



# Seedhead News



A Tarahumara campesino tills his field for planting.

## NS/S Visits Campesinos in the Sierra Tarahumara

By Evan Sofro, NS/S Farm Manager

*As reported in the previous Seedhead News, the Tarahumara (or Rarámuri) peoples of Mexico's Sierra Madre region have been facing food shortages after a prolonged drought in combination with unseasonable cold snaps. Native Seeds/SEARCH provided 400 pounds of relief seed to aid Tarahumara farmers whose seed stocks were depleted by the crop failures.*

*Many NS/S members and supporters have generously donated money to support our relief efforts in the Sierra Madre. We are very committed to advancing our work to assist Tarahumara communities in maintaining a sustainable and sovereign agriculture. However, without eyes and ears on the ground in Mexico it is difficult to determine exactly what is needed. Our adventurous Farm Manager Evan Sofro volunteered to spend his winter break exploring the Sierra Madre and visiting with the Tarahumara to understand the current situation and investigate ways NS/S can be of greater help.*

*The following is an update excerpted from a field report sent by Evan in early January 2013:*

Among the pueblos I've had the opportunity to visit, the Rarámuri are mostly subsistence farmers (primarily growing food for their families rather than to market), but are better described as campesinos than farmers. Whereas a farmer's skill set is primarily agricultural production, a campesino is one who lives on and works with the land and is skilled in all fields of work required to maintain a human family.

Rarámuri campesinos are most commonly dryland agriculturalists, planting their crops with the coming of the monsoons in July. Fields are typically plowed by horse and planted with corn, beans and squash (usually each in a separate section of the field), and if seed is available, wheat, sorghum for pasture, peas, garbanzos, fava beans, melon, lentils, tomatoes, etc.

Though I have only spent a month in the Sierra Madre, it has been made very clear that soil degradation, crop pests, diseases, and loss of crop diversity are very real issues. With regards to the soil, the common practice of continually cropping corn or beans year after year in the same field seems to be

*continued page 4*

WINTER 2013 NUMBER 114

2

From Our Directors

3

NS/S Salons Move to Conservation Center

Feast Your Eyes! The 2013 NS/S Catalog is Here!

5

Volunteer Salute: Susan Andersen and Bob Fernandez

Celebrating 30 Years of Diversity with Native Seeds/SEARCH

6-7

Program Accomplishments

8-10

Thank You For Your Support!

11

News and Notes



## From Our Directors

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Native Seeds/SEARCH recognized a momentous occasion: our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. The festive event gave us an opportunity to reflect on the journey and legacy of this organization since it began all these years ago. You may know the story. Two of our visionary founders, Gary Paul Nabhan and Mahina Drees, were working on a Meals for Millions project to assist the Tohono O’odham Nation in setting up community gardens. They offered to plant broccoli and radish seeds, but the tribal elders had a different request. “What we are really looking for,” they said, “are the seeds for the foods our grandparents used to grow.”

This revelatory remark inspired the formation of Native Seeds/SEARCH. Together with co-founders Barney Burns and Karen Reichhardt, the quest began to collect and preserve the disappearing crop diversity of the Greater Southwest. Corner Barney or Gary at the next NS/S gathering and you’re liable to hear colorful tales of donkey rides through Sonora on a hunt for the elusive Panic Grass (once thought to be extinct) or some rare and ancient chile pepper. Through their adventures, and because of their incredible foresight to find and save these disappearing seeds, our priceless collection came to be.

We have a remarkable story. But what is just as extraordinary is the story unfolding right now. Around the world, a profound change is taking place. Perceptions are shifting and entire communities are waking up to the vital importance of locally adapted food systems. Take for example the University of Montana, which just crossed the \$1 million mark for purchasing local foods to supply their campus-wide food services. In Boulder County, Colorado the Local Food Shift campaign is working to transition 25% of their food economy to locally grown crops over the next decade. Perhaps most inspirational is the Bauta Family Initiative, a seed security effort just launched in Canada that is building a truly impressive network of regional seed systems across the country fueled by a \$5 million infusion of funding.

This is not an isolated movement; it is taking off globally. We just hosted our first official National Seed School at the University of Montana. Thirty-nine students packed the classroom, completely lit up about seed saving and biodiversity. Like many of the now more than 250 Seed School graduates, they will go on to create bioregional seed companies, start local seed libraries, and found community seed banks. The potential impacts from this work are huge, and this is just the beginning.

For 30 years, Native Seeds/SEARCH has been dedicated to preserving and sharing the traditional crop diversity of our abundant Southwestern region. Now people everywhere are looking to us as a model of regional seed sovereignty. The tide is turning. The seeds of a diverse and sustainable new world are sprouting before our eyes. As always, we are deeply appreciative for your continued support in making this vibrant new world a reality.



### Founders

Barney Burns  
Mahina Drees  
Gary Nabhan  
Karen Reichhardt

### Board of Directors

*Chair* David Tiers  
*Vice-Chair* Sage Goodwin  
*Secretary* Kim Fernandez  
*Treasurer* Jim Cook

Cynthia Anson  
Martha Burgess  
Barney T. Burns  
Kevin Dahl  
Mahina Drees  
Christopher Fullerton  
Sally Harris  
Justine Hernandez  
Donna House  
Letitia McCune  
Greg Peterson  
Ronald Austin Wells  
Janos Wilder

Seedhead News (ISSN 1083-8074)  
is published three times a year—Fall, Winter,  
& Spring/Summer—by Native Seeds/SEARCH  
as a benefit to members. All photos by NS/S staff  
and volunteers, unless otherwise noted.  
Contents © 2013. Design: Julie St. John.

