



# Seedhead News

*A newsletter for members of Native Seeds / SEARCH*

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## Famine-stricken Tarahumara Reunited with Native Seeds from NS/S Collection

*By Stephen Thomas, Development Assistant*

The Tarahumara Indians occupy remote slopes and deep canyons of the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua and Durango, Mexico, where they have retreated from the oppression of the modern world. Also known as the Rarámuri, or “foot-runners,” they are renowned long-distance runners with incredible endurance, often fueled by pinole made from their traditional popcorns and energy-boosting drinks from their native chia seeds. They are also highly proficient dry-land subsistence farmers using diverse crop varieties from seed handed down through generations.

Tarahumara families grow nearly all their own food, relying on the beneficence of nature for their survival. However, a decade-long drought combined with unseasonable cold snaps has challenged even the resourcefulness of these indigenous farmers and their hardy seeds. These climate extremes have



taken a toll on the Tarahumara, who are now facing serious food shortages after repeated crop failures. As the crisis deepens, desperation has set in. Some villagers are beginning to leave their traditional lives to find work in the cities, while others struggle to survive on dwindling reserves.

The Native Seeds/SEARCH seed bank contains 450 varieties of traditional Tarahumara

crops. As news of the crisis spread, NS/S began investigating how we could help. Our contacts in Chihuahua, the Mexican state where most Tarahumara live, reported that many farmers had depleted their last reserves of seed. They had no planting stock remaining for next year's season. Looking over our collection, we came up with a strategy to return these endangered seeds to

*See “Tarahumara Reunited”  
Page 4*

## From Our Chairman of the Board

At our core, Native Seeds/Search is a seed bank, a long term genetic repository for the unique and irreplaceable food crops that over many centuries have adapted to the harsh conditions in the arid lands of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. But we're really so much more. Two lesser known projects show Native Seeds/SEARCH at the forefront of efforts to deal with issues of food security and responses to global warming.

NS/S has a long history of working with the Tarahumara people, deep in the mountains of the Sierra Madre Occidental in northern Mexico. Two thousand eleven was the driest year on record in Mexico. The lack of rainfall and the cumulative effects of a decade long drought have decimated crops, forced many traditional farmers to leave their farms, and threatens widespread famine. Seed stock necessary for the coming year's grow out is extremely limited and in some cases nonexistent. In this dire circumstance Native Seed/SEARCH has taken the lead in bringing relief and hope to the Tarahumara people. We've taken a third of Tarahumara bean and corn seed in our collection and repatriated it to farmers for immediate planting. Another third is being grown out domestically to generate more seeds for return down south next season. The final third stays in our seed bank as further insurance against continuing drought. We understand well that climate change is the real problem and that future efforts must be directed toward helping the Tarahumara better adapt their agriculture to warmer and dryer times, but in the near term the seed we have conserved in our seed bank gives the Tarahumara farmers a chance to keep their farms and communities intact. Check out the great article by Stephen Thomas to get the full story.

Down at our farm, each summer brings an annual battle against crop devouring pests and astounding and ever abundant weeds. Farming is tough everywhere, but arid-land farming is tougher still. So we're particularly excited when we see innovation and experimentation that can lead the way to new and better arid land agricultural practices.

Evan Sofro is one of our young wizards down at the

farm. His enthusiasm and dedication is an inspiration, and we're delighted when Evan comes up with new ideas to address persistent problems. From past experience Evan knew that cover crop fields left unharvested stayed cooler, retained more moisture, and had many fewer weeds than fields cultivated in the usual way. This spring when our combine broke down circumstances forced us to leave a rye cover crop unharvested and in the field. Over time, wind and rain flattened the field and there it sat until Evan got a bright idea.

