

Dear Supporter,

Join us on July 18-20, 2014 for the 34th annual Seed Savers Exchange Conference & Campout at Heritage Farm. We have a special weekend planned bringing gardeners, seed savers and experts in their field together from around the country to share their ideas and experiences. The event begins on Friday, July 18, when SSE will host our second annual Member Field Day – an opportunity for members to meet staff and get a behind-the-scenes look at how we manage our collection.

This year's keynote speakers include Bryan Welch, the publisher of Mother Earth News and other Ogden Publications, who will talk about the importance of seed saving in the back-to-the-land movement; Cornell University geneticist Susan McCouch will discuss plant breeding for stress-prone environments and changing climate; Virginia Nazarea from the University of Georgia will speak about the importance of place and stories in seed saving and sharing; and Andrew Still and Sarah Kleeger of Adaptive Seeds in Sweet Home, Oregon will talk about seed stewardship and their work with the Seed Ambassadors Project.

A full schedule of workshops run the gamut – from seed saving to cooking to forming a seed library – to give you the skills you need for improving your gardening and seed saving practices. Throw in good food, lively entertainment, a chance to meet old friends and new, and you have the fixings for a great weekend.

I look forward to seeing you all at Heritage Farm.

John Torgrimson  
Executive Director

PS Register online at [www.seedsavers.org/annual-conference](http://www.seedsavers.org/annual-conference)



**ABOUT SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE**

Since 1975, SSE has worked to conserve and promote America's culturally diverse but endangered garden and food crop heritage for future generations by collecting, growing, and sharing heirloom seeds and plants. Working with our members to ensure that these unique varieties are not lost forever, SSE encourages participatory preservation by sharing seed in the annual seed exchange. Every year we invite our members to Heritage Farm to share their knowledge, projects, and stories.

**ABOUT DECORAH, IOWA**

Decorah is a small community of 8,000, located in the Driftless region of Northeast Iowa. Heralded for undeniable scenic beauty, Winneshiek County and Decorah offer a variety of things to do, see, and experience. Decorah has a vibrant local community with staples such as a community food co-op, a microbrewery, and great restaurants. Canoeing, biking, and fly fishing are favorite summertime activities. Check out [www.visitdecorah.com](http://www.visitdecorah.com) for more information on what to explore during your stay.

## Friday, July 18 34th Annual Conference & Campout Schedule

|            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4:00-7:00  | Registration and Mingling            |
| 6:30       | Recognition Wall Dedication          |
| 7:00-10:00 | Garden Party: Food, Music, Seed Swap |
| 7:30       | Movie Screening: Seeds of Time       |

## Saturday, July 19

|           |  |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8:00-4:00 | Registration   |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 8:00      | Breakfast  |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 9:00      | A Moveable Feast: Why "There" Can Be "Here" - Virginia Nazarea |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 9:50      | Break  |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 10:00     | Seed Swaps   | Perennial Plant Propagation | Cooking with Beans                | Saving Seeds from the Squash Family | Biennials                     | Isolation Tents and Deer Fences    |
| 11:00     | Break  |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 11:30     | Growing the Seed Exchange                                      | Heritage Gardens            | Cooking with Squash               | Saving Seeds from the Bean Family   | Commercial Seed Production    | Choosing the Poultry Breed for You |
| 12:30     | Lunch  |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 1:30      | Seed Cooperatives  | Saving Seeds as a Gardener  | Growing and Using Unusual Fruits  | Saving Seeds from Corn              | Seed Stewardship              | Home Scale Threshing Machines      |
| 2:30      | Break  |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 3:00      | Genetic Variation, a Case Study in Rice - Susan McCouch        |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 4:00      | Break  |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 4:30      | Seed Libraries   | Memory Banking              | Root Cellaring for Food and Seeds | Saving Seeds from the Tomato Family | Isolation and Population Size | Apple Bud Grafting                 |
| 5:30      | Dinner   |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 7:00      | Beautiful and Abundant - Bryan Welch                           |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 8:00      | Break  |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |
| 8:30      | Barn Dance   |                             |                                   |                                     |                               |                                    |

