



Locally Grown News

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

ISDA Crop Block Grant Awarded Funds Partnership with Community Kitchen of Monroe Co

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Crop Block Grant awarded \$6,340 to the Local Growers Guild for a partnership with Community Kitchen of Monroe County's Backpack Buddies Program. Community Kitchen's Backpack Buddies Program provides backpacks of food to 100 elementary students on Fridays during the school year. Students take the backpacks home to their families as supplemental groceries over the weekend. In an effort to provide fresh, local produce and products and educational information to children and families in need, the Local Growers Guild will be partnering with the Backpack Buddies program by providing a locally-grown or produced item in each backpack throughout the 2010 calendar year. The Local Growers Guild will provide a different product every other week, and on two occasions the students will receive \$10 vouchers for either the Bloomington Community Farmers Market or the Bloomington Winter Farmers Market.

Indiana University students in Professor Victoria Getty's "Issues in Dietetics" undergraduate class are developing the newsletters that will be added to the backpacks each week. The newsletters provide kid-friendly information about the product, brief articles on subjects such as "Food from Trees," "Healthy Sweeteners," or "The Distance Food Travels" and a segment featuring a reason to buy locally. The newsletters may also include recipes, activities, and puzzles. If the project is successful, the educational materials will be distributed to more students beyond those that qualify for the Backpack Buddies Program, for other LGG educational outreach, or in partnership with other organizations.

The Local Growers Guild is actively looking for growers and producers interested in selling their products on a one-time or more frequent basis throughout 2010. The budget allows \$2 per item per backpack. There are 100 students receiving a backpack each week. Interested growers please contact Kim at localgrowers@localgrowers.org or call her at 812-333-8287. (See page 3)

2nd Annual Harvest Dinner Yields Great Success

The 2nd Annual Harvest Dinner is more than a dinner and a fundraiser. It is an interactive story told in the shape of several voices, olfactory sensations, and flavorful detail. It is a story you can, literally, sink your teeth into. At the 2nd Annual Harvest Dinner, a Local Growers Guild fundraiser that took place Thursday, October 29, one hundred guests not only enjoyed a locally grown and prepared 5-course meal but also met the faces behind each step of the process before landing onto one's plate. Guests were greeted by growers like Jim Fiedler of Fiedler Family Farms and Susan Welsand, commonly known as The Chile Woman, that lovingly raised the food found in each dish. Guests met chefs and restaurant owners like Doug Dayhoff, President of Upland Brewery, and Greg "Rags" Raggio, the well-known chef of Nick's English Hut. Grilled pork loin with apple cider reduction is now more than a cut of meat on one's plate, but rather a shared experience with the farm that raised the pigs, the orchard that grew the apples, the vineyard that grew the grapes for the paired wine, and the chef that made the creation a joy for all the guests.

The Local Growers Guild would like to extend tremendous gratitude to everyone that supported the 2nd Annual Harvest Dinner and ensured it was such a great success. We were fortunate enough to receive nearly every element of the event as an in-kind gift, from the ingredients grown and/or produced to the chefs' time to prepare the courses; from the event venue at the Upland Banquet Facility to all the dishware loaned and delivered by Indiana Memorial Union Catering; from the printing by Cartridge World and the volunteer time flying town, to the assistance of over 30 volunteers that helped prepare, pour, serve, and entertain at the event. With such generosity enveloping us with support, the Local Growers Guild was able to raise over \$6,000!

The dinner also opened the opportunity for new memberships to the Local Growers Guild. They are listed among all new members on page 4 of this newsletter. The LGG is welcoming any interested individuals to assist with the planning and development of next year's event. Thanks again and we hope to see you next year!



Did you know that the Indiana Farmers' Network has forums?

This organization strengthens the local food economy and farmer-to-farmer connections by giving the agricultural community an easy way to start a conversation. This is a terrific opportunity to start conversations about businesses, ask and answer farming or marketing questions or seek collaborations. You can use the forum to post questions or contact members directly. For more information, go to <http://farmersnetwork.org>.

For example, Zen Sheep Farm of Putnam County asked this question:

"I'd like to get some ideas from various producers about parasite control strategies. We've used diatomaceous earth in our mineral salt but really haven't noticed a change."

Have an answer? Visit <http://farmersnetwork.org> and offer your expert advice!

Check out Local Growers Guild members' profiles and create one for yourself: Linnea's Greenhouse, The Chile Woman, Renaissance Farm and Permaculture Center, Grown in Town Farmstead, Full Circle Farm, and Harvest Moon Flower Farm.

Classified ads are free to members and \$5 for non-members in 30 words or less. Entries can be sent to katie@localgrowers.org or by phone at 812-340-9400.