**Bill McDorman, Executive Director**

**Belle Starr, Deputy Director**



# NS/S Salons Move to Conservation Center

With so many visionary and sustainably minded people in our Tucson community, it's no wonder that our monthly Salon series has been such a success. Featuring talks on everything from fermentation to wildflowers, these free gatherings offer a chance for Tucsonans to explore fascinating ideas while networking with their neighbors and new friends.

As the Salons have grown more popular, they've also outgrown the cozy space in our Retail Store. So in 2013, we have begun hosting the Salons at our beautiful Conservation Center off River Road. The series will continue to be held on the third Monday of the month at the new time of 6-8 pm. Come see what all the buzz is about! Join us for an evening of mind-watering ideas at the next NS/S Salon.



NS/S Conservation Center is located at 3584 E. River Road, Tucson, AZ 85718

## Don't Miss These Upcoming Salons!

**March 18**

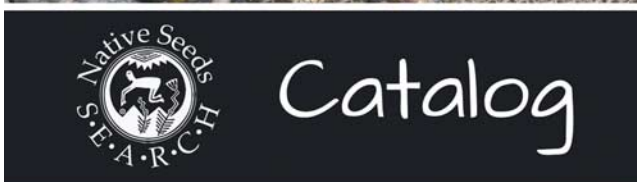
*Garlic, the People's Medicine*

with John Slattery — Desert Tortoise Botanicals

**April 15**

*Pima 60-day Corn — Demo and Tasting*

with Ramona Farms



## Feast Your Eyes! The 2013 NS/S Catalog is Here

It's a new year, which means gardeners everywhere are beginning to plan their spring plantings. But before you start plotting, make sure you've dug deep into the latest Native Seeds/SEARCH seed listing. Page after page of rare and remarkable heirlooms await you in this lush, full-color catalog featuring traditional Southwestern varieties available nowhere else. From a rainbow of native beans, corn, and squash to popular garden veggies like the delectable Red Cored Chantenay carrot, the selection we offer is beyond compare. Visit our website ([nativeseeds.org](http://nativeseeds.org)) to order a printed copy or download it as a PDF. Happy growing!

**There are hundreds more seed varieties and food products available. Our website has a full listing — [nativeseeds.org](http://nativeseeds.org).**



A corn field overlooks Copper Canyon in the Sierra Tarahumara.

## NS/S Visits Campesinos in the Sierra Tarahumara

*continued from page 1*

taking its toll on soil health. Campesinos are most commonly addressing this issue by introducing chemical fertilizer to their practice, which has created a widespread dependence on external inputs. As crop health is in decline, a number of agricultural pests and diseases are on the rise, and so, too, is the use of chemical fumigation for their control. This increase in the use of agricultural chemicals is creating an increasingly less productive dependence on industrial chemicals that is wreaking havoc on the health of the soil, the campesino communities, and the quality of their produce.

In order to reintegrate sustainable agricultural practices among the campesinos of the Sierra Madre, it seems most appropriate to discover what has changed in the practices that have sustained the Rarámuri for at least 400 years. I have been fortunate enough to meet a number of campesinos that maintain a sustainable practice and have not succumbed to the temptation of yield increase through chemical use.

The 2012 growing season marked the first year in the last five where the rains returned in a quantity for a sufficient dryland harvest. However, with the long-awaited rains came plagues of insects that devastated many campesino bean fields, marking for some the fifth consecutive year of insufficient harvest. Many a campesino would tell me that they had “no harvest” when in fact they had some, but it was in quantities that were seemingly insignificant to them. Still, these insignificant harvests have become the seed stock for the following year. Unfortunately, there have been many complete crop failures, which has led not only to shortages of food, but also to the loss of crucial seed stocks.

During my time here I’ve spoken in depth with at least 25 different campesinos both from the upland and lowland regions in ten different pueblos. It is from these conversations that I base the following observations.

All campesinos I have spoken with have land that is ready to plant. With many having lost their seed stocks, they look to neighbors and the government for seed to plant. More so than a lack of seed, the issue here is a lack of diversity among crop varieties. And more problematic than the lack of diversity is the overall lack of access to the diversity that exists. On one end of a pueblo, a campesino will tell me that he lost a variety of cow peas, common beans, or corn, and that no one around has any. Yet on the other end of the pueblo, or in another nearby, I’ll find a campesino that does. Most campesinos travel very little; some venture to the next pueblo over, but rarely farther.

In the short time I’ve spent in the Sierras, it has been made clear that a wide diversity of crop varieties still exist, but most campesinos are restricted to those varieties that have survived the droughts in their own pueblos. Unlike most campesinos, I (or another who could be funded to make the trips) have the opportunity to travel pueblo to pueblo and investigate the crop diversity available. By this approach, it could be determined what varieties are being grown and which campesinos have sufficient quantities to share or sell. With many successful harvests this year, the time is ripe for a “seed search” of sorts to collect and document the many regionally adapted varieties that exist in the Sierra Madre. A potential project worth exploring would be the establishment of a seed lending initiative to distribute this important seed diversity among the campesinos throughout the region.

\* \* \*

*Thanks to Evan for this illuminating report. We will use this information to develop future projects to aid Tarahumara communities and ensure that their traditional farming practices and unique crop diversity live on. Please consider donating to our Tarahumara efforts online: [nativeseeds.org](http://nativeseeds.org).*



## VOLUNTEER SALUTE

# Meet Susan Andersen and Bob Fernandez



Native Seeds/SEARCH has a knack for attracting some colorful characters. Our star volunteers **Susan Andersen** and **Bob Fernandez** are no exceptions. Sit down with them as they pack seeds in the NS/S Conservation Center and you're liable to be regaled with stories of how they once took first prize at a Denver costume party by painting themselves from head-to-toe in abstract representations of local dignitaries and waterways. Exciting? For sure! A bit unconventional? Perhaps. But off-the-beaten-path seems to be par for the course for these two extraordinary humans.

