

The Ben Stinner Endowment for Healthy Agroecosystems and Sustainable Rural Communities

2017 Stinner Summit Report



Agroecosystem Management Program
of



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

11th Annual Stinner Summit

The 11th annual Stinner Summit, hosted by the Agroecosystems Management Program of The Ohio State University, was held on September 29th at The Barn at Litzenberg Memorial Woods in Findlay, Ohio. Litzenberg Memorial Woods is part of the Hancock Park District. The park area was originally settled by early Hancock County pioneers Charles and Mary McKinnis who arrived in 1822 from Chillicothe, Ohio. The land is characterized by rolling countryside, wooded ravines, and a grand expanse of wetlands, prairie, and sky. It blends the area's rich agricultural heritage with conservation and wildlife, education and history, hiking and exploration, picnicking and play, and social gatherings and special events making it an ideal setting for this year's Summit.



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 who share Ben Stinner's vision.



During the Summit, participants spend the day brainstorming and collaborating on projects that contribute to healthy agroecosystems and sustainable communities. At the end of the Summit attendees decide on financial support or projects from the Ben Stinner endowment and pledge their own unique skills, labor, expertise, equipment, and more to projects proposed by the attendees.



This year, the Summit hosted a highly-engaged group from all over Ohio who came together to explore the multifunctional benefits of agriculture and to brainstorm how Stinner Summit participants could work together to expand, support and further develop these benefits. The morning was spent remembering Ben's impact, reflecting on the success of the 2016 Stinner Summit project - People, Place and Policy: Empowering Food Communities and exploring how we can best contribute to our communities through a new sponsored project. The discussions and networking proved insightful. Going from groups of 2 to 4 to 8 to everyone present, the attendees unanimously agreed to support a project focused on

developing an apprenticeship program for training the next generation of entrepreneurial urban farmers called Lima SPROUTS.

2017 Stinner Summit Project

Lima SPROUTS (Sustained Production On Urban TractS) is being championed by Lima-Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership (LACNIP). LACNIP is a neighborhood based organization that has been in existence for over 25 years. They sponsor a variety of community programs in partnership with other local organizations. Lima SPROUTS is a pilot entrepreneurial program where 3 apprentices will train in the techniques of urban farming and small business operations. The apprentices will be recruited from local high schools and colleges. Lima SPROUTS will provide them with the needed facilities and resources for the 2018 growing season as an extension of the LACNIP Community Gardens Program already in existence. They will be tasked to grow fresh produce that may be sold to local schools and

restaurants. The goal of Lima SPROUTS is for trainees to ultimately turn unproductive urban lots into productive agricultural plots, thus providing tax revenues to the city, local foods

to our community and career opportunities for the apprentices. This program will make a meaningful contribution to healthy and sustainable agroecosystems through the local production and distribution of fresh foods to multiple consumers. It will tap into the wealth of resources with which we connected during the Stinner Summit to further develop and guide this project. Lima SPROUTS

has the potential to serve as a model program for communities around the state. If you want to get involved, please contact Rob Cotrell at robcotrell@yahoo.com or 419-905-7581.



Ben Stinner Endowment
Advisory Committee:

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Catering for the 2017 Summit:

Kathy's Korner

Venue:

The Barn at Litzenberg Woods

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