

Seedhead News

A newsletter for members of Native Seeds / S.E.A.R.C.H.

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Seed School

Germinating and Graduating Hardy "Seed Citizens"

On the second morning of Seed School, beneath Tucson's bright desert sky, comfortably shaded by the solar cells of the Native Seeds/SEARCH Conservation Center's courtyard awnings, Bill McDorman quizzed his latest crop of students with a whisper of contagious awe: "What is a seed?" he asked.

The answers rang out free of hesitation. "Magic!" Justine Hernandez said. "A reflection of culture," someone else chimed in. "Technology." "An embryo." "A history book." Joy Hought rounded out the ideas with: "A spaceship!"

For one week, the class of 22 people from across the country gathered together for Seed School, a full-throttle educational experience offered by Bill McDorman, Executive Director, and Belle Starr, Deputy Director of Native Seeds/SEARCH. Seed School's goals are to inspire and empower a diverse selection of new "seed citizens"—passion-



Seed School students winnowing White Sonora wheat.

ate growers, inventive breeders, and careful curators of the planet's tiny life-conducting jewels.

Orientation for a New Agriculture

After more than 30 years running his own seed companies (Garden City Seeds, High Altitude Gardens, Seeds Trust), an impassioned McDorman confided in his students that he has long been working to put the industry out of business, nonprofit seed banks like NS/S included.

"Let's shut this place down!" McDorman laughs, fist in the air. "For 10,000 years we never needed seed banks," he explains. His idea is: if enough people learn to grow their own food again—and save seeds—we won't need such emergency measures. Sometimes Bill takes the long and optimistic view.

More often, he's focused on the practical and immediate food security concerns of the present.

Continued on page 4

From Our Directors

Greetings to all our wonderful members!



Native Seeds/SEARCH is a breathtaking example of non-profit-based, self-organized, forward thinking, problem solving. Together, we are building a more sustainable and abundant world. Help us celebrate our accomplishments this past year and join us as we reach out to our next bold objectives:

A permanent endowment for the collection. We want to leave our children with the financial resources to care for our priceless collection. Every purchase helps.

Every donation helps. Every friend you tell helps. Inquire about our

new program to personally "endow a variety" from our collection. In a thousand years, those looking back might well see this as the most important thing we did together in this tumultuous time.

A vibrant seed-saving community. The strength of our food ecosystem is dependent upon its diversity. The more we save seeds, the more diversity we will create. Education and inspiration to save seeds is integral to our mission. As farmers and gardeners, we encourage you to take the next important step. Plant something special, and save your own seeds. Buy a copy of Basic Seed Saving. Attend Seed School. Join the scores of graduates of Seed School who have gone on to start bioregional seed companies, seed exchanges and seed libraries across the continent.

A new regional and sustainable agriculture. Evidence of a new, sustainable agriculture in the Southwest is breaking out, from Sabores Sin Fronteras in southern Arizona to Greg Peterson's 10,000

Urban Farms in Phoenix. Native Seeds/SEARCH is using its seed infrastructure and expertise to help grow the movement. We will provide world-class trials, testing and seed production to support regional food initiatives, bringing diversity to gardens, kitchens, and tables across the Southwest.

Steve Peters, former head of seed production for Seeds of Change, steps in as our new Farm Supervisor. He brings 25 years of experience to help us fulfill our region's need for new seed.

Native Seeds/SEARCH offers an incredible opportunity for you to help create a new world. Every purchase from this catalog keeps the lights on (in many ways). Enjoy the unprecedented diversity available in these pages. The future is now.

Bill McDorman, Executive Director

Belle Starr, Deputy Director

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All photos by NS/S staff and volunteers. Contents © 2012. Design: Bethany Fisher

Seed Watch Plant Seeds, Harvest Change!

When our ancestral gardeners needed seed, there were no glossy catalogs to leaf through. They acquired their replanting stock through the time-honored practice of seed saving, a tradition that stretches back some 10,000 years. We encourage a return to this lost art as a vital step toward reconnecting humans with seeds—the source of all sustenance. To assist gardeners in making seed purchases that allow for seed saving, we've developed Seed Watch. This wallet-sized booklet demystifies often-confusing terminology and serves as a seed buyer's guide to making choices that support genetically diverse, small-scale bioregional agriculture. Thanks to a generous grant from the Southwestern Foundation in Tucson, we've printed 30,000 copies of Seed Watch to freely share with other soil-loving seedheads from nonprofits, educational groups and community organizations.