Married for 34 years, Bob and Susan met while working in a Houston hospital where he was a general surgeon, and she, a registered nurse. Little did they know they would be embarking on a lifelong journey that would span the globe and eventually land them in our quirky desert burg of Tucson. The pair had known of Native Seeds/SEARCH for years through Susan's sister, a plant pathologist and Tucsonan who would regularly send gifts of seeds, beans, and bake mixes from her favorite local nonprofit.

Susan began volunteering four years ago at the old NS/S retail store location on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. After a brief hiatus, she returned—this time with her husband in tow. “I missed her,” offers Bob with a smile. “We make a good team. There are some things she's better at than I am, and she explains things to me that I don't understand.” Now an

integral part of the NS/S operations, Bob has found his niche as a “premier heat sealer” for the bulk products packed by volunteer extraordinaire Sam Michael. For her part, Susan enjoys seed packaging the most. “I love having my hands in the seeds and learning about them from reading the packets,” she says.

Now retired, Bob and Susan are enjoying the simple pleasures of life: desert hikes, quality time with family, and sunny bike rides to Native Seeds/SEARCH every Tuesday morning. Everyone at NS/S hugely appreciates their dedication and upbeat energy. In our eyes, they are an indispensable part of the team. And of course, they are on top of our guest list for all future costume parties!

*Want to Volunteer with NS/S? Visit our website for details or contact our Volunteer Coordinator: [volunteer@nativeseeds.org](mailto:volunteer@nativeseeds.org), 520.622.0830 x107.*



## Celebrating 30 Years of Diversity with NS/S

Happy birthday to us! That's right—Native Seeds/SEARCH turns 30 this year. It's been an incredible journey these past three decades, and we're thrilled to say that the organization is stronger than ever. To commemorate this momentous occasion and our remarkable legacy, we're cooking up a plan to invite some friends over for an intimate soiree. Full details will be announced in the coming weeks. We would love to celebrate this milestone with you under the stars in our beautiful Conservation Center and newly renovated courtyard.

Here's to another 30!

# Program Accomplishments (OCTOBER 1, 2011 — SEPTEMBER 30, 2012)

*The past year has been a very busy time at Native Seeds/SEARCH with many exciting accomplishments to note. From our pioneering Seed School courses to the incredible work happening on our Conservation Farm, NS/S is making great strides in our mission to conserve, share, and educate people about the unique crop diversity of the arid Southwest. Your dedicated support has made these impressive achievements possible. Thank you!*

## Conservation

The 2012 growout on our Conservation Farm in Patagonia, Arizona was an ambitious endeavor with over 100 accessions regenerated, involving massive amounts of hand-pollination and documentation. Yet thanks to the commendable efforts of our farm staff, this year's growout was an overall success. Between the regenerations, growing several dozen additional varieties for seed distribution and/or evaluation, experimentation with new cover crop varieties, special projects and research collaborations, the farm has been a place of constant and exciting activities.

The first season of our residential farm internship program contributed greatly to this success with 5 farm apprentices spending an average of five months living and working on-site. Their assistance was indispensable for our growout during the labor-intensive pollination season. In return, they gained a wealth of experience in all the processes and techniques at play in native crop conservation, from seed to seed. Their enthusiasm for this work infused the organization with an inspiring energy while establishing a welcome sense of community at the Farm and in the small town of Patagonia.

Reorganization of our seed bank collection has been taking place over the past year to improve its security and accessibility. Many of the 20,000 samples in the collection have been processed, with the remainder to be completed during 2013.



Above: NS/S staffers Chris Schmidt and Evan Sofro sow amaranth seed at the Conservation Farm.

Below: Children plant NS/S seeds in traditional waffle gardens as part of the Zuni Youth Enrichment Program, one of our 2012 Community Seed Grant recipients. Photo courtesy ZYEP.

## Distribution

Our Native American Free Seed Program continues to grow. We provided more than 5,000 packets of seed to Native American gardeners, farmers, and community projects in the Southwestern United States. Additionally, our Community Seed Grant Program saw increased activity in 2012. Over the past year, the program distributed 1,086 seed packets to 56 organizations working to enhance food security, nutrition, education or community development in the Southwest region. Some of these organizations include: Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, Summit KinderGarden, Oracle State Park, Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture, La Mujer Obrera, Rio Salado Seedshed Library, and Pistor Middle School.

Colorful new seed packet designs and heritage and heirloom garden seeds were added to our distribution offerings this the past year. Both were well received, and net distribution income increased 5.6% overall for the year. New energy and offerings in our retail store helped increase its sales more than 5.8%. Beginning in September 2012, we began developing a new wholesale program. We now service 5 wholesale accounts for seed and 3 for food. This includes Phoenix-area retailers such as Root Phoenix and with local Tucson retailers Harlow Gardens and Civano Nursery. We are excited to announce the addition of 6 Whole Foods stores across Tucson and Phoenix as new outlets for Native Seeds/SEARCH seeds as well.





## Education/Outreach

Foremost among our accomplishments in education has been the success of our pioneering Seed School training courses. We are endlessly inspired and encouraged by the praise this groundbreaking program has been garnering from students, as well as by the amazing projects they go on to launch. Over the last year, we held six sessions of Seed School including a Seed Keepers (Native American Seed School), graduating more than 90 students from across the Southwest and as far away as Norway. We are thrilled to begin taking this course into a national focus in the next year under the guidance of our new Director of National Seed School and Special Projects, Joy Hought. As this information reaches more people, awareness of and support for our work at NS/S grows exponentially.

Our popular series of monthly Salons regularly drew packed crowds at our Retail Store throughout the year. Due to its growing popularity, the Salon series has been moved to the NS/S Conservation Center to accommodate more people. NS/S kept an active schedule of public events for outreach and education throughout the year and a variety of workshops and special events.



Above: Fermentation wizard Sandor Katz demonstrates sauerkraut making to a packed house at a NS/S Salon.

