Remembering Mrs. Polly Guth

MOFGA had a wonderful friend in Polly Guth, who passed away this June. She was an extraordinary woman, an inspiration to everyone lucky enough to know her. “I was taught philanthropy by my mother,” she told me once, and indeed she practiced it with skill, intelligence and good judgment. Many of the institutions and programs to which she lent support were on the progressive side of things: Planned Parenthood, Bill Moyers Journal on PBS, College of the Atlantic. She was a positive person, convinced that you could work toward and create a better world. She put her money where her heart was.

An encounter with Russell Libby sparked Polly’s interest in MOFGA. Her own enthusiasm for agriculture began in childhood, lending a hand at her parents’ farm in Manchester, N.H., and, as a champion of organic methods, she understood what MOFGA was about. The idea of helping and expanding its young farmer education programs caught fire with her right away, and when Polly got excited about something it was contagious. She made things happen.

We are profoundly grateful to the enormous boost she has given to MOFGA’s endowment through the Partridge Foundation, so that we can continue to put new farmers on the land and help all of us be better stewards of the earth.

As a friend, I miss Polly greatly, as do so many others. She was always the most popular girl in the room and it was a joy to be with her, whether organizing an event or just sitting and telling funny stories. She was warm, generous, full of life, and always had a glint of mischief in her eye.

– Barbara Damrosch
Success & Leadership

MOFGA is a community of people dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles and organic food. The organization is successful because of the thousands of people who volunteer countless hours putting on training workshops and the Common Ground Country Fair. MOFGA would not exist without these dedicated people. Thank you.

To fulfill our programmatic goals, the organization also relies on financial contributions from thousands of individuals, businesses and foundations. With the help of 293 families, MOFGA also raised more than $1 million to complete the Partridge Challenge – adding $3 million to our endowment. This was the largest fundraising effort in MOFGA’s history.

Sadly, as the years go by, we find ourselves bidding farewell to members of our community who have dedicated their lives to ensuring a brighter future for others in Maine. As we move into our 46th year, MOFGA says farewell to Mrs. Polly Guth.

Inspired by MOFGA’s beginning farmer programs, Mrs. Guth lent her hand to establish a long-term endowment. The proceeds from this fund will support our educational programs. We are grateful for Polly’s dedication to MOFGA. Her vision of environmental stewardship, equality and education will benefit generations to come.

MOFGA’s success is made possible by dedicated volunteers, members and donors who provide the steady support needed to sustain our organization. Thank you.

Alice Percy, MOFGA Board President
Ted Quaday, Executive Director

Mission: The purpose of the Association is to help farmers and gardeners: grow organic food, fiber and other crops; protect the environment; recycle natural resources; increase local food production; support rural communities; and illuminate for consumers the connection between healthful food and environmentally sound farming practices.

At our 2015 picnic, Polly Guth expressed her commitment to MOFGA’s educational programs surrounded by farmers Corrine Wesh, Elsie Gawler, Tyler Yentes, Daniel MacPhee and his daughter Anna. Patti Hamilton photo.
Agricultural Services
MOFGA’s agricultural services staff provides in-house and “on-farm” technical assistance to farmers, gardeners and agricultural businesses. Our team coordinates dozens of educational workshops, visits numerous organic farms and businesses, and answers hundreds of questions by email or phone.

Certification
Formed in 1972, MOFGA Certification Services, LLC safeguards the integrity of organic crops and products in Maine by certifying that producers and processors are meeting strict national organic standards. MOFGA certifies more than 485 organic growers and food processors. For a step-by-step guide to becoming certified organic, please visit: MOFGACertification.org

Jean English photo.
Our Organic Farm is Thriving

By Mike Moody

I always knew I wanted to be a farmer. My earliest memories are of haying and afternoons passed on my grandmother’s farm in Lincolnville. I spent my youth daydreaming of owning my own farm. By high school I was connected to the local farming community and got my chance to get into milking when a friend and local dairyman got injured. It was then that I knew for sure I wanted to be a dairyman, and by 23 I had my own herd of milkers.

