



News and Updates

Summer 2012



Smiling faces at the now monthly Tierra Learning Center community meeting – under the hazelnut trees on mid heat-wave afternoon. You see 5 Sunitsch/Retreat Center employees, two farmers, the guiding founder, two from Mountain Sprouts, the Tierra Village director, and a coyote house resident.

On the table, other than lunch leftovers, was the fall barn party (October 6<sup>th</sup>), updates from all on the fronts of activity, summarized below, and a text review of the latest vision and mission that binds the Tierra Learning Center together, which is currently live on a reenergized website:

[www.tierralearningcenter.org](http://www.tierralearningcenter.org)



Hay season is upon Eric – who manages the valley fields on his own time in exchange for the bales. With the hay on the ground to dry it still needs moisture to bale – lovely conundrums of hay farming. And Eric, why does the baler only break when you're using it?



Tierra Garden Organics is getting the help from Sam and other exchange volunteers on CSA day – those are the first beets – which appear to be growing just fine. Tierra Garden Organics has secured a lease agreement with Sunitsch Canyon for the next 5 years and will be receiving some grant funding for a major new hoop house – later in the season though. Willy says there are weeds to pull.



Wedding season is upon Retreat Center: photo above is an approach to the amphitheater where many ceremonies are held. Aljah, on a summer work stint here, recently stained the log railing leading from the other access. We already have a couple weddings on the books for 2013 and 6 great couples celebrating here this year.



Sunlight and kids moving to fast to capture in the woods. Mountain Sprouts has a packed house most days (still with some availability) and is running the summer week themed camps for the slightly older set to great success. Despite all this activity the pace with all the kids always seems to remains stable and calm. Thanks to the great crew of folks spending their days with the children.



The new Coyote House is seriously underway for Tierra Village – we're working now to ensure the building sits as naturally in the site as possible. Tierra Village is still planning for initial residents to be able to move in during the fall of 2013. Take a look at Tierra Village's site if you would like to learn more – the details continue to iron out.

[www.TierraVillage.org](http://www.TierraVillage.org)

As always – thanks to all the support and involvement Tierra receives from the wider community.

Sam Switzer Eric Orteg Willy Stockman Eron Drew Shanda Holm Andrew Holm Julie Randall Naomi Bull  
Alex Roberts Gracie Close Chelsey Diamond Pavel McGlade Carly Swanson Michelle LaCombe