Below: Volunteers crush dried bean pods for seed harvesting on the NS/S Conservation Farm.

## Volunteers

Our amazing and dedicated community of volunteers is an indispensable part of our organization. Over 3,800 hours of volunteer time were logged during this past fiscal year, nearly the equivalent of two full-time employees. This puts us in good standing with funding sources that are always interested in the ways we engage with the community. Volunteers contributed to the following areas: agricultural (farm), bulk packaging, grants support, outreach and events, seed packaging, data and administration.



## FY 2012, October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012

### EXPENSES

Administration, development, volunteers — **20%**

Distribution — **31%**

Conservation, education, memberships — **49%**



### REVENUE

Distribution — **36%**

Grants — **24%**

Direct program contributions, memberships, events, realized assets — **40%**



# Thank You For Your Support!

*Many thanks to all our members and friends for your commitment to Native Seeds/SEARCH. You make our work and accomplishments possible. All donations and memberships listed were received between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012. Close to 1,800 supporters made gifts under \$100. We wish we had the space to acknowledge each one of you, and we deeply appreciate your contributions.*

*Many people donated to a fund to beautify the courtyard at the NS/S Conservation Center in memory of Marci Donaldson, a dedicated volunteer who sadly passed away last June. While there are too many contributors to list here, we thank you all for your generous and thoughtful gifts. We are touched and invite everyone to visit the Conservation Center courtyard improvements thanks to Marci's family and friends.*

## **\$25,000 and up**

Claneil Foundation  
CS Fund/Warsh-Mott Legacy  
Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust  
Steve Leuthold Family Foundation

## **\$10,000-24,999**

Anonymous (1)  
Arizona Community Foundation  
Southwestern Foundation

## **\$5,000-9,999**

Desert Diamond Casino & Entertainment  
Tom & Candace Grogan  
Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation  
Village by Village  
Janos & Rebecca Wilder

## **\$1,000-4,999**

Anonymous (2)  
Anson Mills  
Barney T. Burns & Mahina Drees  
Dora & Barry Bursey  
California Community Foundation  
Mary Ann Clark  
Clif Bar Family Foundation  
Mary Kathleen Collins  
James Cook  
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona  
Lucy Del Giorgio  
William Doolittle  
East Bay Community Foundation  
Elizabeth Frautsch  
Rayna Green  
Jim & Loma Griffith  
Edward Hacskaylo  
Sadie Hadley & Sage Goodwin  
Gus & Sue Hiller  
Dr & Mrs William Horst  
Wm Todd & Suzanne Horst  
John Karon & Kate Killebrew  
David & Trish Kukor  
Sam Leffler & Cynthia Livingston  
Ann Martin  
Alice McKittrick  
Linda McKittrick & Charles DeConcini  
Laura Nakatsuka  
Howard Ochman & Nancy Moran  
Pima County ECAP (United Way)  
Barbara Radwan-Kuzelewski & Joseph Durnell

Bill & Alice Roe  
Henry & Laura Roe  
Neva Schuelke  
Curtis Scribner  
Kim & Jameth Sheridan  
Kenneth Sobolik  
Somos La Semilla  
David Tiers & Sue Ann Breems  
Nancy & Richard Fe Tom  
Virginia Treherne-Thomas  
Nancy Wall  
The Walton Family Foundation, Inc.  
Kelly Watters

## **\$500-999**

Allan Adler  
Judith Adler  
Joan Armon  
David Ayers  
C Diane Bell  
Patricia Bender  
Aleta & Daniel Bloch  
John & Patty Brissenden  
Anne & Arthur Britt  
Arch & Laura Brown  
Martha Burgess  
Jim Burke & Marian Weaver  
Margaret Gay Chanler  
Anita Francesca Claverie  
Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona  
Christine Conte  
Eugene Cordes  
Jacob Cowgill  
Colleen Crombie  
Cindy Daniel  
Lyle & Vera Dethlefsen  
Dr. Frances & Paul Dickman  
Mary Dwan  
Nancy Evans  
Kim & Celestino Fernandez  
P.D. Folk & Cynthia Lasko  
Linda & Wally & Aaron Goodwillie  
Mary & Dennis Gregory  
Gene Gumfory  
Diana Hadley & Peter Warshall  
Trisha Hageman  
Martin Hjortso  
Danielle Ignace  
Gary & Mary Irish  
George Jacques  
Frederick & Gayle Jandrey  
Allen Jones  
Meg Keoppen  
Dianne Knickerbocker  
Sharon Leopardi  
Sefra Alexandra Levin

Rebecca Lieberg  
David Maren & Nita Garland  
Letitia McCune & Dave Magner  
Melissa McGee  
Dan McGraw  
Tammy McLeod  
Michael & Diane O'Meagher  
Elaine Padovani  
Debra Paterson  
Donald Pitt Family Foundation  
Jody Precit  
Arizona Site Stewards-Region 6  
Britt Retzlaff  
Priscilla & William J Robinson  
Cheri Romanoski  
F Peter Rose  
Jim Roth  
Pima Cty Coop Extension-  
Cheralyn Sxhmidt  
Stephen & Margie Schmidt  
Environmental Fund for Arizona  
Lynette Sedun  
Gerald Siler  
Julie St John  
Jim Stanton  
G Marie Swanson  
Mike & Judy Tarre  
Diego Vail  
Piet & Mary Vandemark  
Rowen White  
Shawna & Michael Yaussi  
Penelope Yeoman  
Glenda Zahner  
Barry Zerby

## **\$250-499**

Anonymous (1)  
Kathy Altman & Ivy Schwartz  
Cyndi Andrews  
Donald Armstrong  
Betsy Armstrong  
Keith Ashley  
David & Julie Bernard  
Barbara & William Bickel  
Kerstin Block  
Elaine Bolding  
Peter Bretting & Kim Lewers  
John & Pat Case  
William & Sheila Chambers  
Geoffrey Clark & Barbara Stark  
Patricia & Brian Clymer  
Barbara Coon  
Charles Corfield  
Steve Cover

