

# Royale Coach Club

Newsletter

Spring 2018



## President's Message for Spring 2018 Newsletter

Thank you for the honor to serve as the President for the Royale Coach Club. My first rally was in Atlanta in the spring of 2008 and I've had the pleasure to attend 17 other rallies since that time.

I want to thank our past President, Anne Gould for her leadership for the past two years, as well as volunteering to help put on the Fall 2019 rally in Maine.

Our board currently includes First Vice President Denny Robb, Second Vice President Mike Lien, Treasurer Mike Barbeau, Secretary Naomi Theisz, FMCA National Director Mary Habicht, and Alternate National Director Carolyn Lien. Thank you to each of these members who are providing the service needed to keep our club going and thriving.

Mike and Carolyn Lien are to be congratulated for their fine work at the spring 2018 rally in Sevierville, Tennessee. We have heard nothing but rave reviews from those who attended.

The fall rally in Lexington, Kentucky will be a unique experience where our theme is "Horses and Bourbon". Stanley and I just returned from a whirlwind visit to Kentucky where we worked on plans for the rally.

So save these dates: October 19-25th, 2018

While there we visited the Ark Encounter exhibit, tasted some mighty fine bourbon, visited the restored Shaker Village nearby and toured the Keeneland Racetrack.

While staying at the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) Campground where we will be for part of our rally, we visited the Smithsonian Museum next door at the Kentucky Horse Park which features fabulous exhibits on the history of the horse in North America and Europe and the Middle East (think Arabian). We also enjoyed the Breeds barn exhibition one of the days and sneaked a peak at a

Dressage Show at the Equine Center going on nearby. Everything is very close to the campground and quite interesting.

The Ark Encounter was way beyond anything we had anticipated. Stanley likened it to the first time she saw the Grand Canyon. So you are all in for a treat that day.

We will start the rally at Whispering Pines RV park near Georgetown, KY as the KHP Campground is not available until Sunday October 21 for check in. For those who would like to extend their stay for a couple of days, that will be an option, but we can't check in there before Sunday. Hence the earlier booking at Whispering Pines.

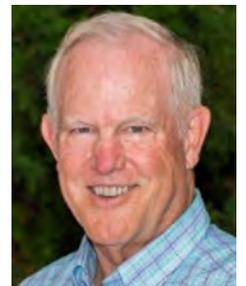
One of the main highlights will be Race Day at Keeneland on Wednesday of that week. We plan to reserve the Lexington/Kentucky dining room overlooking the race track for that event which should be lovely.

Keeneland is a spectacular race course, wonderful historic grounds amid the rolling hills of the Kentucky Bluegrass country. Keeneland is much more intimate than Churchill Downs and features top notch racing events in both the spring and fall racing seasons.

We are still looking for someone to be the rally master for the Spring of 2019, so please raise your hand to one of the board members if you would like to volunteer. We already have a winter mini rally planned for Palm Beach, FL in January 2019 and a fall rally in Maine.

Safe travels to all,

Bo Reahard  
President



## Highlights of Sevierville TN Rally



The Spring Rally was held at Two Rivers Landing RV Resort in Sevierville Tennessee. It is a beautiful campground located on the French Broad River which flows into the Tennessee River near Knoxville. Mike and Carolyn Lien, the rally hosts, had arranged a fun filled week of activities for the group.

“If you arrive when the rally starts, you’re already late” applied to this rally. As is usual for a Royale’s Rally, most of the coaches had arrived a couple of days prior to the start of the rally and had started to party.