LGG Retail Members Help Surpass Fundraising Goal

The Local Growers Guild is greatly appreciative of its retail members that have assisted with fundraisers throughout the summer and fall, exceeding our initial goal of raising \$8,000. During Dine Local Week, last July 18 through 23, participating restaurants offered a featured local item on the menu. A percentage of sales from those items were donated to the Local Growers Guild, raising over \$400 for LGG.

The summer continued with the Eat Local, America! Challenge at all Bloomingfoods locations. Costumers were challenged to consume more local food each week and to "pledge" their commitment with a donation to LGG. Nearly \$600 was raised in these efforts. As the fall crept our way and Lotus Festivities buzzed the streets, Bloomingfoods staff working at their Lotus tents donated half of their tips to the Local Growers Guild, totaling another \$500! The check was presented to LGG during the Bloomingfoods Annual Meeting, at which event beer tips were again donated to LGG, and a raffle drawing was held.

The 2nd Annual Harvest Dinner fruited great success by raising \$6,000 in one night! And finally, we are pleased to see about \$400 worth of merchandise sold at various participating retailers and restaurants, which means folks are eager and proud to sport our logo.

A very warm THANK YOU again to everyone that has supported the Local Growers Guild, our local food system, and the retailers and small farmers that enrich our community!

Volunteer & Job Opps

LOCAL GROWERS GUILD NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Are you passionate about strengthening your local food system? Are you looking for a way to get involved in the farming community? The Local Growers Guild needs YOU to help promote a vibrant local food economy!

Assist with preparation of our bi-monthly newsletter:

Last Tuesday morning of the month at the Caldwell EcoCenter—next date Dec 29. Or help on your own time in your own space!

Promote LGG by posting flyers:

LGG is often in need of help posting various LGG literature around town.

Internship Available:

A 10-hour per week fall 2010 internship is available to assist with LGG's membership drive, including recruitment & marketing, and new membership development.

Contact Kim at localgrowers@localgrowers.org

BLOOMINGTON WINTER FARMERS MARKET

Support your small farmers and your community's local food system but assisting with the Bloomington Winter Farmers' Market. Open every Saturday January 23 through March 27.

Pre-Market Set-up 7:15-8a
Market Assistance, including customer count, support, and clean up 9a-12:30p
Chef Demo Support—January 30, February 20, March 27 9:45-11:15a

HOOSIER HILLS FOOD MAILING LIST

HHFB received funding from the Bloomington Community Foundation to continue their efforts in obtaining and growing fresh produce so that it can be distributed to their member agencies. To be added to their volunteer mailing list for future gardening and gleanings volunteer opportunities, contact the Volunteer Coordinator - volunteer@hhfoodbank.org

BEAN BLOSSOM CREEK WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

POSITION AVAILABLE: Watershed Coordinator/ Resource Technician and Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 4:00PM ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009

The Bean Blossom Creek watershed includes 192.6 square miles in the northern portions of Brown and Monroe Counties, including the Lake Lemon and Griffy Lake watersheds. For more information or to apply, visit www.monroe.iaswcd.org or contact:

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District
 USDA Service Center
 1931 South Liberty Drive
 Bloomington IN 47403

martha.miller@in.nacdn.net

Upcoming Events

LENNIE'S HITS 20! ANNIVERSARY PARTY NOVEMBER 16-18

Lennie's, a Bloomington favorite since 1989, will celebrate the beginning of its 20th year in business by hosting three nights dedicated to raising money for three cornerstone Bloomington not-for-profits. All sales Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 16 – 18, will be shared between the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Wonderlab Museum and Stone Belt.

FOOD, INC. SCREENING INDIANAPOLIS, IN NOVEMBER 19

Slow Food Indy is working with the Earth House to present a screening of FOOD, INC. on Thursday, November 19 at 7pm. Slow Food Indy will have a display area open from 5:00-7:00P.M on the Cafe (Main) level at The Earth House. Beginning at 5:00pm and continuing until the beginning of the film, they will be offering a vegetarian lasagna dinner with sides. As members of Slow Food Indy, we invite you to bring a side dish or dessert to share with the lasagna. \$10 for Dinner and Movie , \$5 for Movie only.

The Earth House is located in the Lockerbie Central United Methodist Church at the corner of East and New York Streets.

NEW FOOD FOR THOUGHT CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 19

Need some ideas to get started down a path towards increased profit? Heard about specialty crops, agritourism, and want to know more? These sessions will give you an overview of what is currently being done in the field of value-added agriculture as well as tips to help you find your niche.

The Purdue Extension New Ventures Team is a sponsor of the Indiana Farm Bureau's *New Food for Thought Conference*. November 19, 2009 at the Fort Wayne Marriott, 305 E Washington Ctr. Rd, Ft. Wayne, IN . Registration begins at 8am.

