



**Dates To Remember!!**

**March 31st** — Returning Shareholder Application + \$50 Deposit Due

**April 1st** — Shares open to waitlist and the general public

## Hydroponics for Year-Round Produce

Since the Spring of 2018, Seton Harvest has been growing a variety of vegetables using two soilless, hydroponic systems: Nutrient Film Technique (NFT) and the BATO Bucket System. These two systems support the growth of 800-900 plants at a time in a temperature controlled greenhouse. Bok choy, Romaine lettuce, and leafy lettuces are grown in the NFT system by circulating 250-gallons of water, amended with salt-based nutrient concentrate, through 55 channels, 10ft. long each.

Tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers are grown in the BATO bucket system. These vining plants sit in a perlite mix kept saturated with a similar hydro-nutrient solution as the NFT system. The plants are trellised and grow vertically on strings (see picture below).

A few benefits of growing hydroponically in the greenhouse include: less impact from variable weather conditions and insect pressure; better looking, more uniform produce; and season extension. Limitations include: space, crop selection, and higher energy consumption.



**Successional growing of lettuce in the NFT hydroponic system produces a new crop every 2 to 3 weeks, October — May.**



**Hydroponic greenhouse manager, Daniel Rodenberg**

Seton Harvest's hydroponic greenhouse project was originally made possible by St. Vincent Evansville, recipient of the 2017 HEAL grant from the Welborn Baptist Foundation. More than 6,000 lbs. of produce from the greenhouse have been donated to local pantries, homeless shelters, and schools. Now that the grant cycle has ended, we are looking to sustain the hydroponic project while continuing to donate healthy produce to local organizations. This will require us to innovate, ramp up production, and raise money by selling some of the produce. We sold 66 heads of lettuce during our first Winter sale this March. Be on the lookout for future sales announcements and help support the mission of growing fresh, local produce year-round!

**Coming in Winter 2021 ~ AQUAPONICS ~ Fish in the Greenhouse!!**