## Sunday, July 20

|       |  |                     |                       |                                     |                                  |                         |
|-------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7:00  | Bird Walk  |                     |                       |                                     |                                  |                         |
| 7:30  | Breakfast  |                     |                       |                                     |                                  |                         |
| 9:00  | SSE's Collection   | Container Gardening | Wild Edibles Walk     | Saving Seeds from Flowers and Herbs | At-Home Seed Collections         | Threshing and Winnowing |
| 10:00 | Break  |                     |                       |                                     |                                  |                         |
| 10:30 | Member-Grower Evaluation Network                           | Diane's Garden Tour | Vinegars and Ferments | At-Home Tissue Culture              | Domesticating Wild Plant Species | At-Home Healthcare      |
| 11:30 | Break  |                     |                       |                                     |                                  |                         |
| 11:45 | Regional Seed Stewardship - Andrew Still and Sarah Kleeger |                     |                       |                                     |                                  |                         |
| 12:30 | Lunch  |                     |                       |                                     |                                  |                         |
| 1:30  | Farewell   |                     |                       |                                     |                                  |                         |

Major Sponsors

Our sponsors and supporters make the Annual Conference & Campout possible. Thank you!

## Member Field Day

On Friday, July 18, members are invited to come to the farm early for a members-only field day. The day will include behind-the-scenes tours of Heritage Farm, as well as membership discussions with SSE staff. We are inviting you to get involved: learn more about opportunities for members and discuss upcoming changes to the seed exchange.

Registration is required, \$15. Register by checking the Member Field Day option online or on the print registration form.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 10:00 | Registration & Coffee                                    |
| 10:30 | Welcome with Co-Founder Diane Ott Whealy                 |
| 11:00 | Farm Tour: Preservation Lab & Gardens                    |
| 12:00 | Catered Lunch  |
| 1:00  | Farm Tour: Seed House & Processing Building              |
| 1:45  | Farm Tour: Heritage Farm & Twin Valleys                  |
| 2:45  | Revamping the Seed Exchange: Presentation and Discussion |
| 3:30  | Member Engagement Meeting                                |
| 5:00  | Conference and Campout Begins!                           |



## Registration is easy!

- Online at [www.seedsavers.org/annual-conference](http://www.seedsavers.org/annual-conference)
- By phone at 563-382-5990 (M-F 9am-5pm CST)
- By mail at 3094 North Winn Road Decorah, IA 52101

### Registration

Member | Registration with Meals \$162 x # attending \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member | Registration with Meals \$180 x # attending \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Member | Registration without Meals \$117 x # attending \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member | Registration without Meals \$130 x # attending \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Members Only | Member Field Day \$15 x # attending [includes meals] \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Seed Savers Exchange membership \$40 [membership is required for the field day] \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dig & Discover (D&D) Youth Conference \$40.00 x # attending [available to children 6-12 years old, includes meals] \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Lodging Options

(visit <http://decorahareachamber.com/lodging> for more options)

Camping \$25.00 x # of sites \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Price includes one camp site (max occupancy 6 people) and space for one vehicle for 2 nights (Fri. & Sat.). Primitive camping, no showers or elec.

Luther College Dormitory: Fill in guest information on reverse side. Linens included, A/C, shared or private rooms, shared bath. Children must stay in a private room alone or with their parent(s), and may bunk down on their parent's floor for free (must bring own linens and mattress if desired). Prices below are for 2 nights (Fri. and Sat.). Friday check-in is 12:00pm-4:30pm. Sunday check-out is 7am-8am.

Private Room with 2 Twin Beds \$160 x # of rooms \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Twin Bed in a Shared Room \$80 x # of rooms \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of the Conference donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Competitive scholarships available on behalf of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Visit [www.seedsavers.org/annual-conference](http://www.seedsavers.org/annual-conference) for more information and an online application.

**Adult Registration:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*For Luther Dorms*

Vegetarian Male or Private Shared  
Meals Female Room Room

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed

Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest(s):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*For Luther Dorms*

Vegetarian Male or Private Shared  
Meals Female Room Room

**D&D Youth Registration:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age Male or Private Shared  
(6-12 only) Female Room Room

Emergency contact at the conference (name, relationship & cell phone): \_\_\_\_\_

**Connectivity:** New in 2014: free wi-fi at the Lillian Goldman Visitors Center and improved cell phone reception at Heritage Farm to share your Conference experiences with friends and family back home.

**Cancellation Policy:** All registration refund requests must be made by June 30, 2014. Refunds will be subject to a 15% processing fee.

