



TERHUNE ORCHARDS NEWS

Trenton Farmer's Market
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SPRING 2008

Celebrate Spring with Family Fun at Kite Day!

Join us as we celebrate the planting and growing season at Terhune Orchards' during our annual Kite Day Festival, on May 3 and 4, from 10am to 5pm! It's our chance to spend time with our friends and neighbors for a fun-filled day on the farm. Enjoy the wonderful sights and scents of the farm, sun-ripened strawberries, and sprouting perennials peeking out from their winter hide-away. And, if we're lucky, the apple trees may be in bloom!

We all have lots of high-flying fun with kites of all sizes and shapes. Bring your own, make one here, or buy one of the dazzling and colorful kites available in the Farm Store. The Farm fields are the best place to "test drive" your kite!

**Kite Day,
May 3 - 4**

Stroll along the Farm Trail. See and enjoy the diversity of our "wild" plants and animals, and look for buds in the orchards, sprouts in the fields, and babies of all kinds everywhere!

On Sunday afternoon, our sheep have an appointment to lose their winter coats. Each child spectator receives a souvenir piece of fleece. Then, join our own



Elaine Madigan in the barnyard for some FUN games and activities for children of all ages. Try your hand at Clothespin in the Bottle, Tiddly Frogs, Shoop the Hoop,

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The Mount Family has a Banner Year!



certainly 2007 was a banner year for the Mount Family with the addition of two more farm workers with Mike and Reuwei's twin daughters, Sasha and Tess, joining granddaughter Maya who is now three years old. The great news continues in 2008 with the birth



Jim & Tannwen with son, Becket.

of Tannwen and Jim's first child on March 3. Becket is a beautiful boy. All are doing well and grandparents Pam and Gary are so blessed that all of them are living here in Lawrence. Family Sunday suppers have become a highlight of our week.

Son Mark is back in Afghanistan for his third tour of duty as a Sergeant with his infantry unit. The Mount family is proud of his commitment to our country and thankful for all those who keep Mark in their thoughts.

Continuing our service to the community, Pam was sworn in for her third term on the Lawrence Town Council in January by NJ State Senator Shirley Turner. Pam continues to serve as a member of the Planning Board, Growth and Redevelopment, Greenways, Open Space, Bike-Pedestrian Committees and is organizing her new committee on Trucks and Traffic. Pam also returned to the board of the New Jersey Agricultural Society and continues to serve on the boards of the Lawrence Community Foundation, Lawrence Hopewell Trail and Sustainable Lawrence.

Gary continues his volunteer activities as Treasurer of the Friends of Howell Living History Farm, the New Jersey Horticultural Society, and as President of the Princeton Agricultural Association. He also serves on the Mercer County Soil and Water District Committee and is an active participant in the International Fruit Tree Association.

Both Pam and Gary were honored in February with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award from the State Board of Agriculture. Pam and Gary bought the

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Pick Your Own Strawberries

by Pam Mount

Spring is all about enjoying the sun after a long winter and about picking strawberries! Strawberries at Terhune Orchards were first planted a number of years ago - and it's in the same spot as it was last year. We rotate the location of the strawberry field every two years now to ensure that our berries are as sweet and as big as they can possibly be!

Lucky for us, New Jersey has great conditions, climate, and soil in which to grow strawberries. As a result, our berries have a much better flavor and are ready to be picked in mid-May. To find out when our strawberries will be ready, visit our website [www.TerhuneOrchards.com] or ask to be signed up for the Terhune Orchards e-mail list and we will let you

know when the berries are ready.

After we plow the field, Gary builds raised beds just right for the strawberries. We set the strawberry plants on top of the raised beds, which lets them thrive while

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Read & Pick Programs a Huge Success

Join us again this year for a great way to introduce your pre-schooler to the fun of Picking-Your-Own fruit. Read & Pick is an innovative program that combines picking fruit with your young child and listening to a story highlighting the fruit. Between May and the beginning



of September, to coincide with when the fruit ripens, parents/guardians listen to a story about fruit with their children. Then parent/guardian and child pick the fruit in our Pick-Your-Own area.