The remainder of the coaches arrived on Monday, the first day of the rally. Monday evening, everyone gathered at the clubhouse for Millennium Coaches



Welcoming Party. We have been spoiled by Millennium since they became the Royale's sponsor and they did not disappoint us for this rally. In addition to the wine, beer, sodas and water, the group was also treated to trays of salad, BBQ,

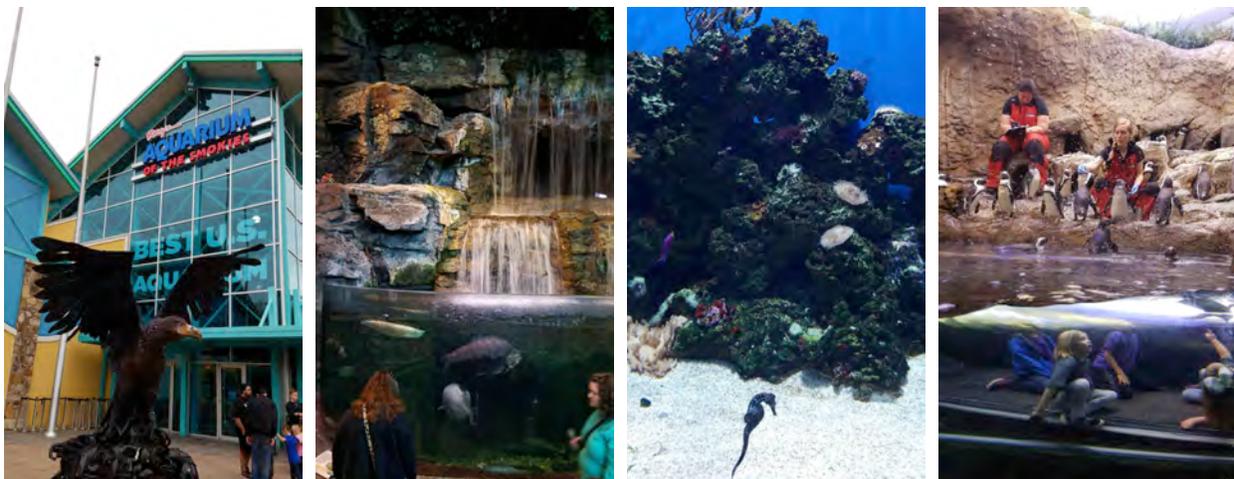


baked beans, potato salad and cole slaw. If anyone was hungry later, it was their own fault because there was more than enough food offered. After eating, most everyone stayed around and socialized.

On Tuesday, a full breakfast buffet was offered in the clubhouse. In fact,



breakfast was provided every day of the rally. At 9AM, the bus left for Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg. Prevoost graciously provided a bus for the group to use during their outings for the rally. The group toured the aquarium at their leisure



after being dropped off by the bus. The plan was to visit and shop in Gatlinburg after the aquarium. However, the weather was rainy and somewhat cold so that good time. After boarding the bus at 2PM, everyone returned to Two Rivers. breakfast was provided every day of the rally. At 9AM, the bus left for Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg. Prevost graciously provided a bus for the group to use during their outings for the rally. The group toured the aquarium at their leisure after being dropped off by the bus. The plan was to visit and shop in Gatlinburg after the aquarium. However, the weather was rainy and somewhat cold so that good time. After boarding the bus at 2PM, everyone returned to Two Rivers. Later in the afternoon, everyone was boarding the bus again. The group was attending a 6PM show at Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Adventures Theater. The theater had a good spot outside for taking a group photo. (The photo at the



beginning of this section was taken there.) The show is a dinner theater and an acrobatic show similar to Cirque Du Soleil. Dinner for the show included fried chicken, ham, sweet potato, mac and cheese and a biscuit. The bus returned everyone to Two Rivers at 7:30. Back at Two Rivers, many in the group were in the street walking their dogs and socializing for a while.

After breakfast on Wednesday, we were all on the bus at 9AM, headed for Bush's Beans Museum. Bush's started at this location in 1908. The visit



included a video, a tour of the museum and, if you wanted, your photo in front of a wall with Bush's mascot Duke, the golden retriever. For lunch, Mike and Carolyn had arranged for the group to be fed at Bush's Best Family Café. Lunch was a choice of chicken and dumplings or pot roast and cherry pie for



dessert. No one complained about the food. It rained for a short time while we were eating but had stopped by the time we had to leave. Around noon, we were all on the bus heading back to Two Rivers.

