

TERHUNE ORCHARDS NEWS

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SPRING 2007

Kite Day – A Good Time for the Whole Family!

Kite Day celebrates the arrival of Spring and the beginning of the growing season at Terhune Orchards. Plants and herbs for the garden are ready and our own asparagus and rhubarb are ready to harvest and enjoy! Come to our Kite Day festival and enjoy the best of spring! What a great way to have fun with friends and neighbors, because Spring on the farm is exhilarating and always great fun. This year, Kite Day is on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 from 10am to 5pm.

Bring your own kite or make one here. Our famous "guaranteed-to-fly" sled kites are easy for even little ones to make. Or, you can buy one at the Farm Store. We'll have lots of

kites in all sizes and shapes, and lots of space on the Farm fields to try your kite!

Each year, our sheep lose their winter coats on Sunday afternoon at 2pm. Each child spectator receives a souvenir piece of fleece. Join Elaine Madigan in the barnyard for some FREE fun games and activities for children of all ages. Take a walk through

our ever changing Farm Trail. See the diversity of plants and animals that live there.

We will have lots of activities for all ages—pony rides for the children, or a ride through the orchards on our farm wagons. We hope Mother Nature will cooperate so you can see the apple orchards in full bloom! Visit our barnyard menagerie—Mexicali the horse; Cosmo the goat; Daisy the donkey; Luna, the rabbit; our friendly farm dogs Cider, Rhubarb, Sweet Basil,



Kite Day, May 5 - 6



Rosemary, our new puppy; and ducks, geese, sheep, and chickens too numerous to be named.

To all the "Moms", here's your chance to see the creative and unique hanging baskets and container gardens filled with herbs and colorful flowers from our own

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Changes for the Mount Family

by Pam Mount

As with many families, the Mount Family is in transition from one era to another. So far, 2007 has been a year of transition for us. In January, Gary's mom died at age 90. The Mount family had just shared a wonderful 90th birthday celebration with mom, when a week later she died. Sorely missed by all who knew and loved her, she was the strong and gentle motivator for our large extended family.

Soon after, Mike and Reuwai (who are expecting twins in May) accepted jobs at the Lawrenceville School, Mike as a history teacher and Reuwai in the science depart-



ment. Every grandmother and grandfather's dream is to have their family and grandchildren close by. Mike and Reuwai will be leaving Baltimore and moving to Lawrenceville in the early summer. Maya will turn 3 years old in May—a joyous month indeed!

Son, army sergeant, Mark has returned after serving 8 months in Afghanistan. He was able to join our family for his grandmother's funeral and is now back in Germany.

Pam is running for a third term for the Lawrence Town Council. It has been an honor to serve the residents of Lawrence, building a town where it is great to live, work, and play.

Tannwen was elected President of the NJ Farm Marketing Association, a statewide group promoting and supporting local farm businesses, and Jim has had a great year teaching history at Montgomery high school.

Gary and Tannwen traveled to Australia in January to see what's new with apple and cherries "down under".

Spring is a very special season here at Terhune Orchards as the fields begin the miraculous growing process—as the first crop of asparagus, rhubarb and strawberries get ready for harvest—life begins again!



Read & Pick Programs

Ret us introduce your pre-schooler to the fun of Pick-Your-Own fruits and vegetables. Read & Pick is an innovative program that combines a farm activity, such as picking fruits or vegetables, with your young child and listening to a story that highlights the activity. This spring, Elaine Madigan, our education program coordinator, and Tannwen Mount will read stories with the children. Then parent/guardian and child will pick fruit in our Pick-Your-Own area.

Have fun learning how fruit grows at Terhune Orchards and the best ways to pick each variety. These programs have become so popular that we've added a second session. The programs, which last about one hour, are held on Tuesdays. The first session begins at 9:30am, and the second session begins at 11am. Pre-registration is

required. To reserve your place, please call the Farm Store at 609-924-2310 and specify the session you want to attend.

Upcoming programs include:

- May 22, 2007: Read & Pick Strawberries
- June 19, 2007: Read & Pick Cherries
- July 10, 2007: Read & Pick Blueberries
- July 24, 2007: Read & Pick Flowers
- August 7, 2007: Read & Pick Peaches
- August 14, 2007: Read & Pick Vegetables
- August 28, 2007: Read & Pick Apples

Each program costs \$5.00 per child and includes materials for the activity. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Programs meet on the lawn at Terhune Orchards.

