



THE ALABAMA
SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE
NETWORK

ASAN UPDATE

2019 Winter

Published Quarterly

JOIN US ON THE COAST! FOOD & FARM FORUM 2019

Join us this December 5-7 on beautiful Weeks Bay in Fairhope, for our annual Food & Farm Forum / Youth Food & Farm Forum!

The Forum is ASAN's largest event, and the largest gathering of our network of folks across the state (and beyond!). It's a chance to learn, to meet new friends and gather again with old ones, to celebrate the end of the growing season, and to build shared strategy for a more resilient agricultural system in Alabama.

This year we'll be at Camp Beckwith, a camp and retreat center in Fairhope, Baldwin County, on beautiful Weeks Bay. The Forum features 28 peer-led concurrent sessions, for



Scene from 2018 Food and Farm Forum at Camp McDowell

serious production farmers to gardeners and homesteaders, to food system advocates and more. Concurrent sessions take place Friday morning (12/6) and all of Saturday (12/7) – a full list of the sessions offered is available via the main Forum landing page, <http://asanonline.org/forum19>. We can assure you, there's something for everyone!

We will have a plenary block on

Friday afternoon with a place-based panel, to ground us in coastal Alabama's history and current context. We will also spend time on ASAN's core values – a living document we revisit each year at the Forum to review, revise, and realign ourselves to. (See current core values at <http://asanonline.org/about-us>.)

We will have plenty of break times and social spaces – and we encourage participants to bring their own ideas and gifts to the Forum community. We are co-creating this space together! Please let us know if you want to lead a nature hike, a short yoga session, a stargazing outing, music jam session, or whatever other special thing you have to offer! All

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CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAFT NETWORK KICKS OFF WITH A BANG

This fall ASAN along with a farmer-led steering committee have brought to life the Central Alabama CRAFT Network, a network of sustainable farmers, farm employees, farm interns/apprentices, and aspiring farmers who gather monthly for on-farm events that combine training with community-building. This fall's training events were open to any and all; the steering committee will decide when they meet this winter, whether to keep this structure or to formalize another structure/plan for CRAFT membership and participation.

The pilot series kicked off in August at Walden Farms in

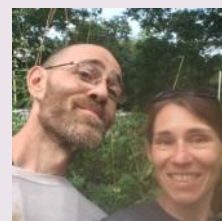


Enjoying the potluck at the end of the CRAFT workshop at Hepzibah Farm in September

Bessemer, with a focus on permaculture. We had a steady rain coming down the entire workshop, but our host Trevor

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ASAN MEMBER PROFILES



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LETTER FROM THE ASAN BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear ASAN family,
Fall is here! It is nice to be in this beautiful fall weather, and to be breathing Alabama's fresh cool air. Soon I hope to be planting fruit

trees. This is one of my favorite ways to invest in my family and community. Similarly, ASAN invests in people, creating a more abundant and beautiful future!

For ASAN fall is a time to be thinking about the Food and Farm Forum and about the community it gathers. The Forum is ASAN's biggest event of the year. The 2019 Food and Farm Forum and Youth Food and Farm Forum will be at Camp Beckwith in Fairhope, AL on the beautiful Weeks Bay!

Sessions are all about growing everything: mushrooms, veggies, food forests, poultry, flowers, hemp, worms, and even community. There are also sessions on produce safety, social and environmental justice, homesteading, and cooking that you should definitely check out.

So why does our small agriculture conference offer sessions on community?

Agriculture and food have a special place in building community. Growing food, selling food, and eating food brings people together.

The reason that I farm is to build a community that is connected with their food. I love sharing my produce, and buying local food that is grown and prepared by people I know. It makes me feel loved and safe.

I believe that a community, connected with each other and their local food system, is healthier and more resilient. It is important that we give folks the tools they need to connect their communities with locally produced food through schools, community farmers markets, farmers cooperatives, community gardens and in other ways. Come to the Forum to learn about these topics and more.

People at all levels of experience can benefit from the Forum. It is motivating to have a people who understand your challenges, and can encourage and help you.

At the Forum you will find a diversity of participants, including youth, that give the place a sense of excitement and opportunity. Sometimes we feel deeply

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Contact alice@asanonline.org for details

connected to one another, like a loving family.

I wish for you the best in all of your work to build community! Please come learn more and share your experiences with us at the Forum!

