Supporting You to Get Growing

C.R.A.F.T Tours in 2016

Our Farmer Programs team (Cameron, Nicole, and Sera) have been hard at work this year facilitating C.R.A.F.T for our regional farmers. Explore what these farms are doing!

Growing Medicinal Herbs
at Gaia Herb Farm
Gaia is an internationally known manufacturer of herbal products. Unlike many in the industry, they grow 25% of the herbs used in their products on their own farms – the one we visited in Brevard and a 2nd in Costa Rica. This approach to production and manufacturing is not common in the medicinal herb industry. Read More

Apprentice Orientation and New Farmer Panel at Fiddler’s Green Farm
Each year we hold a special apprentice or farm worker-only CRAFT gathering at the beginning of the season. Read More

Biodynamic Farming
at Green Toe Ground Farm
Generally, biodynamic farming techniques focus on a “whole-farm vision”, creating a holistic farming system that addresses nutrient cycling via animal, mineral and plant integration... Read More

Irrigation Strategies
at Ivy Creek Farm
Paul began by admitting that most of the time he tries to avoid irrigating on the farm, wanting to do it as little as possible. But, this dry farming approach isn’t always the safest... Read More

Magic of Observation: Livestock & Plants
at Bluebird Farm
William and Marie moved back to Marie’s hometown and started their farm in 2009, after spending several years working on farms across the country... Read More

Second Spring Market Garden-Year Round Growing
at Second Spring Farm/SAHC Incubator Farm
Matt Coffay & Casara Logan the co-operators of Second Spring are beginning their 2nd season as full time farmers. In spring of 2015 they went from growing on 1/10th of an acre to 1.5 acres when they came to the SAHC Incubator. Read More

Poultry Processing
at East Fork Farm
We gathered to discuss the farm’s approach to poultry growing and processing. In addition to an annual 100 ducks and 150 turkeys, they process 50-80 chickens per week from April-November. Read More

Berries Through the Seasons
at Flying Cloud Farm
Flying Cloud takes full advantage of the summer months by growing strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries. Read More

Scaling Up
at Balsam Gardens
The inception of Balsam Gardens was like that of many small farms; growing from an 1/8 of an acre, selling at farmers markets, to restaurants, and providing a CSA. The difficulties of making a living were still consistent... Read More

If you’d like to join C.R.A.F.T visit our website for more information and to register.

Special Offer for OGS Friends
Land & Project Consulting

OGS Friends Discount!

First 3 people who qualify get 45% off a Comprehensive Land or Project Assessment!

We offer coaching and consulting to home-owners, farmers, backyard gardeners, sustainability seekers and urban growers; anyone interested in living more sustainably.

The Comprehensive Assessment for your land-based project includes:

1. Comprehensive Intake Survey
2. Site Visit (1.5-2 hours) with OGS consultant. Can also be done at our office or by phone/skype if you aren’t currently developing a land-based project
3. Assessment: recording of visit, plan of action, resources/referral list, information transfer to a service provider, and a follow-up phone call.

This service is normally $275 but we are offering it to the first 3 respondents for $150.

E-mail your name and project goals to outreach@organicgrowersschool.org

Friends Discount Criteria:

- You live in Western North Carolina within 1 hour of Asheville.
- You’re willing to do a survey/feedback including a testimonial following the consultation.
- The Comprehensive Assessment must be scheduled and completed by 2/1/2017.
- The first three folks who contact us will get the spots. We will have a waiting list.

Project ideas include:


Ask Brandon: Homesteader Advice Column

We are launching a new column designed for homesteaders, modeled after the OGS Ask Ruth and Ask Tom columns.

Do you have question about homesteading, renewable energy, earthworks, garden design, orcharding, soil testing, ponds, land design, or similar?

Send your questions to: Brandon Greenstein at home-grow@organicgrowersschool.org

Writing Contest - Win 2017 Spring Conference Tickets

Writing Contest!

Have you been inspired by Organic Growers School? How did you learn to grow food? How did organic growing change your life?

Tell us about it!

Think back to when you first started learning to grow food. Or when you sliced your first home-grown tomato. Or when you took a class at OGS that really inspired you to start something new. Whether your journey with organic growing has changed your life or simply improved your garden, we want to hear about it.

Story Guidelines:

- 500-800 words (typed and double spaced and preferably in a WORD document)
- Topic: How your life has been positively influenced by organic growing or Organic Growers School; the learning process; the outcome; or the life change.
- Send your story to ella@organicgrowersschool.org by December 31, 2016 at midnight.
- A committee of the OGS Board of Directors will review.
- We will announce the winners on January 20, 2017.

Winners Receive:

First Prize: Three Day Registration to the 2017 Spring Conference; Full Day pre-conference workshop of your choice on Friday and two 2-day Weekend Registration.

Second Prize: Weekend Registration to the 2017 Spring Conference.

Third Prize: Sunday Registration to the 2017 Spring Conference.

Additionally, all winners receive newsletter mention, blog post with their article on the OGS website, and a mention in the Spring Conference program.