Native Seeds/SEARCH Salon

Every third Monday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Native Seeds/SEARCH Retail Store (3061 N. Campbell,) Native Seeds/SEARCH Salons bring together the Tucson community for mind-watering conversations about food (and other related things). Featuring talks from local-food movers and shakers to neighborhood permaculturalists and bakers, these gatherings have a little something for anyone who has ever wielded a fork or pitchfork. Bring your juiciest ideas and an appetite for discussion! **FREE**.

February 20th

CELIA RIDDLE from Hot Flash Chile Products Make your own chile pastes!

March 19th

AMY SCHWEMM from Mano Y Metate *Mole recipes galore!*



Tucson Seed

Too many times in the course of a day, we heard customers at our retail store ask if we carried common garden variety seeds. Now the answer is a resounding YES. Our vision of the greater Southwest has always been a place where farms and gardens, kitchens and tables, stores and restaurants brim

full with the diversity of aridlandsadapted heirloom crops. We are now using our seed knowledge and resources to find, test and select the best seeds of lettuce, carrots, broccoli and all of the other popular garden crops. Purchase Tucson Seed varieties from our website or our retail store.

"Now that we've mono-cropped the entire planet, we need to get back to our own agriculture," he argues. For this mission, the NS/S gene bank is invaluable. Before entering the seed vault, McDorman tells his students: "Let me show you one of the most amazing places on the earth."

The seeds protected at NS/S' milliondollar conservation center were first gathered in the 1980s from across the American Southwest and northern Mexico in response to Native Americans struggling to locate the seeds needed to replant their traditional crops. Collected from more than 50 indigenous tribes, the 1,900 heirloom varieties stewarded by NS/S contain thousands of years of food-plant breeding history and biodiversity. "All seeds hold millions of hours of human interaction with environment," the McDorman emphasizes.

Throughout the week of Seed School, students explore the implications of each seed housing its own genetic library complete with a warehouse of tools for implementing the knowledge it holds, primarily by means of ongoing adaptation to the environment. Over the course of the first few class sessions, McDorman combines his own research into the history of seeds with delightful stories gath-



ered across a lifetime of seed-related experience to present something like a State of the Seed World Address—a detailed orientation to the rapidly changing seed situation around the planet.

In recent years a very few multinational corporations have bought up thousands of small seed companies, then discontinued production of many crop varieties to streamline their operations. McDorman explains that according to the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, 96% of food crops available in 1903 are no longer in use.

Whereas, according to McDorman, America's land-grant universities

> were in part established for the express purpose of distributing free and regionally appropriate seeds to farmers, most of their research now supports industrial agriculture and the further privatization of what was

once part of the public trust. "The knowledge we need now is moving outside of the university system," says McDorman, and his highly experienced guest instructors clearly support the same vision.

Seed Sages Sow Wisdom and Wealth

Gary Paul Nabhan is sometimes called the father of the local foods movement, though he says he likes to see himself "more as the weird uncle." A conservation scientist and lecturer, he has authored many books on plants, food, natural and cultural history. He was recently named the endowed chair of the University of Arizona's Sustainable Food Systems Program in Southwest Borderlands Food and Water Security, and is one of the founders of NS/S.

During a Seed School field trip to Nabhan's property, he presented a thorough and engaging lecture on how to approach the gathering and documenting of seeds, a precursor to the students' task of collecting seeds from around the farm, while implementing Nabhan's tips. His

Seed School Dates for 2012

- » March 4 9
- » April 12 14 (Seed Library School)
- » June 16, 23, 30; July 7 & 14 (Saturdays)
- » October 28 November 2 (Phoenix)

homework assignment for the class underscores Seed School's emphasis on preserving biodiversity: by the end of their lives, students are expected to name their own variety of a plant, garden-bred or discovered in the wild. Nabhan recognizes conservation as a function of consciousness. "If you don't name it and treasure it, how are you going to keep it around?" he asked.