Will Creach  
Kevin Dahl & Barbara Miller  
Nina & Tim Daldrup  
Allazondra Dancingwind & Clark Smith  
Barbara Donaldson  
Crystal Edmunds  
Keith & Bonnie Elder  
Tres English & Paula Schlusberg  
Bette & Gerard Ervin  
Larry Evers & Barbara Grygutis  
Hayley Fisher  
Stephen Fletcher  
Rosemarie Font  
William & Beth Freeman  
Anna Fulton  
Robert Garner & Robin Beresford  
Ann Gibson  
William Gillespie  
Martin Goldberg & Nina d'Ambra  
Angelica Gomez  
Neil & Margo Goodwin  
Judith Gray  
Bob Gresham  
Camille Habermacher  
Karen Halderson  
Steven Harrison  
Loren & Jan Hauray  
Lisa Hawkins  
Linda & Dave Heisley  
Jesse Hersh  
Elizabeth Jo Higgins  
Robert Himmerich y Valencia & Eva Valencia de Himmerich  
Marsha & David Irwin  
Vince & Teresa Isenmann  
William & Margarita Joffroy Jr  
Ford Johnson  
Susan & Albert Johnson  
Rob Johnston Jr  
Joshua Jones  
Valerie Kaplan  
Diane Kelly  
Karolyn Kendrick & Peter Schmidt  
Dr. Mikio Kimata  
Wendy Kohatsu MD

Delight & Timothy Lane  
D. Terence Langendoen & Nancy Kelly  
Suzy & Bill Lillis  
Roy Loewenstein & Alana Stubbs  
Amasa & Gary Louis  
Jared Maillet  
Georgina Maldonado  
Linda Mayro & William H. Doelle  
Michael & DeAnna McDonald  
Christina & Doug McVie  
Kipp Metzger  
Barbara & Floyd H Miller  
C Minar  
John Mitchel  
William Mitchell  
Diane Monnier  
Davey Monzon  
Janet Moore  
Suraiya Murray  
Elizabeth Naylor  
Iris Nussbaum  
Alexandra Peot  
Reed Peters  
Robert Peters  
Charles & Pat Pettis  
Kenneth Porter  
Michael & Linda Powers  
Richard Pratt & Lois Grant  
Janet & Ted Ranney  
Judith Reynolds  
Janice Rickert Mueller & John Mueller  
Edward Robb  
Leilani Rothrock  
Tracey Ryder  
David Sarrazin  
Ray Sayre  
Travis & Leigh Sebera  
Erika Seekatz  
Stephen Shetron  
Bob Skaggs & Kathleen Andereck  
Slow Food Phoenix  
Jessica Smith  
Ann & Larry Smith  
Adena Staben

## **Big Thanks to Our "Mortgage Lifters" Who Donated Funds to Support Our Agricultural Conservation Center!**

*Anonymous (1) Margaret Gay Chanler  
Tom & Candace Grogan Nancy & Richard Fe Tom*



Stanley Stalker  
 Belle Starr (Nussbaum) & Bill McDorman  
 Cary & Nicolette Stubbs  
 Annette Sutera  
 Janet Swanson  
 Marci Tarre & Chris Schmidt  
 Agustin & Janet Taylor  
 Gilbert & Patricia Templeton  
 Dr Carol Thompson  
 Mollie & Henry (Wolky) Toll  
 May Trees  
 Catherine Wade  
 John Wahl & Mary Lou Forier  
 FICO/Green Valley Pecan Co.  
 United Way of Tucson & So AZ  
 Lawrence Wallin  
 Anne Watson  
 Roger Watson  
 Edna & Dave Weigel  
 Dr Ronald Austin Wells & Dr Karen Jambeck  
 Laurel Wilkening  
 Ken Wilson  
 Alison & Weston W. Wilson  
 Mary Lou & John Winder

Catherine Cameron & Steve Lekson  
 Logan Campbell  
 Ethalinda Cannon  
 Veletta Canouts  
 Aaron Cardona  
 Linda Carey  
 Victoria Carlson  
 Dana Carlton  
 Duane & Arleta Carr  
 Andrea Carter  
 Joyce Cashman  
 Katherine Cerino  
 Helen Chandler  
 Lynn Chapman  
 Renata Christen  
 James Christensen  
 Henry Christensen III  
 Pamela Clark  
 Dean Cleverdon & Nancy Nyberg  
 Deborah Coburn  
 Susan Codega & George Howard  
 Bob Comin  
 Marshall & Mary Ida Compton  
 Robin Cook & Carol Groetken  
 Randy Coons  
 Pat & Dana Cossey  
 Jean Coustou  
 Nancy Curriden  
 Judy Dain  
 Karen De Lay & Bill Sandel  
 Jonae' De Long  
 Raul & Isabel Delgado  
 Chuck & Tracy Dempsey  
 David Dettman  
 Denise Dever  
 Dave DeWitt  
 Joan Donnelly & David Taylor  
 Robynn & Wesley Dorffl  
 Dody Dorn & Kevin Hughes  
 Cliff Douglas  
 Mary Peace Douglas  
 Michael & Kathleen Douglas  
 Kimberlyn Drew  
 Kathleen Duncan & Bill Kern  
 Ann Eagan  
 Ruth Eckert  
 Rachel Edelstein  
 William Edwards & Kate Spielmann  
 Dr. David Ehrenfeld  
 Karl & Sandy Elers  
 Dennis Elliott  
 Judith Elton  
 Elizabeth Evans & Stephen M Reitz  
 Benjamin & Cynthia Everitt  
 David & Jane Falk  
 Mary Farrell  
 Jon & April Fenton  
 Barbara & Terry Fenzl  
 Ronna Fickbohm  
 Marie-Elizabeth Finamore  
 Lynn Flance  
 Georgia Flittner  
 Bunny Fontana  
 Cristal Franco  
 Diana & David Freshwater  
 Wendy Gamble  
 Peter & Camille Gannon  
 Robert & Diana Gano  
 Jesus Garcia  
 Robert Gay & Elysia Jennett  
 Gary & Cinda Gaynor

