

Russell Farm Supervisor BPAC Report
June 16, 2023
Submitted by Mary Ann Spaun

Events and Programming:

February 11, 2023, 20 attendees – Chocolate dipping class with a Valentine theme called **Sweets for your Sweetie**. The fee of \$25 included all supplies. Students dipped strawberries, marshmallows, pretzels, and grapes in both, white and dark chocolate. The finished product made a beautiful presentation as a gift.

February 18, 2023, 37 couple attendees – **Date Night Experience** fee (\$45 per couple) brought together 37 couples for a night of catered barbeque from Roscoe's and live fiddle music during dinner. The 74 attendees were led by a Country Western dance instructor. Couples enjoyed lots of laughter and new dances learned. Couples enjoyed s'mores around a fire pit to close out the evening.

March 18, 2023, 14 attendees – **Mango Chutney Canning** (Class fee \$25). This class brought community together with a team effort of chopping fruit and vegetables, preparing the jars, and going through the proper steps in the canning process. Everyone was given a sample of what they made during the class. The class encouraged students to gain the confidence to go home and make a batch for themselves or give away as gifts.

March 25, 2023, Estimated 201 attendees – **Show Me How Festival** was our first year to offer this event. The farm did not charge vendor fees but required that all who were selling goods be willing to teach our visitors how to do the various arts and crafts. In attendance we had Native American jewelry, t-shirt screening, herbal soaps and body balms, basket weaving, spinning and weaving, outdoor cooking, gel painting, and wood carving. This event drew roughly 200 guests to experience different mediums of art.

April 1, 2023, Estimated 425 attendees – **Easter Egg Hunt** for ages 4 and under. During this event, little ones explored the Farm while waiting their turn for their age group to hunt eggs. Families also enjoyed taking pictures with the Easter bunny and the Farm donkeys.

April 1, 2023, 12 attendees – **Mixed Media Art Class** for adult's (Fee \$40) with all supplies included.

April 15, 2023, 6 attendees – **Pickled Asparagus canning class**. The fee of \$25 included all supplies. Students enjoyed learning the process of pickling asparagus. Samples are provided during class in order to create an expectation of how their own will taste. This class offers an opportunity to meet others and work together as a team to complete the process. Everyone left with their jar of product and the recipe so they can do it at home.

April 22, 2023 – **Earth Day Celebration** at the farm brought out several activities for our community to enjoy partnering with the library, Keep Burleson Beautiful, Texas Master Naturalist, Cooks Children's

Health Care system. There was a Wild Life on the Move presentation and animal interaction. In addition, Roots Garden Center offered a workshop and Russell Farm organized a Bird Walk.

May 13, 2023, 18 attendees – Pineapple Habanero (Class fee \$25). This class brought community together with a team effort of chopping fruit and vegetables, preparing the jars, and going through the proper steps in the canning process. Everyone was given a sample of what they made during the class. The class encouraged students to gain the confidence to go home and make a batch for themselves or give away as gifts.

May 20, 2023, Estimated 400 attendees – Texas Heritage Festival: The Texas Heritage Festival celebrated Texas History with live music, instructional dance lessons, and interactive demonstrations. Additionally, beautiful Percheron draft horses pulled a wagon, we offered a tractor with hayrides, and lastly, a mini train ran continuously during the festival. Various artisans shared their talents and sold goods. This was a free event that is offered each year for the community.

Enrichment Classes:

- Children's gardening classes on Fridays from 1:00-2:30 pm: March through May.
- Wood Shop classes on Thursdays 11:00 – 12:30 pm with a limit of 6 students. Wood Shop increased to two classes due to a waitlist.
- Opportunities for individuals with disabilities: Russell Farm offers opportunity for students and adults with disabilities to come out weekly to volunteer and learn life skills.
 - Center for ASD comes on Tuesdays at 10:00 and Burleson ISD Adult Transition students comes out on Thursdays at 10:00 am to volunteer. They are given hands-on experience in working with nature and wood. Our time with these students gives them opportunities to learn the process of sanding, staining, or sealing wood around the farm such as benches and picnic tables. These students also learn about beautification of the farm by trimming back shrubs, working in our community gardens, and watering. In addition, they assist with setting up for special events and rentals.

Service Projects Spring 2023

April 8, 2023: National Charity League is a mother and daughter philanthropic organization that has supported the farm for the past five years. On April 15, they came out to clean out and add flowers to the front flower beds of the Russell-Boren home. They provided the flowers and shrubs that added beauty to the flower beds.

May 6, 2023: Burleson Church of Christ has supported the farm with a family service project each year for the past five years. On May 6, families came out to completely transform the Rose Garden in our Community Garden area. In addition, they cleaned out the large flower beds in the backyard of the Russell-Boren home.

May 20, 2023: Target employees came out to work in the vineyard pruning and lifting vines on May 20, 2023. In addition, they trimmed trees with low hanging branches. This project was very beneficial to the grapes and helped with beautification of the farm.

Upcoming Events and Programming:

Summer Camps:

- Fun on the Farm Camps
- Youth Culinary Camp with focuses on international dishes
- Teen Survival Camp
- STEAM/Science Camp
- Art Camps will be offered June through August
- 4 Field Trips
- Monthly Canning Classes will continue throughout the Summer 2023.