

FARMING & FOOD

10:20 AM, Packing Shed Seeding the Future: The Magic, Wisdom and Politics of Seeds - Tom Melcher; 80 min. In a fully photographed session, we will run through the life cycles of plants from planting and germination to seed maturity, and examine the skills of seed harvesting, processing, storage and record keeping. We will define a broad range of terms, such as reproduction, types of flowers and pollination, heirlooms, organic, inorganic, hybrids and genetically-modified plants. We can discuss government and corporate policy of food, and the wisdom of local seed banks.

Tom Melcher has been growing organic food for four decades in both Vermont and in California. He has been saving seed for twenty years and presenting workshops for the last ten. He lives north of Manchester.

thomashenry pope@gmail.com

11:10 AM, Stage Walking Tour of an Organic Community Farm – 50 min. Bonnie and Oliver Levis are at the heart of an amazing community of friends, interns, CSA members, and local eaters here at Earth Sky Time, a certified organic vegetable farm, wood-fired bakery, commercial kitchen, and music venue. Take a walk with them through their greenhouses, orchards, fields and production spaces to understand their approach to cultivating year-round bountiful organic food and fun. earthskytime@gmail.com; <http://earthskytime.com/>

11:50 AM, Packing Shed Medicine for People + Planet: Regenerative Agriculture Methods for Hemp & Medicinal Herbs - Sarah Shaw & Nathan Bacon; 50 min. Vermont's hemp industry has experienced rapid growth in recent years with the popularization of CBD and the presence of the State's Hemp Program. The speed at which this industry is developing brings reasonable concerns of how both growers and consumers can maintain a reciprocal relationship with both the cannabis plant and the Earth. In this workshop, the young farmers behind Hillside Botanicals will explore the regenerative (agri)culture strategies they are employing on their small hemp and medicinal herb farm. Hillside Botanicals believes that our collective well-being is rooted in the wisdom and vitality of the Earth. With natural systems as their teachers, Hillside Botanicals strives to cultivate high quality hemp and medicinal herbs in communion with robust soils, clean water, and healthy plant and animal communities.

Sarah is a Vermont transplant, originating from the Finger Lakes Region of Central New York. She holds a BA from the University of Vermont in Global Studies, Community Development and Food Systems, and has received two Permaculture Design Certifications. She has worked with community garden and food access programs, national electoral politics, and project management in the renewable energy industry. Sarah is currently enrolled in the Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism's Clinical Training program and is an active member of the Vermont Chapter of Herbalists Without Borders, an organization that works at the intersections of botanical wellness, advocacy, and social justice. She is a forever student of the Earth and feels called to facilitate the reclamation of human connection to the land and plants as means to achieve holistic well-being. sarah@hillsidebotanicals.com; www.facebook.com/HillsideBotanicals/

Nathan is a fourth generation Vermonter from Randolph, VT. He holds a B.S in Mechanical Engineering from Norwich University. After graduation, Nathan spent two years as a design and development engineer before leaving to apprentice with Ben Falk, a renowned ecological designer. Upon completion of the apprenticeship Nathan worked full-time gaining substantial experience in broad-acre crop implementation and management. After a brief stint working for Green Leaf Organics, a medical cannabis grower in California, he returned to Vermont to begin establishing the Hillside Botanicals farm. nathan@hillsidebotanicals.com

2:00 PM, Packing Shed An Introduction to Regenerative Agriculture – Jesse McDougall; 80 min. What is regenerative agriculture? Is it different from organic? Does it matter in Vermont? A fun discussion of the goals of regenerative ag, the science, and practical implementations around the world. Come discover the economic and ecological hope driving the growing shift toward regenerative agriculture and what it means for Vermont farmers and the global climate.

Jesse McDougall is a regenerative farmer at Studio Hill. He serves on the advisory board for Soil4Climate and was the author of the first regenerative agriculture legislation. He is also a father, public speaker, and author.

jesse@studiohill.farm; <https://studiohill.farm>

3:40 PM, Packing Shed The Science of Carbon Farming and Land-based Climate Solutions – Kelsey Bearden; 80 min. Storing carbon in agricultural soils, trees, and forests is one of the most promising paths to draw down carbon from the atmosphere and put the brakes on climate change. Learn how the science of land-based carbon sequestration works, how you can positively impact the carbon cycle through land management, and how carbon farming practices generate additional benefits from site, to farm, to regional and global scales.

Kelsey is originally from Alaska and is currently finishing a Master of Science in Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England. Her focus is on agriculturally-based education to help solve the climate crisis and connect people to the land. She is an associate designer for AppleSeed Permaculture. kbearden@antioch.edu;

www.appleseedpermaculture.com