

2015 Annual Stinner Summit Report



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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The 9th annual Stinner Summit was held on October 15th at Malabar Farm State Park in Lucas, Ohio. Malabar Farm, the former home of Pulitzer Prize winner conservationist Louis Bromfield, is a working farm and state park that showcases agroecological practices pioneered by Bromfield, making Malabar one of the most famous farms in America in the 1940s. In addition to the farm operation, Malabar maintains a variety of hiking and skiing trails that allow visitors to experience the diverse woodlands, streams, and wetlands of the park. The park's idyllic setting has also been used as a film location as scenes from *The Shawshank Redemption* were shot at Malabar's Pugh Cabin and other nearby sites.

The inspiration for the Stinner Summit was Ben Stinner's rare ability to build relationships based on common interests and his vision, passion, and commitment to building healthy agroecosystems. The Summit, a day-long event held annually at a

different location each year, helps build connections between participants from across Ohio that share Ben Stinner's passion for agriculture. During the summit, participants spend the day brainstorming and collaborating on projects designed to improve the health of agroecosystems and sustainable communities. At the end of the Summit attendees decided on how much financial support each project should receive from the Ben Stinner endowment and pledge their own unique skills – labor, expertise, equipment – to projects of interest.

This year, the Summit had close to 80 attendees from all over Ohio, who proposed ten different projects that ranged from creating sustainable polycultures to regional seed saving. These projects are described below. We are excited to let you know about these efforts, will follow their progress over the coming year, and hope to see you next year for the 10th Annual Stinner Summit!



2015 Stinner Summit Projects

Closing the Gap Between Community Growers and Community Members via Corner Stores

The project will work with Highland Youth Garden, located in Columbus Ohio, to market and package their produce to be sold at Lena's, a Fresh Foods Here healthy corner store. Using Highland Youth Garden as a model, additional gardens will be recruited into the program.

No Tot Left Behind

This project, supplemented by funds from a USDA Rural Community Development grant, will fund a farm-to-school conference in Southeast Ohio organized by ACEnet, Rural Action, and Live Healthy Appalachia. The project will also work in Springfield Ohio to develop written materials for ways preschools can access and use local produce. This written material will draw heavily from a previous Rural Actions publication, "The Healthy Home Consumer Fresh Local Produce Guide."

Fruit Grafting Workshop

In a continuation of a perennial polyculture project funded at the 8th and 9th Annual Stinner Summits, participants will graft scion wood for desired fruit tree varieties onto rootstock that was planted in March of 2015. The grafting will be part of an on-site workshop for hands on experience for any parties interested.

Groundswell

An educational program designed to connect consumers interested in increasing their consumption of local food with those experienced and engaged in local food networks will provide mentoring and hands on learning. Participants will learn multiple skills such as cooking and preparing whole foods and developing strategies to purchase local and sustainably grown food. This project also continues efforts that began at the 9th Annual Stinner Summit.

Healing Veterans through Urban Agriculture and Healthy Food

This project will begin with a feasibility study to research healing military veterans and other marginalized populations through comprehensive engagement and job training in urban agriculture, potentially contributing livelihoods and healthy, locally produced food.

Preserving Indigenous Traditions

The project will work to produce a film highlighting the indigenous communities in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador, capturing their success in sustainable agriculture for over 5,000 years. The film will integrate Martha Gaffney's, personal journey from her native farm community in Ecuador, where farming means community, to her small family farm and efforts to build community in Wooster, Ohio, and compare the challenges and rewards of farming in each location. The film will give voice to people whose age old traditions are now in jeopardy, and a voice for sustainable small family farms and communities in both Ecuador and the United States.

Preserving Local in a Flash

The project will equip the Local Roots' commercial kitchen, located in Wooster, Ohio, with a flash freezer and funds to support personnel to process produce for frozen storage. Initial planning and sales of preserved produce will be organized with The Nuhop Center, Special Needs Summer Camp via the executive director Trevor Dunlap.

Southeast Ohio Seed Savers

The Community Food Initiative, Located in Athens, Ohio, will coordinate and host a Seed School Training in Ohio with the goal of increasing awareness of the importance of seed saving and its practical application as well as increase the number of participating seed savers in the Southeast Ohio Seed Savers Company, providing locally saved seeds in retail locations across the state.

The Seeds to Cultivate all Things

This Project seeks support for a Point of Sale System for the All Things Food Co-op, Located in Byran, Ohio.

Women Grow Ohio

Women Grow Ohio is a volunteer based organization whose goal is to demonstrate the important work of Ohio women in feeding their families and others in our great state. The project will develop a state-wide tour to connect and build community among Ohio women in agriculture including livestock farmers, vegetable and fruit growers, homesteaders and urban backyard garden producers. The goal is to provide women food producers with opportunities that promote their work in an industry that currently is still very much male-oriented.

Want to Get Involved? Please reach out to the following contacts!

Project Name	Primary Contact	Email
Fruit tree Grafting	Shawn Brown	shawnjamesbrown@gmail.com
Preserving Indigenous Traditions	Martha Gaffney	martha@marthasfarm.com
Closing the Gap	Casey Silve	caseyslive@gmail.com
No Tot Left Behind	Tom Redfern	tomr@ruralaction.org
Groundswell	Analena Bruce	abruce@sociology.rutgers.edu
Regional Seed Company	Mary Nally	cfi@communityfoodinitiatives.org
Women Grow Ohio	Annie Warmke	annie@bluerockstation.com
The Seed to Cultivate	Monique Tressler	mo@allthingsfood.coop
Preserving Local in a Flash	Ellie Walsh	elliekwash@gmail.com
Healing Veterans Through Food	Susan Weber	Susan@integritysustainableplanning.com

About the Poster

The Poster design comes from Ohio Farm, an image that was generously donated by John A. Copley, a Michigan based artist. The poster was laid out and designed by Bren Munroe, another Ohio artist based in Youngstown. Our thanks to Joe and Bren for their contributions to this year's Stinner Summit!

Ben Stinner Endowment Advisory Committee

Casey Hoy
Leah Miller
Larry Phelan
Deb Stinner

Caterer

Local Roots

Venue

Malabar Farm State Park





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