

Gardening with Intent and Gentle Dispositions

A group of students from the University of Georgia's Crop Genetics and Genomics REEU Program visited the Marigold Farmer's Market in Winterville, GA, a local farmer's market that is just a twenty minute drive from campus. REEU stands for Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates, and the intent of this visit was to allow students to gain hands-on experience with field-to-table mentality that comes along with doing research at a land-grant university like UGA. Students in this program are spending their summer studying a wide array of subjects, spanning from bacterial microbiomes for peanut plants to disease resistance in watermelon; but, on this Saturday morning, they were assigned to a booth at the Marigold Market to help small farmers and business owner set up for the day of giving back to community.

Gentle Dispositions is a garden and nursery located just a couple miles up the road from the Marigold Market. Katrina and Shawn recently brought Gentle Dispositions to the public at the market's opener this past March in order to expand their passion project to the community they call home. What makes this farm special is that they utilize a "hands-off" approach when it comes to additives to their crops, like fertilizers and pesticides, as their long term goal is to breed plants that thrive in their region with no frills, just good plants for good people. After setting up, Katrina said "By sharing seeds, we want everyone to feel like they can grow their plants and food and even help each other doing it."



In the short time that the students got to know Katrina, she displayed traits that should be sought in every vendor. She was always welcoming and happy to answer any question posed by her customers. Showing great knowledge in her craft, and expanding its breadth to others. Her excitement of plants led the students to gain amazing conversation and insight into what working with plants can be like after college. Overall, Gentle Dispositions is a perfect demonstration on how plants can bring communities together.

<https://www.gentledispositions.com/about>