

Seed Guild Statement of Purpose 2018

1-25-18

Transition Marquette Seed Guild Mission Statement: The mission of the Seed Guild is to be a conservator of seeds specifically adapted to our regional foodshed and to foster the growing out and sharing of those seeds.

1. The Seed Guild is to be a repository for locally grown seeds which are proven to be highly adaptive to our regional foodshed.
2. Individuals who are particularly knowledgeable about seeds, regional crops and related topics will be invited to help guide the activities of the seed guild; an advisory committee.
3. Each growing season, arrangements will be made for interested and experienced local gardeners to 'grow out' a portion of the Seed Guild's inventory to provide for a diverse and abundant supply of locally adapted seeds. 'Seed gardens' are an additional option to be pursued for seed 'grow out'.
4. The Seed Guild will endeavor to discover and recover current and long-forgotten sources of as many locally adapted seeds as is possible. A 'discovery excursion' would entail a visit to long abandoned farms or homesteads where food crops continue to thrive — even in the absence of human care. Seeds would then be harvested without disturbance to any aspect of the property.

A 'recovery' example would be to seek out senior citizens who have saved seeds for many years and invite 'seed elders' to donate some of their cherished seeds to the Seed Guild so those specific seed varieties may live on and thrive in the community.
5. A campaign will be launched to inform the residents of our regional foodshed that the Seed Guild is seeking the type of seeds as described in the criteria above.
6. The campaign will utilize different channels so as to engage specific individuals such as senior citizen gardeners, farmers, former members of the TMC Seed Co-op, current Queen City Seed Library patrons and to include all interested individuals from the local and university communities.

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Statements of Stewardship:

1. With the assistance of community gardeners — grow, select and store seeds from plants that express genetic strengths adaptable to our soils and possess unique heirloom qualities that could enhance the resiliency of our local food system.
2. Employ 'landrace' gardening techniques whenever appropriate. Landrace seeds come from a domesticated variety of plants that have, over time, adapted to local growing conditions. Landrace seeds are from "promiscuously pollinated" plants of diverse genetics and produce stable yields under the growing conditions they have adapted to over time. Since landrace seeds come from diverse genetics, they can also adapt to changing conditions.
3. The Seed Guild mission is advanced through a network of seed-saving garden-farmers and advocates, through organizing and attending regional seed swaps supporting open exchange of seeds, and through workshops and educational demonstrations at public events.
4. We envision a future where a majority of local farmers and gardeners are saving at least some of their own seeds, with each individual playing a vital role in stewarding locally-adapted seed varieties and diversity. At a point in the future, surplus seeds will be donated to Seed Savers Exchange to add to their collection.
5. We envision a future where local farmers are once again educated and skilled in the art and science of selecting, harvesting, threshing, and cleaning seed of all types of food and medicinal plants.
6. We envision a future where our local seed swaps are no longer dependent on seeds donated by large seed companies from outside the region, and instead become vital trading posts for local growers and seed stewards.

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- [The Seed Guild](#) based in Appleton, Wisconsin
- [Salish Seed Guild](#) in Bellingham, Washington
- [Joseph Lofthouse](#), Landrace Seedsman

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