

Our Mission: *To promote and preserve unregulated direct farmer-to-consumer trade that fosters availability of locally grown or home-produced food products*

April 2010

In This Issue:

[John Coles](#)

By Joel Salatin

[VICFA Notes](#)

[VICFA Bylaws](#)

John Coles

December 3 1938 –April 4, 2010

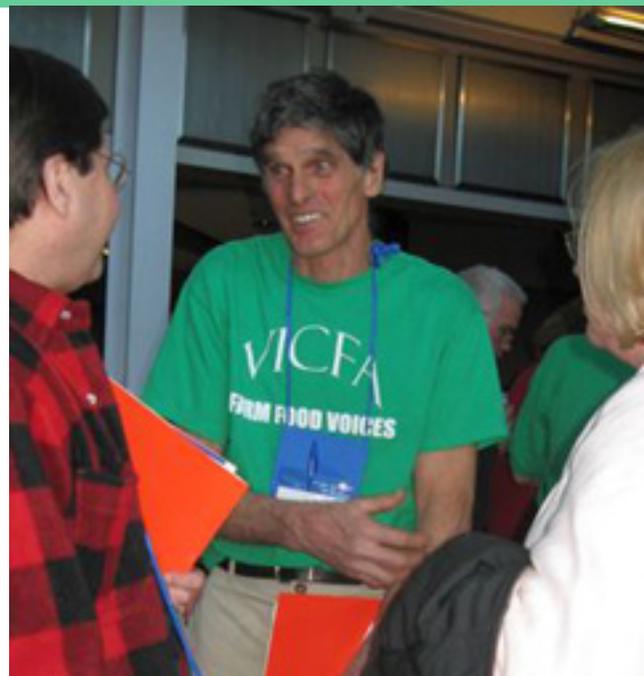
By Joel Salatin

John Coles was like a rock foundation. Throughout my nearly 30 year friendship with this gentle giant of a man, I never saw his passion, conviction, or resolve waver even for a second. I got the impression he was a reluctant public activist, being pushed behind the podium at public hearings and onto local food advocacy boards of directors because of his character and integrity, not because he was eloquent or flamboyant.

Often, people with more charisma and theatrical and oratorical skills than character depth become leaders, but John led by sheer strength of character and integrity. His moral compass ran deep. No matter the controversy, John kept an even keel and a sense of quiet discernment I will deeply, deeply miss.

He never looked his age. In the last decade of our friendship, whenever I could, I mischievously asked newly introduced people: “How old do you think John is?” They’d always guess about 15 years younger. To me, that youthful physique, right up until the end, stood as a metaphor for the hidden strength of this man. He had a lot more wisdom than you might think; indeed, the wisdom of a man much older. Every time I had the pleasure of his company, I came away more appreciative of his quiet resolve, his quick, reassuring smile, and his understanding of issues.

His strength of character manifested itself in many ways through his artisanal contributions to masonry stoves, brick laying, gardening and so much more. The meticulous, thoughtful care attendant upon each piece of mortar, clay, or seed left observers in awe of his craftsmanship. He spread beauty. Few men have left such a legacy of pure spirit. Here was a man without guile, without deceit.



continued on page 7...

VICFA Notes

NOTES FROM APRIL MEETING

Thanks to **Margaret Taylor-Collins** for hosting the April Membership Meeting. Following the resignation of Treasurer, **Carroll Ann Friedmann, Alexa Boker** was elected to serve as Treasurer. Following the untimely death of **John Coles, Rowena Morrel** was elected to fulfill the remainder of his term.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Members who are interested in serving as an officer or board member for the coming year are encouraged to submit a statement of intent to **Willard Lutz** prior to the May meeting or to the membership at the Membership meeting in June. All nominees must be willing to serve and to attend 75% of membership meetings.

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Article XI

The By-Laws of VICFA may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the Annual Membership Meeting. Any amendment to the VICFA By-Laws requires a thirty (30) day written notice to the membership prior to the Annual Membership Meeting.

Proposed amendments to the current VICFA By-Laws are contained within this newsletter. Please accept this announcement as the required notice. Carefully review the changes and be prepared to act upon them at the upcoming annual membership meeting on June 13, 2010.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Article IV Section 4. Annual Membership Meeting

The Board shall provide for an Annual VICFA Membership Meeting to occur at a time and place determined by the Board. Thirty (30) days written notice of the Annual Membership Meeting shall be sent to all members stating the time and place.