Of equal importance, Nabhan explained: "Once it's in print and described, you can't patent it. It becomes public domain." According to the seed sages, this is a crucial piece of the sustainability puzzle.

While Seed School itself is a timely response to the privatization of the world's food supply and the subsequent loss of agricultural biodiversity, rather than bemoan the damage done, the Seed School instructors are actively returning the power—and the plants—to the people. They are taking steps to breed new breeders, and encouraging them to develop open-pollinated varieties explicitly for the public domain.

Steve Peters was for 15 years the seed production manager at Seeds of Change. He was recently hired to supervise this year's seed growout on the NS/S Conservation Farm in Patagonia. As a Seed School instructor, Peters offered a daily dose of inspirright now in the process "of rediscovering the message of biodiversity. We need to come back to our roots after having gone off in this other



ing case studies in modern, private plant breeding, walking students through his experience breeding brand-new tasty, vigorous, and disease-resistant open-pollinated crop varieties.

The message of seed school is: Please, try this at home, folks. You can do this too!

Peters sees American agriculture

weird direction." he told the class. "If we don't instill a seed ethic in our culture now, we're not going to make it."

Peters quotes world-renowned farmer-philosopher Wendell Berry with his claim that "wealth is a deep understanding of the world you live in." By presenting students with fundamental knowledge and practical guidelines for learning not only to save seeds, but also to breed potentially significant food crops, Seed School is actively spreading the wealth.

Student Betsy Goodman from Nebraska confirmed in the graduation ceremony, "I feel like I've just been handed a gold nugget."



Keith Ashley is a career educator, freelance writer, and backyard gardener who recently moved to Tucson from Louisville, Kentucky.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

October 1, 2010-September 31, 2011

Native Seeds/SEARCH made great strides this past year to reestablish its position as a dynamic leader in the bioregional seed movement. As the organization bid farewell to previous Executive Director Bryn Jones, it welcomed the husband/wife team of Bill McDorman & Belle Starr. With decades of combined experience in seed retail, media and events, they bring to NS/S a host of new programs and ideas to expand the organization's impact both regionally and nationally.

Conservation

We initiated a comprehensive two-year modernization of our seed bank collection to improve its security and accessibility. This overhaul features better organization, more secure packaging, improved monitoring of the storage environment, streamlined and more powerful data management tools, creation of a secure offsite backup collection, and standardized photo documentation.

The 2011 growouts at our Conservation Farm in Patagonia and a community garden in Tucson (generously offered for our use by Community Gardens of Tucson) focused on maintaining the availability of many popular varieties for dis-

tribution. A total of 51 varieties (representing 24 different species) were grown to provide seed for distribution, including many varieties of chiltepines and sweet corn. In addition, nearly two tons of White Sonora wheat were



grown to provide seed stock for a new local heirloom grain initiative. We also grew a research plot of 40 corn accessions for Prof. Richard Pratt at NMSU as part of his new study on the genetics of adaptability in corn.



Distribution

Through our Native American Free Seed Program, we provided about 4,500 packets of seed to Native American gardeners/farmers and gardening/community projects in the southwestern United States. Additionally, nearly 700 seed packets were distributed through our Community Seed Grant Program to 35 organizations working to enhance food security, nutrition, education, or community development in the Southwest region and beyond. Those organizations included: Menlo Park Elementary, Chandler Gilbert Community College, Tierra y Libertad Organization (TYLO), Horny Toad Farms Community Program, Lauffer Middle School, Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center, Southwest Conservation Corps, Tempe High School, Tucson Preparatory School, Clarendon Elementary, and Long Beach Grows.

