



Northeast Organic Farming Association
 37th Annual Summer Conference with Northeast Animal-Power Field Days
 August 12-14, 2011
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
www.nofasummerconference.org

Organic Land Care Track at the NOFA Summer Conference

Expand your knowledge of the CSA model and many other topics related to organic agriculture at the 2011 NOFA Summer Conference. Attending any of these workshops qualifies participants for credits in the NOFA Organic Land Care Program.

Find a complete listing of 225+ exciting workshops on organic farming, gardening and land care, draft animal-power, homesteading, nutrition, spirituality, food politics, activism, and much, much more at this web page:

<http://www.nofasummerconference.org/workshops.php>

The conference features presenters from all over the Northeast, nearly 100 exhibitors, workshops and activities for teens and children, an afternoon fair with farm animals, live music and dances, an auction, and an ALL-LOCAL dinner. Stay on campus in the dorms or camp in a tent under the stars.

Keynote Speakers: **Eric Toensmeier**, award-winning author promoting food forestry to sequester carbon worldwide and **Ignacio Chapela**, scientist and activist on GMOs, agri-fuels, and the global food crisis.

[Register Now Online!](#)

*** Registrations received before July 11, 2011 get a \$20 discount.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2:00-3:30 PM

10) Questioning the Invasive Species Paradigm **OLC Track Intermediate**

Campus Center Auditorium

Jono Neiger: Recovering nativist, conservation biologist, ecological landscape designer.

Dave Jacke: Former nativist, ecological landscape designer, primary author "Edible Forest Gardens".

Many fundamental questions cast doubt on the paradigm behind the so-called "invasive species crisis." Do scientifically valid definitions of key terms exist? What is humanity's appropriate ecological role? How does climate chaos relate? These and other queries are essential to making wise design and management choices in our increasingly turbulent landscapes, climate, and politics.

14) Understanding the Soil Foodweb **OLC Track Advanced**

Campus Center 804-08

Paul Wagner: Lab director of Soil Foodweb New York.

Participants will learn how to manage plants and soils utilizing compost, compost teas, and organic amendments.

Participants will develop a working knowledge of soil microbes and their roles in plant and soil health, and learn how to integrate compost tea into treatment programs.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-5:30 PM

~~29) Ecodynamic Landcare—OLC Track—All levels~~

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~~Campus Center 804-08~~

~~Steven Restmeyer: Professional ecological landscape designer and maintenance engineer since 1990. Learn about the Ecological Wheel of Balance and EPM (Ecological Pest Management). Understand the role beneficial insects, birds, and other elements within the ecosystem play in advancing the system toward balance. Practical applications for ecological lawn, tree and shrub care will be included.~~

34) Mycoscaping: Mushrooms in the Permaculture Landscape **OLC & PC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center Auditorium

Rafter Sass: Permaculture designer, mycophile, research agroecologist, and friendly rabble-rouser. Only growing plants and animals? You're missing out! There's a whole 'nother Kingdom to explore - and eat. I'll give an overview of easy-entry mushroom growing techniques, and scaling up to market production. I put it in a context of historical and emerging practices, oriented toward ecologically-managed and multifunctional systems.

42) Tree & Plant Whispering: An Experience **OLC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 905-09

Jim Conroy: PhD. Plant Pathology, www.TheTreeWhisperer.com, teacher, grower, AOLCP.
Ms. Basia Alexander: "Chief Listener", author, teacher, healer, co-creative practitioner, www.TreeWhispering.com. Discover the possibility of partnership with plants and their related insects/diseases for multilateral bioenergy balancing and healing. "Live and Let Live." Learn about holistic energy healing, no-product green solution to heal stressed trees, plants, forests. Learn why/how trees/plants go into decline. Have hands-on experience of plant's bioenergy: hear their messages.

43) Worm Composting Basics **OLC Track** *Beginner*
Brett Lounge 001

Ben Goldberg: Promotes soil & water conservation with worms & composting toilets.
David Lovler: Compostmeister and gardener at Pulpit Hill Cohousing, right here in Amherst. Keeping worms is educational, practical, easy, and fun. It is also an efficient way to convert food scraps into a rich soil amendment. We will cover various worm bin designs, construction tips, worm ecology, care and feeding, and separating the castings for use. This will be an interactive workshop.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 8-9:30 AM

55) Biodynamics: An Introduction **OLC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 163C

Mac Mead: Director, The Pfeiffer Center; 35 years experience in biodynamic farming. I will share the origins and underlying principles at the heart of Biodynamics and introduce the specific techniques of this method of enhancing soil fertility and growing quality produce.

56) Blueberries: Easy to Grow, Healthful, & Delicious **OLC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 165-69

Lee Reich: Farmdener and agriculture writer, researcher, and consultant. I'll start where you will start, with kinds and varieties of blueberries to order and suggested nurseries. From there, we'll move on to all-important soil preparation and ongoing soil care, then planting, pruning, and harvest. We'll foray into bird issues and what to do with your probable overabundance.

68) Organic Agriculture and Earth's Life Support Systems **OLC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 162-75

Bill Duesing: Author, farmer, and executive director of CT NOFA. Local and organic agriculture addresses three of the most serious problems with Earth's life support systems: climate change, excess nutrient flow, and loss of biodiversity. I will describe the ways that organic practices do that and encourage participants to share that information widely.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 10-11:30 AM



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93) Interpreting Soil Tests **ND & OLC Track** *Beginner*
Campus Center 803

Derek Christianson: Farmer & Community Educator at Brix Bounty Farm, Dartmouth, MA.

