

Self-Reliance Newsletter
By: Michael J. Goodwin
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We would like to thank all those who attended the January meeting and helped package seeds for the SOIL Seed Bank for distribution this Spring.

Attention all who are receiving this email!

The bulk ordering part of the Self-Reliance Club I envisioned for the club has come to fruition. I am a dealer for Storey Publishing and Timber Press books and I will give you the option to purchase any quantity of books at 50% off list price with free shipping. I will have catalogs available for the February and March meetings where you can decide which books you want. I will collect all orders with payment, including 8.25% sales tax, at the March meeting and they should be available at the April meeting. There are great books on cooking, nutrition, gardening, etc. If you have seen the Country Wisdom Bulletins, 32-page booklets on specific topics, you know how useful they are and are also available through this purchase.

You can see the books available on the following web sites:

<http://www.storey.com/series/storeys-country-wisdom-bulletins>

www.storey.com/

<http://www.timberpress.com/>

Spring is almost upon us. Now is the time for garden planning and early planting. I have listed some of the topics we will discuss and practice at the next Self-Reliance Club meeting this month. See below for details.

Self-Reliance Topics:

Seed Starting for transplants: planting seeds in row trays, prick out seedlings to transplant into cups.

Etiolation: Literally: growing in the dark. Process where bare stem plants are placed into soil where they will grow roots on their stems.

Starting shrubs by cuttings: We will take cuttings of different shrubs and plant them to grow roots, like etiolation, to create new shrubs.

Willow Water – a natural source auxins, rooting hormones

Cold stratification of seed

Medicinal Herb/Plant Section:

The Lowly Parsley

You all know parsley. When you go out to eat, there is usually a small sprig of it on your plate. Whether to add color or freshen up your breath after you eat, parsley is a wonderful plant to get to know.

Check out Herballegacy.com for information on using parsley for kidneys, prostate, bladder, gallstones, glands, colic, blood pressure, etc.

Food Section:

good Google search: [fruit cellar vs root cellar](#). I did an above ground root cellar several years ago by planting late carrots, covering them up with a tarp, then about a foot of leaves. On Christmas Day, I lifted the tarp and dug fresh carrots for dinner. After a -20F period, again they were diggable and wonderful.

[Fruit walls](#) – "greenhouse" options using renewable energy, ie, solar energy – old style. Fascinating reading.

<http://www.lowtechmagazine.com/2015/12/fruit-walls-urban-farming.html>

Other Links:

Excellent textbooks available for download on soil science topics

<https://www.intechopen.com/books/subject/soil-science/latest/1/list>

Lectures from all classes leading to BS in agriculture from India! They want all of their citizens to know how to farm. Check it out.

www.eagri.com

Excellent information on grape vine propagation.

<http://www.wineskills.co.uk/vinegrowing/vinegrowing-knowledge-base/vine-propagation>

Excellent Excel chart of plant cultural requirements along with cold stratification data.

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/catalogs/2013/Prairie-Moon-Cultural-Guide-All.xls>

How to root a new grapevine in a bottle of water.

<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/root-grapevine-cutting-placing-glass-bottle-water-68657.html>

vegetable seed saving introduction.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/vegetables/saving-vegetable-seeds/>

Technology:

[Zoom](#) – similar to Skype but more contacts for free.

[Mighty text](#) – send texts from your computer through your phone. Very Neat. I send texts to myself and copy them into my to-do list. (Now I just use email and talk into my phone for convenience.)

Summary:

If you are interested in increasing your knowledge and skills or sharing on these subjects of gardening, seed saving, etc., please contact me. I'm looking for instructors and hosts, if you are willing. Let's get started now so we can be confidently prepared for an unpredictable future. Heavenly Father loves us and will help us to be self-reliant

Self-Reliance Club Information:

The [February](#) SRC Meeting will be Feb 13 2018, 6:00 PM at the Goodwin Home, 610 N Alpine Road, Rockford.

Topic: Seed starting, etiolation, shrub propagation, willow water, etc. Also a special gardening book sale. Garden seed will be available by SOIL Seed Bank at each meeting, free of charge.

The March SRC Meeting will be Mar 13, 2018, 6 PM at the Goodwin Home, 610 N Alpine Road, Rockford.

Topic: Mothers Day Plants, Pollinator plants, principles of seed saving for the upcoming season.

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Sincerely,
Michael J. Goodwin, Agrarian
779-203-0451
iopsn@yahoo.com

All newsletters are archived at : <http://selfrelianceclub.com/srp.html>

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