



a local co-op

## ANNUAL MEMBER-OWNER MEETING

RSVP HERE



Here's the scoop on our upcoming Member Meeting- We hope you will join us as we celebrate the Co-op, our Vendors and our Community.

Our Co-op thrives due to its Members, Customers and Vendors. We are thankful to all our friends who help make the Co-op what it is- a real store, with real people, selling real food.

Every year, we host our Annual Member-Owner Meeting, which includes the official meeting with our Council, as well as a fun, 'get-to-know-each-other' social component.

This year our focus is on building & strengthening our Co-op Community and looking together to the future. With that in mind, **we hope many of you can attend and bring your voice to the meeting.** The Co-op cannot become what it needs to become without input from our most important and valuable voices- that's you!

Read on for more information about this years meeting.

We will be joined by our friends from Little Seed Gardens, Shadowbrook Farm, Damsel Garden, Chatham Brewing, and more...

### ORDER OF EVENTS

#### 1:00-2:00pm- Annual Member Meeting with The Co-op Council

Hear all the latest news from the Co-op, and the plans for the future. Member participation is much needed and appreciated.

#### 2:00-2:30pm- Small Conversation Groups

We will break into small groups to discuss themes that were present in the results of our Customer Survey. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts and help shape the future of the Co-op.

#### Conversation topics (Sign-up on the day)

1) **Food Accessibility**- What we are already doing to improve food access and more ideas for the future.

2) **Member engagement**- How can we involve our Members more and strengthen our Community?

3) **Environmental Sustainability**- Exploring ways together to decrease our environmental impact.

#### 2:30-4:00pm- Eat, drink, be merry and visit our vendors!

Food from our chefs, drinks and live acoustic music from Salt Tooth Serenaders Vendor stalls from; Little Seed Gardens, Shadowbrook Farm, Damsel Garden, Chatham Brewing, Asia Luna, Martin Sylvan Honey, Root & Tuber Candles

#### Menu

Pulled Pork (Vegan alternative available)  
Coleslaw  
Salad

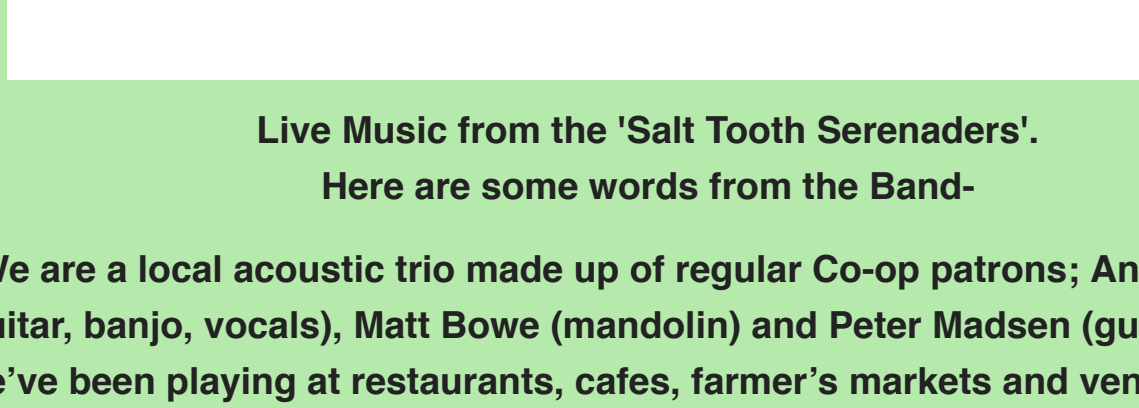
Soup & Rolls (GF rolls available)  
Gluten & Dairy Free Cookies  
Apple Cider Donuts

Tea, Coffee, Local Apple Cider

**Our friends from Chatham Brewing will be here and will offer a tasting of their fine beer!**

Chatham Brewing Cans also available for sale

We really hope to see many of you there- let's build community together!  
Please RSVP below.



## Salt Tooth Serenaders

*A well-perfected blend of sweet country and old blues, as well as other invigorating selections. Guaranteed to delight the whole of heart and refresh those who may be found wanting.*

Live Music from the 'Salt Tooth Serenaders'.  
Here are some words from the Band-

"We are a local acoustic trio made up of regular Co-op patrons; Anthony Irwin (guitar, banjo, vocals), Matt Bowe (mandolin) and Peter Madsen (guitar/vocals). We've been playing at restaurants, cafes, farmer's markets and venues around Columbia County and look forward to the opportunity to provide some Real Music to go along with the Real Food community event."