The programs are on Tuesdays, with two separate sessions. They begin at 9:30am and at 11am, and last about one hour.

- May 20:** Farm Animals
- June 3:** Strawberries
- June 17:** Cherries
- July 1:** Blueberries
- July 15:** Vegetables
- July 29:** Flowers
- August 12:** Peaches
- August 26:** Apples (at Van Kirk Rd.)

Each program costs \$7 per child (ages 2 and older) and includes picking a small amount of fruit. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call 609-924-2310 for reservations. Programs meet on the lawn at Terhune Orchards.

Banner Year (continued from page 1)

home farm of 55 acres in 1975. Thirty-three years later, Terhune Orchards has grown to 3 farms and 183 acres and from 3 crops to thirty-five, from having a farm market open three months a year to a year-round operation. The Distinguished Service Award is for more than just operating a successful business; it also represents Pam and Gary's commitment to promoting agriculture in their town, county, state, nationally and internationally as well. Gary serves both on the State Board and county board of Agriculture, SADC and numerous committees and commissions. Pam serves through her work with the NJ Ag Society and by starting programs such as the Ag Leadership Program and Farmers Against Hunger.

When the Mounts started farming in 1975, Terhune Orchards was one of only a



From left: Mike, Gary, & Jim with Maya; Reuwai & Pam with the twins, Sasha & Tess; Tannwen with Becket.

few retail farm markets in Lawrence and statewide. Now, Lawrence has 15 active farms and over half sell directly to local customers. Supporting local farms and buying locally is starting to catch on.

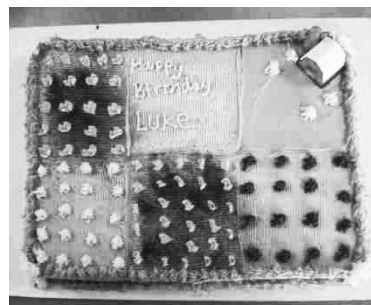
Our goal for Terhune Orchards has always been growing high quality fruits and vegetables. Over the years it has become obvious that growing the finest fruits and vegetables means more than pruning the trees properly or planting the best seeds. It also means paying close attention to the business side of the operation and satisfying our customers. The Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, at their

Annual Meeting on April 13th, will acknowledge Terhune Orchards' success by awarding the Mounts with the Small Business of the Year Award. Pam and Gary are thrilled to be recognized by the Chamber for their success. Pam and Gary believe that: "This award from Mercer Chamber of Commerce, a business organization, is especially exciting because in the end it is the business side of Terhune Orchards which is critical. Growing the best fruits and vegetables in the best way, producing products like cider, running successful retail markets and keeping great employees are all important parts held together by sound business practices."

Great Fun at our Barnyard Birthday Parties

What better way to celebrate your child's birthday than on the farm? Bring your party to Terhune Orchards for a unique celebration. The party will have reserved picnic tables and take a private hayride through the orchards. The children will feed the barnyard animals and 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 request a Barnyard Birthday Party brochure or visit www.TerhuneOrchards.com for more information.



Farm birthday cake.

Summer Camp at the Farm

Every summer, Terhune Orchards welcomes children between the ages of 7 and 11 to enjoy a fun-filled week of summer camp on the farm. The two identical one-week sessions focus on how the farmer and nature work together to grow healthy crops and how they sometimes are at odds with each other. During the week, the campers take advantage of our beautiful surroundings, get a closer look at our resident insects, birds, wild and domestic animals, and sample the crops in season.

The camp sessions meet from July 14 to July 18 and from July 21 to July 25 between 9am and 3:30pm.

Kite Day (continued from page 1)

Bubble Zone, Fishing Game, Sack Races, the Peanut Scramble, Marshmallow eating contest, and more.