In mid-summer, Evan and his crew decided to take advantage of this naturally mulched field to conduct their own experiment with non-tilled, non-irrigated arid-land agriculture. As the monsoons started up they walked the field, hand broadcasting buckwheat, sorghum and three varieties of millet. With the rains the seed germinated. Evan now reports that without cultivation or irrigation everything is coming up and that the buckwheat is already taller than the buckwheat planted AND watered the preceding year. So for now we leave this field alone. Next summer, as the monsoons near, Evan and his crew will head out into this same field with planting sticks, planting melons, squash, corn, and beans to see which crops will do the best in this no till continuous mulch style of arid-land farming.

The goal of this project is to establish a no-till, dry-land cropping system for general use in arid landscapes. We hope to achieve this through successive seedings of drought-adapted plants that can maintain perennial soil cover and at the same time produce a harvestable yield. While we don't expect yields on a par with conventional agriculture, projects like Evan's can lead the way as we discover what a regionally adapted agriculture can really be.

Thank you all for your continued support. As always, it is greatly appreciated.



*David Tiers, Chairman of the Board*

# From Our Friends

“Here is a photo of our pumpkins growing around a newly planted palm tree. It was our 5-year old son Esher’s idea to plant corn and squash around the tree since it is getting weekly DEEP watering (which may be why the fruit is so big). Really great to witness! Thanks for the seeds!”

-- Sharon Tollefson, Fairview Gardens  
Goleta, California



“Here is some NS/S Sonoran White Wheat growing in my garden. I’ll take more pictures later this summer after they ripen!”

-- Sister Emmanuel  
Brewster, New York

and began our own seed library here in New Brunswick, NJ. We have established a community garden in the city and are working on cultivating it. Native Seeds, along with other seed conservation efforts are such inspiring movements, and we are happy to contribute to their cause in our own way!”

-- Mariya Shalumova  
New Brunswick, New Jersey



“Here is a picture of third or fourth generation NS/S Tohono O’odham Ha:I squash (less than a week old) just before it was thinned down to select the best plants. A few more passes to cull the weaker plants and this row will create a veritable jungle hedge along my rear yard fence along with the best tasting monsoon squash to go to Maynard’s Farmer’s Market and at least one restaurant. I’ll be holding back the best seed as usual.”

-- Jaime de Zubeldia, Tucson, AZ

*Share your experience! We would love to hear your stories of success and exploration growing NS/S seeds. Please email your experience and photos to [belle@nativeseeds.org](mailto:belle@nativeseeds.org).*

## Founders

Barney Burns  
Mahina Drees

Gary Nabhan  
Karen Reichhardt

## Board of Directors

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the Tarahumara who entrusted us with them decades ago.

As a starting point, we selected several Tarahumara bean and corn varieties to grow out on our Conservation Farm. NS/S farmer Evan Sofro located four additional sites around Arizona to grow out even more seed, with the intention to eventually send a large quantity down to Mexico. We have been involved with several projects to assist the Tarahumara over the years and still have close contacts in the region (including longtime NS/S collaborator Juan Daniel Villalobos) that will be instrumental in distributing this relief seed. However, an ideal situation would be to provide seed immediately to farmers in lower elevations of the Sierra Madre who still had time to plant this season. It would be challenging to locate and assemble this network of growers without being on the ground in Mexico. It didn't seem like a plausible option. As serendipity would have it, a phone call came in from Will Harlan of Barefoot Farm in North Carolina. He wanted to get involved with NS/S to help the Tarahumara—and he had a plan to make it work.

A marathon runner, Will had been traveling down to the rugged homeland of the Tarahumara for many years to train and compete with their superlative athletes. Inspired by their harmonious and self-reliant agriculture, he established his own organic, off-grid farm with all proceeds going to provide seeds and tools to assist Tarahumara farmers. If NS/S provided the seed, Will could organize a group of local farmers, at lower elevations and with irrigated land, to grow them out and directly increase seed supplies in the region.