Blueberry Bash at Terhune Orchards June 23 & 24

Join us on Saturday and Sunday, June 23 & 24 for our “Blueberry Bash” that celebrates “everything blueberry.” Visit the Pick-Your-Own blueberry patch, ready for picking! An ample supply of our special picking buckets are available at the Farm Store. Then wander through our blueberry patch and enjoy the sight and scent of these fabulous berries. Since blueberries grow on low bushes, they are easily accessible to all. We cover our berries with “Blacknet” to keep the hungry birds from eating them!

After you’ve picked your blueberries, hop on one of our tractor-drawn wagons for a ride through our beautiful orchards and fields and see the sprouting of our summer crops. This is part of what makes Terhune Orchards such a special place. Pony rides, music, and entertainment are available for the children. Tuckers’ Tales Puppet Theatre, will present a special rendition of “It’s the Wolf,” a trilogy of three folk tales, at 12:30pm and again at 2pm on Saturday and at 1pm and 2:30pm on Sunday.

Get into the spirit of “blueberry” by entering your favorite blueberry treat in our juried Blueberry Bash Bake-off only on Saturday at 1pm—separate categories for adults and children. Susan Yeske, food editor of the Trenton Times, will be our taster and judge. Contest rules are available at the Farm Store. The adult prize win-

ner receives a \$100 Terhune Orchards Gift Certificate good for any purchase in the Farm Store, and the child prizewinner receives a \$50 gift card. Watch for the winning recipes on our Website.

When hunger strikes, visit Pam Mount’s Blueberry Bash “Buffet.” Lots of tasty blueberry treats—great for lunch or a quick snack. Try our Blueberry-Apple crisp,



Blueberry tea, Blueberry muffins, Blueberry cobbler, Blueberry jam, Blueberry pie, Blueberry tea, and Blueberry salsa. Also available will be our Farm fresh salads, pies, cookies, and BBQ chicken.

The Blueberry Bash will be held on Saturday & Sunday, June 23 & 24 from 10am to 5pm. Parking is available at Terhune Orchards. Admission is free.

Pick-Your-Own Fruit – A Great Family Experience!

Take your family and friends on an experience they will remember for years—picking their own fresh fruit while having FUN, and, it’s all right here at Terhune Orchards! Check our website often to see what’s ready to be picked – www.TerhuneOrchards.com.

Our Pick-Your-Own season starts in May with our fabulous strawberries that have grown plump and juicy in our strawberry patch!

In June, sour cherries and nine varieties of sweet cherries are ready. Our two acres of cherries are planted on dwarf rootstock so you can pick the fruit with both feet on the ground. But don’t wait too long. These flavorful cherries are popular with our pickers!

Our spectacular Blueberries are available from the middle to the end of June and



Jim Washburn picking strawberries.

the beginning of July. Raspberries and brilliant flowers follow soon thereafter. After researching ways to improve the size and quantity of the blueberries, Gary made a few adjustments to the watering system. As a result, our berries are larger and grow in greater quantities. These divine berries, growing on bushes low to the ground, really are Nature’s own “fast” food!

The choicest berries are firm, plump, dark blue, and covered with a frosty sheen. The natural sheen gives blueberries a just-picked “bloom” that people find so attractive and appetizing. Green or reddish berries are not yet ripe. Unlike some other fruits, blueberries only ripen when left on the bush. So, pass over the immature berries to give them time to ripen.

We look forward in July to when our delicious peaches and nectarines are tree-ripe and ready to be picked, eaten, and baked or cooked into tempting treats. Terhune Orchards grows semi-freestone and freestone varieties of peaches. The major difference is in how easily the pit separates from the flesh. Both work well in cooking and baking.

Apples are ready during the third week of August, and you can keep right on picking through October. While you’re enjoying the autumn leaves and fields, select just the right pumpkins for the best jack-o-lanterns! And, don’t forget our Pick-Your-Own Indian Corn and fall flowers.

All pick-your-own produce is charged by the pound. Please, no sampling. To find out what fruits and vegetables are available for Pick-Your-Own, call the Farm Store at 609-924-2310 or visit our website at www.TerhuneOrchards.com.

See the Fabulous Blueberry Bash Puppet Shows!

Last year, the Tuckers’ Tales Puppet Theatre, presented a puppet show that got rave reviews. They will be returning this year with their rendition of “It’s the Wolf,” a combination of three folk tales. The performing company, based near Philadelphia, was founded in 1981. The character puppets “come to life” through the group’s irresistible style, colorful scenery, and turn-of-the-century costumes — an unforgettable theater experience for all ages. Don’t miss this special treat! Shows are at 12:30pm & 2pm on Saturday, and 1pm & 2:30pm on Sunday.