Sincerely,

ASAN Board President

CONTRIBUTORS: WINTER 2019

Natalie Bishnoi helps farmers become GAP certified, creates marketing materials, and coordinates sales and delivery logistics, so farms throughout North and Central Alabama can sell to school facilities and grocery stores.

Leslie Grill is the Project Coordinator and Marketing Specialist for the Southeast Organic Partnership at Tuskegee University

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.

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>.

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Holly Baker — Climate Justice Alliance, Weogufka

Martha Daughdrill — ViperVille Vegetable Farm, Atmore

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

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

Carol Gundlach (Treasurer) — Alabama Arise, Montgomery/Shorter

Lindsey Lunsford — Tuskegee Extension, Tuskegee

Jesse Murphy — DSR Farms, Danville

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

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

Kristin Woods — Alabama Extension / Produce Safety Alliance, Grove Hill

STAFF CHANGES AT ASAN!

Williesha (Willi) Morris (pictured at right) is ASAN's newest team member, coming on board in September 2019 as our full-time Membership & Office Coordinator. Williesha was born and raised in South Carolina. She received her bachelor's degree in journalism the University of South Carolina.

In her new role with ASAN, Williesha will be responsible for managing the ASAN office, communications, and managing the database of contacts, among other things. She is excited to apply her admin assistant background, writing skills, and community relations and organizing skills, to support a vital cause like sustainable agriculture. She's excited to plug into sustainable agriculture and the Alabamians who protect it.



Laura Núñez is transitioning away from her role at ASAN — she left her full-time role at the end of August, and is working part-time this fall, helping with Forum registration. She is spending most of her time studying for the LSAT, with hopes to apply to law school this winter. If you see her, please wish her well!

Are you an ASAN member?

We are recommitting to being a grassroots membership-driven organization! Members drive our direction and our decision-making, and membership dues support our efforts to train farmers, educate consumers and policy makers, and strengthen the bonds that hold together our local food system.

We now have just one membership level (for individuals, farms, households, etc), and a sliding scale rate -- the base recommended membership fee is \$25, but any amount, large or small, will make you a member.

We also invite members to get involved! Maybe join an event planning committee for the Food & Farm Forum, Graze: Birmingham, or the inaugural Graze: Huntsville! If you manage a farmers market, we hope you'll consider joining our pilot Farmers Market Leadership Committee. Contact us if you're interested!

Please join or renew today! Use the form on page 15 or go to <http://asanonline.org/join-asan>.

APPLY — OR NOMINATE SOMEONE — TO JOIN THE ASAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ASAN Board of Directors is a 10- to 15-person volunteer body responsible for guiding the overall strategic direction of the organization. ASAN's board is a grassroots working board. That means, for one, that board members are representative of ASAN's overall constituency — they're farmers, market managers, gardeners, business owners, nonprofit reps, etc., and they're embedded within the ASAN community.

Second, it means that they do more than just show up for a quarterly vote — they're actively involved throughout the year in fundraising, outreach, and supporting ASAN's programs.

ASAN board members meet every 2-3 months -- twice a year in-person and via Zoom (online videoconferencing platform) in between. Board members are required to serve on at least one of ASAN's board committees, and to be responsive and involved in board and organization communications in the interim.

Board members must be deeply committed to ASAN, our work, and our values (see more at <http://asanonline.org/about-us>). Ideal board members are able to

lean on their own experience and role within the food system, to inform systems-level thinking/strategy about sustainable agriculture in Alabama.

Board members serve for three years, and terms for this cohort of board members will officially start in March 2020, at the overnight board/staff retreat.

We are making this public call for applications and nominations for the first time this year, and it will be supplementing our board-led nominations process which is already underway. The ASAN Governance/Nominating Committee will review all submitted applications in January/February after which the full board will vote on a final slate of new members.

If you are interested in serving on the ASAN board, we invite you to please fill out a board application! You can fill it out online at <http://bit.ly/ASANboardapp> or if you prefer, we can send it to you as a Word doc that you can print and mail back.

If you have questions, please contact Board President Gabriel Denton (flyinguba@gmail.com), Vice President Jasmine Ratliff (jasmine1ratliff@gmail.com),

and/or Governance/Nominating Chair Brett Dungan (byudungan@gmail.com). **The final deadline to submit your application is December 4, 2019.**

If you are interested in NOMINATING someone (not yourself) to join the board, please send the following to Gabriel, Jasmine, and Brett (emails above) by the December 4, 2019 deadline, though earlier submission is preferable:

1. Nominee's name
2. Nominee's location (city/town is fine) and farm/organization/affiliation if applicable
3. Nominee's contact info — both phone and email if possible
4. A few sentences about why you are nominating them and why you think they would be a valuable addition to the ASAN board
5. Your name, city/town, farm/org/affiliation if applicable, and contact info

Thank you for helping make ASAN strong!

