

EVENT REPORT

# The 7th Annual Stinner Summit

OCTOBER 4, 2013

HAPPY DAYS LODGE AT CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

PENINSULA, OHIO



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

SPONSORED BY THE BEN STINNER ENDOWMENT  
AND THE AGROECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



The location for the 7th Annual Stinner Summit was thrown briefly into question just days before the Summit was scheduled to take place. The venue, the Happy Days Lodge, is located on federally-owned National Park Service property, and the federal government was in the first days of what would become a 16-day government shutdown. As registered attendees called and emailed for updates, AMP staff discussed what our plan B might be, before receiving confirmation from the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park that the Lodge was licensed to them for private use, and the Summit could go ahead as planned. We breathed a collective sigh of relief, and forged ahead with plans for what was another undeniably successful Stinner Summit: an inspiring day of brainstorming, networking, collaboration, and — as always — good food.



The inspiration for the Stinner Summit is Ben Stinner's rare ability for building relationships based on common interests and his passion and enthusiasm for building healthy agroecosystems and sustainable communities. The Summit, held at a different location each year, is a highly engaging event that draws participants from around Ohio, and this year was no exception, with nearly 60 attendees from Athens to Youngstown and Dayton to Toledo. We also continued a new approach introduced at last year's Summit, with the Ben Stinner Endowment's \$15,000 (plus \$3,100 extra from last year!) being distributed to several collaborative projects, rather than just one. Attendees were also encouraged to contribute Social Capital IOUs pledging special skills, expertise, or equipment.



At the end of the day, six projects received funding from the Ben Stinner Endowment, as well as 50 Social Capital IOUs. These projects are outlined on the following pages. We look forward to hearing about their achievements at next year's Summit — and we hope to see you there!



### Grafton Reintegration Center: Reducing Recidivism through Agricultural Entrepreneurial Training

Stinner Endowment funding: \$3318

This project will assess the feasibility of creating a collaborative business model at Grafton Correctional Institution that will train prisoners with the skills to enter the local agriculture workforce. Spearheaded by Growing Green, the project aims to reduce recidivism while improving the local food system.



### Start with the Cart

Stinner Endowment funding: \$2715

This project will expand access to local food on the OSU campus by extending the operations of the Heirloom Cafe to a mobile food cart. The cart will be designed by engineering and design students, and will offer students the opportunity to gain small-scale food operation experience, while bringing more local, convenient, healthy and sustainable food options to campus.



## Comparing Nutritional Values of GMO and Non-GMO Crops

Stinner Endowment funding: \$2816

After completing a literature review exploring the nutritional profiles and genetic drift characteristics of GMO, non-GMO, and organic corn, this project will design original research to address these questions. Mapping and GIS will be employed in spatial analysis of GMO drift potential. Results will inform farmers and help them tap into market demand for non-GMO crops.



## Food Infrastructure Facilities Peer Learning Network

Stinner Endowment funding: \$3285

The goal of this project will be to strengthen ties and communication between the existing and emerging projects and facilities throughout Ohio that implement food processing, aggregation or distribution strategies to rebuild local food economies. The project will be led by the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks.



### CSA Match Portal

Stinner Endowment funding: \$1911

This project will create an online portal to help match potential CSA customers with local CSAs that meet their desired characteristics such as quality, contents, and social considerations. The portal will improve and facilitate access for consumers while helping farmers tap into new markets.



### Scalable Perennial Polycultures

Stinner Endowment funding: \$4055

This project explores perennial polyculture growing systems that more closely mimic the pre-industrial native biomes of temperate North America. The project team will design and establish scalable demonstration sites utilizing USDA supported agroforestry practices such as alley-cropping, windbreaks, forest farming, & silvopasture. Education and outreach will extend the work to the sites' surrounding communities.

## Want to get involved?

Please reach out to the following contacts:

Grafton Reintegration Center: Steve Fortenberry, [steve.fortenberry@gmail.com](mailto:steve.fortenberry@gmail.com)

Start with the Cart: Caitlin Marquis, [marquis.ffh@gmail.com](mailto:marquis.ffh@gmail.com)

Comparing Nutritional Values of GMO Crops: Michelle Ajamian, [goodfooddirect@gmail.com](mailto:goodfooddirect@gmail.com)

Food Infrastructure Facilities Peer Learning Network: Leslie Schaller, [leslies@acenetworks.org](mailto:leslies@acenetworks.org)

CSA Match Portal: Courtney Johnson, [cjohns2013@icloud.com](mailto:cjohns2013@icloud.com)

Scalable Perennial Polycultures: Patrick O'Connell, [patrick.oconnell@franklintongardens.org](mailto:patrick.oconnell@franklintongardens.org)



## About the poster

The Happy Days Lodge, the location for this year's Stinner Summit, was built in the late 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. That time period was taken as the inspiration for the general design aesthetic for this year's poster. In particular, WPA-produced graphics were consulted for design ideas. The fonts used were historic fonts and modern fonts inspired by that period. Layout and design elements also sought to emulate WPA-era design.

The central image of the poster is based directly on a photograph of the Mellinger Farm. This farm scene of barn and field occupies the center and foreground of the poster, while in the distance we see the buildings of an urban center, and to the right of the barn, a darker green of trees symbolizing a "non-productive" but still crucial element of this agricultural landscape. The poster aims to simply capture the holistic concept of the agroecosystem that forms the basis for the Stinner Summit: an agroecosystem which is socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable, and includes all elements of the agricultural landscape, including its cities and its uncultivated areas.



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Caterer  
Spice of Life Catering  
[spiceoflifecaters.com](http://spiceoflifecaters.com)

Venue  
Happy Days Lodge at Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
[conservancyforcvnp.org](http://conservancyforcvnp.org)

Poster design and photos  
Ben Kerrick

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