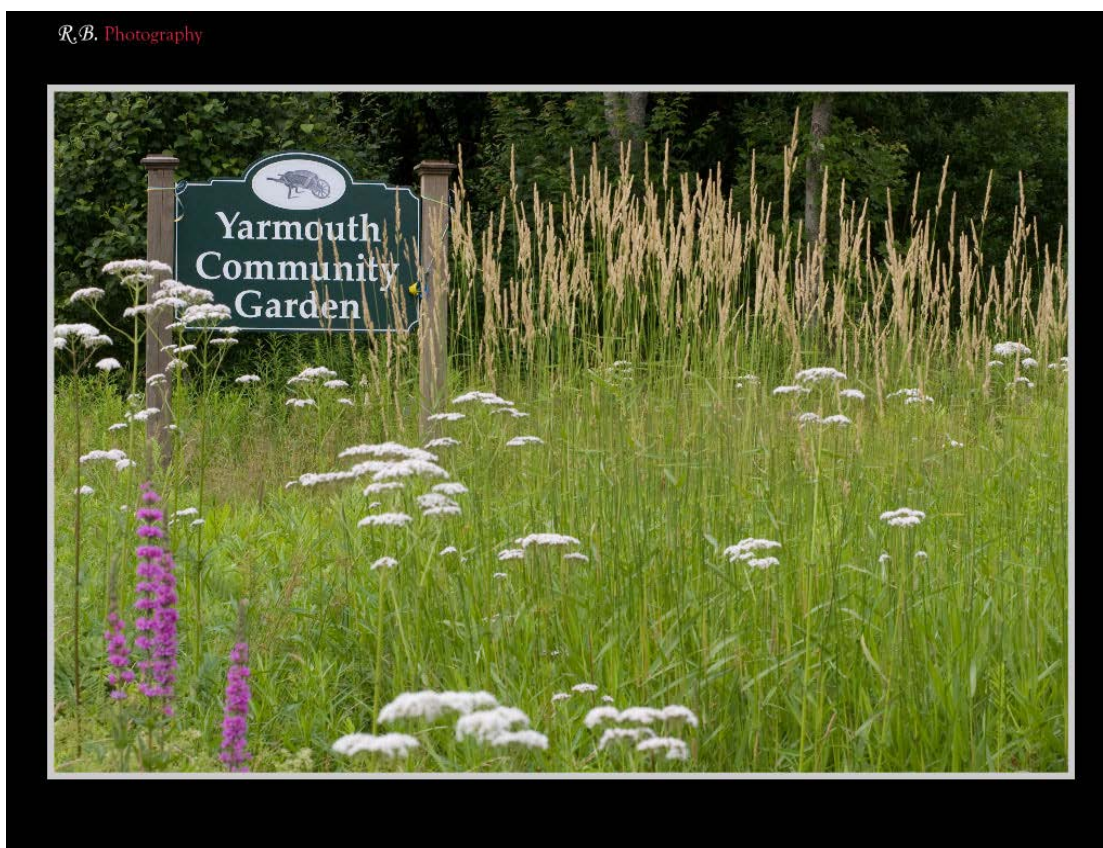


Yarmouth Community Garden 2011 Annual Report

Celebrating our 10th anniversary!



The Yarmouth Community Garden's mission is to create an organic garden that offers fresh vegetables and flowers for distribution to area residents and seniors in need, to provide plots for renters, and to contribute a garden experience that benefits all of Yarmouth through education, mentoring, and volunteer participation. We are one of the largest and most diverse Community Gardens in the State, and we have recently been recognized in a number of ways. The garden was featured in both the April 2011 edition of *Downeast* magazine and in a current video produced by Maine Harvest for Hunger (a program of the Extension Service of the University of Maine) as an example of a successful community garden. The steering committee and garden coordinators also consulted with representatives from other communities who wanted to learn about our experiences developing and running a community garden so that they might start similar projects in their own communities.

YCG continued to be the largest garden community garden contributor to the Maine Harvest for Hunger program, distributing more than 4,200 pounds of fresh organic vegetables to local residents. Recipients included Meals on

Wheels, Yarmouth Food Pantry, St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church Food Pantry, Bartlett Circle, and Yarmouth Falls Apartments, occasionally Falmouth Food Pantry, which serves some Yarmouth clients, and a number of more home-bound individuals. The vegetables are grown in our Community Plot and are tended and distributed by Yarmouth community volunteers, with some generous contributions from area gardeners as well.

YCG's plot renters had a successful season as well, with 90 renters growing their own vegetables and flowers in 135 10-foot by 10-foot rental plots. The Children's Garden continued to be a big draw in 2011. There was a celebration of the addition of a new children's Garden Shed, which resulted from many volunteer hours of construction and finish work, delighting children throughout the season. Fifty children participated in the Roots and Shoots program. The two classes filled quickly, and the children learned the basics of organic gardening through games, experiments, art projects, stories and of course, working in the dirt. The many volunteers in all aspects of YCG helped make the garden and its programs a huge success.

The season ended with our highly regarded 10th Annual Harvest Dinner at the YHS cafeteria where YCG volunteers served over 300 diners, and the raffle and auction were very successful, providing the income to help fund the start-up of the garden in the spring of 2012.

As a non-profit, community-oriented organization, donations and volunteer contributions are essential to the existence, improvement, and continuation of YCG. YCG received many generous donations in the form of service, skills, materials, and money. These donations supported the success of many individual projects and contributed to the overall successful 2011 year. We appreciate these generous financial donors, sponsors to our Harvest Dinner and the many volunteers, without whom the garden would not be the success that it is.

YCG also greatly appreciates the continued support of the Town of Yarmouth. The town provides land at the Frank Knight Forest and extends administrative support through Yarmouth Community Services. This support is imperative to the YCG in existence and functioning.

A dedicated volunteer Steering Committee leads the YCG project with the assistance of three coordinators who oversee the Community Plot, the Rental Plot and Children's Garden programs. Tracy Weber, who has been our Community Plot Coordinator for the past several years, is moving on, and we will be looking for a new coordinator to take over this spring. We all recognize Tracy's work and enthusiastic dedication to the garden with tremendous thanks.

The YCG Steering Committee continues to look for ways to offer improved facilities and programs to the community in the coming year, and looks forward to welcoming new participants as well as our returning plot renters and volunteers.

The 2011 Yarmouth Community Garden Steering Committee:

Charlie Horstmann, chair, and members - Joy Ahrens, Wendy Barmore, Crombie Garrett, Cathy Gavin, Bill Hoffman, Serena Mercer, Ted Metzler, Amy Sinclair and Norm Steele.

2011 Community Plot Coordinator: Tracy Weber

2011 Rental Plot Coordinator: Marjorie Stone

2011 Children's Garden Coordinator: Christine Slader

The YCG website is www.yarmouthcommunitygarden.org.