

91 W WHEELOCK ROAD · GREENSBORO BEND, VT

Newsletter

WHEELOCK MOUNTAIN FARM



NEWS

Find out what's been happening in our corner of the NEK!

DEAREST FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF WHEELOCK MOUNTAIN FARM,

We hope you are taking good care of yourselves and each other while finding hope and strength amidst the crises confronting our collective well-being. We are writing to share with you what has transpired at Wheelock Mountain Farm in 2023 and how it has contributed to our sense of hope and inspiration.

Through our friendships across borders, class, and race, we have deepened our understanding that ecological destruction, racism, and the consolidation of power by corporate elites remain scourges of our time. We have thus been drawn to organizers and community members who are confronting these issues in new and inspiring ways.

These exciting relationships led us to host the following events and projects...

Homegrown Maroons



One of the highlights of the summer was our friends YahNé Ndgo and Russell Shoatz III hosting four retreats under the title “Homegrown Maroons: A Sanctuary for Runaway Slaves and Accomplices”. Around fifty organizers and allies with interests in topics such as abolition and anti-racist activism, traveled from cities across the US and beyond to camp and commune at the farm. Participants exchanged organizing strategies and received respite from anti-oppression work,

while gazing at stars from canoes on Flagg Pond and learning about the teachings of the late Russell Maroon Shoatz, a former member of the Black Panther Party. Preparation for this event included the collaborative construction of a three stall outdoor shower near the Stone House and Sauna! We are so grateful for the multi-racial, multi-generational movement building that these retreats have ushered in and the bridges they have helped build between rural and urban communities.



New Moon

Mycology Summit

02

For five days in August, 200-300 fungi enthusiasts flocked to the farm for the “New Moon Mycology Summit”. Intended as a “gathering to learn and practice eco-social justice through and with fungi”, the summit transformed the farm into a buzzing educational campus, packed with film screenings, guided walks, panels, workshops, funky live music, and spirited dance parties. Focal points of the itinerary included workshops on

ethical and sustainable mushroom foraging, wild food preservation, ecological reconciliation on unceded lands, and degrowth as a movement to resist capitalism. The attention and focus on leaving the farm in a better condition than it was before the arrival of the shrooming hoards was truly inspiring. The farm was also left with mushroom spores planted in carefully crafted humane bins that promise to produce edible mushrooms for years to come!

Farm residents were honored to share the Red House for about four months with our compañeras and compañeros who do amazing agroecological movement work throughout the world. Such movements center the rights of people to healthy food, resistance to the capitalist agribusiness model, and the promotion of peasant agriculture. Twice, we welcomed Nils McCune, Yorlis Luna, and their two shining children, William and Balam, traveling all the way from Nicaragua.

We were also thrilled to host Freddy Congo, Cecilia Castro Ramirez, and their radiant child Johari, making the journey from Mexico. Throughout the year, Nils, Freddy, and Yorlis worked hard to meet with organizers, farmers, and educators and guide them in the formation of an agroecology school in Vermont. We are so thankful for our new friends' commitment to sustainable, people-centered agriculture and look forward to supporting the agroecology school as it moves forward.

Agroecology School Collective





Kids' Camp

04

For a 3rd year (our own) Ava Purdy, with friends Thea Gilbert and Maia Boyer, created a fun outdoor nature and craft camp for kids ages five through eleven. This year fourteen kids attended for three days. They enjoyed exploring the farm's natural splendor with walks, games, and free play as well as spending time in the Shed for lunch and organized craft activities.

05

Summer Potlucks



Last summer we were happy to continue our tradition of hosting potlucks on the second Tuesday of the month. This has proven to be a wonderful way for us to connect with neighbors and friends while sharing stories and opportunities for collaboration.

Some of the potlucks have had special themes, such as the Mutual Aid Disaster Relief discussion that Mike Reddy hosted, and all of them overflowed with amazing food and company. To be added to our potluck reminder list, send a note to our wmf@riseup.net account.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sugaring

Join us in the pristine sugarwoods to harvest sap during March and April. If you're interested, send your contact information to wmf@riseup.net. We will reach out a few hours before the gathering, which is often when we find out the sap is running and ready.

SugarHouse Brunch

Bring your pancake batter and cozy up in front of boiling sap at our annual sugarhouse brunch. Stay tuned for the time and date!

Summer Potlucks

Share food and inspiration with neighbors and friends of the farm. Every 2nd Tuesday of the month during the summer months. Email us to get on the mailing list!