Although there was seed in the ground across Arizona to supply the Tarahumara this winter, Will had farmers in place and the necessary funding to immediately begin increasing supplies in the villages. Evan and NS/S Director of Conservation Chris Schmidt decided to act now. They packaged up more than 400 pounds of corn and bean seeds to send into Mexico, just over a third of the total amount of Tarahumara seeds held in the NS/S collection. In the weeks that followed these precious seeds were distributed among a network of around 80 farmers strategically located throughout one of the canyons hardest hit by the drought. The seed harvested from their plantings will help replenish the supplies of thousands of hungry Tarahumara families.

To ensure their food security for the future, Will is organizing a network of seed banks throughout the Sierra Madre. The seed donated by NS/S was the first “deposit,” and a portion of what is harvested from these crops will be kept on reserve in dozens of small seed banks that will serve local villages. A centralized seed bank is being built in the town of Urique, where electricity is available to ensure long-term preservation of the seeds for the entire region. Through these developments, Will hopes the Tarahumara will never again face the possibility of widespread hunger or permanently losing their irreplaceable indigenous seeds. As it stands, many of the varieties they received from NS/S had already disappeared from their fields. Their elders remembered growing them, but younger farmers had never seen them before. This reunion of the Tarahumara with their native seeds during such a desperate time stands as a powerful affirmation of the work

we've been doing for nearly 30 years. The crisis faced by the Tarahumara could soon be our own. The worst drought in half a century is currently devastating corn and soy crops across the Midwest. Global food prices are projected to skyrocket as a result, causing dramatic food shortages around the world. In many ways, our industrial food system is far less resilient than the locally adapted agriculture of the Tarahumara. For now, the global food marketplace buffers us from isolated crop failures and weather disasters. But in an era of unpredictable climate, this protection will soon run out.

Native Seeds/SEARCH will continue working to ensure the Tarahumara once again have intact agriculture to support themselves for generations to come. Beyond establishing seed reserves, this will require adapting their food system to meet the extreme climate conditions likely to continue into the future. But an even greater challenge lies ahead. We must radically shift our own precarious food system back toward indigenous traditions of seed saving and community resiliency. Here, the Tarahumara have blazed a path for us. Like Will Harlan, we must learn to follow in their footsteps.

□ ■ □

*If you would like to support Native Seeds/SEARCH in our work to help the Tarahumara, please make a donation on our website. Under the “Support Us” tab, click “Make a Donation” and enter “Tarahumara seed relief” in the memo field.*

# From the Trading Post

First, we want to thank all of the locals and visitors that came by the NS/S Retail Store this summer to spend time and money in support of Native Seeds/SEARCH. We are always excited to visit and hear stories from your garden. During the long, hot summer we have time to really listen to your suggestions and to follow up on your good ideas as we gear up for the busy season.



*Retail Manager Vivian MacKinnon holding down the fort at the NS/S Store.*

To that end, we have expanded the shop to include an entire room devoted to seeds, the seed library, and all things gardening. We've brought in exciting speakers via our monthly Salon series. We've introduced new artists and brought back old favorites like the "Three Sisters NS/S logo socks" and logo baseball caps. We've listened and responded to your requests for more plant sales—and thanks to you, our first-annual "Some Like It Hot Chiltepin Sale" was a smashing success!

In addition, we will be bringing in artists and craftspeople to do in-store demonstrations, including potters from Mata Ortiz and traditional Hopi Katsina carvers. And finally, we've heard your request that we stay open later than 5 pm. Starting in the fall, we will expand our hours to make it easier for you to visit us after your day in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We've added a suggestion box; please feel free to tell us what we're doing well, what you'd like to see us carry, and where we could improve. We want to hear from you! So come on in, unwind, and enjoy the calming atmosphere. If we could bottle the aroma of the spices, soaps, foods, baskets and handmade crafts to send home with you, we would. Since we can't, we hope to see you soon. Thanks for making the Native Seeds/SEARCH store the place in Tucson to go local!