Outreach/Education

We made huge inroads this past year revamping our website to make it more user friendly and robust. The updated site includes new discussion forums to encourage the growth of an online "gardener's network" community and go-to informational resource around topics of growing and using specific crops, seed saving and homesteading, among many others. Many informative resources, such as archived editions of our Seedhead Newsletter, are now easily accessible through the new NS/S website. At the forefront of our new push in seed education, we have introduced an innovative program, called

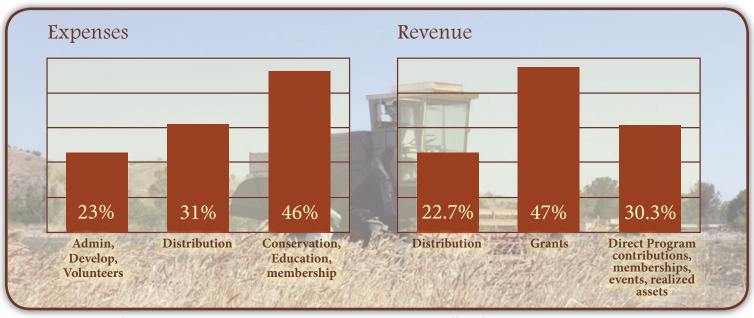


Seed School, to overwhelming success. Throughout this period, we hosted an "on-location" Seed School training in Marin County, California at Solstice Grove Institute and also taught our first program at the Native Seeds/SEARCH Conservation Center and Farm. Over 20 students from as far away as Mexico City attended. We began hosting the Native Seeds/SEARCH Salons, an ongoing series of free educational events held every third Monday of the month at the NS/S Retail Store. Upwards of 60 people have attended these meetings, which serve to directly connect NS/S with the broad community of Tucsonans interested in local food, gardening and related topics. In addition to offering numerous presentations and tours of the seed bank to school and community groups, NS/S also produced its annual community and fundraising events: the Janos Harvest Dinner, the Flavors of the Desert Gala, and San Juan's Day at the Conservation Farm.

Volunteers

Volunteers are what make Native Seeds/SEARCH such an enduring and community-driven organization. An impressive 3,500 hours of volunteer time were logged during this past fiscal year, contributing to the following areas: agricultural (farm), bulk packaging, grants support, outreach and events, seed packaging, data and administration. This is the equivalent of almost two full-time employees.

FY 2011, October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO NATIVE SEEDS/SEARCH. All donations and memberships listed were received between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011. Close to two thousand supporters made gifts under \$100. We wish we had the space to acknowledge each and every one of you and deeply appreciate your contributions.

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Colleen Crombie **DeGrazia Foundation Nancy Evans** Robert Garner & Robin Beresford Vernon & Diane Kliewer Cesar Mazier Charles McKittrick, Jr. Janice Rickert-Mueller & John Mueller Marcey Olajos Lucia Robinson F. Peter Rose Sherman Scurry, M.D. & Chris O'Neill, M.D. **Sheraton Wild Horse Pass** Resort Southwestern Foundation for Educational & Historical Preservation

Nancy & Richard Fe Tom Cheryl Toth Janos & Rebecca Wilder Laurel Wilkening & **Godfrey Sill**

\$5,000-\$9,999

George Binney Kerstin & Spencer Block Barney Burns & Mahina Drees Mary Ann Clark Faria & James Dretler Jon & April Fenton Mary & Gary Irish Susan Kunz & t. kay Estes Roland Pesch & Kathleen Rosskopf William Ring & Wendy White Bill & Alice Roe Neva & Roger Schuelke Robert Martin & Luci Tapahonso **Ronald Austin Wells** & Karen Jambeck Wells

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Ed Hacskaylo Diana Hadley & Peter Warshall Todd & Suzanne Horst Bryn Jones & Ken Hedrick Gurumeet & Nirvair Khalsa Donald & Edith Kunz Suzy & Bill Lillis Alice McKittrick Linda McKittrick & Charles DeConcini Garv Nabhan Suzanne Nelson & Rob Robichaux Barbara Roastingear & Henry Oliver III Family Foundation Charles & Suzanne Peters **Donald Pitt Family Foundation** Kenneth Porter Pat & Mimi Reid Roger Riggs David Tiers & Sue Ann **Breems** Lindsay Werth Susan & David Wirshup Constance & Jeffrey Wood

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Ofelia Zepeda

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Carol Townsend Janet Darby David Davis & Joan Hood Albert & Kimber Delorenzo Lyle & Vera Dethlefsen William Doolittle Ruth Eckert Stephen Ferg Damian Fleming Bob & Constance Foster Paul Gepts & Elizabeth Garcia Daniel Gordon Beth & Frank Guldseth Karen Halderson Connie Hammond Peter Hubbell Christina Husted Vince & Teresa Issenmann Nancy Jackson