That evening, there was a full buffet dinner at the clubhouse. BYOB Happy hour started at 5PM followed by dinner at 6PM. Pot roast, chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots and some dessert items were on the buffet. At 7:30, they played a raffle game. There were many items that Carolyn and Mike had bought over time and locally then wrapped. Each woman had been given a raffle ticket. When your number was drawn, you would select and unwrap a gift. Subsequent winners could choose to open a new gift or take the gift that



somebody had already unwrapped. However, a gift could only be stolen once. The person who'd gift was stolen then chose another gift. There were enough gifts that each woman received a wrapped gift. Gifts included knives (The Knife works, the largest knife store in the world was within walking distance of



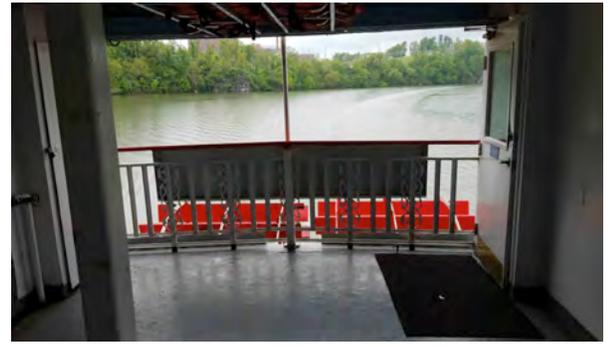
Two Rivers), souvenir items, hand crafted items, kitchen items, etc. There was some “stealing” of gifts, but not as much as you might think. The party was over in the clubhouse and everyone had left about 8:30pm.

...However, there was still more partying that needed to be done. Quite a few people gathered at the gazebo at the campground. Jim McNulty brought his



propane fire pit. Socializing and drinking continued for a couple more hours.

On Thursday, the bus wasn't leaving soon after breakfast. The bus didn't leave until 10:30, heading for Knoxville. The group was doing a Murder Mystery luncheon on the sternwheeler paddleboat of the Tennessee Riverboat



Company. Lunch was a full buffet of chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, salad, etc, started as soon as we left the dock. Then, each person was given clues regarding the murder of the riverboat captain. There were clues in the dining room where we ate that people walked around to find. A second set of clues was also handed out. At the end, each person wrote on a piece of paper who they thought was the murderer. They drew one name from all of the people that correctly guessed the murderer. That person won a T shirt. No one from our group won even though several people had correctly guessed the murderer.

BYOB Happy Hour started at 5PM followed by a catered dinner buffet at 6PM. Complaints are starting about how much weight we are all gaining from

the good eating we've been doing during this rally 😊! Dinner tonight included pulled pork, pineapple chicken, squash casserole, twice baked potatoes, salad and sweet potato biscuits. After dinner was over, the door prize game



started. Again, each woman was given a ticket. However, unlike last night when everyone won something, not every woman won something tonight. When their number was called, they won the next prize offered. Prizes included a souvenir rug to hang on the wall and other items. People wandered out after the prizes were awarded and the festivities were done.

...BUT still more partying needed to be done. Some people gathered in the gazebo. Not as many as the previous night but there were quite a few. In



addition to the drinking and socializing, some of the people played a money game called "Shut the Box". The gathering broke up after a couple of hours.

Breakfast was on Friday but no bus to get on. After breakfast the Royale's business meeting was in the clubhouse at 9AM. After the meeting, there were more prizes given – all of the flowers and stuffed bears on the tables, leftover soda, etc. After the meeting, some of the people stayed at the clubhouse while Ed Ferree flew his drone in the area and took photos of those who had remained.



The last event of the rally wasn't until this evening so the rest of the day was free. At 6PM, the group carpoled to the Chop House restaurant. There were four entrees to choose from – 8oz prime rib, 10oz ribeye, grilled north Atlantic



salmon and fall-off-the-bone BBQ baby back ribs. Dessert was a chocolate mousse.

