



THE ALABAMA
SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE
NETWORK

ASAN UPDATE

2019 Spring

Published Quarterly

RECORD GROUP GATHERS FOR AMAZING 2018 FOOD & FARM FORUM!

The 2018 Food & Farm Forum — held Dec 6-8 at Camp McDowell in northwest Alabama — was undoubtedly our best Forum yet!

With over 160 people attending, it was certainly our biggest yet, but there's more to it than that. And we had over two dozen sessions on everything from on-farm

meat processing to microgreens to beginner carpentry, but there's also more to it than that.

And we held our first-ever Youth Food & Farm Forum which convened 25 diverse and extraordinary youth from across the state for 13 sessions that our incredible inaugu-

(Continued on page 4)



All photos by Kristina O'Quinn



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TECH COMPANY SQUARE INVESTS \$2M TO SAVE LEADING PROVIDER OF FARMERS MARKET SNAP AVAILABILITY

Via Novo Dia press release

On July 2, 2018, in the peak of farmers market season, Novo Dia Group (NDG) announced it would go out of business by the end of the month. NDG leads the industry enabling the use of government benefits at farmers markets; their Mobile Market+™ line of products support the use of SNAP ("food stamps"), Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers, WIC, credit/debit, and more.

Over 40% of all SNAP redemptions at US farmers markets are done using a Mobile Market+ product, so their announcement that they would be shutting down in the peak of farmers market season, was deeply threatening to farmers, farmers

Are you a Farmers Market Manager?

See page 7 for exciting new opportunities to learn and network with other market managers!

markets, and customers alike.

At the end of July 2018, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced an agreement had been reached with NDG to stave off the company's shut-down until the end of the 2018 growing season.

Then, on January 30, 2019, NDG announced \$2 million investment from mobile/online payment processor Square, in an effort to provide continued, permanent support to customers

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ASAN MEMBER PROFILES



Barbara Shipman



Foster Dickson

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LETTER FROM THE ASAN BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear ASAN Family,

It's a new year and a new growing season!

ASAN is also growing in new ways!

We had record high attendance

at the Food and Farm Forum! I loved seeing many of you including youth at Camp McDowell in December 2018! What a good time!

Thanks to each of you for coming and sharing time, learning, and teaching. ASAN is filled with beautiful people doing lots of good throughout the state! At the Forum we had some really great sessions from harvesting and selling weeds to rural organizing, to on-farm meat processing and so many other amazing sessions and workshops.

I thought that the Forum had an excellent community vibe where people could make sincere, useful, and diverse connections. For example, through the help of folks attending the Farmers Market Session, ASAN has now facilitated the creation of a Farmers Market Leadership Com-

mittee. This committee can now support market managers in their work by providing them with a community for sharing knowledge and skills.

A huge thanks to the staff and the Forum Committee for putting on a very good event. The staff: Alice Evans, Mindy Santo, Laura Nunez, and Margaret Weinberg (Youth Forum Coordinator). And board committee members: Frewin Osteen, myself, Matthew Lawrence, Collins Davis, Jasmine Ratliff, and Lindsey Lunsford!

At one of the Forum plenary sessions, we discussed various aspects of ASAN's vision and core beliefs. We want to build a resilient agricultural system in Alabama, and we believe that in order to be resilient that system (and our work) must be ecologically regenerative, centered around those who work the land, just, intergenerational, and rooted in community.

Through our vision and by our members, we have been challenged to grow in many new ways. ASAN has been challenged to become more politically active, become a force for justice and equity, provide quality high-level training for experienced farmers, and develop a step

by step curriculum for new farmers. All of these are directions ASAN can choose to grow. They all align with our vision to cultivate a resilient agricultural system.

Looking forward, there are lots of exciting things going on with ASAN this year including tailgate trainings and of course the Food and Farm Forum at Camp Beckwith in Fairhope, AL (December 6-7)! I'm very excited that we will also be having the Youth Forum again this year!

I hope it is an encouragement for you to be part of ASAN. If you have input for us including ideas for the Forum please email me at flyinguba@gmail.com or our Executive Director Alice Evans at alice@asanonline.org.

With much love,

Gabriel V. Denton

Gabriel Denton
ASAN Board President

CONTRIBUTORS: SPRING 2019

Gabriel Denton is ASAN's Board President and a farmer at Jubilee Promise Farm in Vinegar Bend, AL (Washington County).

Mindy Santo is a women's empowerment coach in Birmingham and works part-time on the staff of ASAN. An advocate of getting in the right mindset to bring your intentions to fruition, she works one-on-one and in-community to help you bring them into existence.

