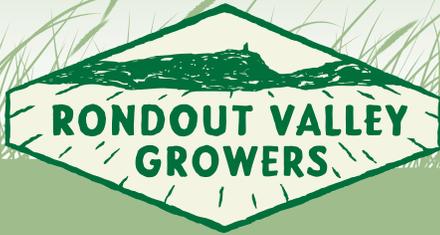


RVGA 2019 Annual Report



Mission

To strengthen our community and economy by supporting local agriculture.

Vision

A world nourished by local farms.

Board News

We announced at the Harvest Wine Dinner earlier this month that Nick Cipollone has passed the presidential torch to fellow board member Matt Igoe.

Nick has been a RVGA board member for ten years, the president for the past six, and will continue to serve on the board.

Matt has been a board member for two and a half years and is excited about building upon RVGA's successes and future goals, including strengthened programming, fundraising, and hiring a new executive director.



Seasons Greetings!

There are four seasons in a year, each with its own special rhythm. In the spring the days grow longer and warmer. We sow seeds and watch the green return to the landscape. Summer's bounty brings fresh fruits and vegetables, warm days and nights, and more time outside.

In the fall the leaves put on their show as the farmers markets displays change from tomatoes and corn to root crops and winter squash. Harvests come in and preparations are made for the cooler weather.

We finish off the year with the cold and dark of winter, which hopefully helps us appreciate the light and warmth to come. It's a time to reflect on what has passed, to think about what lies ahead, and to spend time with friends and family during the holidays.

At this traditional time of giving, please consider including RVGA in your charitable, tax free contributions. You can make a donation to our year end campaign at: www.rondoutvalleygrowers.org . You can also send a check to the address below.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Farm to Food Pantry

The Farm to Food Pantry Program reclaims food donated from local farms and distributes them to food pantries and soup kitchens across Ulster County with the goal of increasing access to local food in food deserts and areas of poverty.

This year thirty-six grower donors contributed over one hundred and twenty-thousand pounds of produce, most of which was distributed to fifty-two food pantries, shelters, and feeding programs in Ulster and Greene counties.

Over six thousand pounds of that produce was gleaned and over eight thousand pounds processed and frozen, for distribution throughout the winter, by more than two hundred volunteers. Thank you to our program partners; Family of Woodstock, Ulster Corps, Ulster County Community Action, ARC of Ulster & Greene Counties.



In 2019

- **36 farms** donated
- over **120,000 pounds of produce**
- over **200 volunteers** helped pick and preserve
- **52 food pantries**, shelters, and programs served
- over **100,000 meals** were provided to hungry neighbors

Growing with the Grain

RVGA organized an outdoor film screening of Jon Bowermaster's "Growing with the Grain" short film along with a panel discussion about grains in the Hudson Valley.

The event was held on a warm summer evening in August at the picturesque Arrowood Farm-Brewery. As the large screen was set up, Senegambian-American farmers from Ever-Growing Family Farm (rice growers right here in Ulster County) played their drums while neighbors and farmers snacked on local treats, drank, chatted, and explored the tranquil grounds at the brewery.

It was entertaining and educational to watch the film and listen to the panelist discussion, with speakers from CCE Ulster County, The Farm Hub, Bread Alone Bakery, Ever-Growing Family Farm, Kelders Farm, Bjorn Qorn, Barthel's Farm, and the filmmaker himself, Jon Bowermaster.

Watch for more events like this in the new year!



Photos by Nicci Cagan

2019 Harvest Wine Dinner

The RVGA Harvest Wine Dinner has become an annual tradition of celebrating the fall harvest season with good food, wine, and conversation. This year's event at the Enneagram Institute in Stone Ridge made us appreciate how wonderful our community here in the Rondout Valley is.

The guests entered the historic red barn, leaving the cold December air behind, and were greeted with a sparkling wine reception. Each tray of hors d'oeuvres was artistically presented and brought a uniquely delicious experience. Next came a delectable multi-course meal with locally sourced ingredients prepared by talented chefs John Novi, Josh Baur, Michael Bernardo, and Agnes Devereux. Each course was impeccably paired with wines chosen and poured by Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits. It was truly a festive evening.

**Keep up to date with RVGA news and events follow us:
Instagram @rondout_valley_growers**