Take a pony ride or hop up on one of our farm wagons and ride through the orchards. Visit our horse Mexicali; Cosmo the goat; Luna, our rabbit; our friendly farm dogs Rhubarb and Sweet Basil; and ducks, geese, and chickens too numerous to be named.

To all the "Moms", here's your chance to see the wonderful hanging baskets and container gardens filled with colorful flowers



from our own greenhouse. This is a good time to drop some hints... Remember, Mother's Day is the next weekend, May 11th!

From noon to 4pm, relax as local bands play music. On Saturday, enjoy the music of Riverside Bluegrass. Come back on Sunday to hear the music of Mitchels Cajun Aces.

The Food Tent features great food, perfect for lunch or a snack break. This year, we'll be serving Terhune Orchards famous home-made soup, home-made vegetarian country chili, hot dogs, BBQ asparagus, fresh sweet cider, donuts, apple pie, cookies, brownies, and lots of other goodies.

So, bring your family and friends and experience a high-flying afternoon at Terhune Orchards' Kite Day on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4 from 10am to 5pm. Parking is available at Terhune Orchards. Admission is FREE.

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.

Weeds, Glorious Weeds

by Gary Mount

Whether you think everyone who tries to grow something, homeowner or farmer, ornamentals or food crop, always, ends up saying the same thing – “If only my plants could grow as well as the weeds!” Sound familiar? You bet. At Terhune Orchards, it is just about time to begin the annual battle against weeds.

Weeds are really devilish. They rob my crops of space, sunlight, nutrients and water, they provide refuge for all sorts of damaging insects and they look terrible. Not to mention poison ivy and Canada thistle – ouch!

Enough complaining – what do we actually do about weeds? When I first became a farmer, it was common practice to clean cultivate the peach orchards. We (I) would go back and forth with a tractor and a heavy disc, up and down and across the rows until all the weeds were uprooted and buried. The ground was loosened about six inches down and this reduced the competition for water and nutrients – the peaches had it all to themselves. Sounds great? Not exactly. It turns out that peaches have very shallow roots. Many of the feeder roots grow up to three inches or so from the surface. As I was going back and forth, I had been chopping off roots that were needed by the tree. Smaller peaches and weaker trees (read – more likely to die) resulted. Not good.

Then there was the rain. It being my first year at farming, I did not have a full appreciation of rain. I didn't realize that it could rain seven inches in one week, as it did that first July, right during peach harvest. And, it kept on raining, a lot, all summer. I sadly watched a lot of my topsoil wash away. It takes a few hundred years for one inch of topsoil to be created. Not good.

Then there was the lugging. Lugging occurs when peaches are being picked after a lot of rain falls on a clean cultivated orchard. It is impossible to drive through

the orchard and picking becomes a team event. One picker, one lugger. The lugger's job is to slog through the mud to where the truck is parked at the edge of the orchard with a just picked, full basket of peaches. Even 33 years later, I can still hear the pickers calling, when their baskets were full, “Lugger!”

Fortunately, we now have a better way to deal with this. We plant thick growing sod between the rows – one that we can drive and walk on easily. Under the trees, we use a weed spray – not one that is taken up by the trees but rather a spray that keeps the weed seeds from sprouting. The spray doesn't last very long before it breaks down into inert materials, but it does not have to. Weeds mostly sprout over a two to three month period of the growing season. I guess we might say that in weed control, as in many things, timing is crucial.

In the peach orchards, we no longer chop peach roots with the disc, but since there are no weeds to rob the trees of water and nutrients, we are still able to reduce irrigation and fertilizer. And there is another big advantage. One of the insects very damaging to the peach takes a small bite of the peach when it just begins to grow – when it's smaller than a pea. As the peach grows, the area around the bite does not. The fruit becomes distorted, misshapen and the result is named “cat facing”. Insecticide spraying can prevent this injury. Except!! Peach growers have found that this particular damaging insect needs an additional place to live other than the peach tree. It has to live part of its life on broadleaf weeds on the orchard floor – sort of a city house/country house situation. By using a weed spray under the tree and a tight, vigorous grass sod between the rows, we are able to eliminate broadleaf weeds in the orchard. The cat facing insects cannot live in the orchard without an alternate place to

live. This technique works so well, it has actually been several years since I have had to spray insecticide for the cat facing insects – so cool!