Saturday, sadly, it was time to leave. It was a wonderful week of fun, eating, activities, eating, shows and more eating.

*SAFE TRAVELS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD LIFE!*

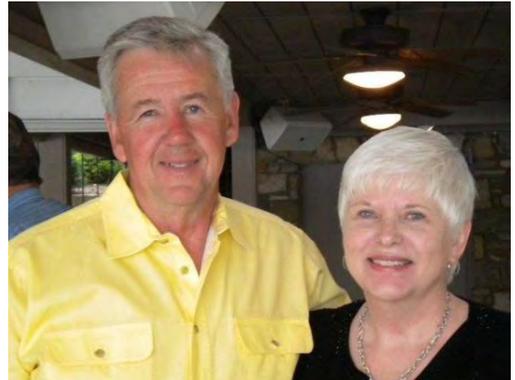
# New Royale Coach Club Members

- Bruce & Linda Fay – Howell, MI

*No Photo Available*



- Richard & Jane Murray Loux – Corcoran, MN



- Tom & Maggie Kyle - Galax, VA (rejoining)

- Peter & Betty Stefani – St/ Petersburg, FL

*No Photo Available*

- Robert & Barbara DesCamp – Magnolia, TX

*No Photo Available*

# First Timers at the Tennessee Rally

- Walter & Katie Adams, FL



- David & Therese Benck, WI



- Ed & Susan Forbes, SC



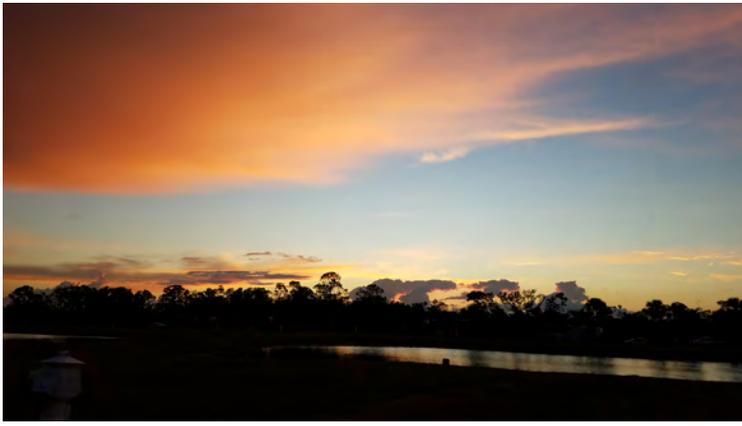
- Clarence & Sharon Ward, AL



# Highlights of Winter Gathering

The Winter Gathering for the Royale Coach Club was arranged by Richard and Anne Gould. It was held at River Landings Luxury Motorcoach Resort in Ft. Denaud Florida immediately adjacent to Riverbend Motorcoach Resort. River Landings is a brand new resort just opening. The Gathering was held Jan 8 -12 and was simply a chance for everyone to get together and socialize. Dining activities included a dinner provided by the owners of River Landings and another dinner using money collected from the attendees. The owners had an open house at one of the casitas on the Caloosahatchee River and attendees were able to walk through. Many of the ladies went to downtown Ft. Myers to a weaving exhibit at the Berne Davis Art Center and to lunch.







### Prevost Update...

My understanding is that Mike and Carolyn Lien put on an excellent rally in Sevierville. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend because PrevoSt held a mandatory Sales Meeting during that same week. I saw some photos from the rally and talked to many folks who attended with reports of great food and interesting sightseeing.

