Harvest Conference (September 5&6)
Features Janisse Ray, Award-Winning Author

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For Immediate Release:

Asheville, NC. ORGANIC GROWERS SCHOOL is thrilled to be welcoming award-winning author, activist, naturalist and farmer Janisse Ray as workshop leader and keynote speaker for the 1st annual Harvest Conference on September 5&6, 2014. The long-awaited Harvest Conference, is a fall event featuring all the popularity of the Organic Growers School’s 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.

Janisse Ray 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.

Janisse will be teaching at the following times:

**Full Day Workshop**
Saturday, September 5th, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
The Pavilion at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC
$70 by 9/4

Workshop Description:
**Speaking of Nature—Place-Based Creative Writing**
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.

**Class**
At the Harvest Conference, Saturday, September 6th, 2:00-3:30PM
At AB Tech, Main Campus, Asheville, NC
$40 by 9/5 for a full day of classes. $45 on-site.

Class Description:
**Seed Underground—A Growing Revolution to Save Seed**
Of the thousands of seed varieties available at the turn of the 20th century, 94 percent have been lost — forever. With a lyricism that prompted a New York Times writer to proclaim her the Rachel Carson of the south, Janisse brings us the inspiring stories of ordinary gardeners whose aim is to save open-
pollinated varieties like Old Time Tennessee muskmelon and Long County Longhorn okra—varieties that will be lost if we don’t grow, save, and swap the seeds.

**Keynote Address**
*At the Harvest Conference, Saturday, September 6th, 2014, 8:00PM*

AB Tech, Main Campus, Ferguson Auditorium
Free for Harvest Conference Attendees or $5-15 sliding scale.
MUST get there early - first come, first serve - seats will fill.
Keynote Address Description:
**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.

She holds an MFA from the University of Montana and in 2007 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Unity College in Maine.


Organic Growers School is well-known to offer down-to-earth advice on growing and sustainable living, while remaining affordable and accessible.

The Saturday schedule of workshops is designed with the backyard grower, homesteader, and home-scale farmer in mind. [Full Schedule is available.](#)

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.

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 Johnny’s Seeds, Katuah Market, Chelsea Green, Gaia Herbs, Reedy Fork Farm, WNCW, Iwanna, The American Herbalists Guild, Celtic Sea Salt, Nature's Path, French Broad Food Coop, WNC Woman, Laurel of Asheville, Mother Earth News Fair, and WCQS.

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: $40 for Saturday Registration. Pre-Conference Workshops are $40-70. 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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