Much the same story can be told about most of the crops grown on the farm. Weeds are one of our biggest problems. This is especially true in our certified organic acreage. Last year, in 2007, was our first time to have certified organic production – about 8 acres – and the national organic program rules do not allow chemical weed sprays. Thus the question – can the farmer still be clever enough or energetic enough to defeat the weeds? In addition to the vegetables that I grow organically, I also have dreams of growing some apples organically. It is a difficult project. I tried it twice before – in 1978 for three years and in 1984 for four years. I was unsuccessful in producing good quality apples. And one of the biggest unsolved problems for me was – you guessed it – the weeds.

This time I have some new techniques and new materials to work with. Stay tuned for a further report. But, just hope that when you visit the farm, you don't hear someone, in the distance, shout “Lugger!”

Blueberry Bash at Terhune Orchards June 21 & 22

Join us on Saturday and Sunday, June 21 & 22 for our “Blueberry Bash” that celebrates “everything blueberry.” Visit the Pick-Your-Own



blueberry patch, ready for picking! 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.

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—including a puppet show—are available for the children.

Get into the spirit of “blueberry” by entering your favorite blueberry treat in our juried Blueberry Bash Bake-off on Saturday only at 1pm—separate categories for adults and children. Contest rules are available at the Farm Store. The adult winner receives a \$100 Terhune Orchards and the child winner receives a \$50 gift card. Watch for the winning recipes in a future edition of *Terhune Orchards News*.

When hunger strikes, visit Pam Mount's Blueberry Bash “Buffet.” Lots of tasty blueberry treats – great for lunch or a quick snack.

The Blueberry Bash will be held on Saturday & Sunday, June 21 & 22 from 10am to 5pm. Parking is at Terhune Orchards. Admission is free.

Discovery Tours on the Farm Trail

Spring and Summer Tours and Programs at Terhune Orchards give children of all ages the opportunity to experience the miracle of Mother Nature—up close and personal, led by knowledgeable Tour Guides.

Spring is a glorious time to explore the Farm, to learn about the trees and wild flowers, and to get acquainted with our farm animals and the wild animals that also live here. You will dig in the garden and learn how to plant seeds. Then savor a crunchy Terhune Orchards apple and a cup of our delicious, fresh cider. The program concludes with the children making a mini-garden to take home. Spring Tours are available throughout May and June.

In July and August, enjoy our Summer Discovery Tours. Children attending the programs walk along the Terhune Orchards Farm Trail, beginning at the Flower Cutting Garden and continuing about one mile passed the peach, cherry, and apple orchards as well as the pond. We learn about the spectacular wild meadow flowers and walk through the evergreen and deciduous forest to inspect the progress of forest growth. As the tour turns back towards the Farm Store, we say hello to the farm animals, and then enjoy a refreshing snack of apples and cider, followed by a

hands-on activity to take home.

Spring and Summer Tours are available by appointment only, Monday through Friday at 10am and at 1pm. The 1.5 hour program costs \$7 per child and includes a snack and a craft activity. Preregistration and a minimum of 10 children are required for a tour. No more than 20 children will be assigned to a tour leader. Since space is limited, reservations are required and accepted in the order in which they are received.

