

## The Tribal Garden Journal 2017

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Another year has gone by, and garden time again.

As everyone knows, the Spring was a very wet one.

It seemed to go on and on, until today, a break!

It is sunny, and very warm, in the high 70's.

Just what I needed, as well as the garden.

The Tribal garden was tilled this week. It is slowly drying and warming up. We hope to get the seeds in soon. This week, at best.

We did start some Native corn, from NM, that was gifted to us. It is planted, in the cabin garden, not the Tribal one.

It is a beautiful, and makes excellent corn meal. We hope to show the children, how the corn turns into corn meal.

It reminds me, when I was young, we ate a lot of gruel, when there was no money.

Corn was planted, by Greyson Sinclair, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and they were up in a couple of days. The corn was planted early, so the other corn, would not cross pollinate.

We harvested a lot last year, close to a gallon.

Will attempt to plant some tobacco, this year. Last year was a bust, the weather would not cooperate.

There is also, some horseradish, we planted, in another plot. It has a tendency to take over, so it needs its own space.

When we were kids, my parents had a lot of Jerusalem Artichokes. There was a pretty large stand of them, near the house. A friend of ours, has a large area of them, and he asked if we wanted some. Of course, the answer was

yes. There is a couple of plants, in an area, below the Tribal garden. The reason, they are not in the garden is, they have a tendency of taking over. So, hopefully, we can dig some, this week, and get them going.  
Will sign off, for today.

May 24<sup>th</sup>

Have been working, off and on, in the gardens, but nothing exciting to report.

Nick Pearie, met us, at the door, bright and early, this AM. He has fun, just following us around, and then he stops to take a nip of grass.

Yesterday, we went, to dig up, Jerusalem artichokes. They were planted, where they could take over that part of the plot.

I will get them, established this year, and by next fall, we will have a good stand of them. You can gather the tubers anytime, from late summer to early winter. They taste, the best after a hard frost. It is suggested, that when the plants turn brown, cut back the stalks and loosen the soil, with a fork. Sift through, and gather only what you are going to use, in a couple of weeks.

You can eat the artichokes raw or cooked.

Thanks, go out to Laddie and Hoppy, for giving us the artichokes.

I will add some recipes, later.

We have been having visitors at the garden, moose, bear, foxes, turkeys, and many more.

We did get all the artichokes or sun chokes into the garden.

It was close to a seventy-foot row. The Morrisville sunflowers also went into a long row, perhaps sixty-five feet.

Native tobacco was planted, in a large pot, and it is in the green house.

Garden mats are on part of the garden, keeping a lot of weeds at bay. Hopefully, we will be able to get the beans and corn in tomorrow.

May 25

I finally went down to measure the garden, and it is 16x71. Planted Jacob's Cattle and Norridgewock beans. Then the rain came. Hopefully, it will stop and more beans can be planted.

Our Mascot, Nick Pearie, spent some time with us and visitors, this morning. He was quite the gentleman.

Clucked at them, and strutted around.

He has a habit, of chasing the 4-wheeler. Not a good thing. We are teaching him the word no. At first, he wasn't listening. But, today, I was sterner, and he stopped chasing, the big machine. He wasn't too happy, with my tone.

The 4-wheeler took off, and he just ran beside me, until the end of the driveway. That is his boundary, that he set for himself.

Planted Cranberry beans.

We planted a mat full, that is 12 ft. long

Planted eight Native corn, that was gifted, last year. It makes really flavorful cornmeal.

We are hoping to give a class, to the Koasek kids, on how to make cornmeal. Perhaps, we can have it before the

Heritage Celebration, so they can make some mini cornmeal muffins, to share with visitors at the Museum. That was it, for today. It started to pour once again. Until next time, will sign off.

May 27th

The tobacco is starting to come up. If we could get a few days of warm weather, it would be helpful.

Sunny today, had over 2 inches of rain, yesterday. Seventy degrees in the greenhouse. Plants are loving it.

Planted the Skunk beans.

Nick was here, this afternoon, wanted to meet more visitors. He took leaves, from them, and ate them.

May 31<sup>st</sup>

Planted the Tribal corn. The sunflowers are coming up.

Started to rain, hard, so came back to the cabin.

Bear went thru, last night. Sun is shining, that will help the Garden grow.

Only one kind of bean, squash, and pumpkins left to plant.

A few visitors today. A large tom turkey was dancing around his lady friends. Later on, a bear came across the back lawn, and checked things out. He might have weighted 120 pounds. He was very healthy looking. He stayed a short time, and then disappeared into the woods.

Will sign off, until next time.

June 2

It was sunny, for about an hour, now it is overcast and threatening to rain, and it did. The ground is so saturated, that when you walk, you sink, about six inches. Will hold off planting any more.

Not much to report.

June 4

The sun is out, and a bit warmer. At lunch time, we had another visitor. A male black bear, about 175 pounds or more. He ambled into the garden, and sniffed around a bit, and then left. We saw him, three times that day.

The beans, are starting to show. It had rained so hard, that some of the beans were washed out. I added soil, and they will be fine.

If the sun stays out for a few more days, I will plant the rest of the seeds.

Until next time.

June 7

Planted the rest of the garden, will add a few more things, later.

The corn is doing well. More beans are showing.

It is getting warm, so it should help.  
I only had 3 squash seeds, so I planted them in the greenhouse.

June 12<sup>th</sup>

The squash seeds are up, about 2 inches.  
It is 83 degrees, rather warm. Keeping an eye, on the greenhouse, to make sure the plants have plenty of water.  
Getting ready, for the Heritage Celebration.

