RoundUP

ROUND UP AT THE REGISTER EVENT FOR SUSTAIN-ABLE IOWA LAND TRUST (SILT) IS SEPTEMBER 11-25

SILTFest is Thursday, Sept. 14 at Pulpit Rock Brewery; join SILT for a Co-op tabling event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. prior to event

SUSTAINABLE IOWA LAND TRUST

PROTECTING LAND TO GROW HEALTHY FOOD

Below is the full transcript of Sheeder's Q&A:

OCC: Please tell us about SILT Fest. What is it and how may readers participate?

Sheeder: SILTFest is our annual fundraising event that celebrates sustainable agriculture and community engagement. Held in different areas of the state each

year, this event brings people together to learn, connect, and support our mission.

The annual Decorah SILTFest is Thursday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Pulpit Rock Brewing Company, 207 College Drive. Attendees can explore sustainable living practices, enjoy live music, and participate

in activities that promote a healthier environment and food system. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and contribute to a more sustainable future.

OCC: Could you please share recent SILT "news"?

Sheeder: SILT experienced a leadership transition this past March upon the retirement of former SILT Co-founder and Executive Director Suzan Erem. We're excited to announce that Breanna Horsey assumed the position of executive director. Breanna has earned degrees in organizational management and environmental studies; she has been a leader in Buena Vista University's development and sustainability efforts. Breanna holds a strong and abiding concern for our planet and our state. She brings insight and energy to our mission as we work to further sustainable agricultural practices in lowa.

Over this past year, SILT has been making significant strides in northeast lowa, particularly through collaborations like a recent partnership with Carly and Ethan Zierke of Sweet Season Farm of Decorah. By bringing these passionate farmers to properties like the Luzum Heritage Farm of Calmar, SILT is not only

Oneota Co-op shoppers are invited to "Round Up at the

Register" for Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT) Monday, Sept. 11 through Monday, Sept. 25. For this Co-op Q&A, we've worked with SILT Events and Communications Coordinator Sophie Sheeder. SILT, Sheeder tells us, "was founded in 2015 with a mission to preserve Iowa farmland to grow sustainable table food, create equitable land access, and diversify our food system." This nonprofit organization's goal, she adds, "is to ensure that fertile land remains

available for generations to come, supporting a resilient food

system and a more inclusive agricultural landscape."

SILT Events and Communications Coordinator Sophie Sheeder joined the organization in January 2022 through AmeriCorps VISTA. She has since transitioned to a full-time role. From Sophie: "As a born and raised lowan, I'm deeply passionate about sustainability and ensuring a future for lowa's farmland. It's worth noting that despite lowa's immense amount of farmland, the state still imports around 90% of its food. This staggering statistic underscores the critical need for initiatives like SILT. My dedication to creating positive change in lowa's agricultural landscape drives me every day."



SILT Executive Director Breanna Horsey began leadership duties this past March. Horsey brings degrees in organizational management and environmental studies to the organization, and a deep commitment to lowa's sustainable agriculture efforts.



Sweet Season Farm's Carly and Ethan Zierke are in the process of transitioning farm operations to SILT's Luzum Heritage Farm. This Calmar property was donated to SILT by the Lyle and Sue Luzum family in 2017.

preserving farmland but also contributing to the diversification of the food system and equitable land access.

OCC: What are some of SILT's educational efforts?

Sheeder: We offer a wealth of learning materials at www.silt.org. Go here to gather information about land conservation, sustainable farming, and land use planning. We host field days throughout the year, offering participants the chance to engage directly with experts and learn about various aspects of sustainable agriculture. We welcome readers to "like" our Facebook page for current news and photos.

OCC: How can our readers support SILT's mission?

Sheeder: Oneota Co-op shoppers can actively support SILT's mission by a financial donation, following our social media channels for updates and educational content, and attending our events, like SILTFest. These actions contribute to our efforts to protect lowa's farmland, create equitable access to land, and promote sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and the community.

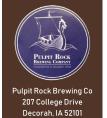
Oneota Co-op round up campaigns are intrinsically tied to the Co-op's community service commitment as outlined in the Co-op Missions and Ends statement. Co-op shoppers are provided the opportunity to round up to the nearest dollar to support this organizational end, which reads as follows:

Oneota Community Co-op Organizational End number seven: "Our members are diverse and engaged, working together and sharing time, energy, and resources to build a resilient and thriving local community."



Please join us at the Pulpit Rock Brewing Co on

September 14 from 6:30-9 pm!



Join us for a night of fun and fundraising! SILTFest is an annual celebration of sustainable farming and land preservation. Come show your support for sustainable agriculture and check out what SILT is working on.

Music by Beth and Jon Rotto of Foot-Notes