Jim and Nancy McNulty were in NC this week visiting Graham and Mary Catherine Ricks. The Volvo Trucks North American Headquarters is located in Greensboro, NC and Graham had the bright idea that it would be fun to take a tour. I made some calls and lined up a walking tour of the main campus for us three guys. Volvo also occupies a number of buildings (that we did not visit) that are located within a few miles of the main campus and they house things like Volvo Logistics, Volvo IT, etc. PrevoSt has a small office next to the Volvo campus that houses some of our marketing, accounting, finance and HR folks. We drove past the Volvo Financial Services Headquarters buildings. It is hard to remember all of the facts and figures our tour guide threw out at us but a couple of them stand out. Volvo has about 100,000 world-wide employees and more than 2,000 are in Greensboro. Our first stop on the walking tour was to go inside the Mack Truck Worldwide Headquarters building. Mack is owned by Volvo and they are known for building a variety of heavy duty trucks. We learned that roughly 50% of the garbage trucks on the road in the US are Mack trucks.

The buildings are organized based on job function – technical, corporate, communications, etc. There is a truck test track where they put Volvo and Mack trucks through the paces. They also allow employees without CDLs to drive various trucks on the track in order to get a better appreciation for our vehicles and how they are used.

I had a specific interest in showing the guys how our PrevoSt Action Service System (PASS) works. So, we got a more in depth tour of our Uptime Building. It was impressive to say the least. In addition to manning the phones 24/7 365 days a year, they are able to utilize telematics to monitor the engines of late model trucks and buses in real time and pro-actively alert drivers to specific issues before they become an out of service

issue. We call our system PrevoSt Liaison and we began installing it in our motorhomes with Volvo engines back in 2010. We changed to a more robust system in 2012 in order to eliminate dead zones and areas with poor data transmission. The service is free for the first year and then has a nominal fee going forward. The first thing we saw in the Uptime Building was a large electronic map that showed the locations of truck engines that were experiencing some type of issue. This was shown in real time and color coded (red for critical and yellow for warning). Jim was interested in the script at the bottom of the map showing the top 5 issues with code numbers and a short description. It seems that he had personal experience with 3 or 4 of the top 5 engine codes. Volvo and PrevoSt use the data collected to proactively eliminate or minimize the impact of the various engine issues and associated codes. In the past 3 years PrevoSt has seen a dramatic drop in engine codes that need to be addressed prior to a normal annual service. Note that anyone with a PrevoSt motorhome can use PASS whether they have a Volvo engine or not and whether their motorhome is in warranty or not. Simply call 1-800-463-7738 if you have a PrevoSt related issue and need help getting going. In addition to talking you through the problem, they can send service trucks or direct you to your closest place for repairs.

We viewed a short film showing our uptime team in action with a Mack Truck customer. It was impressive how they were able to arrange same day minor engine repairs in route without completely disrupting the schedule of the driver or the freight he was delivering. Our uptime team for North America works in 5 different languages and we have technicians located in the same building to assist with issues that may be outside of the area of expertise of the person manning the phone. There are always at least two PrevoSt Regional Service Managers on call with PASS in case something comes up that is outside of the expertise of the person who answers the phone. There is a shop in the Uptime Building with a couple of engines and a Volvo I-Shift transmission on hand in order for our phone techs to be trained and to help them understand the exact nature of an engine or transmission repair.

Jim & Graham came away from the tour impressed with Volvo and I came away with a lot of pride in the level of support that we provide to our customers. If the Royale Coach Club were to hold a rally in the area, we would be pleased to do a group tour for those who are interested.

Safe Travels,  
Robert Jones | PrevoSt  
Sales Manager, Bus Shells  
T: +1 800-981-7386 | P: +1 336-812-3504 | C: +1 615-585-5637





To our friends at Royal Coach Club

Virginia is not just for lovers! It is for History Lovers! Wow, what a great rally. Millennium is so thankful to be the sponsor for Royale Coach Club and this rally is another perfect example of why! Walter, David and I had such a great time. From the campground, the laughs, the tours and especially all the facts we never knew, Virginia was awesome! We always look forward to spending time with our RCC family and look forward to our next rally this Fall.

