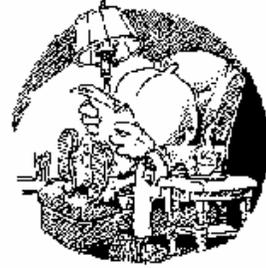


The Garbanzo Gazette

March 11, 2004



Growers Market's Weekly Newsletter

NEW STRAWBOSS POSITION

Thursday early afternoon to coordinate the parking area. Contact Jeanine if you are interested. 461-1614

SUBSCRIBE TO GENESIS!

Hello Everyone! Thank you for the tremendous support! We are still trying to push the Carrot order up. We're not quite where we were last week but I hope by the end of tomorrow that will change. Again, if you know people who would be interested in carrot juice weekly have them come in. We are considering the idea of subscription discounts.. meaning if you pay for a month or more of juice you would receive a certain % discount. I'll get back to you on that. We will be making Rain's Herbal Fruit Tonic again a week from today! If you are interested in getting in on this then come on in and prepay. To get an idea of the volume please email me and let me know what you want to order. We are looking into setting up an online ordering system. We hope to have something going in the next couple of weeks for your convenience. If you have questions/comments feel free to email me.
Thanks again, Benjamin Cutler

THE ESSENCE OF GROWERS – By Martin

“Let's keep being a place where no one and everyone is really in charge, and everyone has a piece of the truth and a chance to say it.”

As a past board member and past coordinator, I have something to say about who is allowed to say what when and in what context. I also have something to say about who is in charge--in fact, that's where I'll start. Of course, the members are in charge. The members who attend the annual meeting elect the board. The board has the responsibility to talk about policy.

Coordinators are not elected. I became a coordinator (after years doing other responsibilities) pretty much by telling the outgoing coordinator I would take the job. So I was pretty much self-

selected. Two of the current coordinators were officially selected by previous coordinators. Another two coordinators are really acting coordinators, as they haven't been officially selected. I think we have a newer way of officially selecting coordinators, but I don't remember what it is. I'm not sure anyone does.

“I think that the essence of Growers is the freedom to discuss what the essence of Growers is.”

I'm not saying coordinators don't or shouldn't make decisions. I think the whole point of having a coordinator is having someone to make the decisions that need to be made in an instant (that and having someone who can absolutely be depended on to show up and do whatever tasks must be done to make the co-op happen). I think that's enough. There seemed to be a trend for a while for coordinators, particularly for one past coordinator, to identify the coordinators as a policy-making body in charge of the co-op. This never made sense to me. Since all power in Growers originates in the members, and the members did not elect coordinators to make policy, than the coordinators can not have the power to make policy.

Another trend (again, this mainly happened with one past coordinator) was for the people who happen to be present at some particular time of day to make policy decisions themselves. The perspective of those who did this seemed to be, We're doing the work here, we're the workers, so we are the co-op so this decision is up to us. I have three issues with this perspective: 1. No 2 or 5 or 10 people are the co-op, no matter how hard they work. 2. No shift has a monopoly on hard-working members (I used to work as hard as anyone, but was left out of many of these decisions). 3. Sometimes a lot of time was spent talking while necessary tasks were not getting done.

“Let's keep talking and disagreeing.”

If some group is to be in charge of setting policy for the co-op, I think that group would have to

be elected by the members. I don't think that group should be just coordinators, because coordinators are busy enough, and because people besides coordinators have important perspectives to offer. In the absence of an elected co-op specific group, I am most comfortable with having the only elected group--the board—set policy for the co-op. I used to get yelled at during dysfunctional coordinator “meetings” for expressing these views. I hope I am not going to be punished for my opinions now.

I'm not trying to argue that anyone should not be part of any decision-making process. By tradition, the board is supposed to listen to people who show up at meetings, and even to give them the equivalent of a vote. I'm arguing that decision-making should include the most people possible, or at least the representatives of the most people.

I think that one reason we get so heated up when we talk about Growers issues is that *what* Growers is, and what Growers represents, is very important to us. The essence is as much an issue as the substance is. A philosopher named Thomas Dewey once defined democracy as endless discussion (or debate) about the true definition of democracy. In that vein, I think that the essence of Growers is the freedom to discuss what the essence of Growers is.

I think that the freedom to discuss what is needed to maintain Growers to maintain that essence is as essential. Let's keep talking and disagreeing. Let's keep being a place where no one and everyone is really in charge, and everyone has a piece of the truth and a chance to say it.

Love, Martin C.

MARCH GROWERS MEETINGS

The Growers board of directors has scheduled its March meetings for Thursday, March 18th at 7 pm, and Wednesday March 31st at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. People who might consider joining the board in April might wish to come to a meeting to experience the process. The meetings will be upstairs in the public area of the Growers Market Building. --Milton Takei

BIKE TRAILER FOR SALE

I have a used, but like new, metal bike trailer for sale. It was made at CAT (Center for Appropriate Transport) and is the larger of two sizes. Perfect for large and heavy loads. I am selling it for \$350

OBO. If you are interested in seeing it or have any questions, please call Jenya at 684-0066.

CORRECTION ABOUT HERBAL CLASS

The previous announcement about our Herbal Apprenticeship contained an error regarding the day and date of our first class meeting. The first class for the 2004 Spring Apprenticeship Program will meet from 12 - 5pm on Sunday March 28th (not March 29th, which is a Monday, the date of our first lecture, which meets from 6 - 9pm.) Sorry for any confusion this may have caused! Thank you, Lawrence Birch GivingTree Farm Herb Company, 541-344-7534

GROWERS BOARD NEEDS NEW MEMBERS!

We will soon be electing our new board of directors for Growers Market, Inc. The board meets twice a month upstairs in the Growers Market building. The Board of Directors are stewards, guided by the mission of Growers Market. Board members are responsible for following (and changing if necessary) bylaws and policies, overseeing finances, and actively participating in the process of maintaining the organization, which includes the food co-op, offices for social and environmental change groups and the restaurant (currently Red Agave). The Board receives consensus training early in each new term. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact any current board member: Nathan 302-3205; Aya 685-1047; Rodney 942-3221; Zorba 343-0574; Wendy 344-7534; or Denny 686-2567. To be elected a board member, and to vote, you must attend the annual meeting in April 2004, upstairs at the Growers Market. The exact date and time will be announced.

LET ME BE YOUR HANDYPERSON

Would love to help haul, clean, do yard work and possibly other chores. Am clean, organized and have a positive attitude. Please call and leave message, 343-0849

This newsletter was edited by Julie Fischer and published by the Little White Dog. Send comments or article submissions to garbanzo@efn.org. If you don't have computer access, you can put articles in the garbanzo box at growers. Newsletter copy deadline is 5:00 pm Tuesday. Market hours are Thursdays 2:30 to 7:30 pm and Fridays 3:00 to 6:30 pm. An orientation to Growers is held each Thursday at 1:30. The Growers email list includes an electronic banzo, events notices, and other misc. info.