Laura Núñez is ASAN's Administrative and Program Assistant. A California native and graduate of UPenn, she is glad to have made Alabama her new home. Outside of work Laura volunteers with Greater Birmingham Period, an organization that provides menstrual products to those experiencing homelessness and incarceration.

Alice Evans is the Executive Director of ASAN. She is a native of Huntsville, and now lives in Birmingham with her partner Lisa, their four fur-babies, and their (human) baby, Moss.

ABOUT ASAN:

The mission of the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network is to deepen relationships between the people of Alabama, the food that we eat, and the place that we live.

ASAN provides peer-to-peer education, training, and networking opportunities to our broad network of farmers, gardeners, food-based businesses, agricultural resource organizations, and community leaders. We are a membership-based organization that seeks to improve the lives of small farmers and rural and urban communities and make a positive impact on the state's environment and health.

We define sustainable agriculture as farming that supports families and communities while conserving natural resources. We embrace the breadth of overlapping ways — ecological, economic, social, historical, etc. — that together, we can build a more sustainable food system. Find out more at <http://asanonline.org>.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gabriel Denton (President) — Jubilee Promise Farm, Vinegar Bend

Brett Dungan (Governance/Nominations Chair)— retired, Bayou La Batre

Carol Gundlach (Treasurer) — Arise Citizens Policy Project, Montgomery/Shorter

Matthew Lawrence — Marble Creek Farmstead / Marble City Meats, Sylacauga

Lindsey Lunsford — Tuskegee Extension, Tuskegee

Frewin Osteen (Forum Chair) — Prichard Housing Authority, Prichard

Lori Sawyer (Vice President)— Wind Creek Hospitality, Walnut Hill, FL

Jasmine Ratliff (Vice President / Secretary) — Carver Integrative Sustainability Center, Tuskegee

2019 OUTLOOK, AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We've already got some exciting events lined up for 2019, so mark your calendars!

NEW: Graze: Huntsville!

First, we are THRILLED to be partnering with the Greene Street Market to hold our first-ever *Graze: Huntsville* this summer! Graze is our farm-to-fork picnic fundraiser that has become a favorite in Birmingham over the past four years, and we are excited to grow the event and share the fun with our network in the Tennessee Valley! The event will be held at SR Butler Green, a beautiful expansive lawn between Straight to Ale and Yellowhamer Breweries.

We are holding our first Graze: Huntsville planning committee meeting on Thursday, February 21 from 11am-1pm. If you are interested in being a part of planning this awesome event —

2019 ASAN Calendar of Events (so far)!

Sunday, Feb 17	Tailgate Training	BDA Farm	Uniontown
Sunday, Feb 24	Tailgate Training	Bluewater Creek Farm	Killen
Sunday, July 14	Graze: Huntsville	SR Butler Green	Huntsville
Sunday, September 8	Graze: Birmingham	Avondale Brewery	Birmingham
Thurs-Sat December 5-7	Food & Farm Forum/ Youth Food & Farm Forum	Camp Beckwith	Fairhope

recruiting chefs, farms, sponsors, volunteers, and more — please reach out to Mindy at mindy@asanonline.org!

Are you (or do you know) a chef/restaurant in the greater Huntsville area? Are you (or do you know) a farmer who has a direct-market base in the greater Huntsville area? If you're interested in being part of a farmer-chef pair and providing one of the dishes for Graze: Huntsville, please let us know! You can contact Mindy at mindy@asanonline.org or call our office at 256-743-0742.

Returning favorites

We will be returning to Avondale Brewery for our FIFTH Graze: Birmingham in September, and we will head south to Camp Beckwith in Fairhope (Baldwin County) for our Food & Farm Forum and Youth Forum this December.

Both Graze: Birmingham and the Food & Farm Forum also have planning committees — if you are interested in being part of the brains (and the sweat) behind either of these events, let us know! You can email Mindy (mindy@asanonline.org) about Graze and Alice (alice@asanonline.org) about the Forum.

Lastly, we will again be holding a Youth Forum this year — more on that on page 5!

Long story short, we've got an AMAZING year planned, and would love to have you be a part of it! Now's the time to get involved!

CHANGES TO ASAN MEMBERSHIP

Last fall we assembled a task force of board members to reassess our membership structure. We opted to simplify!

We eliminated the separate tiers and prices for membership types (Individual, Household/Farm, Business/Organization), and instead now there is a single membership. The baseline suggested membership dues are \$25, though any amount is considered your dues for the year. If you can only afford \$5, you can still be a member! If you are able to give \$250, you're also a member!

You can still associate your membership record to a given farm, business, or organization — and even let us know if there are other household members, employees, etc., who you'd like to be connected to your membership.