RSVP HERE

## VENDOR PROFILE

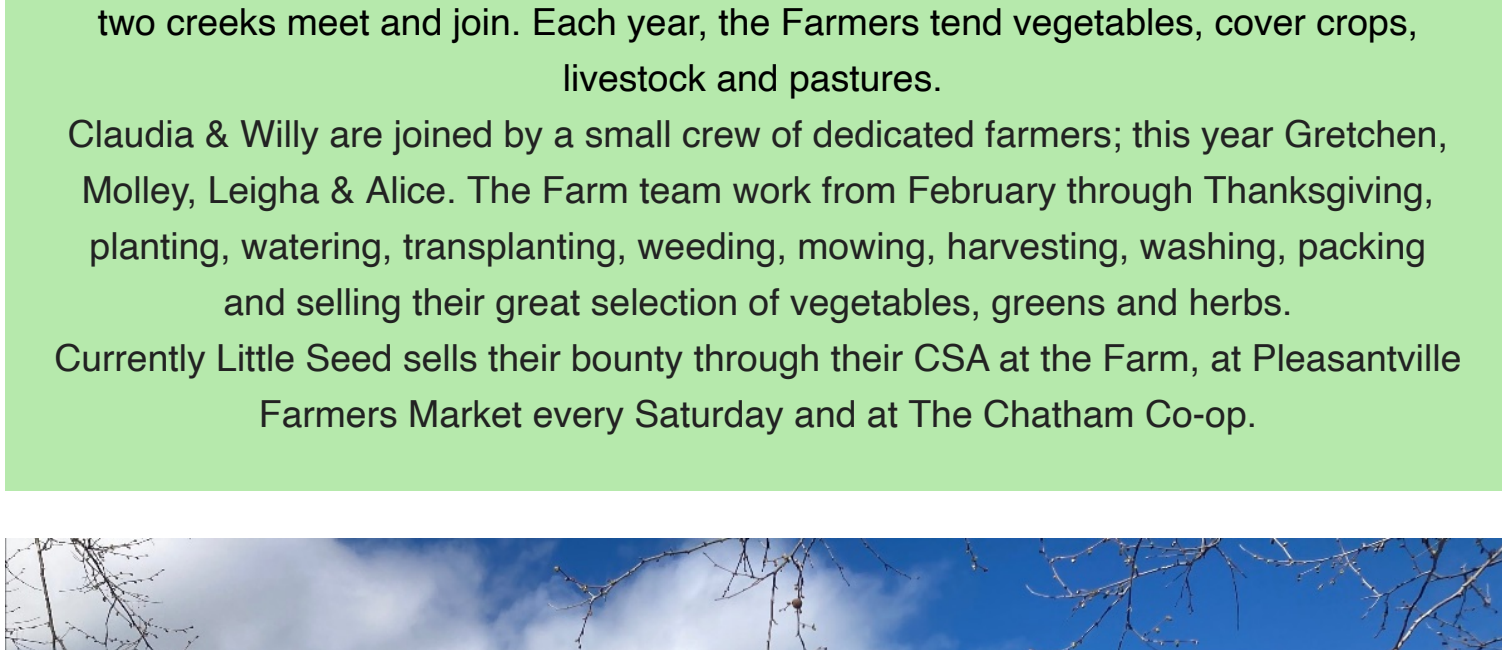
(Submitted by Lucy)



Welcome to Little Seed Gardens!

Not too long ago, I took a quick drive up the road from the store, to go and visit Little Seed Gardens, one of the Co-op's main produce suppliers. Upon arrival, I was immediately struck by the tranquility that welcomed me when I stepped out of my car.

Only the sounds of birdsong, bees & insects greeted me and I knew that I had entered a healthy, happy and thriving environment so different from the noise & smells that we encounter every day, without even realizing it. It is not often that we are surrounded by peace and can truly hear and experience the sounds of Mother Nature, so it was a strong experience of leaving one world, and entering another.

