

Our Towns & Schools

Firefly Feast to benefit farm

Celebrate the region's food and drink

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FOR THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

Common Ground Farm will host the second annual Firefly Feast in Beacon Aug. 1. The event brings together the community to celebrate local chefs, foods, farms and music.

For the price of admission, attendees will savor local foods from 10 different chefs and restaurants. This year's menu features local favorites Ella's Bellas, The Hop, Beacon Bread Company, Poppy's Burgers and Fries, Tito Santana's, Barb's Butchery, Homespun Foods, Beacon Pantry, Marbled Meat Shop, Zora Dora's Ice Pops and Harry's Sandwiches. A new feature this year is Brooklyn Oyster Party. For an additional cost, enjoy fresh North Atlantic oysters by the half and whole dozen. Think of this as your chance to sample dishes from these beloved and celebrated restaurants all in one place. One thing is guaranteed: you will not go home hungry.

In addition to the cornucopia of flavors, all of the proceeds will benefit Common Ground Farm's dual mission of food justice and education. The fundraiser supports Common Ground Farm's food donations to local pantries and soup kitchens, farmer training initiatives, and farm camp. This year's focus is farm-to-school programming, as Common Ground Farm continues to build its classroom capacity for chef demonstrations and on-farm school visits.

In keeping with Common Ground Farm's commitment to supporting a healthier food system, chefs utilize fresh produce, fruits and proteins from local farms, including Common Ground Farm, Obercreek Farm in Wappingers Falls, Fishkill Farms, Glynwood Farm in Cold Spring and distributor Hudson Valley Harvest.

Firefly Feast is also a celebration of the region's craft breweries. Savor the brews of 2-Way Brewing Company, Newburgh Brewing Company, Sovereign Cider, Chatham Brewing, Peekskill Brewing, Sloop Brewing Company, Mill House Brewing Company, and North River Hops and Brewing. On the non-alcoholic side, artisan soda masters Drink More Good will serve its refreshing spritzers, and local roaster Tas Kafe will have drinks for anyone looking for a late-night boost.

Local talents Mimi Sun Longo, Mario Rincon, the Costellos, Tall County and the Breakneck Boys will provide an upbeat backdrop to the summer feast. Beacon's very own composting start-up initiative, Zero to Go, will be on site to oversee all trash and composting efforts.

Stephanie Fisher is vice president of the Board of Directors at Common Ground Farm. She shares a home with her fiancé, their dog and five runner ducks. Contact her at myvalley@poughkeepsiejournal.com



Attendees enjoy the summer feast at Firefly Feast 2014.

BENJAMIN GIARDULLO/COURTESY PHOTO



Local bratwurst sizzles on the grill at Firefly Feast 2014.

BENJAMIN GIARDULLO/COURTESY PHOTO



Zero to Go, Beacon's composting initiative, is shown at last year's Firefly Feast.

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