Homegrown Maroons /

Seed & Harvest

YahNé Ndgo and Russell Shoatz III return for a second year to host camps for outdoor retreat, political education, and visionary work. Visit ubuntufreedom.com for more information.

Your event could go here!

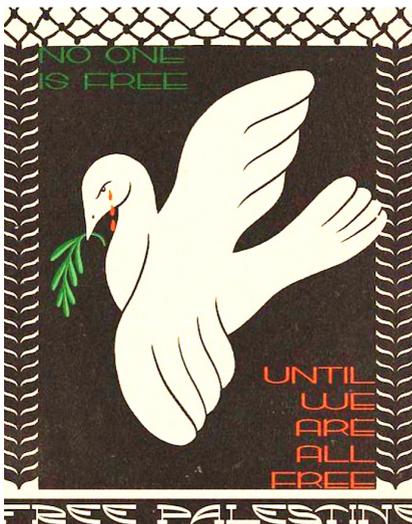
If you're interested in holding an event at the farm, we'd love to talk more! Email or call us at **802-533-2296** or **802-533-9929**.

Almost 20 years ago, a spirited group of young people and their mentors from the Alrowwad Children's Theater troupe, based in the Aida refugee camp of Bethlehem, spent a few days here at the farm. Our houses were filled with excitement as they reveled in the similarities and differences in the communities here and on their side of the planet. These fond memories stand in stark contrast to the Gaza of today where over half of all homes have been severely damaged or completely destroyed.

A staggering two million people have been displaced in Gaza since October 7th, 2023, roughly the equivalent of the entire populations of Vermont and New Hampshire. 23,000 casualties from the onslaught are equivalent to every single person being killed in Montpelier and the 10 towns surrounding us. As we think of the children of the Alrowwad Theater, and all the people

of Palestine and Israel, may we each find ways to act to halt the indiscriminate bombing of civilian populations and the collective punishment being carried out by Israeli forces with US support. We hope that the spaces and relationships cultivated at Wheelock Mountain Farm will continue to spark flames of non-violent resistance to this US funded assault on the Palestinian people.

As we look to the future, we will continue to seek ways to utilize the gifts our farm has to offer to uplift voices of hope and empower resistance to the forces of destruction that surround us. We welcome and are deeply appreciative of your collaboration and support as we do so. Together we will create a world centered on the celebration of the rainbow colours of our diversity, focused on mutual aid, meeting the needs of all, with reverence for the natural world which sustains us.



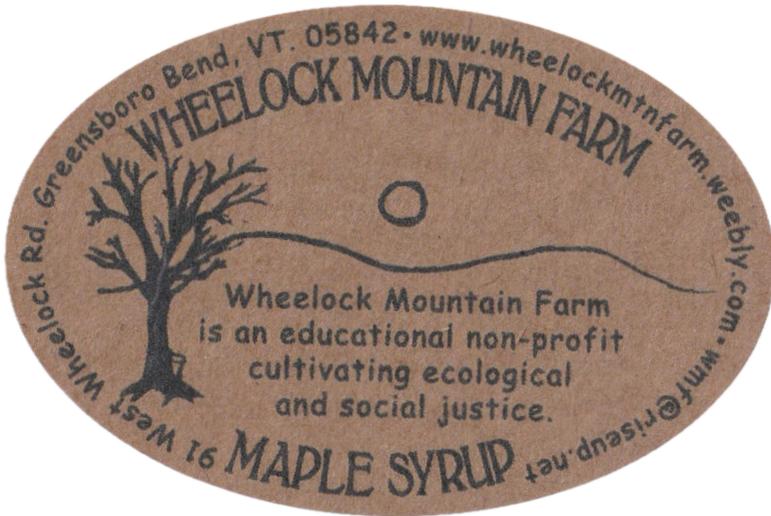
art by Elise Miguel

Your encouragement and support goes a long way towards keeping our efforts relevant and accessible to all. If you are able and wish to make a contribution to help sustain the work of our farm, we would be very grateful. To make a tax-deductible donation, checks can be sent to:

**Wheelock Mountain Farm
91 West Wheelock Road
Greensboro Bend, VT 05842**

Payments can also be made to our PayPal account at:

<https://paypal.me/wheelockmountainfarm>



WHEELOCK MOUNTAIN FARM INC. is a tax-exempt non-profit organization located on 650 acres of unceded Abenaki territory in so called Wheelock, Vermont. Our mission is to preserve and protect the ecological integrity of this land, to act as an educational resource and training facility for social change activists, and to contribute to the empowerment and participation of residents in the life of Vermont's communities through education and non-violent action. We seek to create educational experiences that empower people to take democratic leadership toward fundamental social change.