



## **2009 MIFFS Council**

### **Joe Colyn Battle Creek**

Joe is an innovative Agri-Food professional with 25 years of experience in research and development, purchasing, quality programs and business scenario development. He has a track record as an innovative leader, delivering creative and cost effective programs in support of business development and growth. Originz, LLC is a single-member professional services firm founded by Joe in 2001 focused on the Agri-Food sector. Clients include Fortune 500 companies, start-up firms, producer co-operatives, 501(c)3s, and other consulting firms in need of expertise. Previous to Originz, Joe worked for the Kellogg Company for 18 years. His global experience includes supporting product development programs in Latin America, managing contract food research programs in North America and Europe, and 10 years in Canada leading and delivering food R&D, agronomy and identity-preserved grain programs.

The bounty of Michigan's agriculture and food capacity is one of the best kept secrets in the nation. In the past six years working as an independent consultant to the food industry, Joe has become convinced that Michigan has the capacity in our family farm base to develop a much stronger local and regional food system that leverages our diverse crop base to satisfy the 21st century consumer expectation of food for health. MIFFS is well positioned as a facilitator of the change needed within Michigan to allow our farmers and food markets to thrive, and he would welcome the opportunity to continue contributing to the MIFFS effort as a Council Member to achieving more sustainable food systems for Michigan.

### **Sarah Crane Jackson**

Sarah is an individual committed both professionally and personally to small sustainable farms and has been working in the field for the last couple of years. Currently, she is the program manager for Florida West Coast Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council and works remotely from her home in Jackson. She has overseen the development and implementation of Geraldson Community Farm, a 200-member CSA that operates on county-owned land and is a model of public/private partnerships. At another farm run by the RC&D, Sarah is assisting in the development of an incubator for new small farmers. Finally, this year Sarah started a buying club that helps local farmers sell their meat, eggs and dairy products directly to their farm members. In Michigan, Sarah personally seeks to buy as much food as possible from farms in the area. She also is currently working to better connect the Jackson community to local food.

Sarah is honored to be nominated to the Council and is excited to be involved in local food and farming in Michigan. While her job is still in Florida, she wants to put roots down in Michigan and strongly believes in the work MIFFS is doing.



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### **Keith Creagh Williamston**

In April 2008, Keith retired from the Michigan Department of Agriculture where he had the pleasure to serve as the Chief Deputy Director for four different Directors since 1995. In this capacity, he was responsible for operational and administrative functions within the department. During that tenure, he did have the opportunity to work with and develop a relationship with MIFFS at the executive level. Prior to becoming Deputy Director with MDA, Keith held various positions in the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division. During the last three months of his state employment, he worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop an implementation plan for the Governor's Land Use Leadership Council. This past experience has allowed him to form lasting relationships with numerous federal and state agencies as well as a diverse group of stakeholders. Upon leaving state government, Keith worked on federal Renewable Energy Standards (RES) supported by the Union of Concerned Scientists and was specifically asked to build an agricultural coalition that would support a broad RES portfolio. Currently, Keith is employed by Neogen Corporation whose core business is to provide cutting edge analytical technologies to the food safety and animal health sectors.

Keith graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1974 and resides with his wife, Laska, in Williamston, Michigan. They are the proud parents of four great kids, have many diverse hobbies and are currently members of the MSU Student Organic Farm CSA. He looks forward to using his experience to help MIFFS grow and continue to serve Michigan farmers.

### **Joanetta Greer-O'Bryant Bangor**

Joanetta is a blueberry farmer, 4-H leader of an inner-city group of children in Kalamazoo. She is a retired Detroit Police officer that has been substitute teaching at Van Buren Intermediate School District for the past five years. She has interviewing, crisis-intervention and paralegal planning skills that she has used for 30 years, and she cherishes her membership to MIFFS.

Joanetta would be honored to be re-elected to the MIFFS council. She is dedicated to sustaining food and farming systems and believes that MIFFS' purpose will improve the economic, health, and ecological well being of our communities. In her present, humble contribution as a blueberry farmer and 4-H leader, she has attempted to show the merit of the MIFFS prospective.

### **Lucy Hartlove Lansing**

Lucy graduated from Indiana University with a B.S. in Business Administration, and from Michigan State University with an M.A. in Interpersonal Communications. She has had a wide variety of experience in the workplace, including being a Human Resources Administrator for Consumers Energy and owning her own custom sewing business for the past 20 years. She



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has also grown produce, flowers and herbs, which she sold at the Boyne City Farmers Market for six years prior to moving to Lansing. Lucy worked at MIFFS as the Administrative Assistant several years ago and is now helping to create a “Friends of the Lansing City Market” organization. She is very interested in holistic nutrition, local foods and keeping local dollars in local communities.

Lucy would like to serve on the MIFFS Council because she wants to help the organization with their efforts in securing farmers a place in the economy in Michigan, training new farmers, getting local food to residents and partnering with other organizations to do this. She also would like to see that more residents of Michigan know about the organization and get them to join!