## Native Seeds/SEARCH Salon

Every third Monday of the month from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the NS/S Retail Store (3061 N. Campbell Ave), Native Seeds/SEARCH Salons bring together the Tucson community for mind-watering conversations about food and related topics. Featuring talks from local-food movers and shakers to neighborhood permaculturalists and bakers, these gatherings have a little something for everyone who has ever wielded a fork, or a pitchfork. Bring your juiciest ideas and an appetite for discussion! **FREE.**

October 15

**JAIME DE ZUBELDIA,**  
ReZoNation Farm  
*"Beekeeping for Dummies"*

November 19

**DON GUERRA**  
Barrio Bread  
*"The Best Bread - Making and Tasting"*

December 17

**ERIC MAGRANE**  
Institute of the Environment - U of A  
*"Permaculture Poetics & Poetic Geography"*

## PROGRAM UPDATES

It's been a hot and busy summer here at Native Seeds/SEARCH. We have some exciting accomplishments and many new projects to report on. Here's an update on what we've been up to over the past few months:

*Right: Corn pollination on the NS/S Conservation Farm.*



## Conservation

It's been quite a fruitful season on our Conservation Farm. Our first-ever internship program has been a wonderful experience for all involved, with five bright and inspired young farm apprentices deeply involved in pollination, harvesting and daily farm tasks. The farm is alive with a diversity of projects. This year, we are regenerating 115 at-risk varieties to



*Local seeds filling the drawers of the NS/S Seed Library.*



obtain fresh seed for long-term storage and to document their characteristics. We are also growing seed of numerous other popular varieties for distribution and are conducting trials to evaluate the performance of even more varieties. Back at the Seed Bank, we continue to improve the security and accessibility of the seed collection and strengthen our distribution efforts. We have been active with special projects as well, including the Tarahumara seed relief efforts described elsewhere in this newsletter, and the exciting Heritage Grains collaboration discussed in our previous newsletter.

## Distribution

Thanks to our fabulous new website, expanded Seedlisting, and amazing team at our retail store, NS/S seed sales are up 35% from last year. A large percentage of the increase can be attributed to Tucson Seed which is our line of newer heirloom vegetable varieties. This funding directly supports all our work in education, conservation, and outreach—we couldn't be happier! Our new Seed Library is in full swing since launching at the beginning of 2012. We now have 115 registered library users and 170 seed varieties available to freely borrow, grow, save and return. Visit the library at the NS/S Retail Store and help build a more resilient community with locally adapted seeds!



NS/S co-founder Gary Nabhan speaks at a recent Salon.

## Education & Outreach

Our "Summer Saturdays" edition of Seed School was a smashing success, sending 10 new seed citizens into the world. More than 150 students have graduated since the first Seed School in September 2010! We are working diligently on a national roll out of Seed School. The NS/S Salons at our retail store continue to educate and inspire Tucsonans every 3rd Monday of the month—come check it out. Once again we are hosting our free Green Bag Lunches at the store on

the last Tuesday of every month from 12 until 1pm. (Check the calendar in this newsletter for listings or go online for more information: [nativeseeds.org](http://nativeseeds.org).) For those who want a behind-the-scenes look into NS/S, we are now offering tours of our Conservation Center (seed bank) and Conservation Farm every 2nd and 4th Friday. No reservations necessary—visit [nativeseeds.org](http://nativeseeds.org) for more details.

With these many achievements under our belt, the future is looking bright. Imagine what more is possible in 2013 as we continue to advance these inspiring and important programs.

Please consider making a donation. If you do any regular gift giving, put us on the top of your list.

Now that 10 companies own and control 75% of our seeds (food), your support is more vital than ever. Keep in mind that sustainable agriculture will not be sustainable without the seeds. Help us help others create regional seed solution models. Native Seeds/SEARCH is leading the way in this ground-breaking work.

## Tour de Coops



Native Seeds/SEARCH is a proud sponsor of the 4th-Annual Tour de Coops! Presented by the Valley Permaculture Alliance, this fun and fowl-filled event is a self-guided and family-oriented tour of backyard chicken coops around Phoenix, AZ. The coops are more cute, clever, and inspirational than ever this year—so come

find out what all the squawk is about!