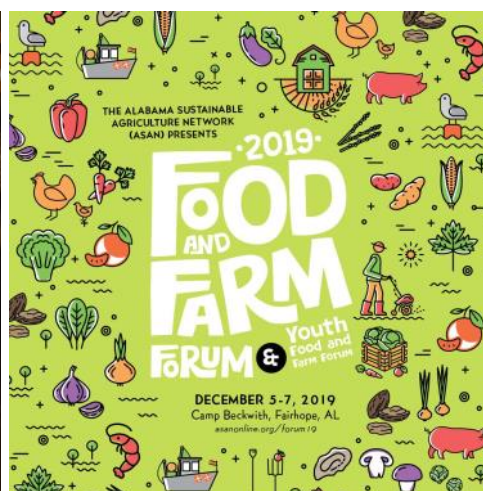
FORUM (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

meals Friday breakfast through Saturday dinner are included in your registration (Thursday box dinners available for an additional charge), and all meals are served on-site, family-style, to encourage community-building!

Friday night we'll have our "Market Fair" a mixer, seed swap, and producers'/makers' market just in time for the holidays. If you would like to be a vendor at the Market Fair please contact info@asanonline.org – it's free to participate. Saturday night we'll have a closing shindig, complete with a campfire by the water.

This year we will again hold our Youth Food & Farm Forum, which debuted in 2018 for youth 14-21. This year, in response to feedback we got last year, concurrent sessions will be open to youth AND adults together, offering more



opportunities for youth and adults to connect and interact. Some concurrent sessions are led or co-led by youth, as well!

New this year, we are offering three field trip options on Thursday, December 5, to places of interest on/near the Gulf Coast. Field trip options include: (1) Local Appetite Growers – Vegetable farm in Silverhill, AL, (2) NoMoCo Food Park / Africatown Community in Prichard, AL, and (3) Weeks Bay Foundation in Fairhope, AL. Field trips are \$20. More details are at

<http://asanonline.org/forum19>.

Forum registration is open through November 12, so act now! Walk-up registration will not be accepted due to our need to give final food and lodging numbers to the site ahead of time! Adult registration is \$105, youth (14-21) \$65, and children (6-13) are \$45. Children 5 and

under are free. Free child care and children's activities are provided for youth 13 and under. Registration includes meals and all Friday/Saturday programming. Lodging is additional; options are available including private hotel-style lodging, dorms, and tent camping.

All the information you need is at <http://asanonline.org/forum19>. We hope to see you in December!

CRAFT (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

was actually thrilled, because the rain gave him a chance to show his recently completed earthen irrigation in action! Our soggy attendees gathered inside Trevor and Joanna's house after the tour for an incredible potluck.

September's event was on cut flower production, hosted by Hepzibah Farms in Talladega. We had a crowd of nearly 40 who came eager with questions, in spite of the blazing heat. We sat outside under the trees and shared our potluck with the geese and the guineas.

October's event was on perennial fruit production, at Jones Valley Teaching Farm, where the JVTF team walked us through their urban orchard featuring apples, pears, persimmons, plums, and more. Afterwards we took shelter from the cold and rain in the greenhouse for yet another amazing potluck.

Our fourth and final CRAFT event this year, will be November 17 at BDA Farm in Uniontown, with a focus on no-till production.

If you attended any of this year's CRAFT events – or if you didn't, but would like to participate in 2020 – please take a moment to fill out our end-of-season survey! We want to hear feedback about this year's events, and also your ideas for potential host farms and focus topics for 2020! Go to <http://bit.ly/CRAFT2019> to access the survey.

Also, if you are interested in being part of the steering committee, please contact Alice at alice@asanonline.org.



FARM FOOD COLLABORATIVE CELEBRATES FARM-TO-SCHOOL MONTH

October is National Farm to School Month and on October 24, 2019, students all across the state of Alabama celebrated Apple Crunch Day. For the third year in a row, the Farm Food Collaborative has planned an Apple Crunch Day event at Scott's Orchard in Hazel Green.

