

# 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE ~ Thursday, January 26 Schedule

**The Permaculture Market Garden.** Register 9 am in UC103. Seminar downstairs in PCH. Early networking & coffee 9:15 am. (program: 10-noon, then 1:15-4:15 pm). Cost: Adult: \$50 to Jan. 10, \$70 thereafter; Students: \$45. Room seats up to 200 people.

**Zach Loeks:** [jloeks@gmail.com](mailto:jloeks@gmail.com) A new approach to market gardening covering: how natural systems play out on farm-scale (hydrology, geology, climatology); whole farm planning, design & decision-making; permaculture farm principles shown through working projects from Zach's farm; the Permabed System designed by Zach (introduction, design process, garden patterning, guild crops and rotation, tools/techniques, the future of sustainable foods, foods for the future and picking crop varieties for a new agriculture); all this to help you build a new agro-ecological landscape. Zach will target this full day at market gardeners, permaculturalists, farmers, homesteaders, gardeners, agronomists and ecologists. You will leave the day full of inspiration. See Zach's Sat. & Sun. workshops and he'll be around to sign his new book. Note: parking passes only needed up to 4 pm. Thurs. noon \$15 organic box lunch brought to seminar room, pre-order by Jan. 10.

**Living the Green Dream: Meet the Ontario homesteaders.** Evening program: 6-9 pm, register 5:15 pm in UC103. \$35 advance or \$45 at-the-door. Room UC442. One glass organic wine & organic finger food trays included in the ticket price. Organic wine cash bar thereafter.

Discussion: modern challenges of organic food self-sufficiency, the rapid transitioning of people's lifestyles plus coping with the reality of rural life. Featured panelists: **Catherine Stilo** - a tireless researcher and practitioner of healthy/alternative lifestyles. **Melinda Zytaruk** of The Fourth Pig Worker Co-op specializes in 'green & natural construction' and brings a wide range of experience. **David Masters** of Luna Adventures, whose eclectic life includes wilderness guiding and self-sufficient food growing - also an entertaining speaker and story-teller. Speakers give 10-minute summaries, then there's an open forum with lots of Q & A. Everything dealing with designing and living your Green Dream will be covered.

Then, at 7:30 pm the action moves to organic wine & organic finger food sampling at round cocktail tables in the room, leading to face-to-face discussion of issues raised by the panelists. In other words, the serious networking starts! The speakers have in-room displays of their products and services so come a little early to meet them/view the displays. Official seminar end: 9:00 pm but the room stays open.

**Friday, Jan. 27 morning (each \$40 advance/\$60 at door +HST) (9:00 a.m. to noon)**

**Seminar 'A'** Small, organic and bountiful: a practical approach for small-scale gardeners

**Cathy Hansen (COG) and Heather Lekx (Ignatius Farm)** Grow organic food for your family and community by choosing the right seeds, managing weeds, pests and diseases. Learn about composting while building soil life and health. Speaker will reference the newly revised *Organic Backyard Guide* produced by Canadian Organic Growers. Community garden organization will be covered. Cathy Hansen is an organic vegetable farmer, chef, local food educator and independent organic inspector. Heather Lekx is the Farm Manager at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre, coordinating three acres of gardens, organic farmer tenants and leading a dynamic team who enjoy growing delicious organic vegetables and beautiful soil. Cathy - [hansen.cathy@gmail.com](mailto:hansen.cathy@gmail.com), Heather - [farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca)

OR

**Seminar 'B'** Organic crop production: managing diverse field crop rotations

**Dr. Martin Entz** Explore the science behind sustainable organic cropping systems from a practical perspective. Examples include: how cash crop and cover crop choices affect soil biology and nutrient supply; measuring soil nutrient supply; how tillage management interacts with crop rotation to affect weeds and crop yields; how manure management affects crop yields and quality; how crop rotation design can be optimized in unpredictable weather conditions; and how new technology may help. Examples will include organic cropping systems from northern temperate regions of Canada and Europe. Discussion of steps required in crop rotation planning including crop adaptation to your land, tillage management, use of manures, cover crops plus water and weed management. Examples of farmer innovation in crop rotation design will be emphasized. Martin is a well-travelled speaker and researcher familiar with crop conditions across Canada. Martin: [m.entz@umanitoba.ca](mailto:m.entz@umanitoba.ca)

**Friday, Jan. 27 afternoon (each \$40 advance/\$60 at door + HST) (1:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.)**

**Seminar 'C'** A soil health primer for small-scale farming operations

**Glenn Munroe** A workshop for market gardeners, those managing less than 20 acres of land, and for those in charge of soil health decision-making. In 3 sections: (a) Basic principles of the soil health movement, including the latest science; (b) Tools and best management practices promoting soil health - pros & cons; (c) How best to use these principles, tools and practices. Soil health is poorly understood - how can an inanimate collection of minerals/air/water incorporating one to ten per cent organic matter, be described as "healthy"? Glenn will cover rotations, cover crops, inter-cropping, tillage, compost vs manure, building soil carbon, mycorrhizal fungi, pest pressure, compost tea and disease. For the past 8 years, Glenn has worked in Ontario's Environmental Commissioner's office, researching data on soil and agriculture. Glenn: [glenn.munroe195@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.munroe195@gmail.com)

OR

**Seminar 'D'** Switchgrass for bedding, feed, crop rotations, processing and new crop development

**Urs Eggiman, Roger Samson & Ontario BioMass Producers Co-op speakers.** Organic farmers have found innovative new ways to use switchgrass, a dominant species of the tall grass prairie: fibre for organics, premium livestock bedding, mulch for both farm & garden plus as a feed for dairy cows. This intermediate level farmer-scientist workshop will introduce producers to growing the crop, why it's so good at building soil fertility, and its uses in the organic agri-food sector. A BioMass Co-op meeting last January attracted government researchers, dairy producers, academics, bio-mass producers and new growers needing more info: a diverse group reflecting the crop's potential. This year the Co-op has a booth in the Trade Show Booth #G-91. <https://ontariobiomassproducersgroup.wildapricot.org> - Urs: [urs@eggiman.ca](mailto:urs@eggiman.ca), Roger: [rsamson@reap-canada.com](mailto:rsamson@reap-canada.com), Ontario BioMass - [info@greyagsservices.ca](mailto:info@greyagsservices.ca)

**Friday 4:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. (final dinner seating: 5:00 sharp - please!) Guelph UC - Peter Clark Hall (downstairs)**  
**Organic Food & Wine Dinner** - a gala sit-down affair \$50+HST by Jan. 10; \$70+HST thereafter, if space left (includes one glass organic wine, cash bar thereafter) Multiple door prizes at 6:00 p.m. Meet the movers in the organic biz at this once-a-year event. Dietary, allergy and special meal needs must be phoned in to the Manager at 705-444-0923 by Jan. 20 noon.

**Friday 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Thornbrough Hall (300 seats) just across from UC building (\$15/person + HST)**  
**Keynote Forum: What is the future of genetic engineering?** (open microphone at mid-point)  
 Panelists: Lucy Sharratt, CBAN; René VanAcker, UofG and other experts on GE issues