

April 2007

Vermont Fresh Network E-News Update

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Happy Spring!

VFN 12th Annual Forum Sunday, August 5, 2007



Mark your summer calendar! Our 12th annual Forum will be held at the Shelburne Farms Coach Barn on Sunday, August 5, 2007.

The theme, ***Eat it to Save it: Renewing Our Farm and Food Traditions***, focuses on agricultural products and culinary traditionals linked to our region. The walk-around dinner will feature these traditions in recipes prepared by premier Vermont Fresh Network chefs.

Author and conservation scientist Gary Paul Nabhan will deliver the keynote address, sharing his experience as the founder of the country's first eco-gastronomic conservation project, RAFT (Renewing American Food Traditions). We're also adding a line-up of afternoon seminars led by local and national food historians, chefs and farmers.

We encourage you to buy your tickets early, as this will be a celebration you won't want to miss! Tickets to VFN Members will go on sale May 15th.

If you are a Farmer or Chef interested in participating in the Forum Dinner, please contact Meghan Sheradin at 802.434.2000.

For information visit the Vermont Fresh Network website.

Call to all RAFT Growers

Let us know.

Are you:

- A farmer participating in the RAFT growout?
- Growing products or livestock currently identified on the RAFT list?
- Or do you just want to see the list of identified RAFT plants and livestock?

If so, please let us know! We'd like to compile a list of farmers that are growing RAFT products.

The 2007 VFN Annual Forum is centered around the RAFT project. We want to ensure that there are Farmer and Chef partnerships at the Forum utilizing RAFT products. Please let us know if you have a partnership with a chef who is interested in working with RAFT products or if you would like assistance in finding one.

If you would like a list of regional RAFT products, please call the Vermont Fresh Network Office, 802.434.2000

For more information about the RAFT Project, visit the [Slow Food website](#).

RAFT Potluck Suppers Community Gatherings

The Vermont Fresh Network would like to invite you and your neighboring chefs and farmers to submit suggestions regarding regional, indigenous edible plants and animals. The foods chosen for the RAFT list will emphasize the culinary heritage of our region (New England) by featuring the cuisine of both native and immigrant populations.



Renewing America's Food Traditions (RAFT) is the first collaborative effort ever assembled to:

1. Make a comprehensive catalog of America's indigenous edible plants and animals
2. Document which foods have fallen into disuse and are at risk of extinction
3. Determine which are capable of being restored and revitalized in ways that benefit their stewards
4. Begin revitalization projects in partnership with food's producers, retailers, consumers, and chefs.

To clarify - there is a current national RAFT list, but you can nominate products that have not yet been identified. A panel of food historians, chefs, conservation biologists, farmers, plant and animal explorers, and genetic conservationists will review any nominations and shepherd the list development.

Suggestions for how to have input on the RAFT list:

1. Gather a group of farmers, chefs and other interested individuals, e.g. a pot luck supper
2. Explain the project to your group
3. Review the current regional RAFT list (provided for you by Vermont Fresh Network)
4. Begin the conversation as to what other plants and animals should be on the list.
5. Record all universally agreed upon additions
6. Send collected information to Vermont Fresh Network (send a hard copy list or an electric copy list - using the current format of the list).

Contact the VFN Office if you are interested in hosting a potluck.

Slow Food®

**Slow Food Joint
Membership**
Sign Up Now!

The Vermont Fresh Network and Slow Food Vermont are proud to offer a joint membership to the dining public.

Join us today and become a part of a community of people who are actively supporting and celebrating the economic, social, and cultural vibrancy of Vermont's working landscape.

Sign up today!

2007 Farmers' Dinner Series

Calendar Dates



We are close to filling up our 2007 Farmers' Dinner Series calendar.

If you want to secure a spot on the schedule, please contact Meghan immediately at meghan@vermontfresh.net or 802.434.2000.

Find out more....

The Vermont Fresh Network develops solutions for chefs and farmers to market more locally grown food.

Meghan Sheradin & Kim Cleary
Vermont Fresh Network