Until next time

June 14<sup>th</sup>

Doug tilled all the gardens. The rest of the beans, seemed to be slow appearing. Dug some of them up, and they had rotted. Spent the morning replanting the beans. The corn, sunflowers, pumpkins are doing pretty well.

Worked from 7:00-3:00 on the gourd rattles. The outside of the shell, had to be scrubbed, until the skin was stripped off. Still have the hole to drill, clean the inside, and sand the outside, if needed. Some need handles, and will make out of beaver sticks.

The sun is shining, and it is nearly 70. The garden should do great today. The gourds, I started, in the green house, are nearly two inches high. Will plant them, when we get back, from the Gathering.

Nicky, comes out every day. He loves to eat dandelions.

He will slurp it up, and it is gone. The other day, he was sitting in the canoe, with Doug. It put a smile, on your face.

Until next time.

June 15<sup>th</sup>

The weather is still, not ideal, for a productive garden. The corn and sunflowers are doing well. Did some weeding, and tilled a bit. Getting ready, to pack, for the Heritage Celebration. Need to take all of the tents, tables, and chairs, for the booths. The kid's plants, are looking beautiful. We have 15 flats, to sell this year. Not bad for three kids.

Until next time.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Packed all of the items, needed for the three days. Not much to report, on the garden. Will plant the gourds, etc when we get back. Will be leaving, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, for the gathering. Will be back, late on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

June 27<sup>th</sup>

The Celebration, went great. The kids, were a hit. They

sold, a lot of plants. They are looking forward to next year. Weeded and tilled. Planted blue corn, for blue cornmeal. Seventy-four seedlings. They are looking good.

June 29<sup>th</sup>

Put up the solar fence, a bit of animal activity, in the area. It's working good, along with Irish Spring Soap. Planted the gourds, the wind gusted, later today, and a few have broken leaves, but I think, they will be alright. The weather, is not great.

July 1<sup>st</sup>

The rain won't stop. We received, at least two more inches, last night. The cabin garden, it took all the top soil off, of the corn, but we should be able to save it. A lot of the roads, are starting to eroded, more rain to come. It's here, before they stated. Flooding, if it doesn't stop. The Native Garden faired well. A bit of wash outs. I am hoping, that it will stop raining. We had 9 days straight, of wet weather.

Until, next time.

July 10<sup>th</sup>

Weeded and tilled. The beans are yellow, from lack of sun, and too much rain. Some of the seeds rotted. Planted three times, so it wasn't met to be, for this year. If only we could

send some of this weather, to the west!!

The corn is looking good.

We did have a visitor to the garden, a large moose went thru one side of the solar fence, and turned around and went back in the direction, he came. He was good, nothing was walked on.

Nick, has been visiting. However, we don't see him as much. I heard a ruckus, out back. He was trying to balance on a tiny branch and eat berries at the same time. He looked like, he was doing a dance. He finally, did the split, and fell to the ground. He trotted over, to see what I was doing. I asked, if he wanted to see Doug, and he followed, to the front of the cabin. He did his greetings, and eating his way to the woods, he disappeared.

July 16<sup>th</sup>

The weather, is still the big story. It has rained, nearly every day, this past week.

Not much to report.

July 24<sup>th</sup>

We finally had a weekend of sun and warmth. What beautiful days. The garden perked up, the corn is getting small ears, that makes one happy. Some of the squash and pumpkins have flowers. So, perhaps we can salvage some of the crops.

It started raining, early this morning. Tomorrow, will be the same. Wed. is looking good.

We did have a bear visiting us. Beautiful, animal.

Until, next time.

July 27<sup>th</sup>

We have had a bit of warm spells, but not enough to save the beans. There was just too much rain, and it was very cold at night. We might get a hand full of seeds, but I won't bet on it.

The only plants, that might come through, are the sunflowers and the corn. We must, however, be thankful, for what we have. I can't recall, a summer, like this one. There has been more animal activity. A larger number of bear, a couple of moose, and deer.

We do see Nick, the partridge. He doesn't come as much. But, when he does, he is very amusing.

Until, next time....

August 5<sup>th</sup>

August, is upon us. The weather is not to bad this week, but the nights are still cool. Saw a large bear track...they are eating the wild berries.

Nick made an appearance, while the campfire was being laid. He was slurping the leaves, at a fast rate. Then he flew up into a tree, and spent a bit of time with us. He was making himself handsome. Finally, jumping down, to the ground, he left for another adventure.

Until next time

August 8<sup>th</sup>

Not a bad day. A bear has been visiting us again. Took a photo of his track.

The Koas corn is doing ok, for the season, we have had. Sunflowers are growing tall and beautiful.

Cut around the electric fence.

Nicky, showed up for entertainment.

Until next time

August 10<sup>th</sup>

Will be gone for a week or more. Going to Pleasant Point and Calais, Maine, for a Gathering.

August 21<sup>st</sup>

The corn is ready to pick. Today, there will be a total solar eclipse, today. Greyson and Doug will be working on a project, where you can see the eclipse on paper.

Well, the project was well done. The eclipse, has come and gone, and documented, by the boys.

We did pick the corn. It is hanging up to dry, for seeds next year.

In conclusion, of this journal, the garden produced very little this year. We did pick 60 ears of corn. The only plant, still standing, is the tall and proud, sunflower.

The electric fence, has been taken down, and the earth,  
prepared for next year.

Until next time