This spring we will be reconnecting with some of y'all who we've lost touch with, who haven't renewed in a while, in an effort to get back on track and GROW our membership. We'll also be doing outreach and trying to bring new members into the fold.

If you are unsure whether your membership is current, please reach out to us! You can call the office at 256-743-0742 or email Laura (laura@asanonline.org) and we'll help you out.

And to our members: thank you a thousand times over for your support. We are privileged to be building meaningful community with you all, and privileged to work alongside you to build a resilient agricultural system in our beloved state.

GRATITUDE

Big thanks to several folks who have served ASAN in the past year:

First, Karen Wynne, longtime ASAN director and more recently, ASAN board member, who concluded her term at the end of 2018 — thank you Karen!

Second, our inaugural Youth Forum Co-

ordinator Margaret Weinberg, who finished her contract in December and will be moving on to graduate school in North Carolina this fall.

Lastly, our amazing inaugural Youth Council members! They wrapped up their term in December as well. We hope some of them will return and serve on the 2019 Council!

Advertise in the ASAN Update!

Print and electronic distribution to 3000+ across Alabama

Diverse, informed readership of farmers, foodies, community leaders, and more

Support ASAN's ongoing work to unify and amplify statewide efforts in sustainable agriculture and local food systems

Contact alice@asanonline.org for details

FORUM (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

ral Youth Council planned and orchestrated themselves... (more on page 5) but there's more to it even than that!

What made the 2018 Forum so special is hard to name, but the space was simply brimming with love and care and enthusiasm from a community of friends old and new — a community committed to their own respective home communities and to one another, as members of a larger shared statewide community.

We are in awe of the ASAN family and are so deeply grateful to all of you who shared your time, your gifts, and your passion with us (and with one another) at the Forum.

Many many thanks to all our incredible volunteers, board, and staff, and to the crew at Camp McDowell, for bringing this event to fruition! And thanks as always to our amazing sponsors (listed on page 5) for their generous financial support!!

Save the date!

December 5-7, 2019

Camp Beckwith, Fairhope, AL

We are already underway with planning for the 2019 Forum in Fairhope, AL — if you'd like to be part of the planning committee (more info on page 3), please contact alice@asanonline.org or 256-743-0742!



What did Forum / Youth Forum attendees have to say?

"The Forum truly is a place for filling up glass half empties and getting recharged."

"As a newcomer this was an inclusive and intelligent community I'm happy to become a part of."

"I meet great people here and get rejuvenated to go back and improve my farm."

"I got a scholarship and appreciate how accessible this conference is. Everything was thoughtful and amazing."

"I love that there is a youth forum, childcare, and lots of babies. Since farming takes up so much of a person's life, it's so important to be able to bring your whole life with you."

"The most valuable thing I learned this weekend was the importance about youth and how we play a big role in different ways."

"Loved the focus on equity!"

"[The most valuable thing I learned was] that food and ag work encompasses a broad set of experiences and it's important to be aware of challenges folks from different backgrounds are facing."

"This is one event I can't afford to miss."

"Each presentation was phenomenal. So was the food and lodging. Overall, fantastic experience!"

WANT TO HELP ORGANIZE THIS YEAR'S YOUTH FORUM?

Seeking 2019 Youth Food & Farm Forum Coordinator

Our beloved inaugural Youth Forum Coordinator Margaret Weinberg is moving to enroll in graduate school this fall.

So, we are seeking a 2019 Youth Food & Farm Forum Coordinator! The Youth Forum Coordinator is responsible for coordinating and working with the Youth Council them to put on the Youth Forum.

The job was posted in late January and we are hoping to have it filled in time for a late February or early March start date.

The position is a part-time contract position extending through the end of the year.

The full job description and details on how to apply are available at <https://asanonline.org/2019yfc/>.

Applications out soon for 2019 Youth Council

In mid-February we will post the application for this year's Youth Council. The Youth Council is a team of 6-10 youth (ages 14-21) from around the state who organize and put on the Youth Food & Farm Forum. In the process, they build skills in event planning, outreach, and leadership, and build collaborative relationships with one another.

One 2018 YC member said, "I've never been in a position where I was able to dictate what I wanted, and been taken into consideration by other people." Another said that when they first started, "I wasn't really sure what was going on and thought it was just going to be a bunch of grown-ups. It wasn't that. We had the power in our hands and a good Forum came out of it."

If you are (or know of) a young person 14-21 years old who is interested in food, farming, and community organizing, be sure to apply!



