



State of the Local Growers Guild by Maggie Sullivan, Director

With 2008 behind us, I thought it might be nice to pause and take a look back at all we accomplished last year. We certainly kept busy and awareness of the Local Growers Guild has continued to grow. Perhaps our biggest achievement was expanding our member base. We continue to add grower members and we also gained a huge number of community members this year. Interest in local food is exploding and I for one am excited to be a part of the movement.

Our Achievements:

January-March 2008

Winter Guild Gathering – a great event about marketing with featured speaker Harold Lloyd. The event brought in some new faces (and new grower members!) but I still wish we could create a winter event that pulled in more of our regular members.

Bloomington Winter Farmers' Market had a wonderful 2008. Jessica Williams did a great job as market master and put a lot of time into developing some new policies to clarify how vendors are chosen and what expectations are on both ends. The market is still striving to grow and expand and is always looking for farmers with fresh produce.

Dine Local Night – January was a tough month to ask restaurants to come up with local dinner specials, although several of our members rose to the challenge. Our original idea was to have Dine Local events every season but now we are thinking about sticking with summer and just making it a big event.

Local Growers Guide – the 2008 version was even better than ever with slick printing from World Arts Printing and excellent content from our members.

Expanded Board of Directors – we took a big step and expanded our Board of Directors to include a community member representative and a retail representative in addition to our original seven grower representatives. So far it has paid off with great new ideas and an enthusiastic board! Elections are coming up again in March... are you ready to be a part of the board?

April-June 2008

Hoophouse Initiative – board member Teresa Birtles helped organize a group order of hoop houses for several growers interested in season extension.

E-newsletter – we launched a new e-newsletter through our web server dreamhost with the idea of sending out e-mail updates once a week to supplement the regular paper newsletter. By November we had a mailing list of about 150 people and were sending out updates about once a week.

Gleaning Program – Hoosier Hills Food Bank started a pilot project gleaning program collecting food from Five Oaks Farm and a few other LGG member farms.

Agritourism Directory for Indiana – we helped the Indiana State Department of Agriculture create an Agritourism Directory that was modeled after our Local Growers' Guide.

July-September 2008

Homegrown Indiana Farm Tour – we partnered with the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market to organize a tour of two farms near Paoli (Sun Circle and Gypsy Ridge). It was so successful that we are planning three different events this summer and plan to feature five different LGG member farms.

Dine Local Night – July is a much better time for restaurants to promote local food!

Eat Local America Challenge – Bloomingfoods was pushing local food especially hard during the summer months with this special locavore challenge that helped increase interest in locally grown food.

LGG Annual Meeting – We had a great time at Schacht Farm near Bloomington and beautiful weather for gathering and sharing knowledge with each other.

Sustainable Farm Tour in Bloomington – Purdue Extension organized a sustainable farm tour in Bloomington focusing on direct sales and highlighting the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, as well as LGG members Susan Welsand, Steve Love, and Jen Robinson.

ISDA Grant – we received \$16,800 in funding from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to study the feasibility of creating a centralized storage and distribution warehouse for locally grown food.

New Assistant Director – in September we hired Katie Zukof and immediately put her to work running our membership drive.

October-December 2008

Bill Krejci Award – Bobbi Boos received a cooperative service award from Bloomingfoods in honor of all her hard work with the Local Growers Guild.

Local Foods Dinner – our first ever local foods dinner was a huge success with a sell-out crowd enjoying a wonderful feast prepared by Harvest Lodge with ingredients from Homestead Growers, Capriole, the Chile Woman, Stranger's Hill, and many other farms.

Judy Wicks – this visionary local economies expert and restaurant owner gave a great presentation about local living economies at the Monroe County Public Library.

Menu for the Future – a group of Obama volunteers organized a special educational event on local food with presentations from Professor Richard Wilke of Indiana University, and Maggie Sullivan from the LGG, talking about how concerned citizens can get involved to improve our local food situation.

Service Learning – we worked with several groups of students from IU this year, including a journalism class that developed a huge binder of sample press releases, background stories, and sample speeches about local food as well as the non-profit legal clinic, who gathered information about the pros and cons of changing from an agricultural cooperative to a nonprofit organization.

Bloomington Kitchen Incubator – as part of the kitchen incubator project with Middle Way House, a group of dedicated volunteers created a new non-profit organization that will provide business support for fledgling food businesses and coordinate their activities in the new Middle Way kitchen.