### **Tom Kalchik Lansing**

Tom is a native of Leelanau County where he grew up on a fruit, grain and livestock farm. He is a 1969 graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelors Degree in Horticultural Science. After graduating, Kalchik returned to the family farming operation in partnership with his brother. He left the partnership in 1973 and has held several positions with agricultural trade associations and food processing ventures. He has 25 years of experience in managing cooperative businesses. He joined MSU Extension in 2000 and was named Associate Director of the MSU Product Center in 2003.

### **Doug Kirkpatrick Herron**

Doug and his wife Lee moved from Alaska to the northeastern part of Michigan near Alpena, where they bought a beautiful 160-acre farm. There they pasture raise and process broilers and turkeys and keep 50-60 beef cows. Doug and Lee are innovators, using their ideas to develop workable housing and pasturing methods in the production of their eggs, meat birds, and turkeys. Doug has been challenged by the various rules and regulations associated with the processing of poultry on his farm. His greatest frustration comes from the 1,000-bird limit language and the availability of labor to assist with the process. Doug declares that he is making some progress in getting his production and marketing in balance. Like any entrepreneurs Doug and Lee have their ideas, but more than many they have a commitment and passion to see them through.

### **Lori Phalen Hastings**

Lori has been employed in the agriculture and natural resources arena for many years and is currently the Executive Director for the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), based in East Lansing, Michigan. Prior work experience includes the Barry Conservation District, Co Executive Director position and ownership of Geum Services Incorporated, an ecological consulting company based in southwest Michigan. Lori has past



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experience with MIFFS, serving a term on the board during 2001-02. Since that time she has remained interested and committed to the mission of MIFFS and has enjoyed watching the organization grow and thrive.

Lori is a Barry County landowner and small farm enthusiast, along with her husband Floyd. On the Phalen farm, one will find three horses and a small meat goat herd that share the rotationally grazed pastures, and in the summer, a batch of chickens grazing their way in a movable chicken pen all the way to the freezer. There is also a long history on the farm of laying chickens and turkeys.

### **Kate Redman Lansing**

A native of Dansville, Kate grew up near her mother's family soybean, corn and wheat farm and has had a lifelong interest in food, agriculture and other issues faced by rural communities. In particular, she is interested in agricultural and land use law and policy. Kate is a lawyer in Lansing and currently works for Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael F. Cavanagh.

Kate first came to MIFFS as a summer intern in 2002. As a college student, she studied rural sociology with a focus on purchase of development rights programs and other land use tools for farmers. She also wrote a senior thesis on the effect of the 1980s farm crisis on population structure in rural communities in the Midwest. Kate returned to MIFFS full-time after college, and from 2003-2004 worked for MIFFS as Tom Guthrie's assistant. In addition to her experiences at MIFFS, Kate has worked for the Farmers Legal Action Group in St. Paul, Minnesota; the U.S. Senate Agricultural Committee under Senator Tom Harkin in Washington, D.C.; the Washtenaw Land Trust in Ann Arbor; and Midwest Land Legacies in Lansing.

Kate would be honored to have the opportunity to return to MIFFS. She believes deeply in its mission and is excited by the opportunities opening up for small farmers in the changing landscape of the world of food and agriculture.

### **Ron Steiner Hart**

Ron was former executive director of the Oceana County Economic Development Corporation, from 1998 through 2004. Since then, he has been with MSU Extension, working as a regional entrepreneurship educator in the value-added agriculture sector. He has a deep desire to provide technical assistance to new entrepreneurs and innovators at the many points of the food systems, and his current mission to show local and state leaders in Michigan that "consumer-driven" farming is basic not only to the state's economy and culture but also a great business opportunity. Ron has a sincere belief that rural communities can be revitalized and once again become economically viable if the residents of communities are willing to commit their time and energy to the process. Ron came to the position out of early retirement from working as a successful custom computer marketer. He has worked with MIFFS throughout the process of



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obtaining grant money to develop kitchen incubators on the east and west sides of the state and is directing the development of the West Michigan Regional Kitchen Incubator, in Hart MI.

### **Nicholas Welty Northport**

Nicholas manages fruit and vegetable crop production and agricultural business plan development at Black Star Farms. He is dedicated to the pursuit of sustainable agriculture, saving farm land, and is an avid supporter of local farmers. Prior to his position as Farm Manager, Nicholas completed a Master of Science degree at The Ohio State University, where he focused on plant genetics. Prior to that, he received a Bachelor of Science degree at Carnegie Mellon University. There he doubled majored in Biology and Economics and minored in Chemistry. Early on, Nicholas developed a passion for growing plants and saving seeds. He first began growing plants for profit (giant pumpkins) at 13, and today he is the co-founder of Megalos LLC, a seed company based in 6 years of prior hobby pumpkin breeding research. He shares his love of plants with his wife Jennifer Welty (Farm Market and Winery Café Manager at Black Star Farms) and their 7 year old daughter Avery.

### **MIFFS Mission**

To advocate and initiate local food choices for healthy people and communities.

### **MIFFS Vision**

MIFFS is a recognized leader and resource to establish and develop more sustainable food and farming for Michigan, nurturing successful partnerships that result in healthy people and communities.