Ten years of working my own farm without taking a milking off, I needed a break. Fluctuating milk prices and the high costs associated with dairy farming had caused me extreme stress, financially and personally. Selling my herd was one of the most difficult decisions of my life, yet it proved to be one of the best.

I met Annie the summer before I sold my herd. We spent our first date chopping corn. She knew very little about dairy farming, yet had a sparkle in her eye every time she walked into the barn.

As we were building our life together after farming, we learned how well we worked together, as partners in both life and business. On one of many dreamy drives around the farmland of Maine, we started to talk seriously about getting back into dairy. We knew it was more than a business decision, and thought seriously about the commitment and sacrifices involved, as well as the benefit for our future family.

I knew from my experience on the conventional market that organic dairy was the answer for a profitable business. We happened to be driving through Whitefield on one of our adventures and began a conversation with Barry Tibbetts about growing organic corn. That conversation took a more serious turn and in May of 2013, Barry retired after selling us Sheepscot Valley Farm.

Now in our fourth year, our farm is growing with every season. Steady milk prices from our Co-Op, CROPP, owner of the national brand Organic Valley, have allowed us to expand our feed production, and have us producing a large quantity of quality organic milk. What organic production has done for our family cannot be understated. Our land is healthy, our cows are healthy and our growing family is healthy: our organic farm is thriving.
Public Policy

MOFGA advises members of Maine’s congressional delegation, State policymakers and government officials on a range of issues affecting public health, organic agricultural and environmental protection. In 2015, MOFGA contributed to fifteen policy initiatives ranging from GMO labeling and pollinator protection to the Certification Cost Share Program. MOFGA also worked on issues surrounding food sovereignty in the form of an amendment to the Maine State constitution declaring the unalienable right to food.

El Salvador Sistering Committee

MOFGA maintains a relationship with two Salvadoran sustainable agriculture organizations. The committee explores issues such as organic certification, free trade, marketing, seed saving and the effects of mining on agriculture and communities. Each April, the committee hosts an Empty Bowl Supper in Belfast to raise funds for its ongoing collaborative work.
Educational Programs

Our educational programs continued to grow in 2015. During the past year, more than 2,000 farming and gardening enthusiasts participated in 160 workshops.

For a complete list of workshops, please visit: MOFGA.org/events

A key part of MOFGA’s work focuses on training the next generation of farmers. From on-farm apprenticeships to beginning farmer assistance, we continue to offer aspiring farmers the hands-on knowledge they need to succeed. Our two-year intensive Journeyperson Program has trained 230 farmers – 92% of the program graduates still farm today.

Donny Landis photo.
Common Ground Country Fair

Every September 65,000 people celebrate rural living at the Common Ground Country Fair. The New York Times says the Fair is what “has gone missing from America.” For three days, fairgoers attend 750 workshops, enjoy organic food from 45 vendors, and purchase items from 650 crafters, breeders, weavers and artists. 1,800 volunteers make this event possible. Most help for a few hours during the weekend (parking cars, taking tickets, selling MOFGA T-shirts). Others dedicate up to two weeks of their time from setup to breakdown. Dozens more volunteer throughout the year on planning committees. MOFGA is grateful to this dedicated group of people for creating the Fair experience – thank you!

Jean English photo.
Preserving Our Apple Heritage

Building a sustainable future means protecting a sustainable past. MOFGA works to practice this vision in the Maine Heritage Orchard. When finished, the 10-acre orchard will be home to more than 500 apple and pear varieties traditionally grown in Maine. With many of these varieties on the verge of extinction, the Maine Heritage Orchard assures that our state’s apple diversity is not lost to history. To promote the redistribution of these varieties, every spring MOFGA hosts the Seed Swap and Scion Exchange along with Great Maine Apple Day every fall.

LIF: Teaching Sustainable Forestry

For 17 years, MOFGA’s Low Impact Forestry (LIF) Project has helped landowners manage their forests sustainably through year-round workshops, articles and one-on-one consultation. LIF is made up of loggers, foresters, landowners, farmers and persons interested in preserving Maine’s woodlands through ecologically and economically sound forest practices.

MOFGA’s Common Ground Education Center

Our 297-acre campus includes buildings for our offices and the facilities for our annual events including Farm and Homestead Day, Spring Growth Conference, Poultry Processing Workshop, Nose-to-Tail Pork Processing Workshop and the Common Ground Country Fair.
Your Legacy:

Leaving a gift through your will

Planned giving can be a simple process that leaves an enduring impact on the issues MOFGA holds dear: funding the next generation of farmers; protecting Maine’s diverse heritage apples; or advocating for sensible legislation.

Most planned gifts are made through bequests. You can designate cash, a percentage of your estate, or tangible personal property.

Unless specified by the donor, MOFGA directs bequests to the Russell Libby endowment to help assure the organization’s long-term future.

Here is suggested wording to include in your will:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association of Unity, Maine, the sum of $________ (or a description of the specific asset), for the benefit of Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and its general purposes.

Donating appreciated securities

Often when donors want to make a significant gift to MOFGA, they choose to transfer appreciated securities (stock and bonds).

To donate securities contact:

Eric McLeod at LPL Financial Services
1-800-585-6145 ext. 1517

MOFGA’s Account Information:

Account # 6657-4241
Participant ID (DTC #) 0075
Tax Identification Number: 01-6048322
Client Name: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Generous Members

MOFGA relies on financial contributions from our 11,000 members, business partners and charitable foundations. Together, our community is working to create fertile ground for the future of farming, gardening and the organic landscape of Maine and beyond. Thank you!

2015 MOFGA Business Members

Acadia Insurance
Agriculture Solutions
Allagash Brewing Company Inc
Allen Insurance & Financial
Anderson-Watkins Insurance
Angelrox
Austin Associates
Axis Natural Foods
Baldwin Apple Ladders
Bangor Savings Bank
Belfast Co-op Store
Big Barn Coffee Company
Birchwood Motel
Birthwise Midwifery School
Blue Hill Cooperative Market & Cafe
Bow Street Market Inc
Boy Locksmith
Brooklin Inn
Buckwheat Blossom Farm
By The Board Lumber Company Inc
Cafe Miranda
Camden Real Estate Co
Camden Whole Health
Carey & Associates PA
Carrabassett Coffee Company
Clovecrest Farm
Coast of Maine Organic Products Inc
Coffee By Design Inc
Cohill’s Inn
Country Fare Inc
Coyote Moon
Creampoke Sally’s LLC
CroppCo/Regular Valley
Darthia Farm
DaVinci Signs
Dining Services Bates College
Duratherm Window Corporation
Evergreen Healing Center Farm Credit East
Farm Family Insurance
FEDCO Seeds Inc
FHS/Dectra
Fixit Farm
Fresh Off The Farm
Frinklepod Farm
Gardiner Family Chiropractic PC
Glendarragh Farm
Lavender
Good Tern Natural Foods Co-op & Cafe
Grandy Oats Granola
Grange Corner Farm
Green Thumb Farms
Grower’s Discount Labels LLC
Gulf of Maine Books
Harvest Energy
Harvest Time Natural Foods
Heron Hill Winery
Honeybee Divinity Inc DBA “Ten”
Horsepower Farm
Hugo’s Restaurant
John Edwards Market Inc
Johnny’s Selected Seeds
Joshua’s Kyes-Carpenter Insurance
Leonardo’s Pizza
Little Falls Farm
Local 188
Lois’ Natural Marketplace
Maine Bay Canvas
Maine Coast Sea Vegetables
Maine Grains
Maine Wood Heat Co Inc
Maine’s Own Organic Milk Company
MaineY ATMs
Marquis Farms
Member Benefits LLC
MicroMaina
Misty Brook Farm
North American Kelp
North Country Organics
Ocean Organics
One Black Sheep LLC
Headacre Farm
Organic Valley
Paris Aubotnab LLC
Peacemeal Farm
Pinetree Garden Seeds
Powerwise Systems
Revision Energy
Rock City Inc
Rockport Marine Inc
Roots Coops & More
Rosedale Mor & Bakery
Royal River Natural Foods
Salsbury’s Organic Garden Center
Sarah’s Cafe & Twin Schooner Pub
Savory Main E Dining & Provicials
Scratch Baking Company
Scythe Supply
Seaport Shores
Seaside Farm
Shiretown Insurance Agency Inc
Six River Farm
Slow Rise Farm
Springworks Farm
Stantial Brook Farm
Steadfast Farm LLC
Stonyfield Farm
Stonyfield Organic
Sweet Timber Frames
Taproot Magazine
The Apple Farm
The Dockside
The Jojoba Company
The Liberal Cup
The Milkhouse
TREKEEPERS LLC - Johnson’s Arboriculture
Triple Chick Farm
Urban Garden Center
Vermont Compost Company
Vienna Farm LLC
Wellscroft Fence System
Wild Oats Bakery & Cafe
Willow Pond Farm

Foundations/ Funds

Supporting MOFGA in 2015

The Alvin and Fanny B Thalheimer Foundation, Inc
American Endowment Foundation / MLDC Charitable Fund
Bellevue Fund of the US Charitable Gift Trust
The Betterment Fund
The Bill And Joan Alfond Foundation
Broad Reach Fund
The Carrot Project
Cliff Bar Family Foundation
Coastal Enterprises Institute
Debey Foundation
Elmina B Sewall Foundation
Essex County Community Foundation
The Evergreen Foundation
Farm Aid, Inc.
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
The Gerrish H Milliken Foundation
The H J Bixler Charitable Lead Trust
Holistic Management International
Jacob L And Lillian Holtzmann Foundation
Jane B Cook 1992 Charitable Trust
Jane’s Trust
Joanne And Michael A. Bander Family Fund at The Miami Foundation
The John Merck Fund
Laird Norton Family Foundation
Libra Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
Maine Community Health Options
MaineShare
Milton Hart Foundation
Mudge Foundation
Oak Grove School Foundation
Onion Foundation
The Partridge Foundation
H. M Payson
Quimby Family Foundation
The Reny Charitable Foundation
Rockefeller Family Fund
The Sandy River Charitable Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund
The Seth Sprague Charitable Fund
Stonyfield
UNFI (United Natural Foods)
USDA - Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
USDA - Food Security Nutrition Incentive
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA - Rural Business Development Grant
USDA - Specialty Crop Block Grant
Western Conservation Foundation
Wholesome Wave
Woodside Foundation
As we approach our 50th anniversary, we take stock of how our membership, the largest organic community in the country, has grown over the years and spread across New England and beyond.

MOFGA offers a special benefits card to its members and supporters. The card is loaded with generous discounts from organic farms, restaurants, inns, museums and craft vendors. More information is available at MOFGA.org.
The MOFGA
Board and Staff

Board of Directors 2016

Alice Percy – President, seed company administrator, Whitefield
David Shipman – Vice President, seed company administrator, China
Logan Johnston – Treasurer, beef/organic hay producer, Gardiner
Jo Ann Myers – Secretary, rare breeds farmer, Waldoboro
Spencer Aitel – organic dairy farmer, South China
Heather Albert-Knopp – college administrator, Bar Harbor
Amanda Beal – agricultural non-profit director, Portland
Eli Berry – organic farmer/logger, Washington
Ben Campo – attorney, North Yarmouth
Elizabeth Hart – physician, Mount Vernon
Sam Hazlehurst – organic vegetable grower, Troy
Kimberly Krejsa – organic gardener, Wiscasset
John Krueger – scientific researcher, Northport
Adrienne Lee – organic vegetable grower, Knox
Todd Little-Siebold – professor, Ellsworth
Sam May – international financial analyst, Portland
Bryan McLellan – computer programmer, Surry

Beth Schiller – organic farmer/gardener, Newcastle
Lee Stover – forester, Waldo
Jim Torbert – teacher/organic gardener, Whitefield
Annie Watson – organic dairy farmer, Whitefield
Rose Zoller – organic farm hand, Freedom

Staff June 2016

April Boucher – Common Ground Country Fair Director
Laurah Brown – Certification Specialist
John Chartier – Aroostook County Agricultural Specialist
Joan Cheetham – Certification Specialist
Janice Clark – Finance Administrator/Advertising Manager
Dave Colson – Agricultural Services Director
Ryan Dennett – New Farmer Programs Coordinator
Jean English – editor, The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener
Kristen Farrell – Operations Assistance, MOFGA Certification Services
Jake Galle – Inspector/Materials Reviewer–MOFGA Certification Services
Katy Green – Organic Transitions Coordinator
Chris Hamilton – Associate Director
Grace Keown – Operations Assistant & Information Manager - MOFGA Certification Services

Anna Libby – Volunteer Coordinator
Daniel MacPhee – Educational Programs Director
John McIntire – Shop & Equipment Manager
Kaitlynn McGuire – Database Manager
Jennifer Morton – Administrative Assistant
Anna Mueller – Events Coordinator
Tim Nason – Publications Designer & Website Manager
Kate Newkirk – Associate Director of Processing/Handling, MOFGA Certification Services
Heather Omand – Organic Marketing and Business Coordinator
Don Pendleton – Buildings and Grounds Assistant
Eleanor Salazar – Common Ground Country Fair Coordinator
Ted Quaday – Executive Director
Diane Schivera – Organic Livestock Specialist
Jacomijn Schraesande-Gardei – Associate Director of Crops/MOFGA Certification Services
Eric Sideman – Organic Crop Specialist
Heather Spalding – Deputy Director
Jason Tessier – Buildings and Grounds Director
Sam Vail – Development Associate
C.J. Walke – Organic Orchard Educator
Katie Webb – Dairy Certification Specialist–MOFGA Certification Services
## 2015 Financial Statement

### SOURCES OF INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income (Fair, Certification other)</td>
<td>1,598,700</td>
<td>730,526</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>473,347</td>
<td>605,550</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals/Businesses</td>
<td>294,928</td>
<td>345,289</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>295,142</td>
<td>400,153</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>165,713</td>
<td>367,966</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>79,859</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,872,830</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,931,813</strong></td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Ground Country Fair</td>
<td>960,443</td>
<td>730,526</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership &amp; Development</td>
<td>630,358</td>
<td>322,988</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certification</td>
<td>482,130</td>
<td>605,550</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Programs</td>
<td>340,903</td>
<td>345,289</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Services</td>
<td>216,622</td>
<td>400,153</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Administration</td>
<td>167,162</td>
<td>367,966</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>63,984</td>
<td>79,482</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11,228</td>
<td>79,859</td>
<td>&gt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,872,830</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,931,813</strong></td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = includes depreciation allocated across all program areas. A detailed financial report is available upon request.

The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations to MOFGA are tax deductible.

Gifts of stock may be made through LPL Financial Services (1-800-585-6145, ext. 1517)

Account Registration: MOFGA, Account #6657-4241 DTC#: 0075

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

P.O. Box 170 (294 Crosby Brook Road), Unity, Maine 04988    MOFGA.org    207-568-4142
CHOICES
By Russell Libby

One inch of added circumference each year, at least once the trees are thinned, means these sugar maples can be tapped – in twenty more years.

Yesterday I left just three of twenty in a stand dense with young saplings. Why these three? They topped their neighbors by a few inches, and that was enough.

I hope the next people to walk these woods will understand that what they see is only one of many choices that might have been.

Cover photo: Two Loons Farm, owned and operated by Spencer Aitel & Paige Tyson. Photo courtesy of Ted Alexrod Photography, Portland, Maine.