Heirloom Seed and Story Keepers
Growing Community and Sustainability through Arts-Based Research
GASC 3100: Introduction to Appalachian Studies

Professors

Dr. Chris Dockery, M.F.A., Ph.D. Associate Professor of Art
Rosann Kent, M.A., Director, Georgia Appalachian Studies Center
ArtStream Art Education Students

Ashley Echols

Kyle Clark

Sidney Dye

Anne Burton

Angel Estrella
Student Researchers:

Debbie Postell          Jonathan Winskie
Ricky Rojas             Margaret Summers
Jessica Murray          Savannah Moss
Maximillian Post
Research Question

How can we provide students and community members with reciprocal opportunities to engage in the local food system through cultural literacy?
Project Overview

What are heirloom seeds?
Lumpkin County, Georgia (2010 census)

- Demographics
  - Population: 29,966
  - 94.36% Caucasian
  - 1.13% African-American
  - 0.59% Native American
  - 3.92% other
Lumpkin County, GA (continued)

- **Economic Information** (Lumpkin County Area Labor Profile, Georgia Department of Labor; 2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA, Lumpkin County Profile)
  - Per Capita income: $26,731 (in 2010)
  - Unemployment at 10.6%, .8% higher than state average
  - Population increased 42.59% between 2000 and 2010 (21,016 to 29,966)
  - Significance?
NGCSU Appalachian Teaching Project
Preserving and Propagating Seeds
What is a Seedkeeper?
Phase II: Field Work
Phase III: Analysis
Communograph
Results

- Replicable methodology
- 2 seed swaps- multiple packets of 7 varieties of seeds disseminated
- 11 interviews with community members
- Found gardeners in 7 militia districts
• How has heirloom seed gardening contributed to the development of community in Lumpkin County?

• What is the current state of the tradition?

• What implications does it have for the sustainable future of the county, state, and region?
A Pilot Study: Where to go from here?

- Continue the project in subsequent semesters
- Expand research to other geographic areas
- Expand demographic base
- Art Education Programs
- Traveling Exhibition