Please accept the notice on the next page as the official announcement of the Annual Membership Meeting. We hope to see you all there.

Please note the change in the VICFA mailing address: P.O. Box 6838, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

Come to Our May Meeting!

VICFA meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month. Summer hours are now in effect. Meetings start at 1:00 pm. The business meeting is from 1:00 – 2:00 followed by lunch and a general meeting from 2:00 – 4:00. VICFA meetings are open to the public. Please bring a dish and your enthusiasm to share.

Sunday, May 9 at the home of Richard Bean and Jean Rinaldi
1401 Hunting Lodge Road
Wingina, VA 24599
Phone: (434) 263-8704

FROM THE NORTH: Take Route 29 South to the traffic signal in Lovingson. Turn left at the light into Lovingson, 1/4 mile to Route 56 E on the right. Follow Route 56 E for 9 miles to Route 646. Turn left on 646 (Hunting Lodge Road). Go 1.4 miles to 1401 Hunting Lodge Road. Driveway is on the left. Follow driveway to the top of the hill to Richard & Jean's house.

FROM THE SOUTH: Take Route 29 North to the traffic signal in Lovingson. Turn right at the light into Lovingson, 1/4 mile to Route 56 E on the right. Follow the directions from above.

FROM THE EAST OR WEST: To Route 29 North or South. Directions to & from Lovingson.

Come to the Annual Membership Meeting in June in Swoope, VA

Sunday, June 13th

at the home of Joel and Teresa Salatin
43 Pure Meadows Lane
Swoope, VA 24479, (540) 885-3590

DIRECTIONS: In Staunton take exit 220 off of Interstate 81. Come west on VA 262 to the Parkersburg Turnpike exit. Turn left on Parkersburg Turnpike (US 254) and go 500 yards to a left on Cedar Green Rd. Take the next right on Hebron Road, paralleling the railroad track. At Hebron Church, turn left on Eidson Creek Rd. and bear right at the Y on Glebe School Rd., across Eidson Creek. Continue right in one mile on Glebe School Rd. at the next Y. Come less than three miles and turn right on Trimble's Mill Rd. to the Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Across from the church, turn left on Shuey Rd. Come one mile to the farm entrance, Polyface sign on the right. Watch for the lunatic farm.

CLASSIFIEDS

Great Pyrenees Guard Dog puppies

Protect your farm & livestock
Raised with Sheep & Goats
Females \$350 Males \$300
Double H Farm 434-263-8704

Walk-in freezer,

International Cold Storage, 2002, 220V, 30 amp, single phase, 11' w x 12' d x 8' h, comes with metal racks and plastic containers. \$8,000.
434-823-1999

6+ acre Berry Farm FOR SALE near Woodstock, VA

Blackberries, Raspberries and other fruits (several good Farmer's Markets nearby). Virginia Victorian Farmhouse with four Beds, three baths, plus two rental houses on the property, one with three beds and two baths, the other a one bed and shower cottage. \$450,000. There is room for further development, and a three acre field. Narrow Passage Creek runs through the property. Call 540-459-9385 for more information, or Paul McCarus, ERA Beasley Realty at 540-335-3900

For Rent:

3 bedroom, refurbished mobile home accommodation on farm in Nelson County. Available July 1, 2010. \$500 per month. Contact Anne, 434-263-4946 or annebuteau@yahoo.com.

Better Food Begins Here*



- Certified Organic, Soy-Free Feeds
- OMRI Approved Fertilizers • Humates
- Mineral Supplements

Monthly Delivery to Much of Virginia
Call Kevin, Steve or Keith at 888-699-7088
www.countrysidenatural.com

* Ask your grower or producer if they use
Countryside Natural Products.

VICFA On The Farm Day

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Visit some local farmers
LOOK, LISTEN, & LEARN
Find out how your artisanal foods are produced

For participating farms, openings,
and times, go to

<http://www.vicfa.org/meetings-events.html>
or phone 434-263-4946.

Please note - additions to the bylaws appear in bold and are underlined. Deletions are noted in crossed-out gray text.

