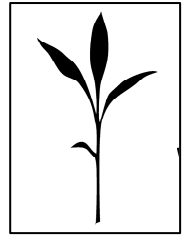


NATURE'S WAY

Canadian Organic Growers—NB Chapter
Issue 6—Winter 2008



In this edition...

- 2008 AGM & Steering Committee Elections
- Florenceville Seedy Saturday
- 4-part Intro to Organics Course
- 2007 in Review

Coming up in 2008!

The COG-NB Chapter has a few events upcoming on our schedule, but we'll be planning for lots more to come. We'd like you—our members—to help guide our activities and events and encourage you to send your ideas and suggestions to any of our steering committee members. The more input we get from you, the better we can meet your expectations!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Every Spring the COG-NB Chapter invites all members to our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is where much of our planning and dreaming for the coming year takes place, and we get a chance to see each other face-to-face! Our 2008 AGM will take place at noon on **Friday, March 8th** at the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN) annual conference, held at the **Memramcook Resort, Memramcook**. We will be holding our **steering committee elections** (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Chapter Rep) and are putting out the call to all members to consider a position on the committee. A discussion about the development of the new **ACORN NB Chapter** will take place, outlining ways COG-NB and ACORN-NB can work together. Laura Telford, Executive Director of COG National, will be at the ACORN conference with a COG booth—so please stop by to say hi! For more information about the ACORN conference and facilities, please visit the ACORN website: www.acornorganic.org.

FLORENCEVILLE SEEDY SATURDAY

COG-NB will be co-hosting the Florenceville Seedy Saturday on **Saturday, March 22nd** from 1-5pm at the **Florenceville Village Hall** on Main St. This is a great way to welcome the gardening and farming season, with our seed exchange, workshops and vendor booths to visit. Our workshop highlight this year: **Grafting Tips**

Who Are We? 2007 Steering Committee

COG-NB is a member-supported organic advocacy and public education group promoting organic food, as an extension of COG National. Our members are from around the province, and from many different aspects of the organic scene. For more info and to get involved, contact COG-NB's steering committee members:

Andrea Berry—Chapter Chair: 246-5570, hopeseed@nbnet.nb.ca

Serge La Rochelle—Secretary: 382-3133, monsieurserge@hotmail.com

Beryl de Beaupré—Treasurer: 375-4574, beryl_de_beaupre@hotmail.com

Shannon Herbert—Rep to National: 375-9006, shannon@fallsbrookcentre.ca

and Tricks for your Organic Orchard with Mike Hutton of Hutlo Acres, East Knowlesville. For more info, please contact Shannon Herbert or Andrea Berry.

ORGANIC GARDENING INTRO COURSE

Want to grow your own food? Care about the environment? Like getting your hands in the soil?! Join Rowena, an organic farmer and organic farm inspector, for a 4 part beginners course into growing your own food organically.

Part 1: Introduction to Organics—A beginner class focused on organic concepts and applying them in your garden.

Part 2: What to grow, how much and where to put it—An introduction to organic vegetable garden design, including how to create a garden that has enough beans but not too much zucchini!

Part 3: How to grow healthy vegetables—Learn about common problems and mistakes and how to include features in your garden to avoid these problems happening. Including creating balance in the insect world Growing a garden where vegetables are strong and protected enough to fight off any attack.

Part 4: Where to start? What do I need? - Taking the first steps in designing your vegetable garden.

Location: Canadian School of Natural Nutrition, 7 Beech Street, Moncton.

Dates: Tuesday Evenings from March 18th to April 8th, 6:30 to 8:30pm

Cost: Students \$80, Non-Students \$110 (all 4 classes) Please contact **Rowena Hopkins** on (506) 533-1087 or at info@amarosia.com for more information and to register.

2007 Year in Review

The COG-NB Chapter was active in a lot of ways, and in a lot of areas around the province in 2007. It was great to meet members and become friends with new faces. Here's a report on what we did in 2007.

COG-NB CO-HOSTED USC TOUR: SEPT 14-16

USC (formerly the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada—now no longer affiliated with the Unitarian church) is a very interesting organization that promotes vibrant family farms, strong rural communities, and healthy ecosystems around the world. Largely their work is done in developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, working with subsistence farmers and grassroots agricultural organizations to support programs, training, and policies that strengthen biodiversity, food sovereignty, and the rights of those at the heart of resilient food systems - women, indigenous peoples, and small-scale farmers.

In Canada, USC has been on the forefront in the "**Ban Terminator**" campaign—supporting farmers in the fight to keep the seed sterilization GMO technology patented by Monsanto out of our fields. A new project—the **Seed Map**—is a teaching tool available for free (!) to anyone interested in sharing the wonder about the origin of the world's major foods and seed crops. In developing countries, USC is active through the "**Seeds of Survival**" project, that works to empower agricultural communities by using farmer-led research and knowledge in local-scale plant breeding and community seed banks.

In September 2007, COG-NB along with Kate Green, USC's Manager of Public Engagement and North/South Relations, visited St. Thomas University, the NB Environment Network (NBEN) Annual General Meeting, and the Fredericton Unitarian Congregation. Unfortunately the Sussex Harvest Fair was cancelled for really rainy weather! Information booths were perused by visitors, and both formal and informal presentations from COG-NB and USC were given to interested audiences.

In 2008, USC is celebrating the International Year of the Potato (declared by the United Nations)! For more information about USC, visit their website: www.usc-canada.org.

COG-NB BECOMES NBEN MEMBER

In September at their Annual General Assembly, COG-NB was officially welcomed as a new member of the NB Environment Network (NBEN). The NBEN is a clearing-house organization that provides a virtual meeting place for environmentally-focused groups in our province. The

NBEN sends out updated information about the management of our natural resources, from a political scope to grassroots action, linking groups that are working in a similar scope. For our \$35 annual fee, the NBEN provides our chapter with weekly e-mail updates to their website news, access to their AV lending library, access to their events postings, and voting privileges at their annual meetings. For more information about the NBEN, please visit their website: www.nben.ca.

GROWING UP ORGANIC—CHAPTER PROJECT

Our GUO Committee was spearheaded by COG-NB Secretary Serge LaRochelle last fall. Serge made milestones, fostering connections with 2 schools in the Buctouche and Moncton areas. Communications between elementary and high school students, school administration, parents and local organic farmers started, as plans for a winter food-box program as a school fundraiser and organic/local education program began. Unfortunately, the project was not funded by COG National's Growing Up Organic program, but thanks to Serge we now have many of the starting points in place, and a funding proposal written for submission elsewhere. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the GUO Committee and projects, please contact Serge (contact info on reverse).

FLORENCEVILLE SEEDY SATURDAY

A keen crowd of gardening enthusiasts met at the annual Florenceville Seedy Saturday on March 10th, co-hosted by COG-NB and Hope Seeds. Seeds were traded and local organic refreshments enjoyed by many. Workshops on organic gardening, composting, starting native trees from seed, and working with herbs were well attended.

INFO BOOTHS & EVENTS

With support from a few keen COG-NB volunteers, our information booth travelled quite a bit in 2007! We could be found at:

- Earth Day activities in Moncton;
- University of Moncton's Community Garden Harvest;
- NBEN Annual General Assembly;
- Florenceville Seedy Saturday; and
- St. Thomas University with USC.

We also intended on visiting the Sussex Harvest Fair, but the event was cancelled for rain. All of these events brought many visitors to our booth, with whom we shared copies of newsletters, membership brochures, samples of *The Canadian Organic Grower* and other COG publications. Many were keen, and signed up their membership right on the spot!