

Immediate Release
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Gourmet Cooking Class a Great Success at the Battenkill Kitchen

The Battenkill Kitchen, Inc. launched first in a series of gourmet cooking classes on August 26 with Rocco Verrigni. Chef Rocco is a senior instructor at Schenectady County Community College and has worked in many area restaurants and he has also been involved in several events in Salem. He recently returned from a six month sabbatical in Italy and shared his knowledge of making traditional artisanal pastas.

The class was hands-on and participants learned the secrets to making three distinct, regional pastas. The first pasta was Corzetti; these Ligurian stamped pasta coins are a classic Genoese pasta. Corzetti means "little crosses," which suggests that traditional designs might have included a cross used by the Genoese crusaders. This pasta was served with a fresh basil pesto.

The second pasta was Chitarra which is made with La Chitarra, a pasta "guitar," which is a frame strung with music wire, used to cut fresh pasta into strands. Chittaras originated in the Abruzzo region of Italy. The chittara was accompanied by an All'Amatriciana sauce.

The third pasta was Cavatelli which is a small, shell-shaped pasta of Puglia. The cavatelli was served with a tomato and arugula sauce. Chef Rocco sourced local ingredients whenever possible.

After the pastas and sauces were prepared, the class participants dined on their creations, al fresco. A fresh salad, Mrs. London's bread and homemade fresh Italian prune plum tarts rounded out the meal. All who attended were given a hand-decorated packet of recipes and information about the pastas.

The Battenkill Kitchen is working with local chefs to design classes and will soon announce its second in a series of gourmet cooking classes. Is there a food topic that you would like to see presented at the kitchen? Contact Will Lennon with your ideas or for more information on upcoming classes at 854-3095. Visit our website at www.battenkillkitchen.org .

Photo 1: A participant of the class learns hands on how to make pasta.
Photo by Will Lennon

Photo 2: Chef Rocco cuts the homemade pasta during the gourmet
cooking class held at the Battenkill Kitchen. Photo by Will Lennon



