK'S FULL-TIME VOLUNTEERS



Name: Amber Middleton

Position: Community Engagement Coordinator/AmeriCorps VISTA

Hometown: Edgerton, Wisconsin

Favorite RGFP Project: Outdoor Storytime at RGFP (new this summer!)

Why RGFP? I've been at RGFP since August, 2017 when I began my VISTA service. I wanted to work with RGFP for the chance to learn about local food, farming, and the chance to live in another part of the country. My favorite part of this organization are the wonderful people I have met! I love all of the dedicated and passionate RGFP & LFC staff, volunteers, board members, farmers, etc. You all have made my experience here amazing.

One thing most don't know: I am the ultimate dog person--they are my passion in life (sorry people that have met me--you probably know this!) I volunteer regularly with the local animal shelter & you can always see me at the dog park with the shelter dogs or dogs that I'm dog-sitting.

Name: Bryce Hostetler

Position: Education & Land Use Associate

Hometown: Dodge City, Kansas

Favorite RGFP Project: I'm torn between environmental education and Caminos del Valle.

Why RGFP? I've been a full-time volunteer at the RGFP since the beginning of August. I got involved at the RGFP because my volunteer program (Mennonite Voluntary Service) placed me here due to my interest in environmental education. One of the most fulfilling parts of my job has been working with our commercial farmers!

One thing most don't know: Cilantro is my favorite smell in the whole world. If they had cilantro-scented candles, I would buy them in a heartbeat.

Hidden Talents? I can play piano and clarinet pretty well. I also know some basic guitar and most recently joined the community steel drum band.



WEEKENDS ON THE RIO PREVIEW

GET AN EXCLUSIVE SNEAK PEEK AT THIS SUMMER'S ACTIVITIES

NEW activities:

Outdoor storytime

Boot Camp

Zumba

Walk2Connect

Returning activities:

Rio Grande Farm Park workdays

Yoga in the Park

Stand-up Paddleboarding

Bike workshops on the pump-track

Sundays at Six concerts

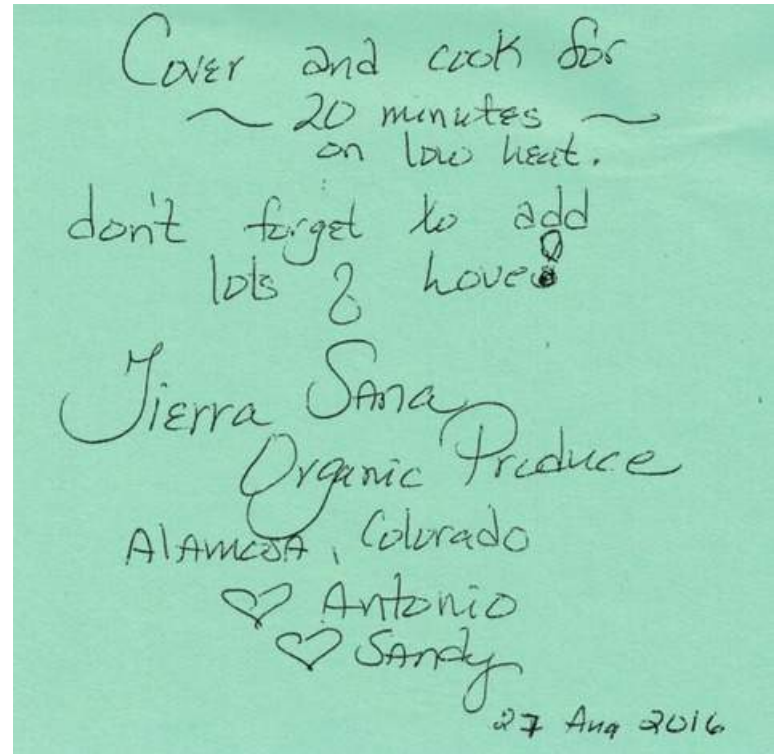
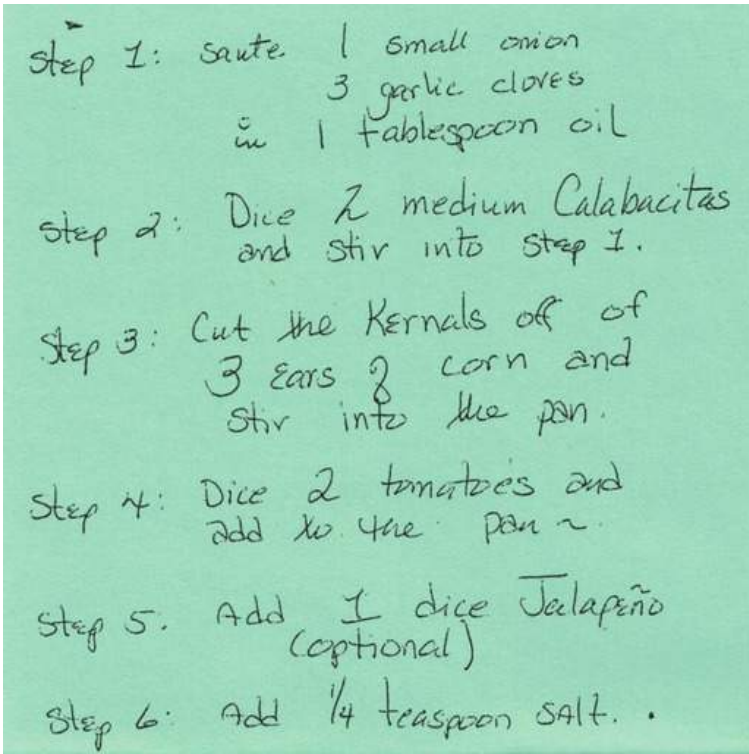


RECETA DE LA GRANJA

FROM TIERRA SANA ORGANIC PRODUCE (RGFP FARMERS)

Get ready for the upcoming growing/harvest season with this delicious recipe straight from the farm!

Calabacitas:



GET INVOLVED!

The Rio Grande Farm Park has many opportunities for everyone to be involved in the park. Volunteer, join an action group, serve on the committee, become a RGFP commercial or family farmer, lead a workshop or education program, join the Friends of program, and/or donate equipment, funds, or knowledge--all skills, abilities, and expertise are welcome!

OUR VISION:

Rio Grande Farm Park holds at its core Preservation and Creation: the preservation of the San Luis Valley's agricultural heritage, precious water resource, and open public spaces, and the creation of economic development, healthy living practices, and educational opportunities.



CONTACT US:

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