SPONSORS

2018 FOOD & FARM FORUM AND
2018 YOUTH FOOD & FARM FORUM



MEMBER TASK FORCE UPDATES ASAN'S CORE BELIEF STATEMENTS

Last year, along with our revised mission and vision statement, we published ASAN's core beliefs — the result of the collective thinking of the many many participants in our strategic planning process. When we did, we committed to making these belief statements a living document, one that we would revisit as a network every year at the Forum, to update and revise and improve as needed.

During the plenary session at the 2018 Forum, we did this revisiting for the first time. We broke into four groups based on what were then the four core beliefs, discussed what (if anything) we felt was missing, underrepresented, or misrepresented. Each small group had time to share back to the larger group, a little bit about what they discussed, during which others had the chance to show agreement with/ support for what was being said.

At the end of all this, we formed a Core Beliefs Task Force, which met in January to synthesize all the good plenary feedback, and incorporate it into a new, updated set of Core Belief statements. The 2019 Core Beliefs are presented here, at right.

Many many thanks to the Task Force members for the incredibly thoughtful energy they brought to this process — Randi Carter, Aubrey Gallegos, Brendan O'Connor, Gabriel Denton, and Holly Baker. Thank y'all!

ASAN's vision is a resilient agricultural system in Alabama. We believe that strong relationships are essential to resilient systems; and therefore our mission is to deepen relationships between the people of Alabama, the food we eat, and the place we live.

CORE BELIEFS:

A resilient agricultural system is ecologically regenerative. In order to flourish, our agriculture should replenish the soil, protect the air and watershed, and enhance the ecosystem. We must understand ourselves to be humble participants in an interdependent ecological community.

A resilient agricultural system centers around those who work the land; for an agricultural system to thrive, farmers and farmworkers must be able to sustain themselves economically and socially.

A resilient agricultural system is just. Inequity and exploitation in any form, from producer to consumer, are threats to sustainability. All laborers within the food system must be justly compensated and treated with dignity. The historic and modern racism and sexism that pervades current agricultural institutions and practices must be specifically addressed.

A resilient agricultural system is intergenerational. Agricultural knowledge and wisdom inherited from our elders and ancestors should be maintained and celebrated. The system we sustain and work for should be worthy of our children and youth, who should be engaged and invited to participate in growing, harvesting, and consuming healthy foods.

A resilient agricultural system is rooted in community. A network of strong, personal, place-based connections between/among members of the entire food system stabilizes and drives a thriving agricultural system.

WE'VE GOT HATS AND T-SHIRTS!

We're so thrilled to debut our hot-off-the-press ASAN t-shirts and hats! Maybe we're biased, but we think they look amazing!

Hats are available in trucker style (in charcoal/white and khaki/ivory) and regular style (in dark green, charcoal, and navy). The hats were made by Pukka Inc.

The shirt design is by Katie Thompson, who did our 2017 Forum graphics as well! They were hand-printed by Gregory Price on Anvil lightweight soft t-shirts. Shirts are available in Kelly green, lake blue, teal ice, and grey.

Both are \$15-20, sliding scale.

If you want a shirt and/or hat and are in or near Birmingham, drop us a line and we'd love to have you drop by

our office! We may open up the option to buy online and have it shipped — if that's something you'd be interested in, drop us a line at laura@asanonline.org or 256-743-0742 and we'll make sure you're the first to know.



SQUARE (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

and farmers markets nationwide.

"We are thrilled to receive an investment from a company like Square, who understands the needs of individuals and small businesses like our customers," said

Josh Wiles, president of Novo Dia Group. "This capital will allow NDG to realize our goal of empowering merchants nationwide with the most comprehensive EBT solution available."

"Investing in Novo Dia is a no-brainer—their SNAP and WIC payment-acceptance tools provide a critical service to important and underserved customers," said James Loftus, Square Corporate Development Lead.

"Our investment will make sure Novo Dia can continue to support buyers and sellers in farmers market communities across the country."

"We are delighted to see investment from Square into this critical space," said Phil Blalock, Executive Director of the National Association of Farmer's Market Nutrition

Programs (NAFMNP). "It will ensure that farmers and farmers markets can continue to operate and expand



Photo courtesy Farmers Market Coalition

their customer base for all types of transactions anywhere in the country as well as avoid any interruption in service. The more traditional payment services are available to small producers, the stronger their markets and opportunities become."

Diane Eggert of the Farmer Market Federation of NY said that their group is pleased to hear the news. "Many of the farmers in our markets are already using Square for debit and credit card transactions and find the reporting and record-keeping options to be helpful in tracking their sales. We look forward to seeing what innovations the two companies can bring to the farmers market community," she said.