Things we didn't achieve this year

There are always a few items we talk about and dream of but don't quite manage to implement. We are still struggling to determine where the LGG should focus its energy and also working to accept the fact that we can't do everything! Still, I hope many of these projects can be revisited in 2009.

Educational Events – we talked about offering several educational classes this year but did not hear much enthusiasm from members and so we stuck with forwarding information about events offered through other groups like Purdue Extension who did a high tunnel growing class, a few small farm marketing classes, and lessons on using market maker.

Slow Fest – we had talked with Slow Food Bloomington about doing a big affordable local food event but decided we had too much else in the works. Maybe in 2009?

Indiana eAgriculture Network – we have been offered a website database developed by the Southern Indiana Rural Development Group focused on connecting innovative farmers with each other but have not yet implemented it – perhaps in 2009.

Local Dozen Campaign – we have collected 7 of 12 articles about the 12 reasons to buy local food and really really hope to have the full set ready to go to publication this year. Anybody feel the urge to write an article?

Guild Seeks Board Members

Are you interested in strengthening the local foods economy in Southern and Central Indiana? If so, read on!

The Local Growers Guild is governed by a nine-person board comprised of seven grower representatives, one customer representative and one retailer representative. There are several open seats for grower representatives to begin a two-year term starting in March 2009. Meetings are generally held once a month on Monday evenings for two hours. Board members are also expected to serve on subcommittees which may meet at additional times during the month.

Be at the forefront of the local foods movement! If you are interested in serving, please submit your name, contact information and a blurb about what experience and skills you can contribute to the Local Growers Guild to Maggie Sullivan at localgrowers@localgrowers.org or call 812-345-1592 for more information.

CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture)



'TIS THE SEASON TO SUBSCRIBE!

A CSA is a subscription program in which community members pledge to support a farm or group of farms by paying a fixed fee for a weekly box of fresh produce and other local products.

This mutually supportive relationship between local farmers and community members helps create an economically stable farm operation in which customers are assured the highest quality produce, often at below retail prices. In return, farmers are guaranteed a reliable market for a diverse selection of crops.

CSAs vary considerably but there are some basics-- A typical season runs from mid-May to mid-October, although some CSAs offer shorter summer or winter-only shares. A share is designed to meet the weekly vegetable needs of one couple or family. Some CSAs also offer additional products such as cut flowers, eggs and meat. Home delivery is sometimes provided for an additional fee.

Wholesale Opportunity

Piazza Produce, a family-owned food distribution company based in Indianapolis, is looking for local growers to supply produce and other food products. Piazza distributes to restaurants and institutions across Indiana and into neighboring states. They currently work with a handful of local growers, including Judy Schach of Capriole. They would love to expand their distribution program by organizing one-to-one grower and distributor programs. Growers are invited to grow produce on contract to include in their regular ordering list. They buy at the wholesale level so growers would not be getting retail prices but it could be a wonderful opportunity for growers seeking a distribution sale to a company that will take care of the marketing and delivery. (the BCFM space reservation meeting). Brochures will be printed in early April, as well as posted to the BCFM and LGG websites.

Farm Tour Publication

The Bloomington Community Farmers Market and the Local Growers Guild work hard to deepen connections between farmers and community members. One way we do that is by organizing farm tours through Bloomington Parks and Recreation. This year we'll also be organizing and distributing brochures promoting our houses and farm tours organized by local farmers. Many of you already invite people to your farm on occasion. If you would like to expand participation beyond the people who come to your stand, consider submitting information to include in their regular ordering list. They buy at the wholesale level so growers would not be getting retail prices but it could be a wonderful opportunity for growers seeking a distribution sale to a company that will take care of the marketing and delivery. (the BCFM space reservation meeting). Brochures will be printed in early April, as well as posted to the BCFM and LGG websites.

The Local Growers Guild will also be working with them to identify possible backhauling opportunities (e.g. they deliver from their Indianapolis warehouse to Bloomington restaurants and could then pick up food in Bloomington and take it up to Indianapolis for a minimal charge since it's on their route). If you would like more information, either contact Maggie at localgrowers@localgrowers.org or 812-345-1592 or work directly with Marcus Agresta at magresta@piazzaproduce.com or (317) 522-2921.

Assistance for Farm Workers

Transition Resources Corporation is a private, non-profit organization that partners with WorkOne to provide employment and training services to seasonal farm workers and their dependents. Services may include: Job search and placement assistance; Career counseling and planning; Labor market information; Supportive services referrals; Financial aid information; Group/individual counseling; Short-term pre-vocational training; Literacy/English as a Second Language assistance; Occupational skills training; On-the-job training; Skill upgrading; Job readiness training; and Emergency services.

