

# **Seed Connections: The 2012 ECOSGN Seed Symposium**

**November 9-11, 2012; Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec**

## **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2012**

**Fri 8:30 -12:00 Principles of seed production**  
**(AT FARM CENTER CLASSROOM see map)**  
**(Presentation given in English and in French)\***

This course cover the nuts and bolts of seed growing: isolation distances, cross-pollination, population size, wet and dry seed extraction, basic seed cleaning techniques. This workshop is good for both beginners and experienced seed growers. This course cover the nuts and bolts of seed growing: isolation distances, cross-pollination, population size, wet and dry seed extraction, basic seed cleaning techniques.

**Fri 12:00 -13:30 Lunch and Travel to Farm**

**Fri 13:30 -17:00 Farm Tour and Seed Cleaning Demonstration**  
**(Presentation given in English and in French)\***

Visit Tourne-Sol co-operative farm, an organic vegetable and organic seed farm run by 5 farmers. We will also demonstrate seed cleaning techniques for many dry and wet-seeded crops. Address 1025 ch. St-Dominique, Les Cèdres, QC, J7T 1P5. (Take exit. 22 off of Highway 20).

## **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2012**

**(All Saturday in CENTENNIAL CENTER see map)**

**Sat 8:30- 9:00 Registration**

**Sat 9:00- 9:30**  
**Opening Remarks**  
**Daniel Brisebois -Tournesol-Cooperative Farm**

**Sat 9:30-12:00**  
**Where Seeds Come From-Creating Our Own Genetic Future in Farming**  
**Frank Morton - Wild Garden Seed**  
**(Presentation given in English)\***

This workshop will explain the basic processes of adaptation and selection of crop plants. What is effective selection? What crops are worthwhile for local, organic breeding efforts? How do growers decide which crops to work with, and what varieties make good candidates for cross breeding and re-creation? How do you select new varieties without losing important genetic diversity? What are traits worth selecting, and what traits are we trying to avoid passing on? The workshop will cover important techniques and processes of breeding--trials, disease nursery selection, crossing, segregation of traits, interaction of genetics and environment, the implications of self-pollination vs cross-pollination in crop species improvement--and will touch upon the topics of commercializing and production of new seed varieties. A basic understanding of flower botany and seed growing will be necessary to for this workshop to be helpful for participants.

**Sat 9:30-10:30**  
**Pollinators**  
**Kim Fellows**  
**(Presentation given in English)\***

**Sat 10:30-12:00**

**The secrets of "seed" garlic.**

**Paul Pospisil -The Garlic News**

**(Presentation given in English)\***

Paul will cover garlic research at Beaver Pond Estates and discuss the 3 forms of "seed" garlic (cloves, bulbils, and true seed). Paul will also explain the need for a garlic "seed sanctuary".

**Sat 12:00-13:00 Lunch**

**Sat 13:00-14:30**

**An Intro to Flower and Herb Seed Production**

**Kim Delaney -Hawthorn Farm & Patrice Fortier -La Société des Plantes**

**(Presentation given in English and in French)\***

This session will start with a discussion of the basics of flower and herb seed production. We will then move on to a tips and techniques component where Kim and Patrice will share little gems of info they have figured out over many years of growing flowers and herbs for seed.

**Sat 13:00-14:30**

**Integrating Seeds into the Market Garden**

**Daniel Brisebois -Tournesol-Cooperative Farm**

**(Presentation given in English)\***

Vegetable growers have unique opportunities as seed growers. They are equipped to handle diversified crops, they are familiar with what they want in vegetable varieties, and they can harvest portions of crops going to seed as a market vegetable. Of course you need to consider labor, isolation distances and space requirements as you add seed crops to your farm. But it's well worth it to increase on-farm agro-ecological diversity, reduce expenses, guarantee a supply of critical varieties, and potentially diversify your farm revenue.

**Sat 14:30-14:45**

**Break**

**Sat 14:45-16:15**

**Prevention of Seed-Borne Disease**

**Jody Lew-Smith -High Mowing Seeds**

**(Presentation given in English)\***

As a seed grower, what diseases do I need to worry about? How do seed-borne diseases differ from all the other diseases I have to watch? Are there different categories of seed-borne disease? Well, the good news is that, while there are many diseases that can travel on seed, only a small number cause big problems. Dr. Jodi Lew-Smith of High Mowing Organic Seeds will talk about the types of pathogens that travel on seed, and the ways that seed-borne disease can be monitored and prevented. She'll talk about some inexpensive ways to test and/or treat your stock seed before you plant it, and what specific diseases to watch for in your fields. She'll discuss the few cases where you might tear up plants versus the many cases where you might treat symptoms but not worry about transport of disease on seed.

**Sat 14:45-16:15**

**Improving vegetable varieties through selection**

**Yves Gagnon -Les Jardins de Grand Portage**

**(Presentation given in French)\***

Choosing to step into seed production means more than just saving seeds. Rather, the goal is to improve a variety's resilience, yield, and flavor while maintaining varietal purity, genetic diversity, and optimal germination rates.