**Saturday, November 10, 2012**

*Buy tickets online at [tourdecoops.vpaaz.org](http://tourdecoops.vpaaz.org)*

## Seed School Comes to Phoenix!

Calling all Phoenix gardeners, farmers, seed aficionados and sustainability activists: this is what you've been waiting for! Seed School is coming to the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix for a very special session. We couldn't be more thrilled at this exciting partnership with one of the best botanical gardens in the country. We are also working with Root Phoenix and our dear friend Greg Peterson's Urban Farm Nursery to host this exciting class.

Seed School is our innovative and acclaimed 6-day immersion course in "all things seeds." With recent mentions in the LA Times and SF Chronicle, Seed School is



## Food Conspiracy Promotion *A Conspiracy We Can Love*

Become a member-owner of Food Conspiracy Co-op, 412 N. 4th Avenue in Tucson, during the month of October and your membership to Native Seeds/SEARCH is free. Membership entitles you to the newsletter you are now reading, discounts at our retail



and online store, reduced fees for our educational programs like Seed School, as well as special invitations to our events and celebrations.

Join Native Seeds/SEARCH during the month of October at our Retail Store at 3061 N. Campbell in Tucson and you will receive a Food Conspiracy Co-op \$10 gift card. Since 1971 Food Conspiracy has been committed to providing the highest quality natural and organic foods and products to the Tucson community. Their produce department is entirely organic, and doesn't include any products known to contain genetically-modified organisms (GMOs). In alignment with their commitment to environmentalism, social justice, and education, they are constantly expanding their line of local, fair trade, and independently produced items which will include Native Seeds/SEARCH seeds and products in the very near future. We are proud to partner with this Tucson institution to promote local food, local seeds and each other.

making big waves and creating stronger food systems in communities far and wide. Sign up today for this momentous class in a beautiful desert menagerie!

**October 28 - November 2, 2012**

**Early bird registration by Oct 5 for only \$600!**

*Visit [www.nativeseeds.org](http://www.nativeseeds.org) for more details and to reserve your spot.*



# FALL CALENDAR

## Salons

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Retail Store (Free)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month

- October 15: *Beekeeping* ~ Jaime de Zubeldia (ReZoNation Farm)
- November 19: *The Best Bread: Making and Tasting* ~ Don Guerra (Barrio Bread)
- December 17: *Permaculture Poetics & Poetic Geography* ~ Eric Magrane (Institute of the Environment - U of A)

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## Special Store Events

Free

- October 11: *Memoir of a Seed Saver* book signing with Diane Ott Whealy (Seed Savers Exchange) ~ 5:00 p.m.
- October 22: *The Art of Fermentation* book signing and lecture by Sandor Katz ~ 5:00 p.m.
- November 11: Reading by Susan Lowell from her books, *The Three Little Javelinas & A Very Hairy Christmas*, 2:00 p.m.
- December 7: Mata Ortiz Presentation, Demonstration and Pottery Sale ~ 5:00 p.m.
- December 15: Great Bean Tasting!

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## Green Bag Lunches

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Retail Store (Free)  
Last Tuesday of every month

- October 30: *Best Practices for Wildflower Gardeners* ~ Gary Maskarinec (Wild Lands Restoration)
- November 27: *Aquaponics on the Rise* ~ Tres English (Sustainable Tucson)

## Workshops & Classes

- October 20: Winter Veggie Workshop ~ Martha Burgess (Flor de Mayo) ~ NS/S Conservation Center ~ 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. ~ \$25 members, \$45 non (includes membership, materials & seeds!)
- October 28 - November 2: Seed School Phoenix
- December 1: Holiday Heirloom Squashes and Pumpkins Workshop and Feast ~ Martha Burgess (Flor de Mayo) ~ NS/S Conservation Center ~ 9:30-12:30 ~ \$45 members, \$65 non (includes membership & food!)