Walter and David



# Royale Coach Club - 2018 Fall Rally

October 19 - 25, 2018



Keeneland Racing



Ark Experience

**Rally Masters: Bo & Stanley Reahard**

**Keeneland Fall Racing Season**

Keeneland, Kentucky

Kentucky Horse Park Campgrounds

<http://kyhorsepark.com/>

More information coming soon.

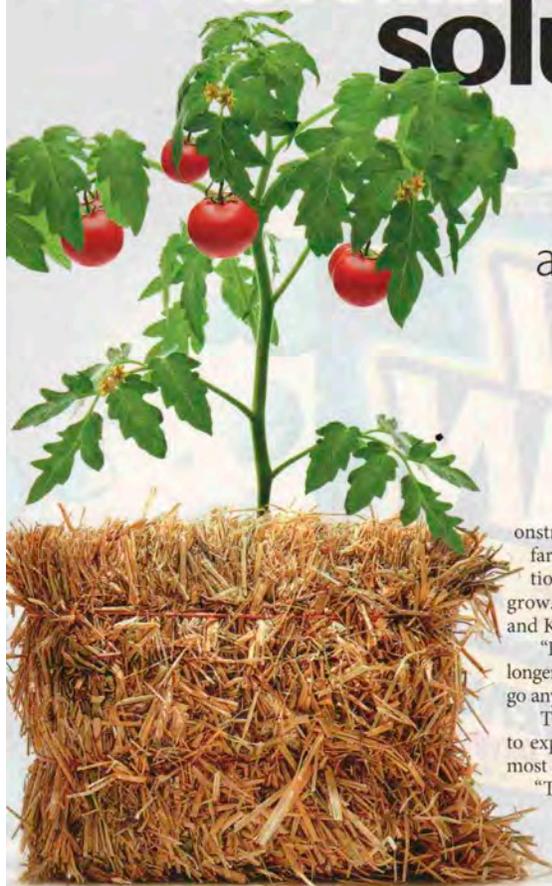
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special section  
home&garden

# The straw bale solution



For bigger yields, a longer season and zero weeding, more veggie gardeners are turning to straw

onstrations have paved the way for the Minnesota farm boy to spread his message to an international audience hungry for a better way to grow. The response has been very enthusiastic, and Karsten knows why.

"It's really pretty simple," he says. "High yields; a longer growing season; you don't need soil, so it can go anywhere; and you get absolutely zero weeds."

The first point Karsten makes when he begins to explain straw bale gardens is that, contrary to most assumptions, you don't fill the bales with soil.

"The straw is the soil," he notes, "and the container too."

The modern, highly compressed straw bale is key to Karsten's method. Filling a raised bed with loose straw won't work.

## Everything you need to start a straw bale garden

**Straw bales.** Most straw bale gardens (SBGs) use between one and 20 bales (\$5 to \$10 each). Organic bales are available in some areas. To help find (or sell) straw bales, visit [strawbalemarket.com](http://strawbalemarket.com).

**Fertilizer.** Use high-nitrogen fertilizer, such as 29-0-4 turf fertilizer (or organic bloodmeal), for conditioning, plus general garden fertilizer (10-10-10) for final treatment.

**Potting soil.** Use potting soil to make a seed bed on bale tops if you are planting seeds.

**Posts and wire.** You will need a metal T-post for each end of each bale row. Posts help pin bales together and provide support for trellis wire. Attach a two-by-four between post tops.