To be eligible, total family income must not exceed the federal poverty line, the applicant must be eligible to work in the United States, the applicant must have done farm work on a seasonal basis, the total amount of earnings from farm work must be at least fifty percent of the total income and if the applicant is male, he must be registered with the Selective Service.

For more information, please contact Anita Hernandez at: 812-886-0783 (office) or 812-890-6493 (cell) or visit www.transitionresources.org

Upcoming Events

BLOOMINGTON WINTER FARMERS MARKET

BLOOMINGTON—HARMONY SCHOOL
909 EAST SECOND ST.
SATURDAYS, JANUARY 24-MARCH 28
9 AM TO NOON

The Bloomington Winter Farmers Market is a great opportunity to buy local during the winter months. Our cozy indoor market also features chef demonstrations, live music and wonderful community. Come for breakfast and buy local produce, meats, baked goods, dairy and more!

- February 14th is LGG Member Appreciation Day
- March 28th is Winter Market Customer Appreciation Day

MIDWEST WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

PLYMOUTH, IN – SWAN LAKE
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, FEB. 4 & 5

The mission of the Midwest Women in Agriculture conference is to meet the needs of women in agriculture by addressing the personal, family, and farm issues that affect their lives, their families, and their farm businesses. Presented by Purdue Extension. For more information call 1-888-398-4636.

MIDDLEWAY HOUSE GREENING LUNCHEON EVENT

BLOOMINGTON – FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 3RD FLOOR
THURSDAY, FEB. 5, 11:30 AM TO 1 PM

Learn from gardening experts in our community; let us know about your experience. Help us plan and implement a sustainable green

environment outside for Middle Way House. For more information, e-mail cynthia.brubaker@gmail.com.

BLOOMINGTON KITCHEN INCUBATOR INFORMATION SESSION

BLOOMINGTON—CALDWELL CENTER
323 S. WALNUT ST.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 7:00 PM

Attend this one-hour session to learn about the Bloomington Kitchen Incubator and to become a pilot client. Please RSVP to bobbiboos@gmail.com or call 812-272-3656

OHIO RIVER VALLEY FARM MARKETING CONFERENCE

WILMINGTON, OH – HOLIDAY INN
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, FEB. 19 & 20

The conference offers valuable and affordable presentations, workshops, and discussions, focused on agricultural marketing. For more information, contact Tom Snyder, (740) 289-2071 ext 220, snyder.11@osu.edu or Joy Bauman, (740) 289-2071 ext 111, jbauman@aq.osu.edu.

THE JOURNEY TO LOCAL SUSTAINABLE FOOD

BATESVILLE, IN
SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 9:30AM-2:00PM

This is an educational seminar for food growers and producers, hobby farmers, home gardeners, farmers' market vendors and those interested in a safe local food supply, offered by the Food and Growers Association. \$15 ticket includes lunch. See www.foodandgrowers.org

FOOD, FARM, AND ENERGY GATHERING

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – FAIRGROUNDS
SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 8:00AM TO 5:30 PM

An educational event for food consumers, small farmers, gardeners, and energy users who want a more sustainable lifestyle. (This grew out of the Small Farm Conference created by Steve Bonney.) Tickets are \$10. Visit www.sustainableearth.net for more details.

FUTURES OF FARMING CONFERENCE

OXFORD, OHIO – MIAMI UNIVERSITY
SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 1 TO 5 PM

The goal of the conference is to critically assess the potential futures for agriculture that exist and foster new ideas and collaborations. The meeting is open to the general public, and farmers, policymakers, students, industry representatives, and interested citizens are encouraged to attend. This conference is FREE. For more information, or to register, visit www.ourfarmingfuture.org.

LGG BOARD MEETING (MARCH)

BLOOMINGTON – CALDWELL CENTER
323 S. WALNUT ST.
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 7:00 PM

Please RSVP to Maggie at 812-345-1592 in case the date or time changes.



Classifieds

Classified ads are free to members and \$5 for non-members with a 30-word maximum. Entries can be sent by e-mail to

localgrowers@localgrowers.org or contact Maggie Sullivan by phone at 812-345-1592 by March 10.

FREE

At Pizza Express and Lennie's our fresh mushrooms are delivered in blue plastic food grade buckets. They hold about 1.5 gallons and come with a snap on lid with a few air slits. If you can use some, please contact Jeff Mease at One World Enterprises. jm@bloomington.com.

