



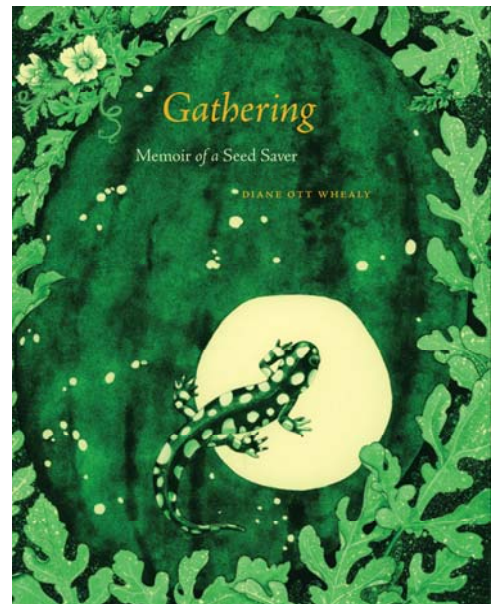
The Author

Diane Ott Whealy is the co-founder of Seed Savers Exchange and presently serves as Vice President of Education. For more than 35 years, Diane has been a national leader in the heirloom seed movement and a strong advocate for the protection of the earth's rare genetic food stocks.

Founded in 1975 as a non-profit organization, Seed Savers Exchange's has more than 13,000 members, made up of gardeners, orchardist, chefs and plant collectors, dedicated to the preservation and distribution of heirloom varieties of vegetables, fruits, grains, flowers and herbs. With thousands of varieties in its collection, Seed Savers is one of the largest non-governmental seed banks in the United States.

In 1986 Diane helped to develop Heritage Farm, Seed Saver's scenic 890-acre headquarters near Decorah Iowa. Heritage Farm is a unique educational center designed to maintain and display collections of endangered food crops. Diane also founded the Flower and Herb Exchange where members offer over 2000 heirloom flowers and herbs for exchange each year.

Diane has just published *Gathering: Memoir of A Seed Saver*, which tells the story of how the dream of two people became with the help of likeminded people the extraordinary organization Seed Savers Exchange is today.



The Book

Gathering: Memoir of a Seed Saver chronicles the life of a pioneer in the field of heritage seed preservation. Daughter and granddaughter of Iowa farmers, little did Diane Ott Whealy suspect that she would one day become a force in preserving our national biodiversity. Seed Savers Exchange, now a world leader in the heirloom seed preservation movement, started as the name implies, as a simple exchange of seeds amongst people who were passionate about particular vegetables, fruits or flowers and who wanted to preserve the riches that their ancestors had brought to this country in the pockets of their aprons or folded in their handkerchiefs!

Diane Ott Whealy and Kent Whealy, her former husband, met in Colorado and soon discovered that their shared love of land and cultivation of their own produce would constitute their unifying core and the basis for founding Seed Savers Exchange.

Ott Whealy's down-to-earth narrative traces her fascinating journey from Oregon to Kansas to Missouri then back home to Iowa where, in 1986, Heritage Farm became the permanent home of Seed Savers Exchange. Her heartwarming story captures what is best in the American spirit: the ability to dream and, through hard work and perseverance, inspire others to contribute their efforts to a cause. Thus was created one of the nation's most admired nonprofits in the field of genetic preservation.