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## Group encourages 'slow food' in Fort Worth

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Martyn

The spotlight will be on local growers such as Michael Butchard of La Casa Verde and Geno Stille of Genes Greens during the first Fort Worth meeting of Slow Food U.S.A. on Sunday.

The group is inviting anyone who's curious about the Slow Food movement to join local growers, producers and Slow Food members at the Fort Worth Central Market Cooking School for "In Your Own Back Yard."

Slow Food, an international movement started in Italy in 1986, grew out of concern over the industrialization of food.

Founder Carlo Petrini started the movement "as an antithesis to fast food" when he "found out a McDonald's was going to be built in Rome near the Spanish Steps," said Slow Food member Claudine Martyn, chef and manager of the cooking school.

"It's very much about the family table, spending the time at the table to eat with your family and friends," she said. "It's also about encouraging people to buy local products -- things that are produced by a family or small producer."

The group, with 80,000 members worldwide, emphasizes safe, sustainable and fair production of food.

With more than 100 members from the Metroplex and beyond, the Dallas chapter has been active almost three years. Sunday's event is part of an effort to increase interest and membership in the Fort Worth area.

Among a number of regional growers and producers expected to be at the Central Market gathering are Deborah Rogers of Deborah's Farmstead Cheese in Westworth Village, produce growers Tim and Kathy Cooper from Cooper Farms in Fairfield, Kevin and LaDonne Wenzel of Wiseman House Chocolates in Hico, as well as the microgreens growers mentioned above.

There's no admission charge for the event, which includes food, but reservations must be made by Friday at 817-462-3359. The gathering will begin at 5:30 p.m. Sunday on the second floor of the store, at 4651 West Freeway.

[www.slowfoodusa.org](http://www.slowfoodusa.org); [www.slowfooddallas.org](http://www.slowfooddallas.org).