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## Events

- October 11: *Genetic Roulette* ~ Crossroads Theater ~ Tucson ~ Free Showing ~ 7:00 p.m.
- October 16: *Seeds of Freedom*, a film featuring Vandana Shiva ~ NS/S Conservation Center ~ 7:00 p.m.
- October 21: Sustainable Tucson Festival ~ Reid Park
- October 24: *Genetic Roulette* ~ The Loft ~ Tucson ~ \$5 donation ~ 7:00 p.m.
- November 3: Green Living Fair ~ Habitat for Humanity ~ Tucson
- November 9 - 12: Chiles & Chocolate ~ Desert Botanical Garden ~ Phoenix
- November 10: Tour de Coops ~ Valley Permaculture Alliance ~ Phoenix ~ [www.tourdecoops.org](http://www.tourdecoops.org)

# VOLUNTEER SALUTE

## Meet Annemarie Bussmann



*Each week, volunteer extraordinaire Annemarie makes sense of our mail order madness.*

There's something magical about the Sonoran Desert that lures people here from far-off lands. Such was the case for one of our amazing volunteers, Annemarie Bussmann. Born in Switzerland, Annemarie always had a fascination with plants. "I used to have a book about cactuses, with saguaros and chollas. I wondered if I would ever get to see them." Twenty-five years ago she left Europe for the

## GLASS GEM: MAGICAL SEED

image became a viral sensation on Facebook and the blogosphere with tens of thousands of views. Feast your eyes on Glass Gem, a stunning heirloom variety stewarded by Native Seeds/SEARCH. Seedsman Greg Schoen passed this mind-blowing maize to us for safekeeping. He has been carefully selecting and improving the corn for many years. And as these stories usually go, the seeds originally came from Greg's own corn teacher, a half-Cherokee man named Carl Barnes who developed the multicolored corn over his lifetime.

The emergence of a breathtaking heirloom variety like Glass Gem reveals that the art and magic of seed saving lives on. It reminds us that we can return to this age-old practice and restore beauty, wonder, and abundance to our world. Indeed, this renaissance is already underway, as new seed libraries take root around the country empowering communities to rejoin the ancient seed saving ritual. We are finding our way back home—and in the words of Carl

United States to live in Connecticut. Eventually she took a trip to Tucson and immediately fell in love with the wild landscape. "I told myself, if it was possible, I would live here one day."

That day finally came, and the rest is history. For the past 5 years, Annemarie has been one of Native Seeds/SEARCH's most dedicated and supportive volunteers. Every Wednesday, you can find her busily sorting through the odds and ends of NS/S mail order alongside Distribution Coordinator Betsy Armstrong. "I love keeping things orderly and putting them in their place," she says. "It wasn't until I came here that I realized this was something I enjoyed so much. It's almost a compulsion, you could say!"

Of course, Annemarie's interest in the work we do goes beyond organizing our messes. For her, the appeal of volunteering at Native Seeds/SEARCH was in the name itself. "It was the word 'native' that drew me here. I am very interested in Native American history, plants, and nature." She appreciates how all of these things come together in the mission and work of NS/S. "It's all a circle," she says.

For the staff at the Conservation Center, Annemarie's enthusiastic presence reminds us each week of just how powerful this work can be as it calls out to people across the world. We are grateful that her life's circle has finally landed her here. Thanks, Annemarie!

Barnes, "the seed remembers."

Greg Schoen recently stopped by the Native Seeds/SEARCH Conservation Center and promised to provide a broad selection of this seed for NS/S to grow out next year. We hope to have Glass Gem seed available for sale starting this fall. Visit our website ([www.nativeseeds.org](http://www.nativeseeds.org)) and get on the Glass Gem waiting list if you're eager to plant some of this magic seed. We'll let you know as soon as it is available!



*The cob seen round the world.*

# NEWS & NOTES

## *Welcomes and Farewells*

Welcome to our new Board Member **Justine Hernandez**. You might know Justine as the pioneering librarian responsible for helping establish 5 new seed libraries in our Pima County Public Library system. Justin holds a BFA and MLA degree from the University of Arizona. She has been working in the Pima County Library system for more than 10 years. She's also a Seed School graduate, gardening aficionado, and all-around phenomenal human being. We're thrilled to have her on board!