& Mustafa Alahwel Felipe & Karen Jacome Bruce Kahle Julie & Richard Kornmeyer Bill & Beth Krumbein Nita Larronde Orme, Jr. & Elizabeth Lewis Chris & Johann McKee Paula & Gregory Moore Sandra Nemeth Dr. Wendell & Rosemary Niemann

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David & Edna Weigel

Glenda Zahner

VOLUNTEER SALUTE



Meet Samuel Michael

If you've spent any time in the Native Seeds/SEARCH office, retail store, or seed bank over the past decade, chances are you've had the pleasure to meet our volunteer extraordinaire, Samuel Michael. Sam came to Tucson in 1987 from his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio. After working various agriculture-related jobs, he began volunteering at Native Seeds/SEARCH in 2000. With nearly 12 years of dedicated service, Sam has been involved with NS/S for longer than any other volunteer—and most employees! In that time he has become a true expert seed packer, among other notable talents.

Without fail, Sam shows up 2-3 days a week and cheerfully tackles the ever-present tasks like cleaning debris from freshly harvested beans or carefully weighing and packaging amaranth seed. His incredible dedication and positive energy certainly does not go unnoticed. Ask around the NS/S community and you'll hear nothing but glowing praise and gratitude for this ex-

ceptional volunteer. "Sam is an indispensable part of Native Seeds/SEARCH," says Betsy Armstrong, NS/S's Retail Coordinator, who has worked closely with Sam since he first arrived. "He has such a great attitude and supports our work in so many ways. I don't know what we'd do without him!"

In addition to his seed packing know-how, Sam is best known for his expert skills with that most iconic South-western ingredient: chile powder. When it comes time to package up the rainbow of mouth-watering spices here at NS/S, Sam is the resident expert. Perhaps this is because of his exceptional fortitude to handle the intense, sneeze-inducing powders! "I love to work with the chile powders because they're a challenge sometimes," says Sam. "I find it fun and interesting to learn about all the different kinds of chiles Native Seeds/SEARCH has."

Much has changed over the past decade at Native Seeds/SEARCH, and Sam has seen it all. "My first day was at the old retail store on 4th Avenue," he recalls. "I've seen a lot of people come and go over the years, but everyone is always really nice. I love the seeds and the people that work here—they keep me coming back."

MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

The members and volunteers who support Native Seeds/ SEARCH are the lifeblood of our organization. For 29 years,

they have graciously contributed their energy, ideas, time and, of course, money to help us in our mission to change the face of regional agriculture. Without their vital assistance, our work would not be possible. This partnership is based on a common vision of a more biologically diverse, ecologically sustainable, and culturally rich world. The convictions and connections we share are essential to who we are—as an organization, and as a human family. We need each other. We need the precious seeds, cultivated by indigenous farmers over thousands of years, that Native Seeds/SEARCH stewards. And we need to share this life-giving bounty with the world. Together, we can achieve this shared vision to create a more abundant and beautiful future for generations to come.

Join us!

Membership Join Native Seeds/SEARCH at any level from \$30 to \$1,000 (or beyond)

Receive:

- 10% off all your purchases at our Store or on-line
- 10% off all Seed Schools (Grain School, Seed Library School)
- Special offers (early access to plant sales)
- Our Newsletter

Volunteers Become a volunteer at Native Seeds/SEARCH

Receive:

- The feeling you are doing something important (you are!)
- 50% Discount on Seed Schools (Become a Docent and the remaining tuition is refunded!)
- Opportunities to mingle with amazing human beings

Extra, Extra - Seed All About It!

If you've seen one seed catalog, you've seen them all... right? Well, allow us to break the mold. The new 2012 Seedlisting from Native Seeds/SEARCH is brimming with ground-breaking, eye-popping surprises.