Third-graders from Walnut Grove Elementary in Madison County headed right to the source to learn where their school lunch apples are grown and meet the farmer that grew them. After touring the farm on a tractor-led wagon, the students sampled the orchard's delicious apple varieties before "crunching" into locally grown apples as a group.

Other Farm to School Month activities include an apple tasting with Madison City Schools and "Apple Labs" and taste testing led by the farmer at Cullman City Schools.

Housed at the Food Bank of North Alabama since 2014, the Farm Food

Collaborative is North Alabama's first local food hub. They are Alabama's core partner in the National Farm to School Network, which helps support Farm-to-School initiatives around the country by sharing resources and best practices.

Farm Food Collaborative Co-Managers Natalie Bishnoi and Carey Martin-Lane work closely with Child Nutrition Program Directors and farmers to coordinate local food sales into individual school districts.

They handle every aspect from procurement, to figuring out logistics for deliveries, invoicing and billing, and creating marketing materials to help students connect with the farmer that grew their food.

Natalie and Carey enjoy knowing that



2018 Apple Crunch Day at Scott's Orchard. Photo courtesy of Farm Food Collaborative

students are developing a deeper relationship with food and that these purchases bolster local economies and help family farms thrive.

ROOT DEEP IN DATA! AN UPDATE FROM THE SOUTHEAST ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP

You know what they say, "Time flies when you're growing nutritious and delicious organic produce!"

With the exception of a few sweet potato growers and some who have had an exceptionally long growing season, our organic farmer partners are wrapping up their research plots and submitting their grower data logs. The on-farm trials (both at experiment stations in Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina and at our grower partner farms throughout the southeast) have begun to yield some excellent information specific to organic vegetable crop varieties, pests, and biopesticides tested. The research team presented some of these findings this year and will continue to present and publish the information at various conferences and continue the trials over the next cropping season. Be sure to look for project posters at the 2020 Southern SAWG Conference in Little Rock in January.

All of the farms involved in the study were visited by our project staff this year and it is very apparent that this is everyone's favorite part of the research! Entomologist and Plant/Soil Scientists were able to see firsthand any issues the farmers have been dealing with including pest and disease issues. These visits are invaluable for both the farmer and the research experts since this engagement is the number one way information and knowledge can be transferred back and forth. Our grower partners also did a great job of keeping project headquarters in the loop by submitting monthly check-ins. We found that it was helpful this year to provide multiple ways of checking in including phone calls, texts, mail-in postcards, and email. Flexibility and farming go hand in hand and one thing is for sure: communication is key!



Organic Research Unit at the Tuskegee University Experiment Station in Tuskegee, Alabama. Photo courtesy Southeast Organic Partnership

The year ahead, the Tuskegee team will continue its efforts along with ASAN in consumer education. In addition, a market study to be completed this fall; it is expected to reveal important data that will help to better understand all aspects of the organic produce market in Alabama.

The team will look for ways to unravel the mystery of successfully marketing organic produce specific to the context of an area where there has historically not been much focus on this area of sustainable agriculture in the state. Analyzing the specific needs and situation in the state will help to strengthen the organic agriculture infrastructure in the state. Stay tuned!

WHAT A WAY TO CELEBRATE FIVE YEARS OF GRAZING IN BIRMINGHAM!

Oh, what a night Birmingham! Nothing but blue skies as far as the eye could see, we were so grateful it didn't rain on our Graze celebration! We hope you enjoyed yourselves at our 5th annual "picnic with your favorite local farmers, chefs, and friends". The vibe in the air was positively electric with conversation, laughter, and pure joy. Looking out over the crowd lazing about the green, with children frolicking, and fine music playing in the background, made our hearts full. It was especially magical as the sun was setting, and the fairy lights started to twinkle.

We're grateful for your attendance at our 5th Annual Graze: Birmingham fundraiser, you helped us raise almost \$15000! Thank you! And, 20 people joined as new members of ASAN — we're elated at your commitment to supporting your local food system.

It was nice to see some familiar faces, as well as some new folks, enjoying the exceptional food from our local purveyors. This year we had the pleasure of hosting some chefs and farmers who were new to the event, it was a thrill to witness their energy as they interacted with an audience that may be unfamiliar with their offerings. Thanks for welcoming them with open arms, and mouths ;)

We had a couple of other firsts this year as well: selling merch, and a 50/50 raffle. Since The Forum last year, our t-shirt design has been building major buzz. The color selection and combinations are head-turning and so vibrant. The raffle was an exciting addition to Graze, the anticipation building throughout the night made for some big fun, and winnings. And the winner donated his winnings back to ASAN on the spot!

