



Locally Grown News

MAY/ JUNE 2010

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

What does local food mean to you?

Is “local food” merely a buzz word, a fleeting fad constructed from our expanding awareness of food issues? Or is supporting locally grown and produced food a demonstration of investment to those that equally care about what enters your body and how it ended up on your plate? Buying from local farmers, dining at restaurants with local ingredients and shopping at groceries that sell local products allows you to assert control within a food industry that appears larger and fiercer than we feel capable of changing.

But we are capable. And we are changing. Whether you are the farmer, the restaurant owner, the grocer, the backyard gardener or the consumer, you’ve made conscious choices to contribute to a food system we can all be a part of and benefit from. Perhaps local food isn’t a buzz word to you at all; **it’s a way of life.**

The Local Growers Guild is the cooperative of many players that facilitates a functional, expanding local food system. Because you chose to become a member of the cooperative, we assume you believe in supporting the livelihoods of small farmers and the communities that support them. We assume you possess the desire to participate in the cooperative principles and **actively contribute as a member.**

The identity of the Local Growers Guild is the richness and character that comes from its members. **YOU**—the grower, the

retailer, the community member—hold the knowledge and can harness the energy that can lift our food system into *the* food system. ***What talent, skill, or resource do you possess waiting to be shared with the rest of your cooperative?***

Without the physical space to host events, the Local Growers Guild instead utilizes the collectively shared community and personal spaces in our area. Perhaps it is your farm for a demonstration on building a green house in which the students help you construct. Perhaps it is at a restaurant for membership to discuss the missing links in our communities and what we need to build them.

Remember, members of the Local Growers Guild are encouraged to join committees as one way to actively participate in the development of the cooperative.

Committees include:

Membership Development – Who knows the membership better than its own members? Assist with the key elements that make the cooperative *for* and *about* its membership, such as facilitating the needs of current members, developing opportunities for educational workshops & events, and tactics for recruiting new members.

Community Outreach & Education – Be the faces of the Local Growers Guild by attending events in which LGG communicates its mission, programming, membership and issues surrounding local food. What do *you* have to say about

local food? Why are *you* a member?

Web-based Communication – Assist with the online forums LGG uses to communicate with its membership and the general public, including the LGG website, Farmer’s Network, and LGG e-newsletter.

Friends of Bloomington Winter Farmers Market – Support the winter farmers market by assisting with the on-site logistics of running the market, identifying resources, and developing fundraisers that support the winter market operations.

Fundraising/ Grant Writing – LGG members are full of ingenious ways to raise money and have a good time. Develop and organize fundraising events imperative for the programming and operations of the Local Growers Guild. Rather write? Assist with the development of grant funding sources from research to writing to implementation.

Apprenticeship/ Grower Education – Develop ways in which the vast knowledge and experience held within the membership of the Local Growers Guild can be shared with each other and utilized to strengthen our connection to our food and agricultural system.

How can you participate?

Offer your skills.

Host an event.

Assist at outreach events.

Contact director@localgrowers.org to share your thoughts or to be added to the volunteer contact list.



Friends and members of the Local Growers Guild,

I'm excited to introduce myself and to meet each of you as I begin the Assistant Director position with the LGG.

Prior to moving to Bloomington last fall, I lived in Louisville where I worked for several years as a graphic designer. With a growing interest in sustainability, particularly with its relationship to food, I decided to go back to school where I began working towards my MPA in Sustainable Development at IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

As a recent Bloomington transplant, I'm eager to learn even more about our community and to work with you on strengthening our local food system. Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions. I look forward to meet you!

Respectfully,
Jessie Skaggs

Go Paperless!

In an effort to reduce our environmental impact, the LGG offers a paperless newsletter option for our members.

If you would like to receive this newsletter as a pdf in the future, please contact us at localgrowersguildnews@localgrowers.org and put **paperless** in the subject line.

Bloomington Winter Farmers Market Extends the Season

Due to a very successful season last year and a quickly expanding Winter Market, the Bloomington Winter Farmers Market is excited to announce that the winter market dates will be extended for the 2010-2011 season. The market will open Saturday, December 4 through March 26 with the exception of December 25 and January 1. There have also been policy changes for vendor admission and new options for the length and frequency of holding a vendor space. For that reason, Bloomington Winter Farmers Market applications will be opening early to make time for the coordination and accommodating as many vendors as possible. Vendor applications and more information will be available June 15 at www.localgrowers.org/wintermarket.html. Be sure to fit this into your busy work days! Applications will be due July 31.