ASAN FORMS PILOT FARMERS MARKET LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

This winter, ASAN is piloting our first-ever leadership committee — a Farmers Market Leadership Committee. The goals of this committee are to create a network of support between/among farmers markets, including helping to incubate new markets where needed, and helping existing markets grow stronger. We want to provide connectivity and support for market managers and help them build supportive relationships with one another.

Participants must:

- Currently manage an Alabama farmers market, or market that has a heavy Alabama draw. We are open to those starting markets as well.
- Be an active ASAN member.
- Attend MOST committee calls/meetings and contribute to the ongoing administration/management of the committee in some meaningful way.
- Adhere to the community agreements defined by the committee.

(These participation commitments may change slightly, as the committee plans to review and refine them at our first meeting in late February.)

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Alice at alice@asanonline.org!

We hope to build on the success of this first committee and build additional member-led committees, whether defined by a particular program/activity, role in the food system, identity/demographics, or other criteria.

FARMERS MARKETS: JOIN ASAN TO ALSO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FARMERS MARKET COALITION

The national Farmers Market Coalition (FMC) is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening farmers markets across the United States so that they can serve as community assets while providing real income opportunities for farmers. FMC works:

- To serve as an information center for farmers markets.
- To be a voice for North American farmers market advocacy.
 - To foster strong state and regional farmers market associations.
 - To bring private and public support to the table to sustain farmers markets in the long term, for the benefit of farmers, consumers, and communities.
 - To promote farmers markets to the public.
 - To develop and provide educational programming and networking opportunities for farmers market managers and farmers market vendors.

ASAN recently joined FMC as a State Partner, meaning that all current dues-paying members of ASAN also automatically become members of FMC! FMC membership includes access to a wealth of resources such as discounts, one-on-one market support, and more. See the full list of member benefits at <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/education/member-resources/>.



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ASAN MEMBER PROFILE SERIES

Since many of you are miles apart, and since opportunities to gather in person are few and far between, we initiated this series of member profiles as a way to deepen relationships among ASAN's diverse, amazing, and ingenious members across the state. **Thanks to these and all our members** for their ongoing support!

To read the **extended cut of these (and other) interviews** visit <https://asanonline.org/category/member-profiles/>.

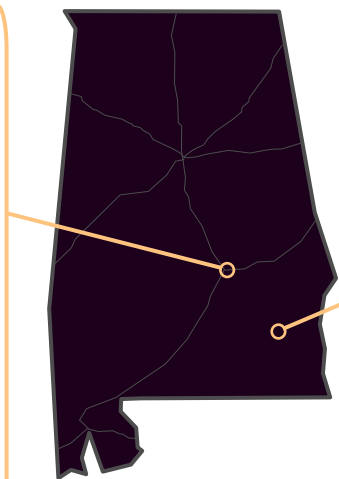
Want to be featured in a future profile, or know an ASAN member who deserves a little light shined their way? **To nominate someone to be featured in a future profile**, drop us a line at info@asanonline.org!

Not a paid member yet? Join today, at <http://asanonline.org/join-asan> or fill out and mail us the paper form on page 15!

MEMBER PROFILE: FOSTER DICKSON



Photo courtesy Foster Dickson



Foster Dickson is a writer, editor, and started a school garden program at the school where he teaches Creative Writing and 12th grade English, Booker T. Washington Magnet High in Montgomery, AL. Last year they suffered a devastating loss two weeks into the new school year, when a fire destroyed a large portion of the school and forced them to relocate. They had to leave everything behind consumed by the fire and on the grounds—including the school garden. In the new location, he has faced some major hurdles, but he's willing to stay the course so his students will understand "where food comes from".

By the way, toward the end of last year he released his sixth book, *Closed Ranks: The Whitehurst Case in Post-Civil Rights Montgomery* published by NewSouth Books. We spoke shortly after the release, and prior to the writing of this story, "[A Moveable Feast: the Rebirth of a #schoolgarden](#)".

How long have you been a member of ASAN? 3-4 years. Fellow ASAN member and former back-fence neighbor, Myles Wright, referred me.

Why did you become a member of ASAN? I wanted my family to have access to healthy food. To summarize Michael Pollan, "whatever you're eating should look like what it is." And, I come from people who farmed for generations, it was part of my history.

Also, in our garden we grow vegetables without using any chemicals. We even preserved our wood-framed, raised beds with linseed oil rather than chemicals or paint. A pile of old wood under a rela-

(Continued on page 9)

MEMBER PROFILE: BARBARA SHIPMAN



Barbara Shipman (left) and husband Roy, on their farm. Photo credit Julie Hunter

Barbara Shipman of Shipman Farm believes in community. Whether it's an entire community re-inventing themselves to be stronger and better, or a community of individuals mobilizing to support each other in times of need, she's a firsthand witness and knows it's valuable.

