

RWP Special Session - Speaker Bios



Lisa Kivirist

Title: MOSES Rural Women's Project director, Inn Serendipity Farm and B&B

Lisa Kivirist runs Inn Serendipity Farm & Bed and Breakfast (www.innserendipity.com) with her family on their farm in southwest Wisconsin, completely powered by renewable energy and nationally recognized as a showplace for sustainable living. Kivirist is co-author, with her husband, John Ivanko, of the newly released cookbook, Farmstead Chef, (<http://www.farmsteadchef.com>) along with the award-winning book ECOpreneuring (www.ecopreneuring.biz) and Rural Renaissance (www.ruralrenaissance.org). She also writes for publications from Hobby Farm Home to Urban Farm and Edible Madison, with a focus on championing the stories of women farmers (<http://www.ediblecommunities.com/madison/fall-2011/see-jane-grow.htm>). Kivirist founded and directs the Rural Women's Project (<http://www.mosesorganic.org/womensproject>), a venture of the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) that supports women farmers and food entrepreneurs through education, resources and connections.



Liz Brensinger & Ann Adams

Founders & co-owners, Green Heron Tools

(www.greenherontools.com)

Ann Adams & Liz Brensinger have been organic market growers for over 15 years and avid gardeners, even longer. With backgrounds in nursing (Ann) & public health education (Liz), they co-own Green Heron Tools, LLC, (<http://www.greenherontools.com>) the first company in the world dedicated to scientifically designing agricultural tools for women. Recipients of two USDA Small Business Innovation Research grants, they have interviewed & surveyed women farmers from throughout the U.S. and recently released HERSHovel, aka HERS, the first in the company's own line of hergonomic™ tools for women.



Melinda Hemmelgarn, M.S., R.D., Food Sleuth Radio

Melinda Hemmelgarn, M.S., R.D., is a registered dietitian, investigative nutritionist, and award-winning writer, speaker, and radio host better known as the "Food Sleuth" (<http://food-sleuth.blogspot.com/>). Hemmelgarn and her photographer husband created "F.A.R.M.: Food, Art, Revolution Media – a Focus on Photography to Re-vitalize Agriculture and Strengthen Democracy," to raise awareness and appreciation for those who feed us, and promote "food system literacy." She and her husband produce the nationally syndicated "Food Sleuth Radio" program (www.kopn.org) from

KOPN studios in Columbia, MO. Hemmelgarn connects the dots between food, health and agriculture, and helps people "think beyond their plates." She serves on both MOSES, and Organic Farming Research Foundation Boards.



Clare Hintz, Owner/Operator Elsewhere Farm

Clare Hintz is owner-operator of Elsewhere Farm, near the south shore of Lake Superior in Herbster, Wisconsin. The farm features perennial fruits and nuts interplanted on five acres, market gardens, and a small winter CSA. Hintz previously managed the Chequamegon CSA for 3 years, and interned on several farms of mixed fruit and vegetables. Hintz has a B.S. Degree in Biology and Writing, a M.S. in Sustainable Systems with an emphasis in Agroecology. She founded a liberal arts program in sustainable agriculture at Northland College in Ashland, WI, and has been teaching sustainable agriculture and permaculture for over 5 years.



Cynthia Torres

Title: Director - Colorado Farmers Market Association

Cynthia Torres began her career in agriculture in a grain silo on an organic farm in Boulder County. She is now the Director of the Colorado Farmers Market Association and a member of the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council. Her work has involved growing direct market agricultural opportunities for small and mid-scale producers and connecting consumers to locally grown food. Other work: Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Coop Development Center, Boulder County Agriculture Resources Division as a local foods specialist and the CFSC Food Policy Council Program. She is a member of the Community Food Security

Coalition board of directors.



Jamie Lamonde

Title: Publisher & Editor-in-Chief, Edible Madison

(www.ediblecommunities.com/madison); Public Affairs Manager, Organic Valley (www.organicvalley.coop)

Jamie Lamonde is a communications professional with a deep commitment to nurturing positive social change, committed to building bridges between family farmers and citizen-partners to change the food system for the better. Lamonde is the publisher and editor-in-chief of Edible Madison, a quarterly publication that celebrates the abundance of local foods in Southern Wisconsin. Founded in 2010, Edible Madison is a member of Edible Communities, a network of more than 70 independent local foods-focused publications in North America. She is also Public Affairs Manager for Organic Valley, where she is part of the “Mission and Messaging” department and manages public messaging, cooperative education and philanthropy.



Rebecca Wiggins-Reinhard

Title: La Semilla Food Center, Co-Director (<http://www.lasemillafoodcenter.org>)

Rebecca Wiggins-Reinhard works with La Semilla Food Center to create a more equitable, healthy and sustainable food system in the Paso del Norte region of southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. She and her colleagues are developing a youth farm and demonstration site, and are partnering with youth and families to cultivate a new generation of healthy eaters and growers committed to sustainable agriculture. La Semilla's goal is to strengthen the local food system from seed to market, and foster common understandings about the links between food, health, the environment, and local economies.

About the IATP Food and Community Fellows Program

Lisa Kivirist (<http://foodandcommunityfellows.org/about/fellow/lisa-kivirist>), Melinda Hemmelgarn

(<http://foodandcommunityfellows.org/about/fellow/melinda-hemmelgarn>), Cynthia

Torres(<http://foodandcommunityfellows.org/about/fellow/cynthia-torres>) and Rebecca Wiggins-Reinhard

(<http://foodandcommunityfellows.org/about/fellow/rebecca-wiggins-reinhard>) are all part of the IATP Food and

Community Fellows Program (<http://foodandcommunityfellows.org/>), an initiative led by the Institute for

Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) of innovative change makers who advocate for food and farming systems

that are just and healthy for all people. Fellows use multi-media, policy advocacy and community engagement

to promote fresh ideas on all aspects of the national food system—supporting culturally appropriate and

environmentally sustainable farming, safe processing and distribution, fair labor standards, and healthy food

accessible to all—especially our most vulnerable children. For more on the Food and Community Fellows program see (<http://foodandcommunityfellows.org>).