



Garden Volunteers Needed at the historic Dreibelbis farm.



With the change in seasons comes an opportunity to bring some beauty and just a bit of productivity to the farm. We'd like to upgrade our gardening, probably expanding the flower gardens that border the farmhouse and "*es heisel*"—the little cook house. And, wouldn't it be great if we could plant a house garden (or even just a small herb garden) in the area behind the farm house! We have the space and lots of ideas.

What we need now are volunteers to turn dreams into reality. The Berks Master Gardeners have agreed to give us some guidance and organizational help. We'd like to find an evening in the next few weeks to gather and share our ideas. **If you think you'd like to get some good farm dirt under your fingernails helping us get our gardens going, call Mark Dreibelbis at 610-484-7896.**



With the recent warm temperatures, all the snows have melted, the high water in the creeks and drainage gullies has subsided to normal levels, and the muddy lanes are firming up. Even the goats and cattle are getting ready for spring, losing their thick winter coats. Wintertime chores of hauling hay and firewood, prepping lumber that will one day serve as the flooring for the display/gathering room in the brick chicken house, and farm lane maintenance will soon yield to warm weather tasks like goat de-worming, spring tractor care, and gearing up for the final part of replacing the barn roof. Work has just completed on some masonry repairs and preparations are set to reinstall the rain gutters and downspouts on the barn.

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The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is located on Route 143 south of the village of Virginville. GPS Address: 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg, PA. To fulfill our mission to preserve and protect the historic Dreibelbis farm and to make it available to the public for educational, historical, and environmental purposes we host several events each year. In addition to our annual August Farm Festival, we hope to have a Wetlands and Wildflowers Walk, a Spring Peeper Walk, and maybe one or two more.

Can You Really Harvest Ice at 50°?

Our third Ice Harvest was held on Sunday, February 21st. Though a warm spell had brought mild air temps, the ice pond was sufficiently frozen to support a crowd of spectators and provide a small yield of ice. Last year, the single digit cold kept our numbers way down, but mild weather brought out nearly 120 for this year's event.



Check out photos from Ice Harvest 2016 on the next page!

Please call Mark to volunteer for our gardening crew.

For more information about the farm, visit www.Dreibelbisfarm.org, "Historic Dreibelbis Farm" on Facebook or contact Mark Dreibelbis at (610) 488-7896.

Ice Harvest 2016 at the historic Dreibelbis Farm.



Mark Dreibelbis presents the history of ice harvesting, as practiced by Pa.-German farmers.

With no horses available, we recruit some willing volunteers to power the ice sled.



Deep score marks in the ice show where the chisel and saw will begin to do their harvesting work.

The mission of the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society is to preserve and protect the historic Dreibelbis farm and to make it available to the public for educational, historical, and environmental purposes. Financial contributions are always welcome and may be deductible for Income tax purposes.