

15th Annual Stinner Summit

Help Chart the Future of AMP in a Time of Transition



This image of Ben Stinner is composed of photos from the first 14 Stinner Summits, held annually from 2007 to 2020. Use the QR code to view the individual photos.

November 18, 2021

Sponsored by the Ben Stinner Endowment and the Agroecosystem Management Program of The Ohio State University.

2021 STINNER SUMMIT REPORT



Attendees were treated to local fare from Wooster's Local Roots, in addition to Deb Stinner's usual delicious contribution.



Ben Stinner (above) possessed a rare ability to build relationships based on common interests. His vision, his passion, and his commitment to building healthy agroecosystems and communities have lived on through this annual gathering and the projects it fosters.

The 2021 Stinner Summit was a hybrid meeting of online and in-person attendees. In-person attendees gathered at the newly constructed Ohio State Wooster Science Building. COVID masks failed to hide the joy of meeting with friends old and new! The in-person group of 45 was joined by 26 additional online participants from across the state who were able to contribute to the discussion, but sadly could not partake of Deb Stinner's famous cinnamon rolls.

Opening remarks from outgoing Agroecosystem Management Program (AMP) director Dr. Casey Hoy reminded (or introduced) participants to the legacy of Ben Stinner, the inspiration for the Stinner Summit's long-standing success. Designed to honor his collaborative spirit, the Summit is a highly engaging and participatory event in which a diverse group of individuals work together to identify and plan potential projects for the following year. The projects chosen by the group receive seed funding to advance healthy agroecosystems and sustainable communities in Ohio.

This year's Summit was different from the previous 14 in that no specific agroecology projects were selected. Rather, as AMP begins the process of searching for a new WK Kellogg Chair, this year's Summit focused on **Charting the Future of AMP in a Time of Transition**. Participants were encouraged to reflect on past accomplishments and projects, and help shape a future vision for the next generation of Stinner Summits and AMP work.



A Nod to the Past

AMP staff member Kevin Armstrong presented a timeline and storymap of past Stinner Summit projects and encouraged others to add projects and details. Michelle Ajamian, Amalie Lipstreu, Brian Gwin, and Rachel Tayse shared their stories of how earlier Stinner Summit projects have spawned long-lasting impacts, including the genesis of a local food processing company, organizations to guide food policy and food security, additional research on sustainable farm practices, and community building and sharing.

Amyaz Moledina and Amanda Iskin from The College of Wooster presented an analysis of past Stinner Summit projects. For 2011-2013 projects, every \$1 of Stinner Summit seed money brought in \$7 to \$33 in additional grant money. Additional sharing was encouraged on the Miro board and during group discussion. Participants noted that many of the projects funded by the Stinner Summit and Stinner Endowment Fund would have struggled to find funding elsewhere, despite their great local and regional value.

A Look Toward the Future

Instead of selecting specific projects to work on this year, the group was charged to identify the biggest challenges on the horizon for agroecosystem management in Ohio. Discussion was led by interim AMP chair Douglas Jackson-Smith. Five issues emerged: 1) Climate Change, 2) Food and Land Justice and Equity, 3) Entrepreneurship, 4) Next Generation Farmers, and 5) Network Building and Weaving. Small discussion groups were formed around each of these five topics, where participants explored the issues surrounding these challenges and collaboratively identified specific investments or steps that might be taken to address them.

After the small groups reported back, in-person and online participants were each given 5 votes to distribute across the five challenges. Climate Change and Food & Land Justice/Equity received an equal number of votes (39 each), Next Generation Farmers received 25, Network Building and Weaving received 24, and Entrepreneurship 13.



2021 STINNER SUMMIT REPORT

Following the voting, Wooster attendees enjoyed a delicious fellowship meal catered by Local Roots. Deb Stinner noted that the evening's menu was one of Ben's favorite fall meals and Local Roots had kindly incorporated the Stinner family recipe for the apple crisp.

The issues, ideas, and concerns identified at the 2021 Stinner Summit will be shared with the new Kellogg chair to guide future Agroecosystem Management Program work. In addition to the Summit discussion, a series of roundtable discussions are planned with various groups inside and outside the university.



A special thanks to Dr. Casey Hoy who officially retired December 2021. Dr. Hoy has served the AMP program since 2006. He will be missed!



In addition to the vibrant group discussion, footage was collected this year for a series of short videos to document the value of the Stinner Summit and the legacy of Ben Stinner. View these videos at the AMP website or at go.osu.edu/StinnerVideos21.

Acknowledgments

Poster design: Kevin Armstrong. View a close-up at <https://mosaically.com/photomosaic/8b5583fa-a074-4c4e-94d3-1a595b3a3515>

2021 Stinner Summit Organizing Committee:
Kevin Armstrong, Cassy Brown, Cheryl Fischnich, Greg Hitzhusen, Casey Hoy, Doug Jackson-Smith, Amyaz Moledina, Larry Phelan, Deb Stinner

Ben Stinner Endowment Advisory Committee:
Casey Hoy, Larry Phelan, Deb Stinner

Venue: The Ohio State University
Wooster Science Building

Caterer: Local Roots
140 South Walnut Street, Wooster
330-263-5336 /
www.localrootswooster.com

Videography/Photography: Scott Spears Film

The Agroecosystems Management Program

Wooster Science Building / 1680 Madison Avenue / Wooster, Ohio 44691
(330) 202-3537 / ampmail@osu.edu / amp.osu.edu

See you next year!