

Farm to Fork gourmet dinner combines al fresco dining with Earth's bounty

Food is always a good idea as a way to enjoy the company of good friends and what better place to combine the two than on a farm for a meal celebrating Earth's bounty.

As part of its 45th anniversary celebration, The Conservation Foundation is inviting 150 friends to enjoy a meal specially prepared by a gourmet chef on Saturday, August 12 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at McDonald Farm in Naperville.

The Green Earth Institute will provide the organic vegetables for this special meal, all grown on the grounds surrounding the evening's dinner table.



Iron Chef America alumnus chef Paul Virant, and owner of Vie in Western Springs has designed a unique meal for the evening's guests:

Breakfast radishes, herbed Nordic creamery harvest butter, sea salt
Fennel and carrots "à la grecque"

Charcuterie, cheese, pickles, black raspberry jam, and olive oil crackers

Salad: assorted beets, grilled chard, and radicchio, drizzled with roasted garlic vinaigrette.

Entree: Dry-aged CDK beef sirloin (raised in the Midwest without hormones or antibiotics)

Garden herb chimichurri, Russian banana fingerling potato salad, Summer crisp lettuce with Caesar dressing.

Dessert: Honey mousse, seasonal fruit, and vanilla shortbread

While dining al fresco on the 60-acre farm not far from where some of the meal was grown, guests will be entertained by Yorkville resident Katie Moritz, an award-winning hammered dulcimer musician. Those attending are encouraged to stroll around the grounds and learn how solar and wind renewable energy help provide 25% of the Farm's electricity each year. Cost for this exclusive evening is \$125 for Conservation Foundation and Green Earth Institute members; \$150 for non-members. Maximum number of guests is 150. Reservations can be made online here or by going to the website theconservationfoundation.org/farmtofork.

McDonald Farm is located at 10S404 Knoch Knolls Rd., Naperville 60565.

The Green Earth Institute is a partner organization that leases 49 acres at McDonald Farm for organic vegetable farming. Over 40 crops are grown and sold through the community-supported agriculture (CSA) program. Go to greenearthinstitute.org for more information.

The Conservation Foundation, headquartered in Naperville and celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, is one of the region's oldest and largest not-for-profit land and watershed conservation organizations. Since it was founded in 1972, TCF has helped preserve nearly 33,000 acres of open space, restored and cleaned miles of rivers and streams, and educated thousands of kids by engaging them in nature and the outdoors. Work is focused in DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties to preserve and restore nature in your neighborhood. Find out more at theconservationfoundation.org.