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Harvest Conference, Savor the Abundance
Same Great Education, Another Great Time of Year
Discounted Prices until July 15th

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**1ST ANNUAL
HARVEST
CONFERENCE**

Harvest Conference, Savor the Abundance

Asheville, NC.

ORGANIC GROWERS SCHOOL announces plans for the 1st annual Harvest Conference for home growers, backyard enthusiasts, & homesteaders on Saturday, September 6th, 2014 at AB Tech, Main Campus in Asheville, NC. The conference features Janisse Ray, award-winning writer, naturalist, and activist is author of five books of literary nonfiction, including *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, and *The Seed Underground* as keynote and special guest speaker.

Registration is discounted at \$35 until July 15th. Pre-Conference workshops are also discounted until July 15th. Early-bird Registration is discounted for both Friday & Saturday events. Organic Growers School is well-known to offer down-to-

earth advice on growing and sustainable living, while remaining affordable and accessible.



Details:

Date: September 6, 2014

Location: AB Tech, Main Campus, Asheville, NC 28801

Discounted Cost: Early Bird price of \$35 until 7/15 \$40 After

Pre-Event: Pre-conference workshops on Friday, Sept. 5, 2014

Pre-Event Location: Warren Wilson College

Pre-Event Cost: \$35-65 by 7/15 or \$40-70 after.

Keynote: A Field Guide to Hope with Janisse Ray, Saturday, September 6, 2014 at Ferguson Auditorium, AB Tech Campus, Asheville.

Register: Online [here](#).

Follow: [Facebook Event](#).

Conference Description:

The Organic Growers School, Friday & Saturday, September 5 & 6, in Asheville, NC.

Organic Growers School presents the long-awaited [Harvest Conference](#), a fall event featuring all the popularity of the Spring Conference with a focus on season extension, home cooking, fermentation, preservation, fall & winter growing, self-reliance, homestead skills, seed saving, composting, herbal medicine, and wild ideas.

...all organically of course.

This fall's Harvest Conference offers 24 sessions with topics such as:

- *Fall & Winter Vegetables—Varieties & Techniques* with Patryk Battle
- *Gardens that Give—Top Ten Essential Perennials* with Keri Evjy
- *Alliums—Growing Garlic & Perennial Onions* with Ira Wallace
- *Grow Year Round—Easy & Affordable Systems for Season Extension* with Randal Pflieger
- *World-Class Delicacies—Salsas, Chutneys, & Dressings* with Nanette Davidson
- *Mixing It Up—Herbal Tonics in the Kitchen* with Patricia Kyritsi Howell
- *Traditional Diets—Increased Vitality through Healthy Food* with Andi Locke Mears
- *Rediscovering Maize—The Mother Corn* with Kelley Wilkinson
- *Pickle Your Harves—with Janell Lucido-Conate*
- *Fermented Flatbreads* with Diana McCall
- *Creative Abundance—Top 10 uses for Excess Fruit*
- *Seed Underground—A Growing Revolution to Save Seed* with Janisse Ray
- *Backyard Medicine—Grow, Harvest, Prepare, & Use Your Own* with Chip Hope
- *Pollinator Habitat—Providing for our Friends this Fall & Winter* with Diane Almond
- *Winter Chicken Care—A Month-to-Month Guide* with Pat Foreman
- *The Best Berry—Is the One You Grow Yourself* with Walter Harrill
- *Regional Resiliency—Food Security for Changing Times* with Chuck Marsh
- *Walk in the Forest—Learn Your Trees and Know Your Woods* with Corey Pine Shane
- *Appalachian Heritage Foods* with Slow Food Asheville & Shona Jason-Miller
- *Wild Food—The Cure for our Eden Disorder* with Alan Muskat
- *Biochar-Making Cook Stove* with Chris Farmer



The schedule of workshops is designed with the backyard grower, homesteader, and home-scale farmer in mind. [Full Schedule is available](#). Also offered at this year's fall event are half-day and full-day Pre-Conference workshops, featuring:

Half Day Workshops:



Wild Mushrooms: A Magical Mystery Tour [with Alan Muskat](#) 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Class offered again from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM. \$35 (by 7/15), \$40 by (by 9/1). Any 2 half-day classes for \$65 (by 7/15) or \$70 (by 9/1) Join America's troubadour of the toadstool on a quest for the edible and incredible wild mushroom. On this woodland shopping spree, you'll begin to learn how to safely identify, appreciate, and maybe even eat nature's "extreme cuisine." Can mushrooms really prevent and cure cancer? Aren't most mushrooms only edible ONCE? Enjoy a lesson in "find dining" as Asheville's stand-up *mycomedian* separates fungal fact from fiction. The walk will be short and easy; all ages welcome. Alan's introductory e-book is included and all equipment is provided. For a taste of the wild life, *forage ahead* and gain some basic training in high-class survival. Register [here](#).

Wild Abundance: Reliance on the Foods Around Us [with Natalie Bogwalker](#) 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM \$35 (by 7/15), \$40 by (by 9/1). Any 2 half-day classes for \$65 (by 7/15) or \$70 (by 9/1)

The Southern Appalachians are the most bio-diverse area in the continental US. Wild plant communities thrive around us. Learn to identify, harvest, prepare, and preserve wild foods and reclaim the hunter and gatherer within. Deepen your love affair with the natural world through berry-delicious delicacies, wild plant salads & pestos, winter stews from harvested ingredients, and much more. Join Natalie as she shares skills that are not only vital to humanity's future but extremely empowering and joyful. Workshop includes lecture, slide show, hands-on, and plant walk. Register [here](#).