How long have you been a member of ASAN? More than 10 years.

Why did you become a member of ASAN? We worked with Karen Wynne through Heifer International, they were mentoring beginning farmers and working with us. Then ASAN stepped in to support us with local food initiatives around the state with the help of organizational development and small grants. That segued into a project with the Ford Foundation which helped us establish the Cottage House 501(c)3 as an educational resource, developed farm to school programs, and eventually facilitated sales to wholesale outlets. We felt a strong pull to stay connected to her, so our small group followed her to ASAN.

What is your favorite ASAN event, and why? It's not any one event. It's more about the excitement of traveling throughout the state to visit new places, and attend annual meetings, etc.

What do you love about being part of ASAN / part of the food movement in Alabama? I enjoy the people gathering together to exchange ideas with each other.

(Continued on page 9)

DICKSON (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 8)

tive's home was used to construct our tool shed. Adopting sustainable practices in our school garden is important.

What is your favorite ASAN event, and why?

During the school year I'm so busy teaching, working part-time at my church, tending the school garden, and coaching my child's team sports, it's difficult to do anything extra. However, when I do have time, especially during the summer, I enjoy ASAN events in Montgomery. I'd like more events during the summer in Montgomery--please.

What do you love about being part of ASAN / part of the food movement in Alabama?

I'm a rank amateur at agriculture, but I'm open-minded, willing to learn, and have always had my hands in the dirt in some way or other. Even though I'm not a farmer, I'm capable of growing vegetables. I eat local. I am a facilitator. More importantly, I'm trying to teach teenagers how to garden who have no concept of where food comes from.

What frustrates or challenges you about the work you do, and/or the broader context in which you do it? What keeps you up at night?

Having the resources I need to resurrect the school garden. I'm starting over. Thankfully, Alabama Cooperative Extension helped by contributing plants and lending manpower to till the land, however we still need supplies, structures, and participation.

At the time of our interview, the water supply was not conveniently located to the garden. He had to fill up containers with water and drive them to the plants. They received a grant from Sunrise Rotary in Montgomery that will help them run a water line to the site!



Previous garden site, raised bed building day in 2015. Photo courtesy Foster Dickson

SHIPMAN (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 8)

What frustrates or challenges you about the work you do, and/or the broader context in which you do it? What keeps you up at night?

The lack of help to accomplish what needs to be done on your farm.

A group of women came together who are part of National Women in AG and AL Women in AG, based in Wilcox County to address these issues. They mobilize based on needs that are requested from an ad in a local publication. They've formed a work force group and when the need arises, they connect and map out a plan to help harvest, and plant year-round. They meet to discuss who's next on the list, then create a plan. There are 15 people that are currently part of the group, they've been doing this for 5 years. They build hoop houses, tunnel houses, anything that the farmer is unable to do by themselves. There's high unemployment in the area, so people are looking for help and work. This helps.

Describe your farm – where is it, how big is it, what do you raise, who helps manage it with you? How long have you had your farm? Shipman Farm is in the Elamville Community in the SW corner of Barbour County. It's been in operation for over 100 years. We're a 5th generation farm that exists on an 800-acre plot of timberland, it belonged to my husband's grandfather. We use 31 acres to grow 37 different items of organic-certified food. Right now we're working to recapture an additional 10 acres; however it's been a slow process due to root removal and the discovery of underground springs. In fact, 7 acres of that plot are wetlands.

Our produce is grown in tunnel houses in-ground, year-round, and we rotate spring and summer. We grow: collard



Photo credit Julie Hunter

greens, kale, carrots, squash, watermelon, cucumbers, white peas--they're traditional to this area, pink-eye, and purple hull peas, just to name a few. "What mama grew".

What made you want to be a farmer?

As a little girl, it's something I knew I was going to do. I had a one-acre garden with carrots and turnip greens. I told everybody, when I grow up, I'm going to have my own farm.

And, I love teaching youth how to grow their own food. We started The Cottage House 501 c3, where we teach them how to grow for the Heifer Garden. In the fall, we'll be working at Barbour County Middle School where we used one of our small grants to establish a veggie garden. There we have an outdoor classroom used by all of the teachers so the students can get outside. They teach English, math, and science outdoors. We're working with the science class this year to plant a garden.

The Cottage House was the 1st organization to be chartered in the National Women in Agriculture Oklahoma City, OK. I am a member of the Cottage House Women and Youth in Agriculture and the Alabama Women in Agriculture. Cottage House was the 1st organization to be a part of the National Women in Agriculture. We got our 501 c(3) in 2009.