Accurately gauging nutrient needs in our soils is a critical step in making sound fertility decisions. We will set out to demystify soil test results, from cation exchange capacity (CEC) and base saturation to ppm and lbs/acre. Hands-on activity included to help participants gain confidence in interpreting soil test results.

106) Useful & Fun Special Pruning Techniques **OLC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 165-69

Lee Reich: Farmdener and agriculture writer, researcher, and consultant.

This workshop will cover four pruning techniques that are fun, make bold statements in the landscape, and have practical sides as well. I'll show and discuss the ornamental and practical uses of each technique, the steps involved, and the appropriate plants to use.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1-2:30 PM

123) Debate: Organic Soil Fertility Approaches **OLC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 163C

Lee Reich: My approach to soil fertility reflects my fundamental faith in natural processes. I improve and maintain fertility from the top down using organic materials, especially compost, augmented, as needed, by seaweed, rock powders, and seed meals.

Dan Kittredge: My goal is highest quality nutrition in crops, achieved by addressing microbial and mineralogical limiting factors in the biological system.

Dave Jacke: I will argue that, by their very nature, perennial ecosystems build soil while annual agriculture destroys soil unless extraordinary measures are taken. Being energetically able to afford extraordinary measures is seriously in question over the long haul.

Organic agriculture distinguishes itself from "conventional" by its approach to soil fertility, yet people working within an organic system have divergent ways of thinking on the subject. Panelists will discuss their preferred approach and how the practices and paradigms they promote address the urgent global crisis of soil depletion, or "peak soil."

124) Ecologically Regenerative Micro-Industries for Soil Detoxification **OLC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 162-75

Scott Kellogg and Stacy Pettigrew: Founders of The Radix Ecological Sustainability Center in Albany, NY, and authors of, "Toolbox for Sustainable City Living".

Building clean soil is critical for local food security! Come learn how the by-products of green businesses can be used for affordable, "low-intensity" soil bioremediation. Examples include mushroom production, community composting, vermicomposting, compost tea, phytoremediation, and mycorrhizal remediation. Emphasis is on urban applications, however these techniques are applicable in a range of environments.

130) No-Till Raised Bed Gardening **OLC Track** *Beginner*
Campus Center 168C

Beth Ingham: Organic gardening for 20 years, Whole Health Educator.



Bob Jennings: Forty years of gardening and sustainable living skills.

We designed two 12,000 sq. ft. gardens of 34 permanent 4' by 54' raised beds each which we keep covered in mulch and add 2" sifted compost to each year before planting. We will share how to lay out raised beds, weed control, plant spacing, compost building and all the failures and successes of our twenty years gardening this way.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 8-9:30 AM

161) Making Compost Tea **OLC Track** *Beginner-Intermediate*

Campus Center 165-69

Javier Gil: Owner of J. Gil Organic Landscaping (www.jgil.com) as well as a teacher and organic land care consultant. What is compost tea? How do I use it? When do I use it? Learn how you can extend the philosophy of sustainable living to your backyard. The workshop will cover the different steps of brewing compost tea.

167) Tree Biology for Orchards & Woodlots **BF & OLC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 168C

Bill MacKentley: A serious student of Tree Biology.

How do trees grow? Do they heal, have immune systems? We'll also look at root structure, mycorrhizae, limb growth, wounds, insect and fungal attacks, white and brown rot, disease, CODIT, barrier zones, and branch collars. What can we do, and what should we avoid doing, to keep orchards and woodlots healthy?

168) Urban Gardeners Unite! Community Gardening in NYC **OLC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 162-75

Sara Katz: Community Horticulturist for Bronx Green-Up, the outreach program of the New York Botanical Garden.

Karen Washington: Community garden activist and President of the NYC Community Garden Coalition.

We'll highlight the successes and challenges of building community in New York City through urban gardening and agriculture. Explore the borough's greening movement through the lens of community gardeners, dedicated volunteers, and school kids. Watch as a school garden springs up on Tremont Avenue! We'll brainstorm to discover ways of building community involvement in your garden project.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 10-11:30 AM

190) The Hows & Whys of Growing Heirloom Apples **OLC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 168C

Bill MacKentley: Heirloom nurseryman.

The first half of the workshop will cover the basics of holistic orchard management, from planting trees to basic pruning, pest management, and harvesting. The second half will be devoted to heirloom cultivars – their history, uses, quality and anecdotes about their origins. Come and learn about your favorite old apples!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1-2:30 PM

219) Soil Management Techniques **ND & OLC Track** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 811-15

Bryan O'Hara: Farms at Tobacco Road Farm in Lebanon, CT.

This workshop will focus on managing soils for the growth of healthy crops. Topics will include: soil and water management, methods to enhance soil life, timing for residue decay, tillage, use of cover crops and mulches, and evaluating soil quality.

223) Water-Greywater-Rainwater in the Landscape **OLC Track** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 165-69

Frank Koll: Promotes water conservation and organic landcare methods through design consulting.

This workshop is an interactive session geared towards helping landscape designers, gardeners, landscapers, AOLCPs, etc., understand how to balance water and landscape requirements in an environmentally beneficial



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manner discussing alternative sources – greywater/rainwater for irrigation, estimating water usage/needs, programming/scheduling, maintenance & repair tips and tricks, sensors, and SMART watering systems.

