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## Winter Growing and Season Extension Track at the 2012 NOFA Summer Conference

Expand your knowledge of winter growing and season extension and many other topics related to organic agriculture at the 2012 NOFA Summer Conference. Find a complete listing of over 200 exciting workshops on organic farming, gardening and land care, draft animal-power, homesteading, nutrition, food politics, activism, and much, much more at this web page:

[http://www.nofasummerconference.org/pdfs/2012\\_workshops.pdf](http://www.nofasummerconference.org/pdfs/2012_workshops.pdf)

The conference features presenters from all over the Northeast, 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:** Friday, August 10, 7:30pm - **Chellie Pingree**, organic farmer and Member of Congress from Maine promoting local food. And Saturday, August 11, 7:00pm - **Jeffrey Smith**, world-renowned expert & activist on health risks of GMO Foods.

### [Register Now Online!](#)

\*\*\* Registrations received before July 10, 2012 get a \$20 discount.

#### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2:00-3:30 PM**

1) Attached Greenhouse for Food, Heat, and Hot Water *All Levels*

Campus Center 165-69

**Bob Jennings:** Architectural structural engineer working with greenhouses and solar hot air & hot water.

I will explain the design of the greenhouse attached to my home. Learn all the structural and design components, including an in ground growing bed, orientation, materials, glazing, insulation, thermal mass, and hot air transfer.

Uses include climate manipulation for plant growth, heating the home, and heating domestic hot water.

#### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 4-5:30 PM**

27) Growing Winter Greens **BF Track** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 174-76

**Nancy Hanson:** Manager of the Hampshire College CSA since 1999.

I will explain the basics of growing salad greens for harvest during winter, based on my experiences growing in unheated hoopouses. Topics covered will include hoopouse structures, crop selection, scheduling, and growing techniques.

#### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 8-9:30 AM**



54) Farm-built Wireless Greenhouse Monitor **BF Track** *All Levels*

Campus Center 917

**Benjamin Shute:** Farmer at Hearty Roots Community Farm, blogger for [www.farmhack.net](http://www.farmhack.net).

**Louis Thiery:** Electrical and software engineer.

Get hands-on experience with a new farm-built tool that can alert farmers to greenhouse temperatures via text message. This tool is made using easily obtained parts with straightforward assembly. We will build one in the workshop, go over parts sources, and practice setting the tool up. [More info.](#)

57) Improved Garden Production *Beginner*

Campus Center Auditorium

**Steve Walach:** Has managed large school gardens for twelve years.

Most gardeners limit themselves to Memorial Day starts and Labor Day finishes. Learn how low-tech row coverings plus strategically timed seeding schedules, crop sequences, and fertility treatments can make your gardens almost as productive as the pros -- and nearly year-round.

67) TOUR: Many Hands Farm Corps Farm: DIY Greenhouse Frame Construction **BF Track** *All Levels*

TOUR

**Ryan Karb:** Farmer and Co-founder of Many Hands Farm Corps.

I will demonstrate the materials needed and the process for constructing a greenhouse frame. Participants will be given hands on experience in constructing gothic arches from wood boards. DIRECTIONS: From UMass, head South on North Pleasant Street (0.6mi). At the Bank of America, go straight, continuing onto Triangle Street (0.6mi). Turn left on Main Street and continue onto Pelham Rd (1.2mi). Sign on left for Many Hands Farm Corp. TOTAL DRIVING TIME FROM UMass - 9 MINUTES. ADDRESS: 132 Pelham Rd, Amherst, MA. ARRANGE CARPOOLS, USING THE —TOUR RIDE BOARD. PLACED AT THE REGISTRATION TENT. [Link to google map directions here.](#)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 10-11:30 AM**

95) Urban Bioshelters for Resilient Urban Ecologies *All Levels*

Campus Center 911-15

**Scott Kellogg:** Educational director of the Radix Center ([www.radixcenter.org](http://www.radixcenter.org)) and author of “Toolbox for Sustainable City Living”.

The Radix Center’s bioshelter, based in Albany, NY, contains numerous sustainable systems designed for food production and environmental education. These include: passive solar heating, aquaponics (fish+plants+ worms+microbes), microlivestock (chickens & rabbits), biothermal heating, mushroom production, vermicomposting, microgreens, and bioremediation research. We’ll discuss successes and failures of its first year of operation.

97) TOUR: Student Farm at UMass Research Farm - Growing for Fall and Winter Harvests *All Levels*

TOUR

**Amanda Brown:** Extension Educator, UMass Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program.





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AUGUST 10-12, 2012 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST

We will tour and discuss UMass research trials that focus on season extension, overwintering of crops, and using low tunnels to produce for an early spring market. We'll also look at the production systems used by the UMass Student Farming Enterprise for fall harvest and storage of vegetable crops. DIRECTIONS: From UMass Campus take Rt. 116 north/west through Sunderland. Cross the bridge and immediately turn right on River Road (north). Travel 1 mile past the housing development to farm entrance near the animal barns. Look for signs for parking. TOTAL DRIVING TIME FROM UMass - 15 MINUTES. ADDRESS: 89-91 River Road North, Deerfield, MA, 01373. [Link to google map directions here.](#)

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1-2:30 PM

119) Root Cellars and Farmstead Storage Options *Intermediate*  
Campus Center 811-15

**Chris Chaisson:** Designs & builds root cellars for Whole Farm Services.

It is possible to save money, gas, fuel, and electricity with proper storage of crops and foods. I will discuss aspects of operation, design, and construction of farm scale root cellars, homestead basement retrofits, suburban options, as well as other structures such as solar drying structures currently being built in the Northeast. Participants will receive crop storage chart handouts. [More info.](#)

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 8-9:30 AM

139) Bioshelters and Greenhouse Innovations *PC Track All Levels*  
Campus Center 917

**Christopher-Robin Healy:** Permaculture designer and teacher since 1989.

**Montana Tracy:** Permaculture designer and teacher since 2006.

We will present the history of Bioshelters from their beginnings at New Alchemy Institute to current usage. Participants will learn design concepts and how they work. Emphasis on yield potential, and application for farms and gardens. The workshop also touches on urban applications and climate change innovation.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 10-11:30 AM

159.5) Building a Homestead Root Cellar *All Levels*  
Campus Center Reading Room

**Jack Kittredge:** Homesteader, satisfied builder of his own 1,000 cubic foot root cellar 28 years ago.

We'll learn many ways of storing crops underground for the winter: overwintering in the soil, methods to bury them while maintaining access and preventing rodent or water damage, free standing root cellars in hills, and true root cellars in homes. Advantages of each will be discussed and many illustrations shown.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1-2:30 PM

183) Building & Managing Low-tech, Low-cost, Low-tunnels *BF Track All Levels*





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Campus Center 917

**Dan Botkin:** Farmer, teacher and activist living in Gill, MA.

This workshop explores the fabrication and use of home-crafted, low-tunnel greenhouses for crop protection in the backyard garden or micro-farm. We'll compare various materials and building strategies including wire, wooden slats, PVC pipe and steel conduit. At the end of the workshop, we'll move as a group to the North end of the Campus Center for a pipe bending demonstration.

[More info.](#)