NEWS FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

Belated congratulations to **Clay and Amy Carmichael** of Selma on the birth of their second baby, **Bradford Collins Carmichael**, on September 29, 2018. Collins is being well taken care of by his big sister **Emmylou** (Lulu). If Clay has his way, Collins and Lulu will be the 5th generation in their family business!

Welcome to the world **Kai Bell Nesbitt**, born December 28, 2018 to **Sarah Bell** (of Hill and Dale Farm) and **Matt Nesbitt** of Birmingham! Likes: soft music, smiles, ceiling fans. Dislikes: diaper changes. Sarah and Matt couldn't be happier or more proud of their new bundle of joy!

CLASSIFIEDS AND RESOURCES

FOR SALE — WALK-BEHIND TRACTOR AND IMPLEMENTS: BCS diesel 853 walk-behind tractor with Berta rotary plow and flail mower, bought new from EarthTools in 2010, used very lightly, excellent condition. Asking \$5,000. Contact Jim Allen (past president of ASAN), 334-499-2380, vineyfig@knology.net.

FOR SALE — ORGANIC LAND: Certified Organic Irrigated Land in Slocomb, AL. 180ac for sale by owner, \$4500/acre. includes 110 acre Pivot & 800 Sq. Ft. House. Part of **Working Cows Dairy**. Call Rinske De Jong at 334-886-3839.

FOR SALE — ROLLER CRIMPER: ASAN is selling a custom-made 8' two-stage roller crimper.

Attaches to three-point hitch. Located in Shorter, AL.

Must be a current paid ASAN member in order to purchase. Asking price \$2415. For more information and photos go to <http://asanonline.org/rollercrimper>.

FOR SALE — POULTRY PLUCKER: Deluxe Tabletop Plucker in Madison, AL. Can be used to



These sections appear in every newsletter and feature updates both personal and professional, on ASAN members and friends: anything from a new farm, to a new baby.

They make existing resources known to others, and help spread the word for those looking to connect. Connecting people in this, the barest-bones of ways, we hope to provide a jumping-off point for folks to connect on their own in deeper ways.

Have something you want us to publish? Send it to alice@asanonline.org or (256) 743-0742.

pluck any kind of bird with feathers in minutes (after scalding). Rotating polyvinyl drum with 28 rubber fingers, powered by 1725 RPM motor. Removable steel grate on top and steel belt guard on the side for safety. \$100 (**special price for ASAN network only!**), contact Kamilla Nelson, kamillanelson@icloud.com.

JOB POSTING: Outreach Specialist (two positions), Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Epes, AL and Albany, GA. The Outreach Specialist/ Land Tenure position will focus on outreach to limited resource farmers and landowners as well as supporting the strategic goals of FSC/LAF's Regional Heirs Property and Mediation Center by assisting in the delivery of services to landowners impacted by heirs property. For Georgia position contact Cornelius Key at corneliuskey@federation.coop. For Alabama position contact Dr. Marcus Bernard, marcusbernard@federation.coop.

JOB POSTING: UA Arboretum, Caretaker (#507964) and **Office and Grounds Assistant** (#507972) in Tuscaloosa. More information at <http://staffjobs.ua.edu>. Application review began January 31.

JOB POSTING: Gardens 2 Schools Fellow, Schoolyard Roots in Tuscaloosa, in partnership with the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Full-time, one year position. More information at <https://schoolyardroots.org/g2s-fellow/>.

RESOURCE — MEAT PROCESSING FOR FARMERS: Marble Creek Farmstead's on-farm USDA processing plant **Marble City Meats in Sylacauga** is now open! "Bring your pork, beef, goat, lamb, chicken, or turkey to us for the best in craft butchery. Immediate openings. More details at <https://marblecitymeats.com/> or 205-936-6120.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DETAILS FOR THESE EVENTS AND MORE, AT WWW.ASANONLINE.ORG/EVENTS

February 5-6 - Tifton, GA
Packinghouse HACCP

February 6 - Montgomery
Harvest for the Montgomery Area Food Bank

February 8-9 - Birmingham
2019 WINTER SYMPOSIUM: FOOD IS WORK

February 8 - Tifton, GA
2019 Georgia Organics Conference & Expo

February 12 - Cullman
Procurement Workshops-Cullman

February 12 - Fairhope
Mobile Bay Green Drinks-Fairhope

February 13 - Montgomery
Harvest for the Montgomery Area Food Bank

February 13 - Pelham
Procurement Workshops-Pelham

February 16 - Montgomery
11th Annual Seedling Giveaway-Montgomery Trees

February 16 - Jemison
Tree Fruits in the Home Garden- Dr. Arlie Powell

February 17 - Uniontown
Tailgate Training at BDA Farm

February 19 - Fairhope
Off-Bottom Culture of Oysters

February 20 - Montgomery
Harvest for the Montgomery Area Food Bank

February 20 - Mobile
Mobile Bay Green Drinks-Mobile

February 22 - Alabama
CSA Day 2019

February 23 - Jemison
Antiques Roses in the Garden

(Continued on page 11)

Help us cultivate a resilient agricultural system in Alabama.
Join ASAN or renew your membership today!