To add to the fun of the day, plan a special picnic lunch at Rosedale Park. The public areas are just 5 minutes from Terhune Orchards. Tables, playgrounds, and toilets are available at the park. To schedule or discuss your group or camp's specific Spring or Summer Tour requirements, call the Farm



Mark Your Calendar

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| March 29, 2008 | Gary's Pruning Demonstration, 11pm to 12pm | July 22, 2008 | Read and Pick Program, Flowers, 10am |
| Apr 25, 2008 | Arbor Day Celebration, 10am & 4pm | Aug. 3, 2008 | Freezing, Canning, and Preserving Class, 10am |
| May 3, 2008 | Kite Day, 10am-5pm | Aug. 9, 2008 | Read and Pick Program, Peaches, 10am |
| May 4, 2008 | Kite Day, 10am-5pm | Aug. 26, 2008 | Read and Pick Program, Apples, 10am |
| May 11, 2008 | Mother's Day, Unique Gift Baskets at the Farm Store! | Sept. 15, 2008 | Photo Contest Entries due today |
| May 20, 2008 | Read and Pick Program, Farm Animals, 9:30am & 11am | Sept. 24, 2008 | Apple Day, 10am-5pm |
| June 17, 2008 | Read and Pick Program, Cherries, 9:30am & 11am | Sept. 25, 2008 | Apple Day, 10am-5 pm |
| June 21, 2008 | Blueberry Bash Festival, 10am to 5pm | Oct. 11, 2008 | Photo Contest Opening Reception |
| June 22, 2008 | Blueberry Bash Festival, 10am to 5pm | | |
| July 8, 2008 | Read and Pick Program, Blueberries, 10am | | |
| July 8, 2008 | Photo Contest Entries due today | | |
| July 13, 2008 | Firefly Festival, 5pm to 9pm | | |



Farm Store, Farm Yard, & Farm

Trail: Open to the public daily all year.

School and Summer Camp Tours: By appointment, June 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 (4th 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.

Give the "Taste of Home" to Someone Special on Mother's Day

Delight and honor someone special on Mother's Day—May 11 with one of our unique decorative baskets and fill it with fresh fruit from Terhune Orchards' own gardens and orchards. These are especially welcome to friends and relatives who have moved away from Princeton



—it's a real "taste" of home! We can fill a traditional basket with an assortment of fruit and cheeses, apples, cider, cookies and fruit breads, maple syrup, honey, dried cranberries, and more! It's all fresh and made locally in the "garden" state!

Or, choose one of our spectacular hanging baskets, plant or flower arrangements, and flowering plants ready for the garden. Our friendly Farm Store staff can help you create the perfect flower fantasy for the special Mom in your life!

These outstanding, unique, and individual creations feature a variety of fresh blos-

soms, spring plants, flowering bulbs, or cut flowers and herbs. Many include flowering plants that she can enjoy all summer long. Each creation is arranged in a unique container or basket that shows our flowers and plants at their best.

Can't decide? Let Mom choose her own with a Terhune Orchards Gift Card that she can use any time.

The Terhune Orchards Farm Store is open from 9am to 6pm on Monday through Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday to help you create the perfect gift for the special Mom in your life.



Pick Your Own Strawberries

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keeping them relatively dry, should we have a rainy spring. We also cover the rows between the plants with lots of wood chips so the pickers won't get muddy feet.

During the fall, when the weather turns cold, Gary covers the whole field with a huge piece of white row covering. The row covering protects our strawberries from



winter winds and other weather-related damage, but allows the rain to get through to the roots. During some past winters, the plants certainly needed that protection!

The cover is removed every spring and nature takes over -- the strawberry flowers bloom, the bees pollinate, and soon the berries are ready to pick.

When picking strawberries, look under the leaves and pick fruit that is a deep red in color. The berries ripen over a 4-6 week period, so leave the berries that are not quite ready. They will be ready for picking in a few days.

Pam says that if you plan to make strawberry jam, try picking a few berries that aren't all red or not quite ripe. These not-quite-ripe berries contain more pectin, the ingredient that thickens the jam.

Everything about strawberries is great! Come to Terhune Orchards and enjoy the fun of picking your own fruit!

Looking for a great strawberry recipe? The Farm Store has all the fixings to help you make an easy, but spectacular Strawberry Shortcake. Just combine flakey buttermilk biscuits freshly made by the Terhune Orchards bakery, add strawberries, freshly picked by you and a dollop of whipped cream! Simply delicious!



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.

