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Organic Growers School



Providing Organic Education Since 1993

Organic Growers School NEWS....

Growing the OGS Family

Eric Auers Cloke was born to OGS Communications Coordinator, Jenn Miyakawa Cloke, and her husband Alex Cloke on December 19, 2014.

Congratulations & Welcome Eric.



USDA Grant Awarded to Organic Growers School

Organic Growers School is a recipient of the USDA's National Institute of Food & Agriculture, NIFA, which recently announced more than \$18 million in grants to educate, mentor, and enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers, through the Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program.

OGS is partnering with Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to develop a region-wide farmer training program.



Spring Conference Assistant

For anyone who has registered for OGS events recently, you may have interacted with Vaidila Satvika, our Spring Conference Assistant. Vaidila is in charge of volunteers, registration, and supporting Meredith Leigh, our Conference Coordinator in many aspects of Spring Conference planning.

Welcome Vaidila.



Farmer Programs gets Full Time Attention

Cameron Farlow, the OGS Farmer Programs Coordinator goes full time thanks to the above mentioned USDA grant. She will be coordinating CRAFT in 2015 as well as developing a whole-farm Farmer Training Program to serve area farmers.

We are thrilled to have Cameron as a full-time staff member.



Home Grown Revolution with Peter Bane a Big Success

Forty-five beginner to advanced home-grown revolutionaries gathered in a day-long workshop with author, teacher, permaculturalist, Peter Bane on February 8th. Attendees called it outstanding and excellent, and asked that Peter return for a two-day workshop sometime soon.



22nd Annual Spring Conference

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& 14th Annual Kids Program

www.organicgrowersschool.org

Saturday & Sunday
March 7-8, 2015
UNCA Campus • Asheville, NC
Pre-Conference events on Friday, March 6

presented by
Organic Growers School
Providing Organic Education Since 1993

Keynote Address with
Dr. Elaine Ingham,
world-renowned soil biologist

Join us for the 22nd Annual Organic Growers School Spring Conference.

Who: For healthy eaters, home growers, & farmers!

What: This much-loved annual event provides practical, regionally-appropriate workshops on organic growing, permaculture, homesteading, urban farming, and rural living.

When: March 7-8, 2015

Time: 9am to 5:30 pm on both Saturday & Sunday, plus a keynote Saturday night.

Where: UNCA in Asheville, NC

Cost: \$60 for Saturday, \$55 for Sunday.

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

Full Schedule can be viewed as a .pdf [here](#).

Don't Miss Dr. Elaine Ingham's Keynote Address

What to do About Science & Farming, with world-renowned soil biologist Dr. Elaine Ingham on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at Lipinsky Auditorium, UNCA Campus, Asheville, NC.

Description: Modern science created industrial agriculture with the hope of feeding the world. Yet as we review the mounting evidence we find that this approach has had catastrophic effects. Holistic land management is proving itself as the solution to our current environmental, social, and economic crises. As land stewards, we are faced with a dilemma: How can we reconcile traditional science with alternative management? And how can we use new science to come up with restorative solutions? In this address, internationally-acclaimed soil biologist Dr. Elaine Ingham will speak about her personal experience, her career and current research, and her outlook for the future.

Bio: Dr. Elaine Ingham is a world-renowned soil microbiologist and founder and president of Soil Foodweb, Inc., an organization that helps farmers all over the world grow more resilient crops by understanding and improving soil life. For the last 30 years Dr. Ingham has focused on the soil and its living organisms and providing sustainable solutions



for maintaining soil health. She shares her knowledge in an easy to understand way and has worked with everyone from vegetable farmers, to cattle graziers, to nursery operators. Dr. Ingham earned her PhD from Colorado State University in 1981.

Tickets are on-sale online. \$12 with a Spring Conference Registration and \$20 without. [Register now.](#)

Join CRAFT

Farmer to Farmer Training



The Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT) is a coordinated effort to bring established farmers, farm apprentices, and students of agriculture together for a comprehensive training program in the art and science of sustainable agriculture, straight from the hearts, mouths, and fields of seasoned local farmers.

CRAFT is designed as a program to mentor and teach the next generation of farmers the ins and outs of farm operation while also building a stronger network for current farmers here in Western North Carolina (WNC). Membership is open to beginning and experienced farmers, apprentices and farm workers, and anyone else who has a strong desire and drive to begin farming. Membership fees are \$20 – \$30 per year and this gives members access to a wealth of summer tours, winter workshops, and farming resources.



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Farmer Support Survey - Give your Input

Are you farming in Western NC? The Asheville-Buncombe Food Policy Council wants input from you on how to shape policy in our region.

Click [here](#) to take the survey and get your voice heard.

[More Info](#) or [Join online today!](#)

www.organicgrowersschool.org

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

<http://www.organicgrowersschool.org>

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