

Nov. 2017

**EXCITING NEWS** — The Transition Marquette Seed Co-op is in the process of reinventing itself to become the **Transition Marquette Seed Guild**.

The transformation began several months ago when the TMC Steering Committee had numerous discussions about the Seed Co-op, analyzing sales data and assessing if its goals and purpose had been realized.

While the seed co-op has been successful for several years, 3 factors indicated the need for a new direction:

1. Customer 'seed saturation' — many members had purchased so many seeds they did not need to order more.
2. A robust seed industry — you can get open pollinated, heirloom, organic seeds for reasonable prices at Walmart, Menards, Lowes, and other outlets.
3. In its present form, the seed co-op is more of a 'bulk seed purchaser' and not doing enough to encourage or facilitate the production of locally sourced seeds.

The plan now is to sell out the existing seed inventory\* — no longer selling seeds through the web store — and turning our collective attention to the development of a Seed Guild.

And what exactly is a seed guild? The Steering Committee will develop a full spectrum of responses to that question because a seed guild is not one thing — but many things. Its main focus, we can easily say, is on locally sourced and therefore locally adapted seeds for our community. Seed saving and seed sharing are two additional areas of activity. Much more can and will be added as we evolve as a community dedicated to local food security and sustainability. In addition, we are in regular contact with a similar organization in Appleton, WI called [The Seed Guild](#) if you'd like to see one example of what a seed guild can be.

Finally, please contact the Steering Committee via e-mail with your ideas, input and questions. Want to be an active participant in this adventure? Let us know that, too.

Thank you,

The Transition Marquette Steering Committee  
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\* The existing seed inventory will be available for the cost of a donation at various public events, most notably, the Transition Gardening series that will run throughout the cold months 2017 - 2018.

All seed monies will go to support the Seed Guild.