

Organic Land Care Track 2015 NOFA Summer Conference

NOFA
Northeast Organic Farming Association
41st Annual Summer Conference



August 14-16, 2015
University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA

These workshops present the trade and practice of organic land care and many other topics related to organic agriculture at the NOFA Summer Conference. For each workshop attended from the list below, NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals can earn 1.5 AOLCP credits. *See listing below.*

It is easy to report your credits – just fill out our online form naming the workshops you attended, and attach or forward your receipt of payment from the conference.

[Click here for the online form.](#) If you prefer printing a form, filling it out, and sending it in by mail, you can still do that.

[Click here for the printable form.](#) *Please note, your accreditation fees are due by January 1st, 2015, not when you submit your CEU credits.* Call CT NOFA office, 203-888-5146, if you have any questions. *See listing below.*

What else is going this year?

- *** [Check out this 3 minute video to learn what this conference is all about!](#)
- **144 WORKSHOPS for adults:** Find complete listings of this year's workshop on organic farming, gardening and land care, homesteading, nutrition, food politics, food politics, and more [organized by CATEGORY here](#) OR [organized by TIME SLOT here.](#)
- **FIVE PRE-CONFERENCE INTENSIVE SEMINARS:** On Friday, August 14, there will be [five simultaneous seminars](#) on these topics: 1) Healing Your Body with the GAPS Nutritional Protocol; 2) Creating Herbal Remedies for Digestive Wellness; 3) Carbon Farming: Regenerative Agriculture for the Climate; 4) Pastured Poultry: From Brooder to Bag; 5) Becoming a Backyard Beekeeper
- **OTHER EVENTS:** 100+ [exhibitors](#) from all over the Northeast, workshops and activities for teens and children, an afternoon fair with farm animals, [live music and dances](#), and an ALL-LOCAL dinner. Stay on campus in the dorms or camp in a tent under the stars.
- **KEYNOTE PROGRAMS:**
 - Friday Night, August 14 – [Keynote Address by Dr. Natasha Campbell-McBride.](#)
 - Saturday Night, August 15 – [Keynote Address by Ronnie Cummins.](#)

[Register Now!](#)

*** Register by July 17, 2015 and get a \$20 discount.

5) Healing Soil Through Cover Crops, Residue Management & Minerals **OLC TRACK** All
Campus Center 168C

Friday, August 14, 2:00-3:30PM

Reuben Stoltzfus: Grower, educator & product developer of biological minerals for 25 years.

Participants will learn how to increase microbial activity in their soil using natural resources such as cover crops, residue management and balancing minerals. I will discuss the results of increasing amounts & varieties of microorganisms, especially in terms of the quantity and quality of harvested vegetables.

8) Landscaping to Support Pollinator & Other Beneficial Insects **OLC TRACK** *All levels*

Campus Center 804-08

Friday, August 14, 2:00-3:30PM

Ellen Walther Sousa: Garden coach, designer, native plant grower, author, speaker.

As our landscape is increasingly developed and overwhelmed with invasive species, backyards and farms represent the 'final frontier' habitat for the pollinators that play vital roles in food production and environmental health. Learn the best plants & practices for supporting a diversity of beneficial insects in yards, farms, and schoolyards.

34) Productive Riparian Buffers **OLC, PC & SCC Tracks** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 162-75

Friday, August 14, 4:00-5:30PM

Connor Stedman: Ecological designer, agroforester, and educator based in the Hudson River Valley.

Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of flooding throughout the Northeast. This workshop explores agriculturally productive buffers as an emerging option for river lands and beyond. We will discuss the science and functionality of riparian buffers as well as planning, potential crops, and funding considerations for productive buffers.

65) Biodynamic Approach to Soil Health **BD & OLC Tracks** *All levels*

Campus Center 804-08

Saturday, August 15, 10:00-11:30AM

Mac Mead: Director, The Pfeiffer Center; 40 years experience in biodynamic farming.

I will cover specific measures essential in developing soil health efficiently in the whole farm organism, including: diversity of plant and animal life, producing high quality compost and potting soil, raised bed systems (for hand, horse, and tractor work), cover crops, and use of the biodynamic preparations.

82) TOUR: Franklin Permaculture Garden: History and Design **OLC TRACK** *All levels*

Garden Area Immediately outside of Franklin Dining Commons

Saturday, August 15, 10:00-11:30AM

Lilly Israel: Certified permaculture designer and manager of the UMass Permaculture gardens.

In 2010, thousands of volunteers transformed a grass lawn into the Franklin Permaculture Garden – a growing space featuring over 150 edible plant species, which has become a hub for hands-on learning at UMass. I'll present the project history, explain how the design embodies permaculture principles, point out some unusual perennials, and conduct plant tastings.

101) Inner and Outer Gesture of Composting: A Biodynamic Approach **BD & OLC Tracks** *All levels*

Campus Center 811-15

Saturday, August 15, 1:00-2:30PM

Bruno Follador: Director of the Living Soils project at The Nature Institute.