Volunteers

LOCAL GROWERS GUILD UPCOMING VOL OPPS

The 2010 Local Growers Guide is fresh off the press! Now we need to get them into the hands of everyone that eats food!

Join the **Distribution Team** to cover downtown Bloomington and IU campus with LGG Guides, **Thursday, May 20 from 10a-12p and Sunday, May 23 from 10a-12pm.**

You love to socialize while attending the farmers market. Why not talk about the Local Growers Guild at the outreach table? We will help you with talking points and FAQs. You choose the Saturday and the time.

Direct inquiries to Kim at director@localgrowers.org or 812-929-8890

HOOSIER HILLS FOOD BANKS WEEKLY GARDEN HOURS

Tuesdays 10a-12p
Thursdays 5:30-7:30p
Saturdays 2-4pm
volunteer@hhfoodbank.org or (812) 334-8374.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD WEEKLY GARDEN HOURS

APRIL-OCTOBER
Mondays 2:30pm-4:30pm Ban-
neker Garden
Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm Crest-
mont Garden
Wednesdays 3:30pm-5:30pm
Harmony School
stephanie@mhcfoodpantry.org or 355-6843

GREEN ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN (GANG) SEEKS VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS

The Green Acres Neighborhood Garden (GANG) is a year-old community garden on private land at the corner of DeKist and Overhill in Bloomington. The garden has a three-fold mission: to grow food; to foster neighborhood and community spirit; and to educate neighbors and community in organic and permacultural gardening. GANG seeks the following for the 2010 Garden season:

1) Volunteers who wish to spend

two or more hours per week maintaining the garden.

2) Ideas as to what the second series of eight workshops should consist of and volunteer teachers of same, and/or (even better!) a grant writer who can garner funds to pay the teachers.

3) Donations of seed and starter plants.

For more information on the GANG garden, see the blog: tendrepress.com/archives/category/urban-farmstead Ann can be reached at 334-1987 or arkrone@gmail.com.

Garden Gatherings are back!

An original initiative developed by the founders of the Local Growers Guild has been reignited by its grower members. If you were so unfortunate to have missed the first gathering at Muddy Form Farm on April 24, don't you dare miss another!

Garden Gatherings are work days hosted and attended by LGG growers – farmers, gardeners, members of our communities, whatever you may call yourself. Support the accomplishment of major projects, network with other growers, and receive assistance with your own daunting projects!

May Gathering:

Renaissance Farms
Sunday, May 16
10am to whenever, come as you can
5421 E. Rings Rd.
(NE of Bloomington 1/2 E of Longs
Landing Furniture)
Contact Keith at 812-335-0383

June Gathering:

Center for Community Empowerment's Indian Creek Farm in Springville, IN
Sunday, June 27
2-7pm w/ potluck following!
For directions, contact Michael at michael@indianacommunity.org

If you are interested in hosting an upcoming Garden Gathering, please contact Kim at director@localgrowers.org

Upcoming Events

NATURAL ALLERGY RELIEF Thurs, May 13 6:30-7:30

MHC Conference Room
Learn ways to manage your symptoms naturally while re-training your body. Join Bloomington Naturopath Scarlett Winters and take control of your health today. To register for this class contact Stephanie at stephanie@mhcfoodpantry.org or 355-6843.

GARDEN GATHERING Sun, May 16 10am-whenever Renaissance Farms (See pg. 2)

EATING HEALTHY ON A BUDGET

Wed, May 26th 6pm-7:30pm
MHC Conference Room
Join MHC to learn how you can eat healthfully without breaking the bank. In this workshop we will explore the many methods of eating well while maintaining nourishment and cost as priorities. open to the public, with priority to MHC patrons and volunteers. Donations suggested if possible. To register, email stephanie@mhcfoodpantry.org or 355-6843.

HOME GROWN INDIANA FARM TOUR Sun, May 23 2-4pm

Visit the Chile Woman and learn why she's committed to preserving chile biodiversity and how she keeps track of 1,400 chile varieties she grows. Kids will enjoy the sheep and the llama who guards over them. A simple snacks with a beverage will be provided.
Bus will leave from and return to Showers Common
Cost: \$8 with children 2 and under free
Register by May 17, in the Parks Office or on-line at www.bloomington.in.gov/parks (code: 56501 A).