We couldn't have accomplished all of this without the help of our engaged and supportive Graze committee members. In addition to helping us plan the details leading up to the event, they assisted us in sourcing new talent. Half of them participated as chef or farmer pairs for the event, and the other half filled vital captain roles.

And, our volunteer team deserves a huge shoutout. They nailed setup with grace and determination in the searing heat, props to them for their commitment. We also welcomed several of our board members who had traveled in from across the state to fill volunteer roles throughout the night, we were appreciative of their contribution.

Many folks helped us gain some extensive media attention this year, from our committee members to devoted Graze attendees, during the last couple of weeks leading up to the event we were everywhere! Sharron Swain shared a beautiful write-up in Bham Now.

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All photos credit: M Fehr Photography

GRAZE (CONTINUED)



Several of our long-term participants stepped in to make appearances on local tv stations: Ben and Bethany Fleming of Stillwater Farm were featured on Fox6 News at Noon, Trevor and Joanna Mann of Walden FARMacy were featured on Living Well with Michelle on CBS, David and Wani Shaw of Magic City Gelateria and Bistro were featured on Talk of Alabama on ABC, and Carole Griffin of Chez Lulu was featured on Dining Out with Comedienne JOY's Facebook Live. One of our dedicated committee members, Randi Carter of Owl Good Farm (see profiles on page 8), sat in on an interview with Reg & Will at Birmingham Mountain Radio! Thanks too, for all the social media likes and shares.

And, BIG, BIG thanks to our returning Graze participants who step up every year to be a part of this great event, we're incredibly grateful. We love to witness the way in which you bring the newbies under your wing to guide them along. We hope to see ALL of you back for our sixth year! (See inset below)

A special thanks to: Avondale Brewing Company for the perfect spot; Penny Raulston of Brilliant So Brilliant for her "brilliant" design, the stage backdrop was amazing!; Jones Valley Teaching Farm for the beautiful floral décor; We Are Wolves Birmingham for their melodic tunes; Mary C. Fehr for her exceptional photography skills!

Go support these folks!

RESTAURANT / FARM PARTICIPANTS

Pelham HS Culinary Arts + Greene Prairie Aquafarm, LLC
Crestwood Coffee Company + DSR Farms
Lucky Cat Kitchen + Creamery + Stillwater Farm
Magic City Gelateria and Bistro + Marble Creek Farmstead
Little London Kitchen + North Alabama Wagyu, LLC
Avondale Common House + Ireland Farms
Downstairs Diner + East Lake Market Anchors
American Culinary Federation + Blue Rooster Farms
Fit Biscuit + Sweet City Micros
Red Sea Ethiopian and Mediterranean + Common Ground
Chez Lulu/Continental Bakery + Snow's Bend Farm
Ash Neighborhood Bar and Grill + BDA Farm
The Veggie + Mattie's Garden
Good Health to Be Hail + Belle Meadow Farm
Ashlee Jenkins + Walden FARMacy + Sweet City Micros
Bitty's Living Kitchen + Hamm Farm
Jones Valley Teaching Farm
Harvest Roots Ferments

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ASAN MEMBER PROFILE SERIES

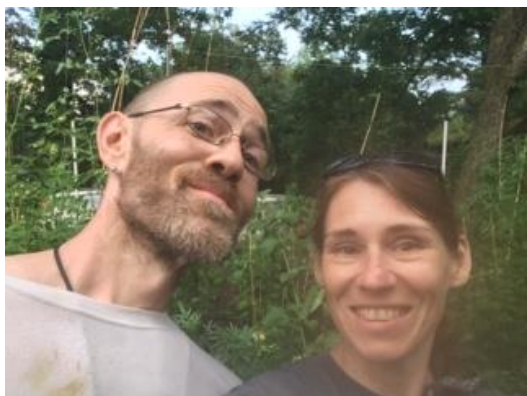
Since many of you are miles apart, and since opportunities to gather in person are few and far between, we initiated this series of member profiles as a way to deepen relationships among ASAN's diverse, amazing, and ingenious members across the state. **Thanks to these and all our members** for their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



David Carter (left) and Randi Carter (right) Photo courtesy The Carters.