BY-LAWS

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association
As Amended June ~~2007~~ **2010**

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this non-profit corporation shall be the Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association, Inc., hereafter referred to as VICFA or the Association.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose ~~if~~ **of** the Association shall be to promote and preserve unregulated direct farmer-to-consumer trade that fosters the availability of locally grown or home-produced food products.

ARTICLE III

Authority

Section 1. VICFA Membership

The membership of VICFA shall be empowered to determine the general direction of the Association and shall have oversight with respect to the actions of the Board.

Section 2. Board of Directors

The board shall serve as the functioning governing body for the Association and shall be responsible for and empowered to engage in that business necessary for the achievement of VICFA's purpose, subject to these by-laws and any other policies and procedures enumerated by the membership.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. Classes of Members

A. *Regular Membership:* Membership is open to any individual who supports the purpose of the Association. Such individuals must be at least 18 years of age.

B. *Junior Membership:* Junior class of membership includes minor members (17 years of age or less).

Section 2. Membership Benefits

Individual members may participate in all Board of Directors Meetings and the Annual Business Meeting. Individual members may vote, hold office, serve on committees and otherwise enjoy the general benefits of the Association. Junior members may participate in all Board of Directors Meetings and the Annual Business Meeting, but may not vote, hold office, or serve on committees.

Individual members may participate in all meetings, including the Board of Directors' meetings, but they may not vote in the Board of Directors' meetings unless they are on the Board of Directors. Otherwise individual members may vote at the Annual Membership Meeting and Special Meetings, hold office, serve on committees and otherwise enjoy the general benefits of the Association. Junior members may participate in all meetings, but may not vote, hold office or serve on committees. They are otherwise given the opportunity to enjoy the general benefits of the Association.

Section 3. Dues

Each member shall pay annual dues as may from time to time be fixed by the Board.

Section 4. Annual Membership Meeting

The Board shall provide for an Annual VICFA Membership Meeting **to occur** at a time and place determined by the Board. Thirty (30) days written notice of the Annual Membership Meeting shall be sent to all members stating the time and place.

Section 5. Business of the Annual **Membership Meeting**

The business of the Annual **Membership Meeting** shall include, **but not be limited to**, the election of Officers and members of the Board of Directors of the Association, as well as approval of the annual budget.

Section 6. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the VICFA membership may be called by the President, by a simple majority of the Board, or by ten (10) percent of the voting members. Seven (7) days written notice of any special meeting shall be sent to all members stating the time and place.

Section 7. General Meetings

General meetings of the Association may be held after any Board of Directors meeting. No business shall be conducted at these meetings.

~~Section 7~~ 8. Quorum

At any annual or special meeting of the members of VICFA, at least fifteen (15) voting members present in person shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 6. Removal

Any at-large Board member may be removed by unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors, or by vote of a majority of the membership.

Section 7. Vacancies

When a vacancy on the board exists mid-term, this vacancy shall be filled at the next Board meeting unless the Annual Membership Meeting is to occur within thirty days.

ARTICLE V

The Board of Directors

Section 1. Number

The number of members of the Board of Directors of VICFA shall be nine (9) and shall include the officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) **and five (5) at-large Board Members.**

Section 2. Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at a time and place designated by the President. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or a simple majority of the Board members. Each time a special meeting is called, the Board may unanimously consent to forego the in-person meeting and take a vote over the phone. Further, each time a special meeting is called, the Board may unanimously consent to forego the in-person meeting and conduct the meeting as a conference call.

Section 3. Quorum

One half of the full Board shall constitute a quorum for conducting Board business.

Section 4. Nomination, Election and Term of Office

At-large Board members shall be nominated by and elected from the membership of VICFA at the Annual **Membership** Meeting of the membership. The terms of office for individual **at-large** Board members shall be one (1) year **or until their successors are elected.** There are no limits on the number of terms an individual Board member may serve. **No Board member may serve more than 3 consecutive terms. Board members must attend 75% of meetings per term or they may be removed by the Board.**

Section 5. Resignation

Any **at-large** Board member may resign his or her position by submitting a written resignation to the Board, at which time the Board shall accept said resignation. This vacancy shall be filled immediately by the Board unless the Annual Meeting is to occur within thirty days.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

