

GRIST FOR THE MILL

Six degrees of separation is the theory that anyone on the planet can be connected to any other person through a chain of acquaintances that has no more than five intermediaries. While we can't speak to the research that attempted to mathematically prove this theory we can say that the response to the first issue of *Edible San Diego* has affirmed how close the connections between all of us are, especially when it comes to food.

Just a few months ago we attended the *Edible Communities* annual meeting. A handful of magazines devoted to celebrating their local food community has grown to 50 edible magazines today—from Boston to San Francisco, and including our neighbors to the north, in Vancouver and Toronto. *Edible Brooklyn's* publishers, Brian Halweil and Stephen Munshin noted how fast the *edible* publications were growing saying "Nothing grows that fast—in nature, in business, in the collective consciousness—unless it is filling a void. Collectively, our readership stands at nearly 5 million people clamoring to become more powerful eaters." As a member of Edible Communities we receive and read every edible being published. Now that is gastro literacy! If we could be so bold as to suggest that such literacy, in its own microcosm, is akin to The Great Conversation. The spirit of The Great Conversation is a spirit of inquiry. We want inquiring minds to spend more time reading about food. The food our writers write about is not locked in airtight containers rather it touches and relates to all facets of our lives.

Consider this issue's story of a Fallbrook livestock rancher, a Vista craft beer brewer, and a North Park restaurateur connecting against the odds to provide a truly San Diegan meal (pg. 27).

Our community is full of people who inspire, whether it's Christian Graves, Executive Chef of San Diego's Downtown Gaslamp Quarter's JSix restaurant who labors to bring house-cured meats to the table or your next door neighbor whose microclimate is perfect for growing exotic delectables (pg. 14); we have closer connections than you know.

Although the price of food and fuel continue to rise and we are all conscious of being impacted by the global economy let's not forget that it is summer in San Diego. Slow down, plant some seeds, enjoy your "backyard," in whatever shape it takes, go to the parks and beaches and find pleasure in simple activities with family and friends.

We encourage you to continue to support your local farmstand, weekly farmer's market, or subscribe to a CSA program.

Mary Willis, Editor Jeff Willis, Publisher

P.S. The State Board of Food and Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture are launching a series of listening sessions that will provide a forum for the agriculture industry and public to give their input into a California strategic agricultural vision. This vision will be used to guide public policy and investment priorities at the state and national level for the next 20 years. It will be a vision that affects everyone who produces, ships, processes, markets, eats, drinks or wears California agricultural products. The California Agricultural Vision will consist of strategic goals that the agricultural industry wants to achieve by the year 2030. Public input is essential for the agricultural vision to fully represent California, including perspectives from farmers, ranchers and processors as well as hunger, nutrition, conservation and rural development groups. Our local Listening Session will be: Tuesday, July 8 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. San Diego County Farm Bureau 1670 East Valley Parkway Escondido, CA 92027 RSVP at least three days in advance to AGVision@cdfa.ca.gov. For more information visit www.cdfa.ca.gov/agvision/ or call 760 745-3023

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