

## PA Preferred® Recognized Member: Spoutwood Farm

Blossoming from a small farm growing herbs and dried flowers to now having grown to a full vegetable operation, Spoutwood Farm is a non-profit educational farm located in York County, Pennsylvania. Originally living in Baltimore, Maryland Rob Wood and Lucy Wood moved to Glen Rock Pennsylvania in 1983. They were being called to the land, Rob explained. In 1996, they began growing vegetables and became one of the first CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farms in Pennsylvania. “Food grown naturally from the land is more important than flowers at this point in our cultural history,” said Rob. That is why they joined the CSA program. Also, by being a PA Preferred member he is able to “reinforce the idea of local food.”

There are three unique and important aspects that build the foundation of Spoutwood Farm: their CSA, education, and special events. “I am appreciative of anything having to do with local foods,” said Rob. Being part of the CSA program allows him to share his passion with the community. He takes his love of locally grown foods a step further by having classes and workshops at the farm to educate people. One program that they hold on their farm is Teen Culinary Health Educators from Spoutwood (CHEFS). This educational program teaches young people about culinary preparation, nutrition, health and local foods. Spoutwood Farm also hosts a variety of other special events including the May Day Fairie Festival (25th Annual Festival is April 29-30 and May 1, 2016), and the Mother Earth Harvest Fair.

The staff at Spoutwood Farm has a passion for agriculture and they enjoy being a part of the farm. “I love working outdoors and getting to know the local community,” said Eric Sherdel, Farm and CAS Manager. The staff also prides itself on the programs they offer the community at Spoutwood Farm providing hands-on educational experiences for all ages. These programs may be the first interaction a guest has even had with a farm. “It is amazing to watch someone’s’ reaction to seeing a farm for the first time, pulling a carrot from the earth, seeing a Great Blue Heron along the stream,” Rob shared.

In the future Spoutwood Farm wants to expand and diversify beyond a CSA, and looks forward to working together with the experts at Penn State Cooperative Extension to build this plan. They hope to possibly start a winter CSA, provide wholesale products to stores and restaurants, and participate at new farmers markets.

For more information about PA Preferred member, Spoutwood Farm or their CSA program, visit <http://www.spoutwood.org/> or visit their farm at 4255 Pierceville Road, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania 17327 (Please call first).

Picture 1:



Picture 2



Picture 3