Randi and David Carter started Owl Good Farm less than a year ago, in an unincorporated area on the west side of Birmingham. They farm a healthy selection of produce on 1/10th of an acre of the land that is available to them, proving that it doesn't take much to make a big impact. Both are driven by community, connection, and shared knowledge. In fact, this past summer Randi stepped in to serve as a member of our Graze: Birmingham committee, helping to connect us to new chefs, restaurants, and opportunities we wouldn't have experienced otherwise. At the end of the year, you'll be able to catch her at The Forum speaking about Transplant Production with Sheila Dicks.

How long have you been a member of ASAN? 8 months

Why did you become a member of ASAN? What is your favorite ASAN event, and why?

Randi: I attended The Food & Farm Forum and loved it; there was great information: break out sessions, shared knowledge, and meeting peers. ASAN is providing support/resources to farmers through forums, events, and learning sessions.

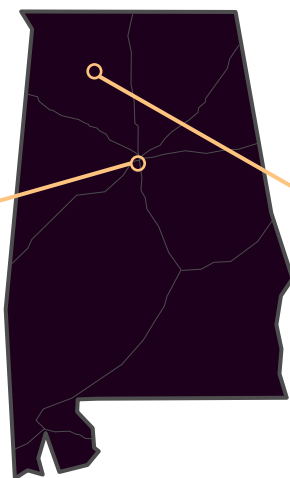
David: To become an active and participating member in the local and planetary food movement.

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

D: It's a community where we can grow, learn and share as a whole so we can be stronger in that which we do.

R: I love being able to grow good local healthy food and have it accessible for everyone. Taking care of our land and leaving it

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MEMBER PROFILE: AUBREY GALLEGOS



Photo courtesy Aubrey Gallegos

Aubrey Gallegos is a force. In her work at Camp McDowell as Farm Manager (Nauvoo, AL), and the multiple hats she has worn for ASAN, her energy, joy, and dedication is apparent in everything she does.

Aubrey has been an integral part of ASAN over the past year, as part of the Core Beliefs Task Force, and then as part of the Food & Farm Forum committee. She has contributed to the Forum Committee by providing valuable insight, assisting in the session proposal vetting process, and helping with outreach in Fairhope and surrounding areas to fill our field trip agenda.

For Aubrey, she's thrilled to be part of a like-minded org that fulfills her requirements of progressive, ethical, equitable, and regenerative ag. It's important for her to be passionate about the work she does. She has also appreciated being in a supportive environment where her small voice is part of a bigger picture.

We call that a win-win for ASAN. We're so grateful for her contribution to ASAN's cause.

How long have you been a member of ASAN?

I joined about a year ago, but I've been involved with ASAN for two years now.

Why did you become a member of ASAN?

It was a no-brainer. Working with ASAN is re-energizing, and it keeps me plugged into the bigger picture of the food system in Alabama. ASAN has also connected me with local farmers and

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OWL GOOD (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 8)

better than it was when we started.

What keeps you up at night? (related to food / ag)

D: Pest pressure, timing, what's next, seasonality of the crops growing, capital to invest in what will make the crop a worthy final product.

R: Mistreatment of our natural resources: water, land, air. Will we clean up our act here on Earth? Next steps for daily farm chores/marketing etc.? Did I turn off that water hose?

What made you want to be a farmer?

D: In the beginning: health, wellbeing, nutrition, to provide for my family, to minimize and curve the expense to feed a family, the primal instinct to watch something evolve from seed and care for it through its life. As of late: It's just the same but it has become so much more. Being a part of the bigger picture and the impact that it has on the rest of society, but more than anything else, is to not miss out on the seeds that I've planted. Children, we only get one chance with them.

R: I have always loved growing plants. It is amazing to plant a seed and see it all the way through to a mature crop. I want to help teach others growing their own food is not out of their capacity. Food insecurity and lack of affordable fresh local produce for everyone drives me to want to provide that for my

community.

How do you reach your customers, and grow your business?

R: We have been careful to slowly grow our operation. Being a new farm, we are taking new customers but not overloading ourselves. Word of mouth, social media, and community have been wonderful tools for us.

What tool, piece of equipment, etc., could you not live without

D: Two tools that work hand in hand: soil blocker and diy earth dibbler.

Makes for short work.

R: Irrigation and my spade

What about being a farmer do you love the most?