A Bounty of Uncommon Beauty

From the vibrant purple-silk Hopi Sweet Corn to a rainbow of delectable tepary beans, the heirloom varieties we offer are the jewels of any garden. Mouths water at the sight of our panoply of native chile peppers, with spices and flavors to suit any palate. And jaded gardeners need look no further for inspiration than our Hopi Short Staple Cotton, Paiute Devil's Claw, or Teosinte, the ancient progenitor of modern corn. You won't find seeds like these from "the other guys!"

Thumbing through the lush, full-color pages of the Native Seeds/ SEARCH Seedlisting is like dancing through the fields of our ancestors. Gathered from indigenous tribes and kept alive through our nonprofit conservation organization and seed bank, these rare and coveted seed offerings are available nowhere else.

But wait, there's more—as if our bonanza of heirloom beauties wasn't enough! This year's Seedlisting introduces Tucson Seed, a new line of desert-hardy varieties of common garden vegetables. Now you can grow Native Seeds/ SEARCH carrots alongside your chiltepines, or sow aruall selected for their performance in arid conditions. If you do not receive your copy of the 2012 Seedlisting (by Feb. 15), contact us so we can send one to you immediately. Happy growing!







NS/S Seed Library – Check it Out

Native Seeds/SEARCH recently opened Arizona's first seed library on January 15, 2012 at our retail store, 3061 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona. Seed libraries function similarly to booklending libraries. People "check out" seeds for free, grow them in gardens, and keep a few plants in the ground to go to seed. Some of saved seed is then "returned" to

the library, ideally twice as much as was borrowed. As this process continues year after year, the seeds in the library become more productive and hardy because of selection and adaptation to local growing conditions. The library grows. The community becomes the stewards of its own genetic resources. This is what true sustainability and seed sovereignty looks like! Pima County Library System is now taking the lead and seed libraries will soon be available in libraries throughout the Tucson area. If you don't live near a seed library, start one! Visit www. richmondgrows.com for helpful instructions and free materials to jump-start your community's own seed library.

NEWS & NOTES

Welcomes and Farewells

Welcome to new Board Members Sally Harris and Donna House. Sally holds a BS in Multinational Business Operations from Florida State University and a Paralegal Certificate from Pima College. She has worked in child health and nutrition to improve lunch programs at schools serving low socio-economic populations.

Donna has over 26 years experience in conservation of biodiversity, indigenous community protocols and environmental policy. She is a botanical consultant currently assisting Indigenous/Native American community-based organizations in protecting native plant taxa (from traditional crops) and eco-cultural diversity from adverse development. Thanks to them both for stepping up to the plate.

We are incredibly lucky to have hired Melissa Kruse-Peeples to be our new Collections Manager. Melissa is currently completing her Ph.D. in Anthropology at ASU, with a focus on the sustainability of prehistoric agroecosystems in the U.S. Southwest. In addition to her expertise in Southwest archaeology, she has excellent collections management experience and is an accomplished writer and educator.

The stars continue to shine on us. Another fortunate hire is **Steve Peters** who joins us as Farm Supervisor. Steve spent 9 years as a research agronomist at the Rodale Research Institute, 15 years as seed production manager for Seeds of Change,

and has worked for the past year as seed production and stock seed manager for the Family Farmers Seed Cooperative. Steve will usher NS/S into another level of expanded production, expert seed trials—and maybe even the USDA organic program!

Jeneiene Schaffer has also joined our dream team. Jeneiene is on the Board of the Watershed Management Group and has many years of experience in environmental non-profits. Jeneiene assists with donor and membership data, and correspondence while also lending a hand with a myriad of fundraising and event planning activities.

Suzy Lillis, a venerable volunteer with over ten years at our esteemed organization, has moved on to spend more time with her husband Bill, who also contributed some volunteer work for us as a carpenter. Suzy spent countless hours helping out in the distribution center with Betsy. Her wonderful energy will be missed.

Kudos

Seed School is a tremendous event with many components contributing to its success. Often students have expressed to us that the amazing food we serve is a highlight of the experience. We can credit two local restaurants with supplying some of the tasty meals garnering these accolades. Special thanks go out to **Renee's Organic Oven** (at 7065 E Tanque Verde Rd.) and **Tucson Tamale Company** (at 2545 E. Broadway) for seeing the value of

what we are doing and offering their nutritious, delicious food to sustain us.

