**Introducing Frank Kurylo, Kimberton CSA, Biodynamic Farmer**

***An interview by CSA member Mary Maruca, Spring 2022***

**From a bird’s eye view, Kimberton’s ten Demeter-certified acres look different, depending on the time of day and season of the year. Sometimes before everything gets growing, the rows may appear like whitecaps on the ocean, since tender green shoots are covered under protective hoops and row covers. On other days, as solstice approaches, the farm is roaring with unstoppable growth—numerous varieties of tomatoes warmed by sunlight and ready to be picked for CSA shares; sweet peppers acquiring color; summer squash showing their roundish yellow sides. Then comes fall, when the riot of color surrenders to layers of aged brown manure on the fields, the raw materials coming from the Seven-Stars dairy herd that also define the landscape. Frank says visitors know something different goes on here because wherever you turn your eyes, you see cows.**

**For now, however, it is the cold tail end days of winter, when the farm organism—or maybe only the farmers—seem to tremble with excitement about what’s ahead. Any day now as the weather turns toward mid February, they will start sowing seeds. And then the quiet time will be behind them—the time of planning and ordering seeds—and the wave of the year will begin to surge.**

**“February is like a canon,” says Frank. “It gets more and more intense with each day. You ride the wave of this time and do your best to maintain a steady response to whatever is going on.”**

**For Frank, this involves giving himself some personal time first thing in the morning. Mostly, he is up by 4:30 or 5, and claims the first hour of the day for coffee, yoga and/or meditation, and perhaps a little communing with his dog, that is, if new baby Jack doesn’t want to join the party. After that, Frank is ready to check on computer messages and prepare himself to go to the farm. Though this pattern may vary according to the season, he still feels that a well-paced morning routine helps him deal equitably with whatever critical events show up the rest of the day.**

**This afternoon he and his partner, Andrew, have just finished putting baseboards on their eleventh greenhouse. This season they are growing in ten of them. Their winter array of greens includes spinach, arugula, salad mixes, swiss chard, and a refreshing salad green called claytonia. Some items have already been pulled from the fields to be held in storage to fill out the CSA shares—butternut squash, kohlrabi, cabbage, and various radishes.**

**Frank reports that the farm also just broke 400 members last year between its own membership and those of Spiritual Food CSA. When you look at these kinds of numbers, that’s a lot of food plants to keep up with. Although winter growing remains tricky with its sometimes single digit days, Kimberton CSA has the extra greenhouses and storage food as backup in case something goes south with the weather.**

**Back in 2012 when he first came to Kimberton, he thought more about environmental law than the appropriate times to spray 500 and 501. During that period, he considered that he might specialize in environmental law, but he could also see that a lot of the environmental law fights ended up being lost, just as did the campaigns run by the environmental candidates he had helped fundraise for. There was something concrete about working the soil that appealed to him, especially since he had always been a highly active outdoorsman. Once he started at Kimberton, he realized it was possible to grow the highest quality food for neighbors and that the community might even be expanded to cover a larger region if the right people became involved.**

**“I’m very passionate about this,” he explains.**

**That’s not to say he isn’t also passionate about the Pennsylvania chapter of the young farmers coalition he started in 2013, then later had to step away from due to his work for the farm and his own growing responsibilities. Nevertheless, the chapter went to D.C. with the national coalition just before the vote on the Farm Bill and did manage to draw some funds for worthy projects. “But the farm ends up taking a lot of effort,” he acknowledges, “and I need to focus here. I have to hone in on what I really do well.”**

**And what he does especially well is riding the wave of the farm as it builds toward spring and then summer. Frank calls these the shoulder seasons and transitions. He says there are “days when whatever it was that happened in the past 24 hours is the icing that lets you take a deep satisfying breath in and feel this landscape is worthy of having a moment lavished on it. I make sure I spend after hours time here on these occasions just soaking it in.”**