From the Director

How is your garden doing this year?

Here at the Conservation Center our small fields are flush with the spring blossoms of lentils, spinach, and fava beans. With our latest garden expansion, every day presents a new challenge in how to protect (or share?) our crops from (with?) hungry prairie dogs, javelinas, and coyotes. It's the desert way. We have had exceptional support from our volunteers in cultivating our gardens this past year, and from our community partners in sustaining our collection for communities throughout the Southwest.

The life cycle of a seed may last only for one season, but it is a thread that connects generations across lifetime—as we plant, eat, and save seed. With your support, we have been able to continue this cycle in our own gardens and in partnerships with regional Native American farmers. You—our donors and members—are an important part of the story of protecting arid-adapted crops that have sustained our ancestors. And together, we are ensuring the health and prosperity of these precious seeds for the generations who will inherit them.

With great gratitude,

Joy Hought
Executive Director
Our Mission

Native Seeds/SEARCH seeks to find, protect, and preserve the seeds of the people of the Greater Southwest so that these arid-adapted crops may benefit all peoples and nourish a changing world.

Your support of Native Seeds helps to guarantee that we all have a shared future of productive gardens and farms, strong communities, and reliable access to healthy food by all residents of the Southwest and beyond.

Pipe Sprint National Monument

"Seeds were given back to the community as well as produce. Interns, Rangers and park volunteers all had a chance to help work in the garden whether this was by helping plant, weed, or adjust watering drip lines."

- Autumn A Gillard, IIC intern, Interpretive Ranger Department
Board of Directors

Raquel E. Aviles  
*Board Chair*

John Mclean  
*Vice Chair*

Linda Peck  
*Treasurer*

Doug Smith  
*Secretary*

Chris Byrne

Jacob Butler

Mahina Drees  
*co-founder*

Bill McGuire

Tudor Montague

Cheryl Pailzote

Karen Reichardt  
*co-founder*
2019 Annual Report Data

*Financials for the period of October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019. Detailed financial information is available upon request.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>$940,926.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product Sales</td>
<td>$458,004.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seeds, food, logo items, books, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Includes donations from foundations, individuals &amp; corporate donors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Tuition &amp; Other Revenue</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
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<td>Seed access programs, bulk seed exchange, retail sales</td>
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<td>Conservation</td>
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<td>Seed bank, garden</td>
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<td>Membership &amp; Fundraising</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshops, outreach events, print &amp; online resources</td>
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Our Community

2019 PARTNER GROWERS

Crazy Chile Farm
Mesa, AZ

Flowers & Bullets
Tucson, AZ

Jeremy King
Tuba City, AZ

Oatman Flats Farm
Gila Bend, AZ

Evan Dawavendewa
Tuba City, AZ

Patricia Dockery
Cleveland, GA

Native Health
Phoenix, AZ

Pinnacle Farms
Phoenix, AZ

Ransom Ranch
Bisbee, AZ

Tucson Village Farm
Tucson, AZ

Bob Sotomayor
Tucson, AZ

Seeds from NS/S “simply are more responsive in our particular climate than any other seeds I have used, and for good reason!”

- Eric M Johnson,
Coordinator of the Master Gardener Program in Tucson
Our Community

VOLUNTEERS

“I started volunteering after seed school. The people who work here... it was clear their integrity to the purpose and mission of Native Seeds/SEARCH. It seems so rooted in Tucson that it allowed me to go deeper into where I live.”

- Debra Huffman, volunteer

5,065
Hours volunteered

59,626
Seeds packets filled by volunteers for distribution

$128,208
Value of volunteer labor (according to AZ value of volunteer time)

65
Number of onsite volunteers
Conservation

We welcomed Noah Schlager as our new Conservation Program Manager in early September, 2019. Through his mother, Donna Wiggins, he is Mvskoke-Creek and Florida Catawba/Cheraw—mixed with Carolina Indian, West African, and European Settler heritage. Through his father, Dan Schlager, he is Jewish.

He has begun several new projects at NS/S including integrating Indigenous knowledge into NS/S’s conservation plans and working to rematriate and reconnect seeds to the Indigenous communities they came from originally. He is also continuing to expand the growing space at the Conservation Center in Tucson.

Building Food Security in Tucson

NS/S collaborated with Tucson Magnet High and TUSD on a project that trained students at 25 low income schools to propagate seedlings and then grow, harvest, select and save seed from food crops in school gardens. NS/S provided 235 seed packets (over 39,000 seeds) for the project, and helped train the teachers and UA students to lead the project in individual schools.

Students and teachers are selectively breeding plants to produce within the confines of the school year (a perennial problem for school gardens), and will save seeds to continue the program year to year. The project develops a model for school-calendar propagation and seed saving among networks of schools that can be used in other geographic regions. This powerful collaboration was funded by the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.
Regenerations are grown from original or older seed to replenish the seed bank and insure these varieties are conserved into the future with fresh seed that is as close as possible genetically to the original seed collected. Some of the seeds are old so growing them can be challenging.