Magic Drinks: Super Natural Sodas & Fermented Brews [with Marc Williams](#) 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM \$35 (by 7/15), \$40 by (by 9/1). Any 2 half-day classes for \$65 (by 7/15) or \$70 (by 9/1) Explore the nourishing super tonics from around the world and learn to make them easily at home for refreshment and health. We'll cover Kombucha, Jun, Water Kefir, Beet Kvass and natural sodas. These probiotic rich and nutrient dense super foods make delicious drinks that bridge the worlds of food and medicine. Half day workshop will include hands-on, lecture, plant walk, and tasting craft beverages. Register [here](#).

Full Day Workshop:

Speaking of Nature: Place-Based Creative Writing [with Janisse Ray](#) 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM \$65 (by 7/15), \$70 by (by 9/1). Only by telling our stories will we create a new era of the human. One in which we all lead sustainable and meaningful lives.

If you are a lover of food and nature, a farmer with a literary bent, in the likes of Gene Logsdon or David Kline, or if you want to acquire more skills to spiff up your garden blog, this is the workshop for you. Join Janisse Ray, author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* and *Seed Underground*, to explore ideas of nature, place, community, and sustainability. In a satisfying blend of journaling, writing prompts, nature-as-muse experiences, and thought-provoking exercises, we will investigate our personal relationships to the land and enrich the body of literature with our love of the natural world. Register [here](#).

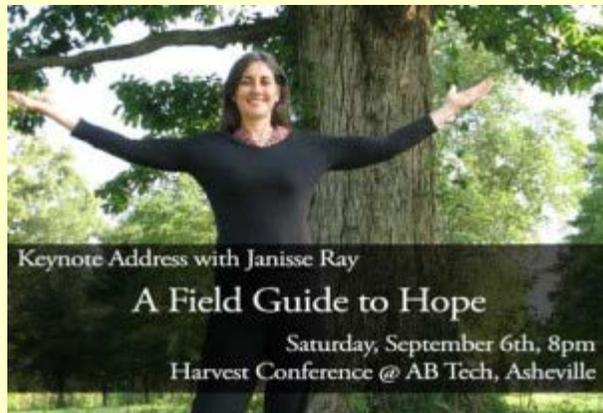


Now in its twenty-first year, The Organic Growers School has offered a spring event which has grown from a small gathering of 100 growing enthusiasts in 1994 to a regionally recognized spring event conference drawing over 1700 attendees, exhibitors and speakers from 18 different states and Canada. One of the largest conferences of its type in the region, The Organic Growers School

has served to reinforce Western North Carolina's role as a regional leader in organic farming. The Harvest Conference is the long-awaited and much-requested fall event.

The trade show showcases a wide array of exhibitors and products: local farms, gardening suppliers, and cottage industries that specialize in organic products, books and resources for organic growers and Permaculture practitioners, and several non-profit organizations with information on related topics. A full list of exhibitors is on the Organic Growers School website and is updated regularly.

Harvest Conference Keynote Address:



Organic Growers School is thrilled to be welcoming author, activist, and farmer Janisse Ray as the Keynote Speaker.

Janisse Ray's Keynote Address Saturday, September 6th, 2014, 8:00pm AB Tech, Main Campus, Ferguson Auditorium.

The event is Free for Harvest Conference Attendees or \$5-15 sliding scale. Folks MUST get there early - first come, first serve - seats will fill.

A Field Guide to Hope:

More and more it seems that looming threats are underlying our days. Being up against the giants of climate change, corporate rule, and genetic modification affects everything we do. Yet across the country, and without fanfare, folks are reclaiming biodiversity, local food, and community. Janisse offers stories of big movements and little, individuals and towns, to remind us why we're doing this important work and inspire us that we're not alone. When we hear real-life stories, whether of success or failure, they are a powerful and profound guide to help us gather strength and carry on renewed. Join us for this artful convergence of life, truth, and community as we remember together how to give thanks.

Registration:

Registration for the 1st Annual Harvest Conference is [open now](#). This keynote address is open to the public, although free for Harvest Conference attendees. Otherwise it's \$5-15 sliding scale.

About Janisse Ray:

Janisse Ray, award-winning writer, naturalist, and activist is author of five books of literary nonfiction, including *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, a memoir about growing up on a junkyard in the ruined longleaf pine ecosystem of the Southeast. Her latest book, on open-pollinated seeds, is *The Seed Underground*, published in 2012. Janisse holds an MFA from the University of Montana, and in 2007 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Unity College in Maine. She is a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow and a visiting professor, scholar-in-residence, and writer-in-residence at colleges across the country. Janisse lectures widely on nature, community, agriculture, wildness, sustainability and the politics of wholeness. She is an organic gardener, seedsaver, and slow-food cook. [Extended bio for Janisse Ray.](#)



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The major sponsors of the 21st Annual Organic Growers School are Carolina Farm Credit, Sow True Seeds, Mountain Xpress, Countryside Organics and Mountain Rose Herbs with additional sponsorship support from Katuah Market, Chelsea Green Gaia Herbs, Reedy Fork Farm, WNCW, Iwana, The American Herbalists Guild, Celtic Sea Salt, Nature's Path, and

WNCW.

The Organic Growers School is organized annually by the Organic Growers School INC, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

A full-day of workshops for beginning to advanced growers plus a trade show, seed exchange, keynote address, and pre-conference events. Cost: \$35 for Saturday Registration until 7/15. \$40 after. Pre-Conference Workshops are from \$35-65 until 7/15 and \$40-70 after. Register online at www.organicgrowersschool.org, register by phone at (828) 564-1179, or request a mailed registration form: jenn@organicgrowersschool.org.

All other inquiries: Contact Executive Director, Lee Warren at lee@organicgrowersschool.org or call (828) 772-5846.

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

<http://www.organicgrowersschool.org>

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