EQUIPMENT

Alfalfa/grass hay for sale. Grown with organic methods, \$5 - square bales, Mitchell area. Contact John Gore at 812-276-2234.

Modine LP heaters for sale. Contact Jeff Evard at 765-528-2887. Can deliver 75 miles from Martinsville.

Straw bales for sale from Upland Brewery. \$2.50/ea. Contact Dettra Wolf at 219-873-4909 or Ryan Harvey at 812-336-2337, ext. 500.

FARM LABOR

Keith Uridel of Hazelbrake Farm is looking for some additional help next year with his landcrafting and nursery business. Contact Keith at uridel@att.net for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE Certified Organic Farm is now offering CSA memberships for the 2009 season. Please call Art Sherwood, Jeff Evard and Bobbi Boos for more information! (812) 834-3727.

LIFE Certified Organic Farm will once again be offering local growers the chance to bulk purchase the full line of plant and animal Fertrell products for 2009. See www.fertrell.com or call Art Sherwood at (812) 834-3727 for more info.

Subscribe to our weekly **e-newsletter!** Send an e-mail to us at localgrowersguildnews@localgrowers.org to receive weekly updates on local food events. We send text-only e-mails (no attachments).

Thank you to our New and Renewing Members!

Our fall membership drive was a wonderful success! Thank you to all of our members for their support!

New Community Members

Leora Baude
Bethany Braley
Kay Campbell
Lisa Canada
Beverly Carson
Betsy Caulfield
Ria Collee
Sarah Combellick-Bidney
Elizabeth Cure
Shane DeMars
Cheryl Engber
Gustavo Garcia-Lopez
Patricia Glushko
Spencer Goehl & Lucy Schaich
Claire Gonzalez
Jo Holt
Melanie Knapp
Alex Kroh
Emilie Lippold-Cheney
Ignasi Lucas Lledo
Geoff McKim
Annamaria Mecca
Lee Mysliwicz & Elizabeth Gwynn
Carol Polsgrove
Deborah Robinson
Amy Roche

Georgia & Bill Schaich
in honor of Bobbi Boos
Lisa Schelling
Jami Scholl Reed
Nick Schultz
Frederick Scott
Collins Sidney
Alex Smith
Rob Stone & Karen Green Stone
Dan Taylor
Jen Weiss
Marcy Wenzler
Jana Wilson
Daria Zieminska
Charlotte Zietlow
Matt Zink & Mary Beth O'Brien

Renewing Community Members:

David & Beth Anderson
Christine Barbour & Jerry Wright
Mike Betson
Wes Drake
Bradley Drake
Darcy Harvey
Marcia Meyer
Susan Pennington

Linda Roos & Steven Wallace
Eric Schedler & Katie Zukof
Brandi Smith
Stephanie Solomon & Sky Adams
Amy Thompson
Meg Torrence & Rich Pierce
Elizabeth & Nick Venstra
Victoria Wesseler
Tomi Whitaker

New grower members

George Hageman
Good Life Farm
Marlett Farm
Renaissance Farm & Permaculture Center
Seeds and Such

Renewing grower members

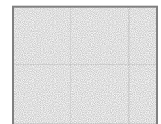
Amazen Graze
Burton's Maplewood Farm
DK
Ewenique Icelandic Sheep Farm
FDK
Fiedler Family Farms

Fullcircle Farm
Grown in Town Farmstead
Hart Farm
Harvest Lodge
Harvest Moon Flower Farm
Hazelbrake Farm
Healing Harvest Farm
Hunter's Creek Organic Farm
LIFE Certified Organic Farm
Linnea's Greenhouse
Lost Pond Farm
Loveland Farms
Maple Valley Farm
Marble Hill Farm
Martin Hollow Farm
May Creek Farm
Meadowlark Organic Farm
Miller's Organic
Olde Lane Orchard
Sage Gardens
Schacht Farm
Seldom Seen Farm, Inc.
Stranger's Hill Organics
The Chile Woman
Valentine Hill Farm

If you haven't had the chance yet to renew your membership in the Local Growers Guild, please log on to our website at www.localgrowers.org to download a form or contact Katie Zukof at 812-339-8198 or katie@localgrowers.org.

LOCAL GROWERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2553
Bloomington, IN 47402
www.localgrowers.org



About this Newsletter & Our Organization

This newsletter is a publication of 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.