**\$100-249**

Anonymous (1)  
 Briggs & Pat Ackert  
 Jenny Adams  
 William Allen  
 Scot & Jerri Altendorf  
 April Alvarez-Corona  
 Megan Anderson  
 Cynthia Anson  
 Karen Arnold & Bill Cunningham  
 Arizona State Museum  
 James & Sue Aufderhaar  
 Denise Baldwin  
 Paul Barringer  
 Roger Barthelson & Judy Howe  
 Jennifer & Andy Barton  
 Michael & Paula Bauer  
 Dinah Bear & Roger McManus  
 Tom Beckett  
 James Belin  
 Katherine Belk-Arenas  
 Emiel & Delores Belmans-Sanchez  
 Amy Bhola  
 Chris Biemesderfer & Rebecca Jensen  
 Doug Biggers & Katie Gannon  
 David Bilgray  
 Phoenix Community College-BioSciences  
 Elizabetha Bjerklie  
 Duncan & Susan Blair  
 Gregory Blake  
 Amelia Blunk  
 Monica Bogan  
 Charles Bouril  
 Georgiana & John T Boyer  
 Joyce & Peter Boyle  
 Melissa Bradley  
 Susan Breckenridge  
 Lydia Breunig & Brian Stark  
 Linda Brewer & Kasey Anderson  
 Lindy & Steve Brigham  
 Jeanne Broome  
 Karen Bruhns & Tom Weller  
 Scott & Sue Bulau  
 Dick Bulinski  
 Annemarie Bussmann

Joseph Gelinger  
 Paul Gepts & Elisabeth Garcia  
 Andrea Gerlak  
 Sharon Gilbert  
 Patricia Gilman & Paul Minnis  
 Michal Glines & Michael Racy  
 Goodsearch  
 Jason & Katherine Grace  
 Cal & Kerith Graeber  
 Charles & Mary Graf  
 Kate Greenberg  
 Edith Greene  
 Vicki Greiff  
 Charles & Kathleen Grier  
 Anita Griesenauer  
 Agnes Griffen & John Hall  
 Kurt Griffin & Susan Hoover  
 Beth Grindell  
 Beth & Frank Guldseth  
 Susanne Haffner  
 Helen Hakola  
 David Hall  
 Connie & Steve Hammond  
 James & Lucille Harkin  
 Richard Harle  
 Patti Harmann  
 Sally Harris  
 Roy Harris  
 Patricia Harrison  
 Steve & Nina Hatchett  
 D. Brooke Hatfield  
 Susan Hausser  
 Jeanie Haye & Stanley J Haye  
 Ann Hedlund & Kit Schweitzer  
 James Henson  
 George Herlihy  
 Janine Hernbrode  
 Thomas Hicks  
 Cayce Hill  
 Barbara & Rodric Himebaugh  
 Ron Hine  
 Barbara & Robert Hirni  
 John Hirschi  
 Terri Honga  
 Joan Hood & David Davis



The 39 graduates of Montana Seed School pose for a group photo—our biggest class yet!

Robert Hopkins  
 Donna House  
 Hualapai Cooperative Extension  
 Christina Husted  
 Sheila Hutchings  
 Elaine & Brian Jacobs  
 Cynthia Jelinek & Charles J. Gulyash  
 Rosemary Joganic  
 Darcy Johnson & Ross Schulstad  
 Melody & Stuart Johnson  
 Allan Johnson II  
 Larry Jones & Barbara Worthing-Jones  
 Coby Jordan  
 Adrienne Joseph  
 Babette Josephs  
 Beatrice Kabler  
 Bruce Kahle  
 Karen & David Kane  
 Sali Katz  
 Roger & Cara Keller  
 William Kemling  
 Diane Kent  
 Beth Kersey  
 Carlton King  
 Barbara Kingsolver & Steven Hopp  
 Clayton Kirking  
 Dennis Kizerian  
 Tamara Klein  
 David & Mary Klein  
 Sheldon Knapp  
 Peter & Emily Kohl  
 Steve Kratochwill  
 Kathy Kritscher  
 Bill & Beth Krumbein  
 Susanne Lane & Yahya Sadowski  
 Brian Larsen  
 Diane Laush & R J Dummer  
 Elliott Lax & Eneida Guerra De Lima  
 Arline Lemeshefsky  
 Lori Levine & Gary Benna  
 Phoebe & Jack Lewis

Max & Claire Licher  
 William Lockwood  
 K. Tsianina Lomawaima  
 Marilyn Loveless  
 Dennis Lubbs  
 Dominique Lunt  
 Dr Amy Lyman  
 Susan Mack & Jake Turin  
 Kay MacNeil  
 David Maddison  
 Bob Maddox & Katie Hirschboeck  
 Susan Makansi  
 Beth Malasky & John Chesley  
 Kim Malcolm  
 Diana Manning  
 Kathy Markham  
 Martha Martin  
 Scott Mason  
 Barbara McBride  
 Valerie McCaffrey  
 Ella McCulloch  
 Sallie McCutcheon  
 Larry & Susan McDonald  
 Rachel & Justin A. McEldowney  
 Anastasia McInnis  
 Juliet McKenna  
 John & Barbara McLean  
 Jon McNamara & Emily Mabry  
 Donna McNamara  
 Dr Christine Menke  
 Laura Merrick & Matt Liebman  
 Joan Metzger  
 Tom & Karrie Metzger  
 Christine Michalowski  
 Sharon & George Milan  
 Annette & Paul Miller  
 Carolyn Miller  
 Matthew Miner  
 Barbara & Jeffrey Minker  
 Elizabeth Mize  
 Kathleen Mohan  
 Leone Mohney  
 Angela Moll  
 Miriam Moore

*continued next page*



NS/S farm apprentices Rachel Willner, Britt Retzlaff, Mariya Shalumova and Naomi Binzen at play in the sunflower patch.