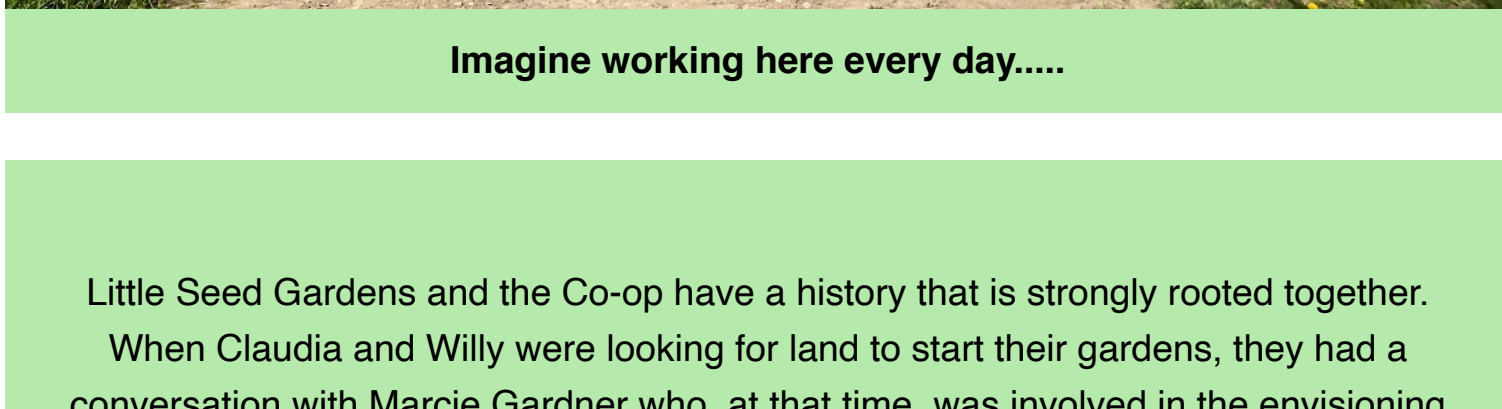


Life springing forth on the beautiful land.

Little Seed Gardens is a 100 acre family farm, established in 1995 by Farmers Claudia Kenny & Willy Denner. It is situated on rich bottomlands at the point where two creeks meet and join. Each year, the Farmers tend vegetables, cover crops, livestock and pastures.

Claudia & Willy are joined by a small crew of dedicated farmers; this year Gretchen, Molly, Leigha & Alice. The Farm team work from February through Thanksgiving, planting, watering, transplanting, weeding, mowing, harvesting, washing, packing and selling their great selection of vegetables, greens and herbs.

Currently Little Seed sells their bounty through their CSA at the Farm, at Pleasantville Farmers Market every Saturday and at The Chatham Co-op.



Imagine working here every day....

Little Seed Gardens and the Co-op have a history that is strongly rooted together. When Claudia and Willy were looking for land to start their gardens, they had a conversation with Marcie Gardner who, at that time, was involved in the envisioning and inception of the Co-op. Marcie, Claudia & Willy came to the realization that the two initiatives should collaborate, and that is exactly what happened. Little Seed has been involved with the Co-op from Day 1, and the Co-op has likewise supported Little Seed, which is a truly collaborative relationship that strengthens and nourishes its community - guiding principles of both the Co-op and Little Seed Gardens. Little Seed provides the Co-op with fresh, local & organic produce seasonally, as well as greens year round. The Little Seed cooler in the Co-op always has offerings available, and they are very popular!



Clockwise from top left-  
The greenhouses where early spring planting & growing happens.  
Gretchen & Willy harvesting kale  
Beautiful Butterleaf lettuce- the form and symmetry!  
Molley & Leigha harvesting kale



Washing and bundling up the Wild Garlic ready to sell.

Little Seed Gardens promotes an equal and fair economy, in every sense of the word. The land produces what it can manage, and is then replenished yearly to prepare for the next season. Their produce is sold locally- through their CSA, at the Co-op and at one regular Farmers Market. Their produce is fresh and affordable, creating a sustainable relationship for both Farmer & Customer. The small crew of dedicated farmers are devoted to making everything work, and in turn, their needs- social, physical & economic, are met. It is a model that is inspiring for the future.