THE CULINARY CAMERA DECEMBER 6, 2-5pm Show runs through Dec 31

Chef Daniel Orr Creates both Art and Food At The Brown County Art Gallery. The exhibit, called "The Land, The Farm, and The Food" features a blend of land-

scapes and farm scenes from the Permanent Collection of the Brown County Art Gallery along side photography by Chef Orr. The photos illustrate Chef Orr's best selling cookbook, "FARMfood".

FARMERS MARKET BOOT CAMP PART II DECEMBER 16, 9a-3p

Featuring workshops about starting an association, address legal questions with farmers markets, and looking ahead to the future. Keynote speaker is Janet Eaton, recently retired from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as their Farm Market Specialist and is a current board member for the Kentucky Farm Market Association (KFMA). Sponsored by Indiana Coop Development Center, Inc.

Early registration is \$25 before Dec 4. At Marion Co. Extension Office, 6640 Intech Blvd, Ste 120 Indianapolis, IN 46278. For more information, call 765-494-1296.

DATES FOR YOUR 2010 CALENDAR!

THE LOCAL GROWERS GUILD WINTER GUILD GATHERING

Saturday, January 9, 2010 from 10am to 4pm at the Harmony School 909 E. 2nd St., Bloomington, IN.

Topics, to be announced soon, will address needs for growers, retailers, consumers and community members. Lunch and snack will be included. Please stay tuned for more details.

BLOOMINGTON WINTER FARMERS MARKET

January 23—March 27, 2010 at the Harmony School Gymnasium 909 E., 2nd St., Bloomington.

This cozy indoor market features local products, live music, chef demonstrations, and a wonderful community. Join us for breakfast and buy local produce, meats, baked goods, dairy, and more!

INDIANA UNIVERSITY FOOD SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

January 22-24, 2010 at Indiana Memorial Union 900 E. 7th St., Bloomington.

Community interaction and discussion centered on Bloomington's local food-ways and sustainability. The weekend starts off Friday with a public lecture by Gary Nabhan, author of *Coming Home to Eat*, followed by Saturday night with Joel Salatin, of Polyface Farm and *Omnivore's Dilemma* fame. On Sunday Slow Food Bloomington will sponsor a pig roast. During the day on Saturday there will be fruitful discussions among Bloomington's food community, centered on Bloomington's local food system. LGG is excited to be involved in the discussions.

Growers & Vendors

GROWERS & PRODUCERS NEEDED FOR NEW PART- NERSHIP TO FEED THE HUNGRY!!

Do you wish to see your products reach children and families in food-insecure households? Have you been looking for ways to expand outside of your normal market? Would you like to support LGG in it's efforts to distribute local produce and products to elementary school children?

Participate in the Community Kitchen of Monroe County's Backpack Buddies Program!

We are looking for:

- * Fresh local produce (when in season), or
- * Local products (i.e. honey, maple syrup, beef jerky, season-appropriate seeds, etc.)
- * Products sold in bulk for 100 portions
- * Portions can be small and will be negotiated based on item
- * Grower/Producer must be able to deliver product to Bloomington at least 3 days prior to insertion in backpacks, preferably directly to Community Kitchen (delivery method is also negotiable)

LGG's pilot partnership with the Backpack Buddies program will continue throughout the 2010



calendar year. Sell one product just once, or several products throughout the year!

Inquiries and interests can be directed to LGG Director, Kim Kanney at localgrowers@localgrowers.org or 812-333-8287

For more information about the partnership and grant funding, read the article on the front page of this newsletter.

For more information about the Backpack Buddies Program, visit www.monroecommunitykitchen.com/programs.html



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

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!.... AND TO THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS

Board of Directors:

Tiga Wertz, Community Member
Vanessa Caruso, Grower Member

Grower Members:

Grass Harvest
Getty's Creek Farm
Graber's Produce
Swiss Connection
Katie Zukof & Eric Schedler
Lucas Farms
Elizabeth & Nick Venstra
The Center for Community Empowerment, Inc.

Retail Members:

Rachael's Cafe

Community Members:

Ben Montgomery
Janice Lilly
Kevin McCracken
Melissa Henige
Rick Wilke & Anne Pyburn
Henke Family
Penny Gaither
Nicole Schonemann
Paula Davis
Carol Shapiro
Mary Damm
Tim Clougher
Sarah Ryterband

Volunteers:

Megan Bolis
Katie Birge
Sandy Davis
Julia DeBruicker
Janis DeStefano
Phoebe Croxton
Melanie Frank
Jamie Gans
Eliza Goehl
Stevie Hacker
Bryan Hatten
Virginia Hojas
Grey Larsen

Tamara Loewenthal
April Messacar
Nick Parks
Maria Rasche
Eric Schedler
Sarah Stowe
Michael Valliant
Marcy Wease
Alexandria Williams
Amber Williams
Jessica Williams
Mary Williams

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