## Thank You For Your Support! *continued*

Sharon Moore & Larry Pierce  
 Carol Mullen  
 Matts Myhrman & Judy Knox  
 Gary Paul Nabhan & Laurie Monti  
 Ray & Nancy Nagle  
 Martha Narro & Bill Montfort  
 Diego & Elena Navarrette Jr  
 Kelly Nelson  
 Brenda Neufeld  
 Stephanie Nichols-Young & Roger Young  
 Kurt & Paula Nielsen  
 Dr Wendell & Rosemary Niemann  
 Michael Niemira  
 Jasper & Beth Norris  
 Fred & Ann Norton  
 Joyce & Roger Nussbaum  
 Katharine Olmstead  
 Karen Osland & Kathy Badrak  
 Laurinda Oswald

Bill & Carol Owens  
 Cynthia Owings  
 Christine Palmer-Persen  
 Louise & William Pape  
 Ann Parker & Angelo Joaquin Jr  
 Allen Parleir & Elia Woods  
 John Parodi  
 Robert Patterson & Renee B. Boblette  
 Joan Peet  
 Gerald Perry  
 James Sydney Person  
 Amy Peters  
 Irene Peters & Jeff Burse  
 Shirley Pfeifer  
 Claudia Piper  
 Bruce Plenk & Patti Hartmann  
 Val & Harry Plumlee  
 Doreen Pollack  
 Margaret Pope & Norman Epstein

Gayle Potter Basso  
 Alan Pufahl  
 Sally Quinby  
 German & Bea Quiroga  
 Kathleen Randolph  
 Lee Read  
 Raytheon Workplace Giving  
 Julie Reichert  
 Robin Reichardt  
 Jenny Reid  
 Marion Reid & Christopher Brooks  
 Carol & Steve Rhoades  
 Marcia Ring  
 Christina Riordan  
 Anne & Robert Rissi  
 Pat & Jennifer Roche  
 Elizabeth Rodriguez  
 Robert Roemer & Irene Terry  
 Melanie Rohr  
 Samuel Rose

H Stewart Ross  
 Ginette Roth  
 Thomas Rothe MD  
 Rebekah Rottenberg  
 Kimberly Ryan  
 Diana Sammataro  
 John & Helen Schaefer  
 Sue Scheff  
 Ginny Schnell  
 Scott Schoneman  
 Kathryn Schrag  
 Larry Schramm  
 Kay & Paul Schulz  
 Eugene Schupp & Janis Boettinger  
 Rebecca Schwendler  
 Cynthia Scott  
 Helen Scully  
 Sear Family Foundation  
 John Seeger  
 Greg & Alice Seymour  
 Karen Shafer  
 Ben Shalant  
 Michael Shearer  
 Lois & Richard Shelton  
 Lisa & Catlow Shipek  
 Allison & Everett Shock  
 Terry Shreve  
 Melissa Shuck  
 Belisario Silva  
 Rosemary & J R Simek  
 Robert & Helga Small  
 Susan Small  
 Randall Smith  
 Norman Smith  
 Linda & Dennis Smith  
 John Sofro  
 Claude Souquet  
 Claire Steigerwald  
 Barbara Straub  
 Juliet Stromberg & Matthew Chew  
 Patricia Stubblefield  
 Ariel Swartley  
 Alma Sychuk  
 Donna Tang  
 Laura Tanzer  
 Peter & Catherine Taylor  
 Steve Thompson  
 Molly Thoron-Duran  
 Mike & Julie Toepper

Kegan Tom  
 Martin Torch MD  
 Robbie Townsend-Vennel  
 Thomas & Jacquelyn Tucker  
 Marie Tymrak  
 Janice & Rick Ulrich  
 United States Bureau of Reclamation -Denver  
 Amy Unthank  
 Ross Vail  
 Carla Van West & Roger Irwin  
 Nancy VanDyke  
 Dana Vincil  
 Gwinn & Patricia Vivian  
 Stephanie Wacha  
 J Giles Waines  
 David & Kay Walters  
 Lea Ward  
 Henry Ware  
 Brent Warner & Cristina Doria-Warner  
 Patricia Waterfall  
 Wilhelmina & Harold K. Watkins  
 Bonnie Welton  
 Anita Werderich  
 Karen Wetherell  
 Elizabeth Wheat & Eric Scharf  
 Nancy White  
 Wayne & Bernice Wiegel  
 Karen Wiley & Wm R Astle  
 Kathleen Williams  
 Dwight Williams  
 Pamela Wilson  
 Ervin Wilson  
 James & Bonnie Winn  
 Lawrence Winship  
 Michael & Devera Witkin  
 Nina Woessner  
 Ann Marie Wolf & Jack Perchorowicz  
 Vicki & Gerry Wolfe  
 Barbara Wood  
 John Wood & Shirley Powell  
 Margaret & Michael Woodhouse  
 Constance & Jeffrey Woodman  
 Mary Wright  
 Michael Yeatts & Nina Swidler  
 Ann Youberg Czaja & Robert Czaja  
 Russ & April Young  
 Jesse Zoernig & Cecile McKee