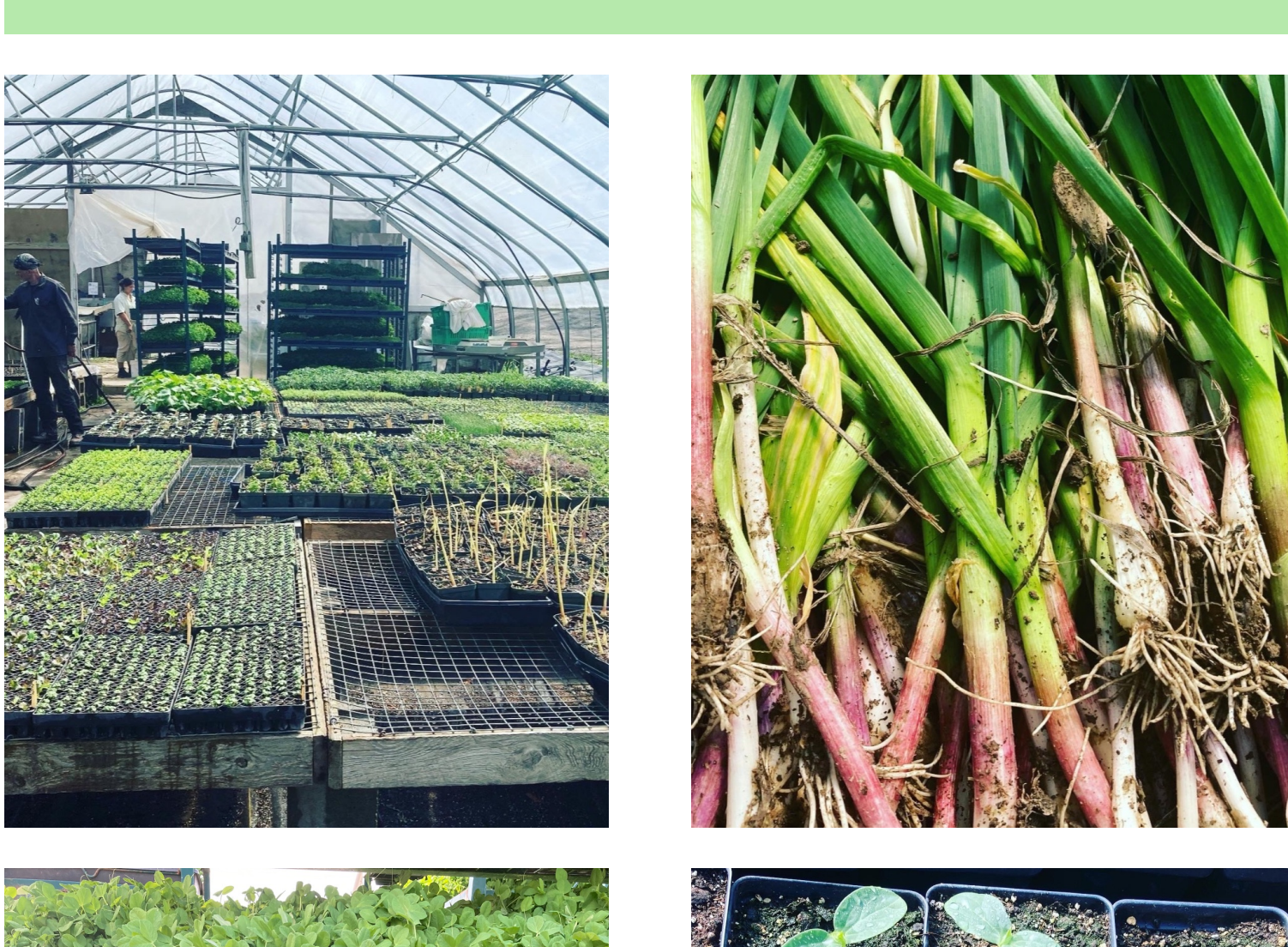
It is a challenging time to be a farmer. It is especially challenging to be an unconventional farmer. Choosing to grow organic produce, free from pesticides and harmful poisons, which is labor intensive and much more work than conventional farming, should be encouraged by our Agricultural Industry, however, the opposite is unfortunately true.

Claudia and Willy have made it their life's work to sustainably grow healthy produce for their local community. It is quite the calling, often resulting in frustration, disbelief, loss of faith and many other feelings associated with fighting against a system that is set up to make "real food" fail.

We can be thankful that they have never lost faith, have been unwavering in their beliefs and are continually inspired to begin anew each year.

We can be thankful that they are able to continue to provide healthy practices to their beautiful land, which benefits their community in a way that is absolutely priceless and unique.

We can be thankful that we can purchase their produce all year round and bring the fruits of their labor, and their beautiful land, to our tables. This is the ideal food production and consumption relationship, and we hope that it will continue for many years to come.



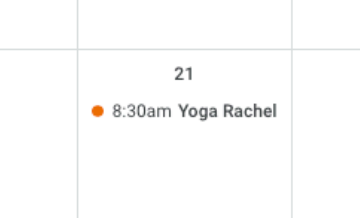
For more information about Little Seed Gardens, please visit their website [HERE](#).

## CO-OP CALENDAR

(Click on image to view our full Online Calendar-posted events.)  
[lucy@chatham.coop](mailto:lucy@chatham.coop) with any questions about our posted events.)

Today < > September 2022						
SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 1	THUR 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
					9:00am Yoga Rachel	10:00am Yoga Mary F
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			9:00am Yoga Rachel		9:00am Yoga Rachel	10:00am Yoga Rachel
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	9:00am Yoga Rachel	9:00am Yoga Rachel	9:00am Yoga Rachel	9:00am Yoga Rachel	10:00am Yoga Mary F	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00am Annual Meeting	9:00am Yoga Rachel	9:00am Yoga Rachel	9:00am Yoga Rachel	10:00am Yoga Rachel	10:00am Yoga Mary F	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	9:00am Yoga Rachel	9:00am Yoga Rachel	9:00am Yoga Rachel	9:00am Yoga Rachel	10:00am Yoga Mary F	10:00am Live Music Ben

Thanks for reading our Newsletter and for being a part of the Co-op.  
We wish you a wonderful Fall.



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