FOOD IN BLOOM CONFERENCE: Cross Pollination and Cultivation of Food Systems, Cultures and Methods June 2-5 Indiana University
FOOD IN BLOOM will celebrate the interconnectedness of food studies and promote the understanding of food and agriculture. In parallel with a spectrum of topics will be a healthy mix of presentations, panels, roundtables, poster presentations, excursions, dining experiences and invigorating conversation.
www.foodconference10.indiana.edu/index.shtml

LEARNING FROM NATURE: PERMACULTURE COURSE June 6 - 20, 2010

Lazy Black Bear, Paoli, IN
Shagbark and Heartwood, in conjunction with Indiana University's Collins Living Learning Center presents two weeks of camping, course-work, and camaraderie, featuring on-site meals using fresh, local and organic foods in the heart of the Hoosier National Forest. Enrollment is limited to 25 IU students and 10 participants from the larger community.
IU Students must complete an application and be accepted to register for this course. Students who successfully complete the course will receive certification in Permaculture.

More information for all participants can be provided by contacting the below.

Contact Information:
for IU students: Professor David Haberman, 812.855.8895
for non-IU students: Andy Mahler andy@lazyblackbear.org 812.723.2430

21st ANNUAL SUMMER GARDEN WALK Sat, June 19 & Sun, June 20

This year's walk will feature five inspiring private gardens. Hilltop Garden and Nature Center will present this year's display gardens, "Many Happy Returns," featuring the use of sustainable and recycled materials. Hilltop will also show many floral arrangements by Garden Club members.
Monroe County History Center will again host a popular garden iron dealer from Cincinnati.
Bloomington Photography Club members will display their photos of the Bloomington in Bloom judges' route, and Monroe County Master Gardeners also will have an exhibit. A bonus exhibit will feature the history of Oliver Winery. The Museum is located at 202 E. Sixth St.

Tickets may be purchased for \$10 on the days of the walk at Hilltop or for \$8 in advance. www.bloomingtongardenclub.com

All proceeds from the Walk benefit children's gardening programs at Hilltop, gardens at the Animal Shelter, and Windfall

Growers & Vendors

LOCAL PRODUCERS TO SELL PLANTS & GARDEN PRODUCTS @ BLOOMINGFOODS EAST
Bloomingsfoods would like to invite local growers and producers to sell their products in the new garden center at the East Store. Foods and perishable items would still be sold through the produce department but all plants and related items will be sold through the garden center. All products must be of good quality, healthy, and free of defect to be considered for sale through the garden center.

Contact:
JD Lucas
812-988-0596 Home Office
812-988-0343 Fax
812-345-6750 Cell
gnplants@aol.com

FARM TOURS
Growers, don't forget the Local Growers Guild as the primary avenue for promoting your Open Farm Tours! Send all pertinent information to director@localgrowers.org

OWEN COUNTY FARMERS MARKET SEEKS VENDORS

The Community Farmers' Market of Owen County will commence again on Saturday, May 1st in Spencer in front of the courthouse.
Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Vendor spaces are still available. For more information, visit the web site, call (812-829-2307), or email the Market Master, Ed O'Brien.

GARDEN GATHERING Sun, June 27 2-7pm, potluck afterwards Center for Community Empowerment (See pg. 2)



Improving Quality of Life through Quality of Food

Local Growers Guild

The Local Growers Guild, a cooperative of farms, retailers and community members dedicated to strengthening the local food economy in southern Indiana through education, direct support and market connections.



Local Growers Guild
P.O. Box 2553
Bloomington, IN 47402

Phone: 812.333.8287
www.localgrowers.org

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

GROWERS

Fields of Agape, Inc
Sheltering Hills
Sunset Acres

RETAILERS

Goods for Cooks -
Goods Gourmet
Rachael's Café

COMMUNITY

Candace Albright
Leora Baude
Linda Brown
Candace Foss
Sarah Hughes
Rebecca Manning
Sharin Martin
Jessica McClary
Anya Peterson Royce
Joan ten Hoor
Joy Voith

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A CALL TO THE MEMBERS OF
LGG

Page
1

MEET THE NEW LGG
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, JESSIE
SKAGGS!

Page
2

NEWS & EVENTS

Page
3