D: Knowledge, nature, and how to coincide with the earth and its rhythm.

R: At first I was reluctant to step into the role of farmer, but having the opportunity to be one with nature and learning something new everyday is motivating. In fact, I'm trying beekeeping, I chose to learn the Top Bar Hive Method. It's less invasive for the bees. It's been exciting!

How has ASAN supported your efforts?

D: Reaching out to us so we can share our story, goals, and efforts in being a part of the greater things that are to come.

R: ASAN has been a wonderful resource for us. Building community amongst farmers and sharing resources throughout the state is priceless. Having a network that connects us is wonderful.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 8)

food systems advocates who I don't think I'd have met otherwise. It's a central hub for the AL food system community, and I'm thrilled to be an on-going supporter.



Photo courtesy Aubrey Gallegos

What is your favorite ASAN event, and why?

It'd have to be the Food & Farm Forum. Seeing so much of the Alabama regenerative ag community in one place always leaves me renewed and refocused. It's one of the best opportunities, if not **the** best opportunity, for our local food and farming community to come together, and learn from and support one another.

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

When I talk to people outside of the state, I'm often met with surprise that Alabama has a sustainable agriculture network at all. There are a lot of one-dimensional perceptions of our state and it's food system. I love being a part of an organization and a movement that is quietly and not-so-quietly complicating those perceptions and strengthening a network of local change-makers. What drew me to the food movement overall is its inherent intersectionality. Pick an issue you care about, and it's impacted by our food system—animal welfare, human rights, racial justice, climate change, immigration, labor rights, community building, health and nutrition. You name it. As we work towards a regenerative, equitable, and community-based food system, we pull on the threads to each of those issues. We have the ability to make deep and lasting changes in so many areas, all through our work right here in Alabama.

What frustrates or challenges you about the work you do? What keeps you up at night? (related to food / ag)

Having said the above—I worry whether we as individuals, farmers, and organizations are working efficiently, collaboratively, and proactively enough to make those changes happen, especially considering the major powers and systemic issues we face.

As a farmer, my biggest concern is whether I'm living my philosophies in how I manage the farm everyday. I came into farming with high ideals and rigid standards, and quickly realized that it's one thing to hold those ideals and another to live them day to day, when you're making tough decisions, working long hours, and dealing with the messy realities of farming and non-profit work.

What excites you about the future of ASAN?

ASAN continues to grow and accelerate. I'm excited to see some of the events they've established over the last couple of years, like Graze and the Food & Farm Forum, continue to grow and become annual, can't-miss events. I'm excited about some of the new programs I've been lucky enough to be involved with behind the scenes, like the CRAFT pilot programs, which offer more professional development and training opportunities to young farmers in Alabama. And I'm excited to see what they have cooking behind the scenes.

NEWS FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

Congratulations to **Trevor and Joanna Mann** of **Walden Farm/Farmacy** in Bessemer, on the birth of Orion Demetri Martin. He was born Oct. 10th at 1:11 a.m. weighing 9 lbs, 9 oz. The family is all doing great.

Congratulations to **Bre and Bryant Saxon**, part owners of **Hepzibah Farms** in Talladega, on their move to Boise, ID, at the request of Bryant's job as IT Director of Cornerstone Hospice. They will be back and forth to Birmingham running their many side projects -- vintage photobooths, record label Earth Libraries, and SayBre Photography.

Congratulations to ASAN board member **Lindsey Lunsford** of **Tuskegee Extension** on her recognition by the Alpha Pi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the National Honorary Extension Fraternity. Lindsey was recognized for "noteworthy performance and accomplishments in her programming and as an emerging leader in the field of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion."

CLASSIFIEDS AND RESOURCES

JOB POSTING: Outreach Coordinator in North Alabama. Seeking full-time person to build partnerships and organizing outreach activities for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for Feeding the Gulf Coast, a United Way Member agency which provides nutritious food to hungry communities. Go to <https://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org/learn-more/careers> for details.

JOB POSTING: Digital Marketing Specialist in Theodore, AL. Seeking part-time content creator for Feeding the Gulf Coast, a United Way Member agency which provides nutritious food to hungry communities. Go to <https://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org/learn-more/careers> for details.

JOB POSTING: Development Fellow, Schoolyard Roots in Tuscaloosa, AL, in partnership with the Americorps VISTA program. Full-time, one year position.

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.

