

Stoller Farms: Two generations operate nursery

By **BRENNA WIEGAND**
For the Capital Press

MOLALLA, Ore. — Time, economic trends and consumer preference have combined to transform Stoller Farms of Molalla, Ore., from a turkey farm into a large-scale nursery.

Owned by Marvin and Linda Stoller, their daughter, Eden, and her husband, Simon Taylor, with her brother, Mark, the nursery produces some 5,000 zonal and calliope geraniums a year.

“We just started selling them and as they became popular, added more and more,” Eden Taylor said. “We have a large variety of colors and our geraniums are larger than most; they make a great all-summer flower.”

Marvin Stoller had a turkey farm from 1979 until 1992 when the bottom fell out



Stoller Farms

Stoller Farms is a regular at area farmers markets and other events.

of the market. He went into the fryer chicken business for a short time and while exploring options he decided to turn his greenhouse hobby into a business.

“I saw the potential in

plant sales, and farmers markets were really developing in the mid- and late 1990s,” said Marvin Stoller, who supplemented his knowledge with horticulture classes at Clackamas Community College.

They opened Stoller Farms, the nursery, in 1997 with one greenhouse and a propagation area. Stoller Farms now encompasses nine greenhouses totaling 18,000 square feet, three of them added in the six years since Eden quit her day job to join the family business.

Stoller Farms produces more than 2,500 lush hanging baskets a year and, in addition to geraniums, grows a variety of annuals.

Contacts made over decades of attending farmers markets has served the family well in the wake of COVID-19.



Stoller Farms

Eden Taylor of Stoller Farms Nursery has a ready helper in her 3-year-old daughter, Victoria. The family business specializes in zonal and calliope geraniums.

Stoller Farms has been a fixture at Beaverton Farmers Market for 20 years, takes part in its hometown Molalla Farmers Market and has more contacts from stints at the Lake Oswego and Wilsonville farmers markets.

“We have an interesting booth, a lattice canopy setup with a canopy we hang our baskets from; that makes it really stand out,” she said.

“We have our regulars at the farmers markets,” Eden said. “The Clark County Home & Garden Show and the Clackamas County Master Gardeners show were both shut down due to COVID, but we’ve had a good following

from the shows and the markets with people driving an hour-plus to come out here to the farm.

“It was scary last year,” she said. “We weren’t sure if we were going to have to close all our houses so it’s been pretty gratifying to see people coming on out here themselves.”

The nursery is part of the Molalla Farm Loop that includes 12 farm stops featuring nurseries, vineyards and other value-added ag businesses.

“We help each other out,” Eden said. “I like to hand out brochures to our visitors and recommend other places in the area. It helps when you’re off the beaten path.”

Eden can often be seen making the rounds with her 3-year-old daughter, Victoria, in tow.

“She loves helping in the greenhouse and has started identifying plants, which is fun,” Eden said, adding that the farm was part of her childhood as well.

“I have been selling at farmers markets since I was 9 years old and we still use my grandpa’s old Ford truck to get there,” Eden said. “I was excited when I got my driver’s license so I could start driving a truck and working on our booth.”



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