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

The base membership fee is \$25 annually; however, any contribution is considered a membership due. Please contribute what you can! All donations are tax-deductible.

\$_____ **Membership dues enclosed**

_____ Check number

_____ Date submitted

You will receive monthly e-updates and occasional other email communications. Check here to also receive our quarterly print newsletter: _____

You will receive an email receipt for your contribution.

Check here if you'd also like a paper acknowledgement: _____

Please mail checks made out to ASAN to:
 PO Box 2533, Birmingham, AL 35202.

Questions? Contact info@asanonline.org
 or (256) 743-0742.

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 10)

February 23 - Sylacauga
 Sausage-Making Workshop

February 23 - Montgomery
 Seedy Saturday: Community Seed
 Swap at E.A.T. South

February 23 - Coz
 21st Annual Small Farmers Area Work
 Conference

February 24 - Killen
**Tailgate Training at Bluewater Creek
 Farm**

February 27 - Montgomery
 Harvest for the Montgomery Area
 Food Bank

March 1-2 - Montgomery
 ALFA Young Farmers Conference 2019

March 2 - Montgomery
 Volunteer Saturday: Family Day-
 Planting & Transplanting

March 6 - Montgomery
 Harvest for the Montgomery Area
 Food Bank

March 8 - Mars Hill, NC
 26th Annual Organic Growers School
 Spring Conference

March 9 - Montgomery
 Farm in the City: Organic Gardening 3.0

March 12 - Fairhope
 Mobile Bay Green Drinks-Fairhope, AL

March 13 - Montgomery
 Harvest for the Montgomery Area Food Bank

March 15-17 - Fairhope
 Alabama Water Rally 2019

March 20 - Montgomery
 Harvest for the Montgomery Area Food Bank

March 20 - Mobile
 Mobile Bay Green Drinks-Mobile

March 23 - Sylacauga
 European Seam Butchery & Charcuterie
 Workshop

March 23 - Jemison
 Citrus in the Home Garden – Dr. Arlie Powell

March 24 - Sylacauga
 Marble Creek Farmstead Monthly Public
 Farm Tour

March 22-24 - Mt. Cheaha
 Deep South Herbal Conference 2019

March 27 - Montgomery
 Harvest for the Montgomery Area Food Bank

Submit your event to our events calendar!

Email mindy@asanonline.org and include:

- Name of event
- Host group and contact info
- Location (including full address)
- Date/time
- Price
- Link to event website, Facebook event page, and/or flyer, if there is one.
- Short (3-4 sentences) description of the event written in "third person" (i.e. "XYZ Club invites you to join them for their annual meeting" vs "join us for our annual meeting")
- Please send information in the body of the email, not simply a flyer or attachment. We can link to something already online but can't upload a PDF flyer.

April 6 - Montgomery
 Volunteer Saturday at E.A.T. South: Family
 Day-Recycled Paper Project

April 7-10 - Gulf Shores
 2019 AAC&DC Annual Conference

(Continued on page 12)

ASAN

PO Box 2533
Birmingham, AL 35202

Coming to the wrong
person? Email
alice@asanonline.org
to unsubscribe your
address. Thanks!



What do YOU want to
read about? Send us
your ideas or suggestions
for future features!

**healthy farms,
healthy foods,
healthy communities.**

ASAN NEEDS YOU!



Are you already an ASAN member?

HIGH FIVE!

You are part the strong, critical foundation that sustains
our ongoing work and propels our future growth.

**Not a member?
Membership expired?**

Join or renew today!

Online at www.asanonline.org/join-asan, or mail us your donation
along with the form on page 11! **Thank you for supporting ASAN!**

(Continued from page 11)
April 14 - Birmingham
Alabama Vegan Fest

April 20 - Fairhope
Earth Day Mobile Bay 2019

April 27 - Thomaston
Pepper Jelly Festival

April 28 - Sylacauga
Marble Creek Farmstead
Monthly Public Farm Tour

May 18 - Hanceville
Veteran Farmers Conference

July 14 - Huntsville
1st Annual Graze: Huntsville

September 8—Birmingham
5th Annual Graze: Birmingham

December 5-7—Fairhope
ASAN Food & Farm Forum /
Youth Food & Farm Forum