**VARIEDGES REGENERATED**

- DiMeglio Arugula
- Cilantro
- Inojo Dill
- Hopi Short Staple Cotton
- Yuma Red Okra
- Tohono O’odham Yellow Meated Watermelon

**Germination tests performed to monitor the viability of the seed collection**

- **6** Regenerated varieties
- **1,179** Germination tests performed to monitor the viability of the seed collection
- **46** Accessions grown at the Conservation Centre in Tucson
Distribution

Seed Varieties reintroduced into distribution during FY2019 from fresh growouts by NS/S and Partners:

- **Fort Apache Sunflower**  
  from Ft. Apache Reservation in AZ

- **DiMeglio Arugula**  
  from Tucson AZ

- **O’odham Small Bilobal Gourd**  
  from Newfield on Tohono O’odham Reservation

- **Mayo Winter Bean Garbanzo**  
  from Alamos, Sonora

- **Bauf Tepary Bean**  
  from Santan, AZ

- **O’odham Pea**  
  from Tohono O’odham Reservation

- **Cochiti Popcorn**  
  from Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico

- **Po’onomp Devil’s Claw**  
  from Parker AZ

- **Vadito Lenti**  
  from Vadito New Mexico

- **Yuman Yellow Sweet Corn**  
  from the Colorado River area in western AZ

- **Garcia Bolita Bean**  
  from Garcia, CO

- **Mexicali Tomatillo**  
  from Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico
Retail Shop

2019 brought significant changes to our Retail Shop, both visually and conceptually:

OUTSIDE: The Demonstration Garden was completely revamped with newly donated terra cotta pots and a large stock tank for planting.

INSIDE: The store interior was freshened up with new paint, signage and window displays. We have expanded our retail offerings of Native arts, crafts and jewelry and added a wider array of local food products and gardening supplements and accessories.

EVENTS: Indigenous Art Shows and Monthly Events have been added to our calendar on a consistent basis and have been enthusiastically attended, thanks to all our wonderful artists, suppliers, members and supporters!
Free Seed Access

We take a holistic approach to conservation, one that ensures the seeds can be grown and eaten by the gardeners and farmers who need them the most. Your donations go directly to support the cost of providing seed to thousands of families each year.

Ohkay Owingeh

Our future for these projects is to continue and expand all our gardens within the community, to be able to meet the needs of the community culturally while teaching the youth the importance of traditional agriculture and seed sovereignty. Also, to provide our Tribal community with access to fresh, chemical free produce. Saving seeds to build up our seed bank to be able to supply local farmers with seed to encourage planting traditional crops and adapted varieties. We see a growing interest in agriculture in our community due to our collective efforts and the availability of seeds made possible by Native Seed/SEARCH.”

- Jennifer Denipah, January 2019 CSG recipient, Ohkay Owingeh Diabetes Wellness Center

$37,421
Retail value of seeds donated

5,125
Total number of seed packets donated to Community Seed Grants
Receiving the Native Seeds SEARCH Community Seed Grant enabled us, as Cooperative Extension, to broaden the scope of what we were able to plant—focusing on more arid-adapted plants, and then following into Native Seeds/SEARCH’s goal of saving and sharing the seeds produced from those plants. The purpose of our Navajo County Cooperative Extension Demonstration Garden is to encourage gardening in this area; and from gardening, moving on to improving diet and physical activity.”

- Cathy Bawden, January 2019
CSG recipient, U of A Navajo County Cooperative Extension
Outreach & Education

We want every gardener to have the knowledge to succeed in growing and saving Native seeds. This past year we reached more than 175 community members through our workshops, including on-site collaborations with groups such as the Hopi Seedkeepers Initiative, Green Academy of Tucson High, and the I-Lead Pasqua Yaqui garden group. Our staff are also leading the conversation on food access and biodiversity, presenting at forums such as the Arizona Food Summit and the US National Botany conference. We look forward to new partnerships in 2020 such as with the Pima County Public Libraries to offer free classes to the public.

City of San Elizario

“We greatly appreciate the seeds granted to the City of San Elizario, and we could not have established our pocket parks without using your seeds. These plants give residents a chance to experience how local heritage crops bring food and natural beauty closer to home.”

- David Cantu, January 2019 CSG recipient
Outreach & Education

City of San Elizario

Educational workshops, lectures and outreach events hosted by NS/S in Tucson & Phoenix

193
Number of students who attended workshops hosted at NS/S

Community Seed Grant recipients at Dobson Elementary working in their container garden.

39
Educational workshops, lectures and outreach events hosted by NS/S in Tucson & Phoenix
Thank you for playing an essential role in protecting agricultural biodiversity.

Native Seeds/SEARCH could not fulfill its mission without your ongoing support and passion. You are a critical part of the this community. Let’s keep making a difference!

Thank you!