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Organic Growers School



Providing Organic Education Since 1993

The Spring Conference is Just Around the Corner!

21st ANNUAL

Organic Growers School

SPRING CONFERENCE

MARCH 8-9, 2014
with pre-conference workshops
Friday, March 7, 2014

Online registration closes Wednesday, March 5th at 5pm!

Registration will be available at the event, but you can save yourself all that time waiting in line when you could be checking out the **TRADE SHOW**, visiting the **SEED EXCHANGE**, perusing the **SILENT AUCTION**, or just enjoying a cup of hot coffee and chatting it up with other **GROWERS LIKE YOU!**

Plus all the hardworking folks at registration headquarters will love you for it!

So register online now!

Are You a Twitter User?

Tweet about Us!

We at the Organic Growers School are always trying to expand our web presence, so this year, we're introducing a whole army of volunteer bloggers to be our social media eyes and ears on the ground. Also new this year, we're asking conference attendees to tweet about us in real time!

Use hashtag
#OGSspringConf

Pre-Conference Workshops

Pollinator & Poultry Workshops on Friday, March 7th

Don't miss out on two great classes offered Friday before the conference:

this weekend!



Thanks to Our Sponsors!

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Banner Greenhouses



POLLINATOR CONSERVATION SHORT COURSE

Find out how to protect and manage habitat for these vital insects on the farm and in home and community gardens. This full day training will provide you with the latest science-based approaches and local resources for attracting and conserving beneficial insects.

[Click here to register for Xerces Society's Pollinator Short Course!](#)



BEYOND THE BACKYARD

Creating a Sustainable Homestead Flock of Poultry

In this intensive workshop, we will cover everything you need to know to raise your own poultry flock! You will learn how to properly identify heritage poultry breeds, how to secure and purchase baby chicks, brooding principles, basic husbandry and disease control, feeding, and processing. We will have a hands-on processing demo. New this year, we will include a cooking demonstration for heritage poultry. All this will be done on a small farm and will include live breeds of standard-bred poultry.

[Click here to register for Beyond the Backyard!](#)

Reems Creek Nursery

Reems Creek Nursery

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Check Out Some of the Exciting Classes Offered this Weekend!

Everything from Non-Toxic Housekeeping to Sustainable Rabbit Rearing



Digging In Track

Plain and Simple:

Organic Cleaning for the Home

Amanda Prior & Loren Carty, GreenBee Cleaning

Organic living is about more than just what you put in your body. It's also about your environment. In this session, you'll learn about some of the potential hazards of common cleaning products and how to replace them with natural alternatives that are safe for you, your family, and everyone living downstream

Soils Track

Grow Healthy Soils with Cover Crops

Laura Lengnick, Warren Wilson College

This workshop will show you how to manage cover crops to grow healthy soils that resist erosion, supply nutrients to crops, suppress weeds, improve soil water availability and break pest cycles on your farm.



Commercial Farmers I Track

Organic Control of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Jim Walgenbach, MHCRC

This session will include a summary of the biology of BMSB, including an overview of management strategies in organic systems. The last 30 minutes will focus on attributes of insecticides used in organic production systems.

Alternative Energy Track

Micro-Hydro Electricity,

Bob & Pat Momich, Arrowwood Farm

Learn how to harness falling water and produce renewable energy. This clean electricity can be produced at a affordable price with minimal environmental impact.



Commercial Farmers II Track:

Growing Great Garlic and Perennial Onions

River Oneida, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

Learn about growing heirloom garlic and perennial onion varieties from planting to cultivation and harvesting. This class will cover soil preparation, weed control, disease prevention, harvesting, curing, and storage requirements for adding these culinary essentials to your farm.

Primitive Skills Track

Intro to Bird Language

Luke Cannon & Clint Corley, Forest Floor Wilderness Programs

Come learn how amazing our avian neighbors are. This class will include how to understand and interpret various songs, calls, and behaviors of birds, as well as awesome facts about bird natural history and physiology.



Pollinator Track

Meet the Bees

Dr. Jill Sidebottom, NC Cooperative Extension

Learn about the diversity of bees in WNC, how to recognize bees other than honey bees,



and how to provide nesting sites. Participants will have access to pinned specimens and microscopes.

Permaculture Track
Keeping your Forest Healthy

Kesi Stoneking, Haywood Community College

Learn how to identify, prevent, and control some of the major insect pests, noxious plants, and diseases of North Carolina forests.



Cooking Track:
Easy Kimchi at Home

Steven Michael Goff, King James Public House

Pickling using the kimchi method is one of the easiest and healthiest ways to preserve the season's bounty. We will cover the kimchi method and create a dish with it.

Gardening Track
Perennial Plants for Health

Chip Hope, Western Piedmont Community College

From attracting beneficial insects to restoring soil balance, and from extending your harvest to offering medicinal properties, perennial plants can become your garden's champions. Chip will introduce staple perennial crops for food and fun.



Livestock Track
Meat Rabbit Production

Walter Harrill, Imladris Farm

We'll include the basics and answer hard questions about keeping backyard rabbits or even going to a larger scale. This class will cover breed selection, breeding, nutrition, housing, regulations and harvesting of meat rabbits.

Register Now!



[Register online until 5pm on Wednesday, March 5th!](#)



Organic Growers School • PO Box 17804 • Asheville, NC 28816

<http://www.organicgrowersschool.org>

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