Begins in November. More information at <https://schoolyardroots.org/development-fellow/>

FOR SALE: MIGHTYGROW PRODUCTS at deep discounts. Sadly, MightyGrow is out of business. Their remaining inventory of OMRI-approved organic fertilizer is for sale at deep discounts. For a price list email sales@mightygrow.com with the subject "pricing."

FOR SALE: ORGANIC IRRIGATED LAND in Slocumb, AL. 180ac for sale by owner, certified organic, \$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. **REDUCED PRICE \$2000.** For more information and photos go to <http://asanonline.org/rollercrimper>.

FOR SALE: Home and four acres of land in a secluded area on Killough Springs Road in Roebuck, AL. Has house spring water well. Would make excellent organic farm. \$75,000. Contact Mary McCart at (205) 222-6659.

FOR SALE: 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home and farm in Fairview, Alabama. 10.5 acres. Good potential for homesteader and/or homeschooler. Contact Jonathan Haynes at (256) 339-2856.

GRANT: Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT). Grants available for livestock and poultry farmers who wish to attain humane

certification, build capacity, or improve pasture for their animals. Projects should improve farm animal welfare, such as building mobile housing, constructing fences, laying water lines on pasture, and more. For info and to apply online, please visit foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants/. Applications due Dec 2.

RESOURCE AVAILABLE: Alabama Drought [website](#) from the Alabama A&M and Auburn Extension. Provides information and resources for farmers on how to handle the statewide drought.

RESOURCE AVAILABLE: The Farming Basics app, developed by ACES, is now available in App Store (iOS) and Android devices. App includes photographic database of major insect pests and diseases of nearly 50 crops, ACES directory, irrigation and fertilizer calculators, and more.

RESOURCE AVAILABLE: From ASAN member Frannie Koe: Agroshare.com is developing a map for the state of Alabama for all restaurants, farms, farmers markets, CSAs, community gardens, u-pick farms, organic meat processors and anyone growing and selling foods that are natural, organic, don't use chemicals or pesticides as well as pastured raised animals. Go to the website, enter the community forum and fill out the form.

RESOURCE AVAILABLE: Harvie is a CSA / farm share platform that enables customized shares, flexible share sizes and flexible weeks, while streamlining administration so the customer-friendly features do not drive farmers crazy with logistics. Harvie is accepting new farms for Fall 2019 and 2020. To see if Harvie is a fit for you, request a free proposal at <https://www.harvie.farm/forfarmers/>.

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

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

November 9 - Cheaha
 Alabama Rivers Educator Workshops

November 9 - Auburn
 Household Hazardous Waste event-
 City of Auburn

November 12 - Montgomery
 November VegOut!

November 12 - Washington, D.C.
 A Cooperative Approach to the Future
 of Food

November 13 - Birmingham
 On the Edge: Healthcare in Alabama

November 13 - Macon County
 2019 Pesticide Clean Day

November 13 - Fairhope
 Mobile Bay Green Drinks

November 14 - Hanceville
 Fall High Tunnel Vegetable Workshop

November 15 - Hampton Cove
 Fall High Tunnel Vegetable Workshop

November 17 - Uniontown
 Central Alabama CRAFT: No-Till

November 18 - Moulton
 Produce Safety Alliance Training

November 19 - Montgomery
 Alabama Herb Society Meeting

November 20 - Mobile
 Mobile Bay Green Drinks-Mobile

November 21-22 - Clanton
 Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Associ-
 ation Annual Conference

November 23 - Jemison
 Herbs for the Holidays Workshop –Goodies
 and Gifts

November 23-24 - Jemison
 Petals Christmas Open House

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

Submit your event to our events calendar!

Email mindy@asanonline.org and in-
 clude:

- 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.

December 8-10—Auburn
 Professional Agriculture Workers Confer-
 ence (PAWC)

December 9-11 - Savannah, GA
 Community Food Systems 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 the inside back cover of this newsletter **Thank you for supporting ASAN!**

(Continued from page 11)

December 17 - Montgomery
Alabama Herb Society Meeting

January 7-16, 2020 - Cuba
Cuba Agroecology Tour

January 22-25 - Little Rock, AR
Practical Tools and Solutions for
Sustaining Family Farms Confer-
ence

Feb 1, 2020—Clanton
Beekeepers Symposium

Feb 7-8, 2020 — Athens, GA
Georgia Organics Conference

February 20-21, 2020—
Montgomery
128th Farmers Conference