

July 8, 2011

Dear Fellow Seed Saver,

In these tough economic times, it is more important than ever that we strive to preserve rare heirloom cultivars before they disappear. There is always the chance that some unforeseen threat, be it from pests, disease, or weather could impact one of our major food crops. This is why your efforts are so important. Your favorite variety might be the very one with the genetics to meet a future threat to our foods. Thanks to the network that Seed Savers Exchange has created, the chance for rare genetics to survive is there but we still must be vigilant and continue to educate others.

For 22 years now, we have been pleased to help The Seed Savers Exchange in their efforts to preserve our precious genetic heritage. I invite you to join us on **Sunday, August 28, 2011 from 11am – 4 pm** for the **Heirloom Garden Show** at Garfield Farm Museum. Come as a visitor but you are welcome to bring your favorite vegetables, fruits, antiques flowers, nuts, seeds, etc. to display, taste sample, or sell as we educate the public about the importance of genetic diversity. **There is no charge for exhibitors.**

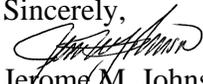
Visitors to the exhibit make a \$6 donation at the gate, a portion of which is donated to Seed Savers Exchange. Demonstrations and lectures relating to gardening are most welcome. Past lectures have included composting, antique roses, making herbal vinegars, and *Brassica* seed production. Recipes, garden tips, craft or display creations, organic gardening, sustainable farming, any of these topics will be considered. The museum has its own gardens on display containing heirloom varieties of herbs, vegetables, and antique flowers. Tours of the 1846 Garfield Inn and the prairie plot are offered.

The public is always impressed with the variety the exhibitors bring and I have noticed repeat visitors have learned to come early to get first chance to buy their favorites. Your participation is also vital because we are all aware of how we are losing many of the people who grew up growing these heirloom varieties. Your experiences and participation are the inspiration a new grower needs to get started.

Set up can be done between 8 am and 10:30 am. If you would like to come in on Saturday and set up, that can also be arranged. We have a hotel/motel list for the area that we can provide upon request, or you can camp here at the farm. Garfield Farm Museum is a historically intact former 1840s farm and teamster inn being restored by volunteers as an 1840s working farm. The museum is located 40 miles west of Chicago, 5 miles west of Geneva, IL off IL Rt. 38 on Garfield Rd. For information call (630) 584-8485 or email us at info@garfieldfarm.org.

It is so inspiring to see how Seed Savers Exchange has grown and made its mark through the years. Yet this is something that requires each generation to teach the next so our stewardship, our obligation to the future is what we owe those who came before us. I hope to see you at the show! Thank you.

**Would you please help
& post the enclosed
flier in your area? Thanks**

Sincerely,

Jerome M. Johnson
Executive Director