Section 1. Title and Number

The officers of VICFA shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2. Nomination, Election and Term of Office

Officers shall be nominated by and elected from the membership of VICFA at the Annual **Membership** Meeting of the Membership. The term of office for officers **Officers** shall be one (1) year **or until their successors are elected.** There are no limits to the number of terms an officer may serve: **No Officer may serve more than 3 consecutive terms. Officers must attend 75% of meetings per term or they may be removed by the Board.**

Section 3. Resignation

Any Officer may resign his or her position by submitting a written resignation to the Board, at which time the Board shall accept said resignation. This vacancy shall be filled immediately by the Board unless the Annual Meeting is to occur within thirty days.

Section 4. Removal

Any Officer may be removed by unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors, or by a vote of a majority of the membership.

Section 5. Vacancies

When a vacancy on the board exists mid-term, this vacancy shall be filled at the next Board meeting unless the Annual Membership Meeting is to occur within thirty days.

~~Section 4.~~ *Duties and Responsibilities*

Section 6. Duties and Responsibilities

A. *The President:* The President shall be the administrative head of the Association and act as

chairman of the Board of Directors, preside at all meetings of the Membership and Board of Directors, appoint all committees necessary to the Association, co-sign with the Treasurer all deeds, contracts and other formal instruments and perform other such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors and/or the Membership.

B. *The Vice President:* The Vice President shall, in the absence or inability of the President, perform the duties of the President and **shall perform** such other duties assigned by the Board of Directors and/or the Membership.

C. *The Secretary:* The Secretary shall act as the recording and corresponding secretary of the Association, maintain the minutes of all meetings, keep the membership roll complete and current, unless this duty is otherwise assigned, and discharge all duties usual and incidental to the office as assigned by the President, the Board of Directors and/or the Membership.

D. *The Treasurer:* The Treasurer shall have charge of and exercise general supervision of the Association's financial affairs, keeping records and books as may be required for complete accountability. The Treasurer shall honor all authorized claims for payment owed by the Association upon presentation of a legitimate voucher or receipt; provide a financial statement of accounts at all regularly scheduled meetings, present a recommended annual budget at the Annual **Membership** Meeting for the approval of the membership, complete an audit of all financial assets and present the results of the audit at the Annual **Membership** Meeting, receive and have custody of all funds, and cosign with the President all deeds, contracts or other formal instruments.

ARTICLE VII

Committees and Annual Membership Meeting Election Procedure

Section 1. Miscellaneous Committees

The President may appoint any committee, **subject to approval by the Board**, as may be required to perform specific and limited activities. Such committees shall function only during the term of office of the President, except that any committee may continue to function at the discretion of the succeeding President.

Section 2. Nominating Committee
Each January a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President. No person on the Nominating Committee shall be a member of the current Board. The Committee shall be charged

with the task of identifying the persons willing and capable of serving as Officers and Members of the Board. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be submitted to the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting, whereupon the members present can make further nominations or move that the slate be elected. If however, there are further nominations for any Officer, then a written ballot must be taken. If there are other nominations for the other at-large Board members, a written ballot must be taken and the top 5 members will become the elected at-large Board members.

ARTICLE VIII

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of VICFA shall be concurrent with the calendar year and shall run from January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE IX

Finances

Section 1. Disbursement

All checks drawn on the account of VICFA shall require one signature and shall be signed by the Treasurer or in the event of the unavailability of the Treasurer, the President.

Section 2. Budget

VICFA shall operate on a zero-based, line-item budget, prepared by the Treasurer and approved at the Annual **Membership** Meeting by the membership.

ARTICLE X

Rules of Procedure

Other Authority

All matters of procedure shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest revised edition, except as herein provided. Any other matters not covered in these By-Laws shall be governed by the Virginia Nonstock Corporation Act, *Code of Virginia*, sections 13.1-801 et seq.

ARTICLE XI

Amendment of By-Laws

The By-Laws of VICFA may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the Annual **Membership** Meeting. Any amendment to the VICFA By-Laws requires a thirty (30) day written notice to the membership prior to the Annual **Membership** Meeting.

Continued from page 1...