Celebrate Arbor Day at Terhune Orchards

We love trees at Terhune Orchards, so it’s only natural to celebrate Arbor Day with our friends and neighbors! Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages the care and planting of trees. Started in 1872 in Nebraska, National Arbor Day is celebrated annually on the last Friday in April. So, join us at Terhune Orchards this year on Friday, April 27, at 10 am as we invite all pre-school age children to the Farm listen to a “tree” story and take home a free blue spruce seedling to plant. We’ll do it again at 4 pm for school-aged children. Enjoy the farm, the orchards in bloom, the fields being planted, and celebrate the wonder of trees! No admission. For more information or to register to attend, call the Farm Store at 609-924-2310.

Kite Day

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greenhouse. This is a good time to drop some hints. Remember, Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 13! Now’s the time to plan your gardens. We have lots of flowering annuals, all tried and true varieties.

Relax in the Farm yard, while local bands play music from noon to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday. Stop at the Food Tent for lunch or a snack break. We’ll be serving Terhune Orchards famous homemade soup, home-made vegetarian country chili, BBQ chicken, hot dogs, grilled home-grown asparagus, fresh ice-cold sweet cider, donuts, apple pie, cookies, brownies, and lots of other goodies.

Help us celebrate spring and kick off the growing season! Bring your family and friends and enjoy Terhune Orchards’ Kite Day on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 from 10am to 5pm. Parking is available at Terhune Orchards. Admission is free.



Strawberry Time

by Gary Mount

Terhune Orchards strawberry harvest season is just around the corner. Strawberries are one of our first crops each year and also one of our best. Red, juicy, sweet, great refreshing taste—all those adjectives apply to strawberries. But when the days warm and the strawberry plants start to wake up and grow, much of the work in strawberries is already complete. Strawberry production starts in June of the previous year. We pick a field fairly close to the Farm store so that the berries can be harvested pick-your-own with out too long of a walk. But the field also should not have had strawberries planted for a few years. Planting the same crop in the same place year after year allows diseases and insects to build in the soil. It also depletes the specific nutrients needed for that crop to grow and to produce a good tasting fruit.

Next we plow the site and make raised beds in the soil, with a trickle irrigation tube buried in the bed and a cover of black plastic over each bed. The raised bed protects the plant roots from being flooded when we get downpours during the growing season. The raised bed and the black plastic cover also help the soil warm quickly in the spring—promoting good plant growth. The black plastic keeps weeds from growing and keeps the berries off the soil, which is a source of disease. The trickle irrigation tube provides water and nutrients during the growing season (more about nutrients later). As little as one week of severe dryness can stunt the plant and the crop. Even if followed by adequate watering, the strawberries will never get to where they should be.

Summer Camp on the Farm

Treat your children to a fun-filled week of Farm Camp at the Orchard. Designed for children between the ages of 7 and 12, the program emphasizes fun while teaching the children how farmers and nature work together to grow healthy crops. During the week, the



Last year's Summer Campers.

campers take advantage of our beautiful surroundings; get a closer look at our resident insects; and plant, harvest, and sample the crops as they come into season.

Two identical one-week sessions are available from July 16 through July 20 [this session is already filled!] and from July 23 through July 27, from 9am to 3:30pm [openings still available!].

Finally, we are ready to plant, which we do in two ways. In early July, we plant bare root plants. These plants are purchased from a nursery, which dug them up in the fall and kept them in cold storage — about 33° F — until it was time to ship them to us in July. We also plant some strawberries at the end of August. These are actively growing plants that were started at the nursery in June and shipped to us in flats much like the flats of pansy's that might be seen at a garden center.

We take care of the plants all summer and fall—taking care of weeds, insects, disease, watering, excluding the geese (the geese must think strawberry plants are some sort of candy), and watching out for rabbits and deer. In late October, we cover the field with a white sheet material called floating row cover, which protects the plants from severe winter temperatures.

In the spring we watch for the first strawberry flowers to appear under the cover. At that time the covers must come off so bees that we bring into the field can pollinate the flowers. But—and this is a very big but—the strawberries are at their most vulnerable stage of growth during this period. Strawberries bloom early, during a time when spring frosts are prevalent. Freezing temperatures will kill the flowers, causing them to turn black and drop off. In the strawberry business, dead flowers mean no strawberries. So when we take off the covers, we install, on the same day, an overhead irrigation system for the field. If freezing temperatures occur, the irrigation is turned on. As the water freezes on the plants and flowers, it liberates heat. As long as water is continuously applied and it doesn't get too, too cold, the plant temperature will not go below 32° F and the flowers will live. This might be hard to understand unless you think of what happens when ice is put in a glass of water. As the ice melts, it makes the water colder. Out in the field, it is just the opposite. As the water freezes and makes ice, it makes the plant warmer. Simple, right? Trust me, it works.

