Ten baby goats join the other animals at Tryon Life Community Farm

By Jack Rubinger The Southwest Portland Post

Ten baby goats born at the beginning of March are the newest additions to the constantly changing Tryon Life Community Farm. Their antics have been delighting all those who have visited the land in the last month.

Located at 11640 SW Boones Ferry Road, the seven-acre property which abuts Tryon Creek State Natural Area was saved from commercial development in 2004.

Originally a planned housing development, TLC Farm staff members are planning a 10th anniversary celebration on June 19. The celebration will feature workshops, song circles, an open microphone, dancing and farm



Penny Cadsawan enjoys running around at the TLC Farm. (Post photo by Jack Rubinger)

tours (including those really cute baby goats).

"TLC Farm is a volunteer run nonprofit organization and is based on generosity and creativity," said Jenny Leis

"There is always more to do on a land project, and the work — especially in spring — can feel overwhelming as everything is growing from the things we want, like our 50 fruit trees, the starts in the greenhouse, and the baby goats, to the things we don't want, like blackberries, buttercup and bindweed."

TLC Farm offers all programs on a sliding scale to make them economically accessible to all.

Volunteer Neil Cadsawan's two children (Graham, 8, and Penny, 3) enjoyed running around and exploring all the different areas and structures.

Penny took great joy in running through the paths by herself. There was a rope tied to a tree that Graham loved.

"I'm a big proponent of free-range parenting," said Cadsawan. "The farm is a perfect place to let my kids to be outside and have hours of unstructured play. Graham keeps a look out for his sister and they play great together. Sometimes there are other kids at the farm and all of them have a terrific time running around together."

"It's also nice that other adults keep an eye out for them, as I do as well for other



Ten super cute baby goats were born in March at the TLC Farm. (Post photo by Jack Rubinger)

kids there," Cadsawan added. "I know my kids are my responsibility, but it's nice knowing that the people there both residents and those volunteering — are willing to care enough for others that they keep an eye and ear out for everyone's wellbeing."

Farm staff members are planning to install more educational signs on the land to inform the many people who visit the land about everything going on. They recently received a grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund for their ethnobotany education program and are creating a seasonal curriculum for visiting school groups.

The farm hosts community work

parties every other weekend (The dates this month are May 7 & 8 and May 21 & 22.) with many upcoming events in June and July.

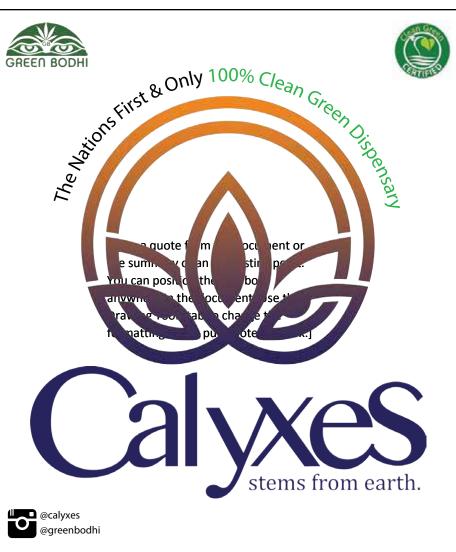
In July, TLC Farm will host summer camps for three weeks. Three summer camps are put on by the Mother Earth School and include Wilderness Exploration and Tracking Skills, Forest Music and Instrument Making and Music, Mime and Discovery camps.

Editor's Note: For more information about Tryon Life Community Farm call 503-245-3847, fax 503-342-2618 or visit their web site tryonfarm.org. Detailed directions, a list of activities, staff and their appropriate email addresses can be found there.









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