In this workshop, we will cover the practical and technical details of biodynamic composting. In addition, we will explore how we can develop a qualitative understanding of the dynamic processes in the compost pile, and consider the significance of compost in the whole farm organism.

102) Permaculture design for Bioregional Economies **PC & OLC Tracks** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 174-76

Saturday, August 15, 1:00-2:30PM

Andrew Faust: Premier Permaculture teacher with over two decades of experience.

Permaculture design meets human needs with ecological integrity. We can provide food, fuel, fiber, and energy in synergistic ways that strengthen community economies and reconnect people with their natural beauty

and biology. By cooperating regionally and designing ecologically we create and insure healthy and secure economies, landscapes, and communities.

105) Relationship Between Soil Tilth and Human Health **OLC Track** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 911-15

Saturday, August 15, 1:00-2:30PM

Daniela Connelly, MD MPH: Family practice doctor, organic farmer, and soil advocate.

Laura Wolfer, MA MS: Organic gardener, archeologist, and molecular biologist.

As science begins to unearth the vital importance of the human microbiome, we are learning how dependent we are on the microbial world. We will explore the intricate relationships among the soil, plant, and human microbiomes, their intriguing parallels, and how healthy soil is fundamental to optimum plant and human health.

115) Compost Tea: True Elixir or Snake Oil? **OLC Track** *All Levels*

Campus Center 162-75

Sunday, August 16, 8:00-9:30AM

Lee Reich, PhD: Farmdener, writer, researcher, and consultant.

An objective look at compost tea, in the process also looking at the broader issue of how hypotheses (such as “Compost tea controls mildew on pumpkins”) are validated. I’ll explain the various kinds of compost teas, their uses, their production, and theorized mechanisms by which they work. I’ll present results of field, greenhouse, and laboratory tests on the effectiveness of compost teas. Discussion is encouraged.

119) Improving Soil Health with Cover Crops **OLC & SCC Tracks** *All levels*

Campus Center 165-69

Sunday, August 16, 8:00-9:30AM

Thomas Akin: State Resource Conservationist with NRCS in Amherst, MA.

Cover crops are not just for soil erosion mitigation; they provide a great food source (lots of fresh carbon!) for your soil’s bacteria, fungi, and other critters. Learn how to make your soils healthier by planting cover crop cocktails throughout the growing season! Presentation aimed toward vegetable farmers.

129) State of the Anti-GMO & Right to Know Labeling Movements **OLC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center Auditorium

Sunday, August 16, 8:00-9:30AM

Ronnie Cummins: Author, lifetime activist, Founder and Director Organic Consumers Association.

I will review recent developments in the anti-GMO movement with an emphasis on “Right to Know” ballot initiatives and legislative efforts in CA, WA, OR, CO, HI, VT, plus upcoming battles in ME, CT, and MA. I will discuss "Traitor Brand" boycotts and marketplace pressure campaigns, mandatory labeling of factory-farmed foods, and a "Care What You Wear" campaign to raise consciousness about clothing and apparel.

144) Integrated Pest Management in Brassicas **OLC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 804-08

Sunday, August 16, 10:00-11:30AM

Susan Scheufele: UMass Extension Vegetable Program, M.S. Plant Pathology.

Brassica production has been increasing in acreage and season-length across MA. Controlling pests is critical so populations don’t build-up to uncontrollable levels. Learn identification and biology of common insect and disease pests, and how to prevent damage using cultural strategies and OMRI-approved chemical controls . Relevant to organic growers across scales.

151) Soil Health & the Connection to Human Fertility **BD & OLC Tracks** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 917

Sunday, August 16, 10:00-11:30AM

Dawn Combs: Internationally published author and contributor, ethnobotanist, herbalist and herbal educator. Soil fertility and human fertility are strongly linked. Drawing on my own experience of overcoming infertility, I will discuss how the soil health philosophies of biodynamic farming help us address the nutritional deficiencies and imbalances at the root of both kinds of infertility rather than merely treating symptoms.

152) Whole Life Design: Applying Permaculture Principles to your Life **OLC & PC Tracks** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 904-08

Sunday, August 16, 10:00-11:30AM

Jonathan Bates: Abundance of life, family and friends came from a garden.

Do you long for the time and courage to live a life that's truly in line with your deepest values? In this workshop I'll show you how our family focused our life on what matters, creating abundance for ourselves and others, and freeing up time to enjoy it all.

174) Water Management for Farm and Homestead **OLC & PC Tracks** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 917

Sunday, August 16, 1:00-2:30PM

Jono Neiger: Permaculture and ecological designer, homesteader, ecologist, and lover of the land.

Managing water is critical for crops, livestock, and farm/homestead function. Water management practices contribute to positive carbon farming. We'll look at water catchment, storage, and distribution; working with water on steep hillsides and floodplains. Strategies and practices such as, terraces, swales, ponds, irrigation, keyline, and mulch will be discussed.