Welcome to long time supporter and friend of Native Seeds/SEARCH **Nancy Reid** who joins our dream team store staff. Nancy has many years in conservation and worked for Desert Survivors and the Tucson Botanical Gardens in the Native Crop Garden.

We recently said goodbye to **J.P. Wilhite**, our Retail Manager at the NS/S Store. Over his 4 years with Native Seeds/SEARCH, J.P. was instrumental in transitioning the store to Campbell Avenue and helping grow it into the local favorite it is today. His contributions are deeply appreciated. We wish him the best.

This summer, our Conservation Farm came to life with a fantastic group of young interns living and working on the farm during the busy growing season. From squash bug picking and corn pollination to their lively group meals at camp (AKA the Airstreams of Consciousness), these folks are having an incredible time. Whenever we visit, we don't want to leave! Much love and thanks go out to our intern crew for a truly inspiring and successful season: **Naomi Binzen, Britt Retzlaff, Oliver Green,**



*Summer Farm Crew*

**Rachel Willner, Mariya Shalumova, and Quentin Gunther.** Come back next year!

Our friend and Farm Supervisor **Steve Peters** will be leaving us in October. Steve has done some amazing work getting our seed trials program up and running, which will bring many delicious new varieties to the NS/S Seedlisting next year. We appreciate the energy, enthusiasm, and insight he has brought to the organization. Thank you, Steve, for all you do!

We also said farewell to our Retail Assistant **Jeneiene Schaffer**. She has been a great asset in our store and a strong supporter of NS/S. Best of luck to you, Jeneiene!

It is with a heavy heart that we remember our friend and volunteer **Marci Donaldson**, who passed away in June. After retiring from an accomplished career as an archaeologist, Marci began volunteering at NS/S to pursue her interests in ethnobotany. She was a bright and caring soul, and she will be greatly missed. Donations in Marci's name have graciously been made to support Native Seeds/SEARCH. A special area in our redesigned Courtyard at the Conservation Center will be dedicated in her memory.

## *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](http://www.nativeseeds.org)).

## *Electronic Newsletter*

Printing and mailing our newsletters costs Native Seeds/SEARCH about \$15,000 a year. In an effort to become more environmentally responsible we have moved two of our three newsletters to an electronic format. You will receive notification of this change on your renewal notices. You may opt to "go green" and receive your newsletter electronically by checking the box on the enclosed response envelope and mailing it to us. Otherwise, you will continue to receive hard copies of our newsletters. Thanks for doing your part to save our trees (and seeds)!



*We are very grateful to Tucson outdoor retailer **Summit Hut** for their generous donation of tents for our summer interns. As you can see, they are much loved and appreciated!*



Native Seeds/SEARCH  
3584 E. River Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85718

## NS/S STAFF CONTACTS

**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.

**Agricultural Conservation Center 520-622-0830**  
Executive Director Bill McDorman ext 102  
Deputy Director Belle Starr ext 104  
Director of Finance & Operations Leliani Rothrock ext 103  
Distribution & Wholesale Manager Laura Jones ext 114  
Administrative Assistant Maureen Moynihan ext 100  
Director of Conservation Chris Schmidt ext 111  
Collections Manager Melissa Kruse-Peoples ext 106  
Development Assistant Stephen Thomas ext 101  
Distribution Coordinator Betsy Armstrong ext 113

**Conservation Farm 520-394-0227**  
Interim Farm Manager Evan Sofro  
Farm Operations Technician Benito Gutierrez  
Farmer Scott Caruso

**Retail Store 520-622-5561**  
Retail Manager Vivian Mackinnon ext 5  
Retail Assistant Elaine Terrel  
Retail Assistant Patrice Kennedy  
Retail Assistant Mary Gregory  
Retail Assistant Nancy Reid