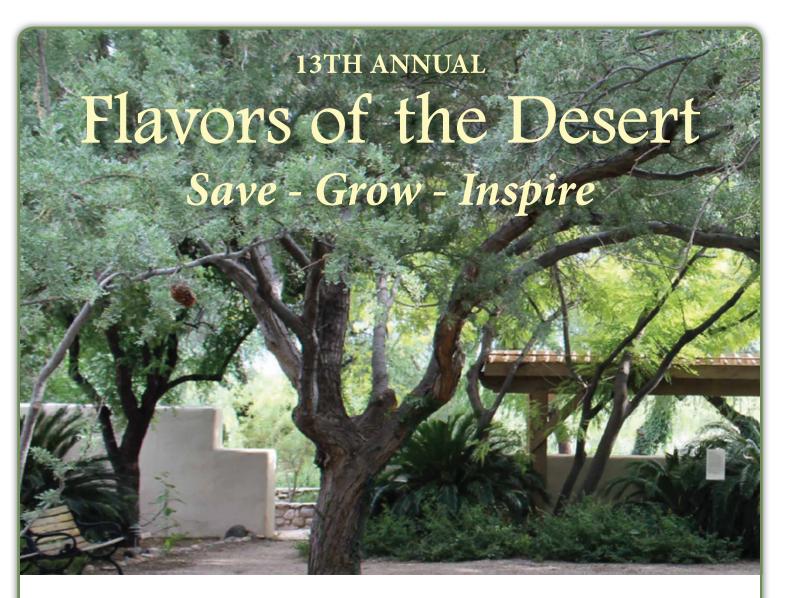
Find us on Facebook and Sign Up for Our Elerts

The multitudes are growing who recognize the value of great food and the seeds and culture that make it happen. We keep you up to date on all our activities, trainings, Salons and volunteer opportunities with our Facebook updates, our monthly Elerts, and at our website (www.nativeseeds.org).

Electronic Newsletter

Printing and mailing out newsletters costs Native Seeds/SEARCH about \$15,000 a year. We want to redirect some of that funding away from tree cutting to support our inspiring educational and outreach programs. In an effort to become more environmentally responsible we are moving two of our three newsletters to an electronic format. You will receive notification of this change in our upcoming renewal notices and other mailings.

Please opt to "go green" by receiving your newsletter electronically. If, for any reason, you still desire to have a physical copy, it is our pleasure to oblige. Please note that this issue (which includes our annual report) will continue to be distributed as a hard copy.



In 1981, one hundred folks gathered in Tucson to discuss the ways seed banks can change the way we live, eat, and grow. Called Seed Banks Serving People, the landmark event featured visionary individuals who would become the luminaries of the seed world: Cary Fowler, Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust; Rob Johnston, the founder of Johnny's Selected Seeds; Forest Shomer, founder of Abundant Life Seeds; and many others.

Native Seeds/SEARCH recognizes the 30th anniversary of this historic event at Flavors of the Desert. Flavors celebrates the amazing, sumptuous bounty of the Sonoran Desert and our treasured collection at NS/S. That day, the visionaries who helped launch the bioregional seed movement will converge at the University of Arizona with those breaking new ground to bring our community up-todate on agricultural trends and set new intentions for the path ahead. Then in the evening...

Under the stars and mesquites and amidst the spectacular native vegetation of Tohono Chul Park, we will enjoy a feast of place-based, mouth-watering food as we celebrate a legacy of diversity.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 28, 2012 6-9 p.m. Under the stars at Tohono Chul Park, Tucson, Arizona

\$125 per person (\$75 tax deductible) Register on line: www.nativeseeds.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Native Seeds/SEARCH (Southwestern Endangered Aridland Resources Clearing House) is to conserve, distribute, and document the adapted and diverse varieties of agricultural seeds, their wild relatives and the role these seeds play in cultures of the American Southwest and northwest Mexico.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision the Greater Southwest as a place where farms and gardens, kitchens and tables, stores and restaurants are brimming with the full diversity of aridlands-adapted heirloom crops; people are keeping the unique seeds and agricultural heritage alive; and the crops, in turn, are nourishing humankind.

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