**Sheet plastic.** Drape plastic sheets over trellis wires to make a temporary "greenhouse."

**Seedlings and seeds.** Just about any plant will thrive in an SBG.

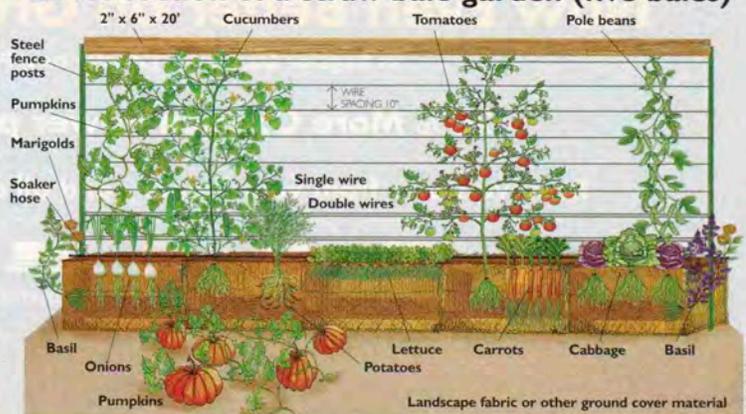
**Hose.** Embed a soaker hose in bale tops or hand-water the plants. Avoid overhead sprinklers.—MJ

By Mark Johanson

COSTCO MEMBER Joel Karsten is not the first horticulturist to recognize the value of straw as a growing medium. But what he has accomplished—and the reason that tens of thousands of gardeners across the world have lined their yards, balconies, rooftops and driveways with bales of wet straw in just the last year—is to harness the power of the straw bale. Through 20-some years of research and experimentation, he has developed a method for rapidly converting a plain straw bale into a self-feeding planting container that can grow edibles just about anywhere you put it.

Since the publication of *Straw Bale Gardens Complete* (Cool Springs Press, 2015; not available at Costco), Karsten's book describing the method he has perfected, straw bale gardens, or SBGs, have taken the gardening world by storm. Feature articles in major newspapers, dozens of TV and radio appearances, and more than 100 lectures and dem-

## Cross-section of a straw bale garden (five bales)



HAY BALE: ©OLIVER LE QUENEC / SHUTTERSTOCK  
TOMATO PLANT: ©M. UNAL OZMEN / SHUTTERSTOCK

PAM POWELL

The compression, coupled with many doses of water and high-nitrogen fertilizer (conventional or organic), accelerates the decomposition of the straw.

This process, called “conditioning the bale,” has several benefits. Within 10 to 15 days of conditioning, the straw begins to turn into compost, which releases a host of nutrients to nourish plant growth. It also releases heat, which is one of the great advantages of SBGs. While the topsoil in northern climates lingers in the 50-degree range in early spring, the internal tempera-



#### In our digital editions

Click here to watch a straw-bale presentation by Joel Karsten. (See page 8 for details.)

ture of the decomposing straw may climb to well over 100 degrees.

After about two weeks of conditioning, the temperature cools enough to be hospitable to seeds and seedlings. So plants that love warm soil, such as tomatoes, can be put into the bales three or four weeks earlier than any reasonable soil gardener would plant them. Because of the extended growing season, Karsten is able to grow sweet potatoes and peanuts successfully in Minnesota.



### The Costco Connection

Costco members will find herb, salad and

- tomato seed pod kits, non-GMO garden vegetable seeds, composters, garden beds, watering kits, greenhouses and more in select Costco locations and on Costco.com.

You can plant both seeds and seedlings in the bales. For seeds, spread a thick layer of sterile planting mix on the top of the bale to make a seedbed. For seedlings, plant directly into holes cut into the bales.

Once the plants are in place, all that's left is watering. Karsten's own garden features soaker hoses connected to a timer at the spigot, but smaller gardens can be hand-watered with roughly the same time commitment as any container garden. The actively decomposing straw creates enough nutrients that in most cases no additional fertilizing is needed.

Straw bales tend to collapse and lose their structure by the end of the season, so they cannot be replanted. But, Karsten points out, the old bales make beautiful compost that can be used for many purposes around any yard and garden.

And next season, a brand-new batch of bales can be procured to begin the whole process anew.

“What we're really doing is making soil,” Karsten explains, “perfect soil that you can put anywhere you want and get your garden started.” [E]

*Mark Johanson is a home-and-garden writer and editor from St. Paul, Minnesota.*