After about 4 to 5 weeks, the strawberries will be ready to pick. During this period, it is very important that nutrients are



available in the soil for the plant to use while the berries are growing. Berry size, color, taste, firmness and sweetness are all affected. I attended a lecture this winter given by Steve Bogash, a Penn State Agricultural Extension agent. One of his specialties is strawberry production. He advises his growers to have strawberry plant tissue analysis done every week in the spring. This way the grower can know what the plant is actually getting from the soil and what is lacking. Nutrients, similar to the Miracle-Gro used on houseplants, can be mixed with the irrigation water and fed through the tubes going down each raised bed. The plants get the nutrients immediately—it shows in the next week's analysis! I think I will be doing some tissue analysis this spring.

So, all this just to grow a strawberry. It is complicated, painstaking, and expensive. But, if we do it right and the weather cooperates, what a reward. Come on out and pick some strawberries this year. They should be ready about mid-May.

Calling All Photography Enthusiasts

Over the years, lots of people have snapped pictures during their visits to Terhune Orchards. We would like to share them with everyone. So how about entering yours in our first Terhune Orchards' Annual Photo Contest this fall. The winning photos will be displayed at the Farm in mid-October, with the Opening Reception held on October 13, 2007.

The deadline for submitting photos is October 6, 2007. The photographer of the First Place photo in each category will win a \$100 Terhune Orchards' Gift Certificate, and for Honorable Mention in each category, the photographer will win a \$50 Terhune Orchards' Gift Certificate.

Contest rules will be posted in the Farm Store and on our Website: www.TerhuneOrchards.com.

We are looking for photos that illustrate the following two categories:

- 1 – *What I love about Terhune Orchards*
- 2 – *Fun on the Farm*

Questions? Call the Farm Store at 609-924-2310.

A Barnyard Birthday Party is Special & Fun!

Celebrate your child's birthday with a Barnyard Birthday Party at Terhune Orchards. Terhune Orchards offers a unique setting for your special celebration. The party has reserved picnic tables and a private wagon ride through the orchards. They eat party food, ride the pedal tractors, and have fun feeding the barnyard animals. They will experience all that Terhune Orchards has to offer. Face painting and pony rides are also available.

Call the farm at 609-924-2310 or email info@TerhuneOrchards.com to reserve your party date or request a Barnyard Birthday Party brochure. Visit our website at www.TerhuneOrchards.com for additional details.

Mark Your Calendar

4/07/07- Bunny Chase Fun Day,
1pm to 3:30pm
4/08/07- Bunny Chase Fun Day,
1pm to 3:30pm
4/27/07- Arbor Day Celebration,
10am & 4pm
5/05/07- Kite Day, 10am-5pm
5/06/07- Kite Day, 10am-5pm
5/13/07- Mother's Day, Unique
Gift Baskets at the Farm Store!
5/22/07- Read and Pick Program,
Strawberries, 10am
6/19/07- Read and Pick Program,
Cherries, 10am
6/23/07- Blueberry Bash Festival,
10am to 5pm

6/24/07- Blueberry Bash Festival,
10am to 5pm
7/10/07- Read and Pick Program,
Blueberries, 10am
7/15/07- Firefly Festival, 5pm to 9pm
7/16/07- Firefly Festival, 5pm to 9pm



Farm Store, Farm Yard, & Farm Trail: Open to the public daily all year, Monday through Friday, 9am-6pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 9am-5pm.
School and Summer Camp Tours: By appointment, April through November.
Barnyard Birthday Parties: By appointment, April through November

Pick-Your-Own Schedule

May—Strawberries
June—Blueberries, Raspberries, Sweet Cherries, Sour Cherries, Flowers
July—Blueberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, Flowers
August—Raspberries, Flowers, Peaches, Apples (3rd week)
September & October—Apples and Raspberries (Van Kirk Rd. only), Raspberries, Blackberries, Pumpkins, Flowers (Cold Soil Rd.)
Van Kirk Road Orchards open the 3rd week in August.
Call ahead for information on availability of specific varieties.

Spring's Garden Delights

Terhune Orchards and New Jersey have well-earned reputations for producing deliciously fabulous spring produce. Here's is a small sample of what we grow that keeps our neighbors, family, and friends coming back each year.

Garden Fresh Asparagus

Terhune Orchards' own crop of asparagus will be in the Farm Store by the last week in April. Green, crisp, and crunchy asparagus is one of the first vegetables to surface in the spring. Because you get it fresh picked at Terhune Orchards, the flavor is truly amazing.