**Getting to Heritage Farm, Decorah, Iowa**

**NEARBY AIRPORTS:** Rochester, MN - 50 mi.  
Minneapolis, MN - 124 mi.  
La Crosse, WI - 43 mi.

**TRAIN STATION:** La Crosse, WI

**HOTELS IN DECORAH:**  
• Bluffs Inn, 563-382-8600  
• Country Inn, 563-382-9646  
• Hotel Winneshiek, 563-382-4164  
• Quality Inn & Suites, 563-382-2269  
• Super 8, 563-382-8771

CAMPING IS AVAILABLE AT HERITAGE FARM



Virginia Nazarea is a Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Ethnoecology and Biodiversity Lab at the University of Georgia. Among other publications, she is the author of *Heirloom Seeds and their Keepers*, and co-editor of *Seeds of Resistance*, *Seeds of Hope*.

Globalization brings about movement of people and commodities, boundaries and notions - precipitating a fragility and tenuousness that many have not faced before. Whether from staying in place or from wandering out-of-place, the result is a palpable disquiet, a lingering unease. Yet, in their multi-colored seeds, backyard gardens, home-cooked meals, and home-spun stories, seedsavers and gardeners continue to dig into place and in so doing counter the alienation that can come with change. Their gardens tend to be storied, sensual, and ultimately, sovereign. What lessons can they teach us in creating or re-creating an out-of-place sense of place? How do we make it possible for more people to participate in this highly personal social movement?



Susan McCouch is a Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics at Cornell University. She spent 5 years with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines before joining the Cornell faculty in 1995. She serves as a scientific advisor on the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP), served as Chair of the AAAS Section on Agriculture and Natural Resources, and is an elected fellow of the AAAS.

A narrow genetic base in modern crop varieties makes them vulnerable to pest and disease epidemics and to environmental fluctuations. A low level of genetic variation also reduces the evolutionary potential of a population, and limits the opportunities for sustained genetic improvement by plant breeders. Abundant genetic variation can be found in global and local germplasm collections, but it remains largely underutilized in crop improvement. Knowledge about the extent and distribution of natural variation around the world, and the relationship between genetic variation and plant traits, or phenotypic performance, provides a valuable roadmap for enhancing crop productivity and sustainability, particularly in stress-prone environments.



Bryan Welch runs Ogden Publications, Inc., the owners of Mother Earth News, Mother Earth Living, Utne Reader, GRIT and several other media brands focused on sustainability, natural health and rural lifestyles.

For the past 10 years Mother Earth News has been the fastest-growing major magazine in North America. It was instrumental in promoting and organizing the Seed Savers Exchange in its early years, and continues to support the seed saving community as it has grown since.

Bryan's award-winning book, *Beautiful & Abundant: Building the World We Want*, appeared in 2011. He and his wife, Carolyn, raise organic, grass-fed cattle, sheep and goats on a 50-acre farm near Lawrence, Kansas.

Meet our  
Featured  
Speakers



Andrew Still and Sarah Kleeger traveled through Northern and Eastern Europe in the winter of 2006-2007, collecting and sharing seeds and stories through their work with The Seed Ambassadors Project. When they returned to their home in Oregon, they began to grow and evaluate some of the 800+ varieties they had collected on their travels. The resulting seed led them to establish their seed company, Adaptive Seeds, in 2009.

Andrew and Sarah will share some stories from their travels and explain what they mean when they say they are *Bringing Biodiversity Back*. They'll also explain how SSE members can join in their efforts, by transforming their seed saving skills into Seed Stewardship.

Although preservation of heirloom varieties is of critical importance, focusing solely on preservation will not necessarily prepare us for the future. When it comes to seeds, we need a more long term, participatory, and evolutionary vision. *Heirloom* is a great concept for connecting us to the food system of the past, and *stewardship* is a great concept for connecting us to the food system of the future. Seed Savers Exchange members are uniquely poised to help create new varieties: the heirlooms of tomorrow.



SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE  
3094 NORTH WINN ROAD  
DECORAH, IOWA 52101  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Visit [www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org) to learn more about speakers, workshops, and happenings at this year's Conference & Campout!

SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE  
HERITAGE FARM | DECORAH, IOWA

Conference & Campout

July 18-20, 2014