That doesn't mean he was a wimp. Far from it. I had the pleasure, many times, of watching John frame arguments for public hearings to defend the right of consumers to buy the food they wanted, and for farmers to sell their earthy artistry. He could not abide bureaucrats, especially the food police, who stood in the way of farmers and eaters. But even in his most vehement diatribe, even when railing against government abuse, he always presented himself as a composed, reasonable man. Even in the most heated disagreement, his foes respected him. That can't be said for many of us.

John kept his life simple; uncluttered by design. That's what a craftsman he was. He carved out for himself an object lesson in the values he espoused. A truly gifted cheese artisan, he spurned building a bigger business. He never chased profits or volume. He kept his material wants to a bare minimum, and that endeared him to all of us who came to depend on his presence and strength for advocacy efforts. He kept himself free enough to be there. Always. Several years ago when we went to Washington D.C. in a sleet storm, he hiked from his house out to Rt. 29 at 5 a.m. to meet the car so I wouldn't have to drive in there. It takes an uncluttered, clearly focused life to be able to do that, and laugh through it.

His stand at the Charlottesville Farmers' Market is legendary, not just for the high quality illegal fresh cheeses and produce he made available, but for his tireless efforts

to educate customers about food police. He gave away brochures, and brainstormed new ways to articulate the message. His one-on-one conversations, in aggregate, may have touched more people, more deeply, than many of the more group-oriented speeches others have given. He not only planted ideological seeds; he nurtured them. He never tired of telling the story.

All of our hearts go out to Christine, his inseparable partner of 35 years, and whose charisma and bombastic style leveraged John's spirit into countless public arenas. This team, in the arena of food freedom, was indomitable. None of us minded going into the storm holding hands with this pair. Now Christine, you will carry on without this lifelong love. Our prayers for your decisions go before you. May John's quiet spirit guide your decisions not only for how to arrange your farm, but how to arrange your ministry from this day on. Thank you for continuing to bear the torch. John would want that.

And for all of us who remain, may we take strength from the legacy of this rock. We've all had the pleasure of sharing a laugh, a new thought, an appreciative nod from this gentle giant. May we go forward bearing his cause, remembering his conviction, and faithfully defending the right of food choice.

John, adieu, our friend and mentor. We appreciate you.

Advertise in VICFA Voice!

Classified Ad rate per month, prepaid:

\$5 first 25 words, \$ 0.20 per word thereafter.

Display Ad rate per month, prepaid:

PAGE SIZE	1 MONTH	6 MONTHS	12MO.
Full page (size - 8"x10.5")	\$100	\$95	\$90
1/2 page (sizes - 8"x5.25" or 4"x10.5")	\$50	\$47.50	\$45
1/4 page (size - 4"x5.25")	\$25	\$23.75	\$22.50
1/8 page (size - 4"x2.5")	\$12.50	\$11.88	\$11.25

Ads may be submitted in jpg, gif, eps, or PDF format. Ads created in MS Word should be saved to PDF, if possible. Design capabilities also exist; please inquire.

Send all ads electronically to editor@vicfa.net. Specify the number of times to run the ad. Include your contact information in case of questions. Mail your check and a copy of your ad with your contact information to Editor, VICFA, PO Box 6838, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

Deadline for receipt of Display and Classified Ads is the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

Send questions concerning Display Ads to Advertise@vicfa.net

VICFA

PO Box 6838

Charlottesville, VA 22906

VICFA

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association

President, Wayne Bolton

Vice President, Lois Smith

Secretary, Laura Russell

Treasurer, Alexa Boker

Newsletter Editor, Rowena Morrel

Advertising, Pearce Gardner

Website: www.VICFA.org

E-group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VICFA>.

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Contribute to this publication via email to editor@VICFA.net or by mail to Editor, VICFA, PO Box 6838, Charlottesville VA 22906.

Share this newsletter with a friend - encourage others to join VICFA!

Annual membership is \$25.00.

Please make check payable to VICFA and send to PO Box 6838, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print clearly)

* Required fields

*Date _____

*First Name _____ *Last Name _____

Company /Farm Name _____

*Address _____

*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____

County _____ Congressional District _____

*Phone (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Website _____

Producers, please list the products that you sell:

*Do you want to be listed in the Membership Directory? Yes No

Note. Your directory listing will contain all of the above information unless you indicate otherwise below.

How did you hear about VICFA?

Comments: