After a hectic 6th season, SEED Wayne put its tents and tools away to take a breather over the winter. However, planning and organizing for the next season is in full swing!

Here are some of the year’s stats:

- 650 customers attended the WSU Farmers Market weekly. This number is down from a peak of more than 1,000 in 2010, due in part to more fresh food retail outlets such as Eastern Market’s mid-week offering and Whole Foods opening nearby over the last three years; a rising economy that keeps more people busy during the work-day; and fewer students with food stamp benefits.

How might we raise our customer counts in 2014? SEEDLING readers are invited to join us to address this challenge!

- Nearly $10,000 was distributed in Student Advantage vouchers, benefiting 985 students (546 unduplicated) from departments campus-wide.

- 28 Healthy Eats Project workshops were attended by 480 participants who accounted for 711 contacts at 4 midtown senior sites (Feb.-May) and the WSU Farmers Market (June-Sept.).

- Additionally, 7 friends prepared 22 lunches for market volunteers, with Dawn Bielawski and Julie Osburn responsible for the most meals along with program director Kami Pothukuchi.

- 18 vendors participated in the 22-week WSU Farmers Market; 9 sold fresh produce and 12 were Detroit-based enterprises.

- 4 SEEDLING and 8 Healthy Eats newsletter issues were distributed at the WSU Farmers Market, community sites, and by email.

- 14 community partners—4 sponsors among them, 5 campus partners, and a record 12 paid staff members helped implement the season’s activities.

The Student Advantage Project at the WSU Farmers Market was this

(Continued on page 2)
year’s significant innovation. To remind readers, the Project gives $10 in vouchers in exchange for $5 in cash to WSU students enrolled in classes, with vouchers to be spent only on fresh produce. The project obtained many positive outcomes: Participants spent more of their own money on produce at the market than they did before, ate more fruits and vegetables and in greater variety, prepared and ate meals at home more often, and ate less junk food. A majority of those surveyed had not shopped at the market last year, their visits to the market went up after the start of the Student Advantage Program. We are excited by these win-win outcomes for students and vendors and will redouble our efforts to raise more funds for this project in 2014.

All in all, SEED Wayne has much for which to be grateful, and many to thank for the season’s harvests in food and friendship: our intrepid volunteers, capable partners, and steadfast customers and other participants. They were all recognized at our Annual Harvest Dinner, September 27, hosted this year at the St. Andrews Garden.

The Harvest Dinner wove together campus and community friends and their potluck vegetarian dishes in a beautiful fall tapestry of good food and company. We saw friends from among vendors with whom we had worked at the market two days ago, some others who were returning after a year’s gap, and some experiencing SEED Wayne for the very first time that evening.

As is the norm in the program, many volunteers helped with tasks related to set up, take down, and event staffing. The weather cooperated as well, with plenty of sunshine and pleasant temperatures. Feedback from the event suggests that many more Harvest Dinners, organized outdoors and as potlucks are in the program’s future.

We also said goodbye to several staff members at some point this season. Some are graduating and moving on to jobs in their fields or to more ambitious goals. These include Charles Lisee, Marianna Ingram, and

(Continued on page 3)
Opportunities for WSU Students: Urban Roots & RISEUP Taking Applications

Applications are invited from Wayne County residents for the 2014 Urban Roots Community Gardens Training Program, a 9-week course that trains participants in basic horticultural and community organizing skills. The program’s 291 graduates have built and maintained numerous gardens in the city. Many also participate in the Grown in Detroit cooperative of growers who sell at city markets, including the WSU Farmers Market. Classes run Saturdays, Feb. 8-March 26, 5:30 to 7:30 pm; the last class is Wed., April 2, 5:30 pm.

Applications are available at detroitagriculture.net. For more information, contact Lindsay Pielack of Keep Growing Detroit at 313-757-2635 or keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com.

RISEUP (Research Internships for a Sustainable Environment with Undergraduate Participation) at WSU is a 12-week summer program that pairs qualified undergraduate students with professional mentors to study environmental issues in Detroit River and nearby Great Lakes. Students from all majors are encouraged to apply.

Program flyer and application are available at riseup.med.wayne.edu. Applications are due by Feb. 1, 2014. For more information, contact RISEUP director, Dr. Jeffrey Ram, at riseup@wayne.edu or 313-577-1558.

Mark Your Calendars and Spread the Word

December 2013
12/7, 6:30 pm: Barbara Bailey Hutchinson, concert. IHM Motherhouse, 610 W. Elm Ave., Monroe, MI 48162, Tickets $10. For info, 734-240-9700 or 734-240-9691.
12/18, 2:30 pm: WSU Winter Carnival, McGregor Memorial Conf. Center. RSVP specialevents.wayne.edu/winter-carnival/rsvp
Urban Roots applications due soon. See top of this page for more information.

January-February, 2014
1/8, 5-6:30 pm: The Nature of Innovation, venue TBD. Info: 313-717-6151, glbd.org.
2/6, 5-6:30 pm: The Womb at the Center of the Universe, venue TBD. Info: 313-717-6151, glbd.org

March

The Farm Bill affects us all: Learn more!

The “Farm Bill” or the omnibus federal farm and food law, sets the country’s farm, food, and rural policy goals and priorities. The last version, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act was passed in 2008, authorizing $289 billion in expenditures over five years. It was extended until September 2013 after it expired in 2012 and efforts to pass a new farm bill floundered.

Why should we care? First, despite its name, the Farm Bill touches the lives of urban residents too, metro Detroiters included. Besides agriculture, for example, the law affects local economies, public health, and the environment.

Second, two-thirds of the 2008 Farm Bill expenditures are in food stamps—now the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. Nearly three out 10 Wayne County residents received SNAP benefits this year. Finally, our own Senator Debbie Stabenow chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee.

So, what’s happening with the Farm Bill? Unfortunately, not much. The US Senate adopted a farm bill in June 2013, but it was rejected by the House of Representatives soon afterwards. The House passed its version in September, which included $40 billion in cuts to SNAP. This cut, almost ten times as big as that adopted by the Senate, is only one of many differences in the two versions.

Last month, a Conference Committee of key House and Senate members met to resolve differences in the bills. As of this writing, however, it appears that no agreement will be reached, and the 2008 Farm Bill may be extended for another year or perhaps even two, to avoid debate in an election year. Much of Farm Bill politics is about how much federal spending to cut. The January 1 deadline which led to the hasty extension last year looms large once again.

SEED Wayne tracks Farm Bill progress closely. Our WSU Farmers Market accepts SNAP benefits and matches SNAP dollars with Double Up Food Bucks or DUFB, in a partnership with Eastern Market and Fair Food Network. SNAP-DUFB spending accounts for 8-10 percent of revenues received by vendors. Although this ratio

(Continued on page 3)