Our farm fresh asparagus is so tender that you can eat it raw. No need to peel our fresh asparagus stems! Try it with a dip as

an hors d'oeuvre. Asparagus cooks up quickly and easily; you can steam, boil, microwave, oven-roast, or stir-fry the spears, but be careful not to overcook! Call the Farm Store at 609-924-2310 for availability.

Fresh Tart & Zesty Rhubarb

Terhune Orchards Rhubarb is a beautiful and versatile perennial garden plant, with huge lush green leaves and pink or red stalks. It ripens in mid-May. Only the stalks are edible – discard the leaves.

Rhubarb is most commonly used in pies, tarts, and sauces. It is also popular in cakes, pastries, jams, pickles, and wine. Interestingly, the most common ingredient in rhubarb recipes other than rhubarb is the strawberry (Terhune Orchards' strawberries and rhubarb are perfect in pies!). No time to bake? Try our ready-to-eat Strawberry Rhubarb Pie available in the Farm Store.

The more flavorful stalks are likely to be medium-sized and deep red in color. To preserve rhubarb, trim and discard the leaves. Stalks keep fresh in the refrigerator for up to three weeks, when unwashed and tightly wrapped in plastic.

To freeze rhubarb, cut stalks into 1/2-inch pieces, spread on a sheet pan, and freeze. Store the frozen pieces in heavy-duty plastic freezer bags. Seal tightly and return to the freezer. Packed this way, rhubarb will keep up to six months. To use, measure out the amount needed and return the rest to the freezer. For availability, call the Farm Store at 609-924-2310.

We're Online!

- Want to know what's happening at Terhune Orchards? Check out our Web Page www.terhuneorchards.com or send us e-mail info@terhuneorchards.com.

Pam's Glorious Gardens

Pam's glorious gardens are an amazing sight. A major joy of spring is watching annuals and perennials burst into bloom at Terhune Orchards. The gardens here, designed and executed by Pam Mount, illustrate how brilliant colors and variety can create gardens of visual appeal and excitement. If you share Pam's love of flowers, but not her green thumb, we can help!

All winter, Terhune Orchards greenhouse staff plants, thins, waters, and cares for thousands of plants, each selected for their hardiness and color. Can't figure out



which plants "go together?" Our Flowering Baskets eliminate the guesswork. We've grouped plants in dramatic arrangements, ready to decorate your house or garden.

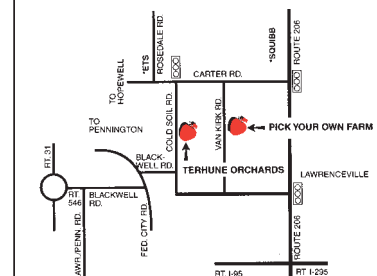
Flowers for cutting and herbs are our specialties. We feature 6-packs of annuals such as pansies, primroses, johnny jump-ups, and violas in lots of spectacular colors! They're also available in pots to decorate your porch or table. Or, transplant them directly into your garden. There are many colors and varieties to choose from.

We use larger pots for those who want lush, more dramatic plants for that "instant" garden without the fuss. Annuals grown in large containers do very well when transplanted into your garden. With substantial root systems, they are better established than plants in smaller 6-packs. And, even if you've missed the spring planting season, plants in larger pots also do well when transplanted later in the season. These larger plants are "showier" and thrive in patio or poolside planters and containers. Once planted, your garden looks perfect!



Directions to Terhune Orchards

Directions: Travel on the New Jersey Turnpike South to Exit 9, transfer to Route #1 South for about 20 miles, then take Interstate 95 South (different from the NJ Turnpike) to the second exit for Rte 206 North, Lawrenceville-Princeton. Take route #206 to the fourth traffic light and turn left onto Cold Soil Road. The main farm is on the right, 3 miles from route #206.



Cherry Season Starts Soon!

About three years ago, the cherry trees that Gary had so carefully nurtured finally bore fruit. To spread out harvesting time, we planted eleven different varieties — Ulster, Lapins, Somerset, Hedelfingen, Hudson, Hartland, Chelan, Schmidt, Regina, Rainer (yellow blush) and Montmorency (tart for cooking and baking) — each with a slightly different maturity date. In this way, we lengthened our cherry picking season somewhat. In case you're wondering about the plastic covering the cherries, Gary purchased what is called a Haygrove High Tunnel to protect the cherries from the sometimes-iffy spring weather.

At the end of June, when the cherries are ready, you had better be ready, too.

To read Gary's article about the fast Cherry picking season, visit our website: http://www.terhuneorchards.com/our_crops_cherries.html