## Many Thanks to Those Who Donated Goods or Services

Acacia  
 Susan Andersen & Robert Fernandez  
 Anson Mills  
 Arizona Opera  
 Barrio Bread Co.  
 Bob & Barbara Bettcher  
 BICAS  
 Bookmans  
 Sue Ann Breems  
 Martha Burgess  
 Barney T. Burns & Mahina Drees  
 Cave Creek Ranch  
 Jim Daly  
 Donna DeConcini

Downtown Kitchen + Cocktails  
 Desert Leaf  
 Nancy Evans  
 Kim & Celestino Fernandez  
 Tony Foster  
 Pam Harris  
 Sharon Harris  
 Hayden Mills  
 Joy Hought  
 Jay Kittle  
 Kuumba Made  
 KXCI  
 Feliciano Leon  
 Linda McKittrick  
 Mohr Creations

Gary Paul Nabhan  
 Ogden Publishing  
 Robert Oser  
 Moria Peters  
 Precipice Development  
 Brent Ransom  
 Renee's Organic Oven  
 Rincon Farms Inc  
 F Peter Rose  
 Vita Rose  
 Mike Sadler  
 Coya Silverlake  
 Sonoran Glass Art Academy  
 Belle Starr  
 Lily Steirer

Sweetgrass Cermonies  
 Janet Taylor  
 Tohono Chul  
 Tucson Audubon Society  
 Tucson Tamale Co.  
 John Villinski  
 Dr Ronald Austin Wells & Dr Karen Jambeck  
 Western National Parks Assoc.  
 Wild Bird Store  
 Janos & Rebecca Wilder  
 Louise Winchester  
 Glenda Zahner



# News and Notes

## Welcomes and Farewells

It is our pleasure to welcome several new individuals to our illustrious board of directors. **Cynthia Anson** joins us after a distinguished legal career here in Tucson. She previously sat on the board of directors for the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and is a strong advocate in the local and sustainable food movement. Cynthia is the program manager for Tumamoc: People and Habitats, University of Arizona College of Sciences. We are honored to have her with us.

As a former Executive Director, **Kevin Dahl** is no stranger to NS/S. He has been a staunch supporter of the organization for many years and now is program manager for the National Parks Conservation Association. Kevin was instrumental in landing us our new Conservation Center and we're thrilled to have him back in our midst as a director.

**Christopher Fullerton** has a diverse and varied background in water policy, historic preservation and law. We couldn't help but notice Christopher and his passion for NS/S when he started showing up at all our Salons and events. We are excited to have him on the board.

We are also pleased to welcome our friend and colleague **Greg Peterson** to the NS/S board. Greg is renowned throughout Phoenix as the owner of the Urban Farm, a model permaculture homestead in the city, alongside his newest venture, Root Phoenix. He is an inspired educator on sustainability at ASU and other venues, and he will be an incredible asset to NS/S.

**Joy Hought** joins the NS/S staff as our new Director of National Seed School and Special Projects. Joy has a unique combination of expertise in arts and sciences education and a graduate degree in seed science and crop genetic conservation that makes her an ideal candidate for this position. She has taken the lead in preparing our Seed School curriculum for its national rollout and will be directing this inspiring program as it tours the country.

Welcome to our new Retail and Distribution Assistant **Sheryl Joy**. Sheryl brings with her many years of experience working in the nonprofit sector. A recent Tucson transplant from Minnesota, she is providing amazing support to the organization—and happily soaking up the desert sun! We're thrilled to have her on the team.

We are pleased to welcome our new Retail Assistant **Liz Fairchild** to NS/S. Liz has an impressive and diverse background in environmental science and biology. She is sure to have much knowledge and insight to share with our visitors at the Retail Store.



Navajo and Tarahumara pumpkins adorn native plantings in the NS/S Conservation Center courtyard.

We were sad to say farewell to board member and treasurer **Michael McDonald**. Michael is a longtime and very active supporter of NS/S, having once served as Executive Director. His contributions to the organization are too numerous to count. Thank you, Michael, for all you do. We wish you the best!

We also recently said goodbye to our Farm Assistant **Scott Caruso** who has moved on to other pastures. Scott brought a bright energy and a wealth of ideas and know-how to our Conservation Farm over the past year. Thank you, Scott!

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to our friend **Karolyn Kendrick**, who sadly passed away on Thanksgiving Day. Karolyn was a passionate conservationist and lover of the Sonoran desert. She worked closely with the Arizona Native Plant Society and served as editor of our own *Seedhead News* in the early 1990s. Our thoughts are with Karolyn's family and loved ones. She will be greatly missed.

## 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 ([nativeseeds.org](http://nativeseeds.org)).



Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Tucson, AZ  
Permit # 2157

Native Seeds/SEARCH  
3584 E. River Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85718

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.

## NS/S Staff Contacts

### **Agricultural Conservation Center 520.622.0830**

Executive Director	Bill McDorman <i>ext 102</i>
Deputy Director	Belle Starr <i>ext 104</i>
Director of Finance & Operations	Leilani M. Rothrock <i>ext 103</i>
Director of Conservation	Chris Schmidt <i>ext 111</i>
Collections Manager	Melissa Kruse-Peebles <i>ext 106</i>
Distribution and Wholesale Manager	Laura Jones <i>ext 107</i>
Distribution Coordinator	Betsy Armstrong <i>ext 113</i>
Administrative Associate	Maureen Moynihan <i>ext 100</i>
Development Associate	Stephen Thomas <i>ext 101</i>
Retail and Distribution Associate	Sheryl Joy

### **Conservation Farm 520.394.0227**

Farm Operations Technician	Benito Gutierrez
Farm Manager	Evan Sofro

### **Retail Store 520.622.5561**

Retail Manager	Vivian MacKinnon <i>ext 5</i>
Retail Assistant Manager	Mary Gregory
Retail Associate	Elaine Terrel
Retail Associate	Nancy Reid
Retail Associate	Liz Fairchild