This presentation will introduce a few varieties improved at "Les jardins du Grand-Portage" with selection and good growing practices.

**Sat 16:30-17:00**

**A new source of support for ecological seed production in Canada: Introducing the Bauta Seed Initiative**

**Jane Rabinowicz -Bauta Seed Initiative**

**(Presentation given in English)\***

In 2011 USC Canada, in partnership with Seeds of Diversity Canada, received funding for a pilot year to explore the state of seed security in Canada. The aim for the pilot year of 2012 was twofold. First, to develop an understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to ecological seed production, distribution and conservation in Canada. Second, to propose a four-year program to work with farmers, gardeners, researchers and organizations to support and strengthen existing seed work, and fill gaps where resources are most needed. The proposal has been submitted and the outlook for support for the Bauta Initiative on Canadian Seed Security is optimistic. Jane will briefly present the work that has been done so far and what has been learned. She will emphasize the goals for the next four years, as well as the various ways in which individuals and groups can get involved. You'll have to come to the talk to learn what the name means!

**Sat. 5:00-6:00 Seed social – profits from wine to Seeds of Diversity – all welcome**

**Sat 6:00-19:00**

**Supper**

**Sat 19:00-20:00**

**Creation is Never Done--the on-going work of adaptation and innovation with seeds**

**Frank Morton -Wild Garden Seed**

**(Presentation given in English)\***

Farmers and gardeners can join in the long chain of ongoing improvement in our agricultural heritage by selection and breeding seeds for their own locations. The process of seed adaptation is based on the plasticity of plant genomes. Innovation and crop improvement is an inter-species interaction between crops and observant people. This process is never complete, and responsible farmers in a responsible society need to understand that our children's future depends on our attention to the seeds we leave them.

**Sat 20:30-23:30**

**Music and Contra Dance with Ste.Anne-en-Gigue**

Ste.Anne-en-Gigue consists of local musicians Bill Gossage, Glenn Roy, Mike Bleho, and McGill student Anna Elbon. Their music is a myriad of traditional tunes originating from the hollers of southern Appalachia to the hills of Cape Breton. The group performs regularly in Ste.Anne-de-Bellevue and surrounding area, and has made a steady musical contribution to bi-annual contra dance events, hosted by students at the Macdonald campus.

## **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2012**

**(All Sunday in CENTENNIAL CENTER see map)**

**Sun 9:00-10:20**

**Selling Grains at the Farmers' Market**

**George Wright -Castor River Farm**

**(Presentation given in English)\***

**Sun 9:00-10:20**

**Growing Seeds on Contract**

**Nikos Kavanya -Fedco Seeds**

**(Presentation given in English)\***

**Sun 10:40-12:00**

**Seed Challenges On An Organic Grain Farm**

**Loic Dewavrin -Ferme Longpré**

**(Presentation given in French)\***

This presentation will cover seed saving practices on an organic grain operation and the challenges producing high quality seed. It will also introduce a participatory plant breeding project run by Coop Agrobio du Quebec to select and improve open-pollinated corn. And will conclude with a discussion of current seed regulations and their impact on seed produced on-farm.

**Sun 10:40-12:00**

**Managing Seed Databases**

**Jean-François Lévesque -Les Jardins de L'Écoumène**

**(Presentation given in French)\***

**Sun 12:00-1:00**

**Lunch and Seed Exchange**

**Sun 13:00-13:30**

**Seeds of Diversity Canada AGM**

**Sun 13:30-15:00**

**Northeast Indigenous Seed Restoration; Seed Wisdom of the Iroquois People**

**Rowen White - Sierra Seeds Cooperative**

**(Presentation given in English)\***

The diversity of Indigenous food crop plants in the Northeast is remarkable; Iroquois corn, beans, squash, sunflowers, tobacco, and other foods paint a rainbow of genetic wealth. Such colors, shapes and tastes have evolved for over a thousand years with Iroquois communities, with the help of human hands. Today, indigenous agricultural practices are being revived alongside cultural traditions, knowing that a strong cultural ties will help the restoration of these important food crops. Rowen will weave the stories of the seeds and the people of the Iroquois, illuminating the Mohawk journey to seed restoration within the community of Akwesasne. Rowen also has a vision for building bridges between these indigenous communities and the larger organic farming community in the North Country. We can look to these indigenous heirloom varieties as a foundation for participatory plant breeding projects that will make Northern agricultural more sustainable.

**Sun 13:30-15:00**

**Seedy Q & A Panel**

**Andrea Berry -Hope Seeds, Greta Kryger - Greta's Organic Seeds,**

**& Kim Delaney - Hawthorne Seeds**

**(Presentation given in English and in French)\***

Come and ask all your seedy questions to this panel of experienced seed growers.

**Sun 15:00-16:00**

**Building Seedy Networks**

**(Discussion in English and in French)\***

A discussion about seed interests and priorities in Eastern Canada