

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – Jan. 15, 2013
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VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
Monday Jan. 28, 2013. Capital Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier

- 8:00 Registration, Trade Show, Refreshments
- 9:30 President's Remarks
Andy Jones, Intervale Community Farm, Burlington
- 9:40 Lessons 'From the Field' in 2012
Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension
- 10:00 The Low Down on Low Tunnels at JSF
Christa Alexander, Jericho Settlers Farm,
- 10:20 Swede Midge: Managing a New Pest of Cole Crops
Yolanda Chen, UVM Plant & Soil Science and Andy Jones
- 10:40 Storing Your Crops – Tips and Tools for Success
Chris Callahan, UVM Extension Agricultural Engineer
- 11:00 Spotted Wing Drosophila: What We Know and What to do About It
Richard Cowles, CT Agricultural Experiment Station
- 11:40 Update from Trade Show Representatives on Products and Services
- 12:00 Luncheon and Trade Show
- 1:20 Business Meeting: Election of Officers, etc.
- 1:30 Update from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Chuck Ross, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture
- 1:50 How I Grow and Market Strawberries at Wood's Market Garden
Jon Satz, Brandon
- 2:10 Blights, Mildews and Rots! Diseases to Look for in 2013
Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Plant Diagnostic Lab
- 2:30 Cool Things You Should Know About Bugs
Jon Turmel, Entomologist
- 2:50 My Experience Working with Farmers in Burma
Howard Prussack, High Meadows Farm
- 3:10 On-Farm Trials with Zone Tillage
Richard Hudak, Bob Pomykala, Andy Jones
- 3:30 Adjourn - Trade Show

Registration must be received by Jan. 24 either on-line or by mail; the fee includes morning coffee break and a hot lunch buffet. \$40 VVBGA Members, \$50 all others, add \$10 for walk-ins. VVBGA membership dues for 2013 are \$25 per farm. Benefits include:

- \$10 discount for the Association's annual meeting registration
- Registration waiver for on-farm workshops
- Eligibility for the Association's research grants
- 10% discount on UVM Extension's Vegetable and Berry publications list
- Access to the VVBGA listserv: buy/sell equipment, plants, etc. and share information
- Vermont vegetable and berry grower e-mail newsletter subscription

Register for the annual meeting and/or pay membership dues on-line, <http://vrbgamembership.eventbrite.com/#> Or, print the membership form at: www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/VV&BGA/VVBGA_membership_form.pdf and mail it with your check to: VVBGA, PO Box 2091, South Burlington, VT 05407. If also registering for the annual meeting please include a note, with the names of all registrants, and the additional payment for each: \$40 per VVBGA member, \$50 per non-member.

Questions? Vern Grubinger, 802-257-7967 ext. 303, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu. If you require accommodations to participate in this program, please me know 10 days prior to the event. Attendance at this meeting will be worth 2 pesticide recertification credits for applicators certified in categories 1A, 2, 3, 6 and 10. Sponsored by USDA Risk Management Agency, University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association. University of Vermont Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Westminster West) I am not fooled by the warm and foggy weather we have the last few days! In any event, I have started the official growing season last week with the first of the seed trays getting planted. A weekly tradition for the next 24 weeks, I like doing my seeding on Sundays, a day without too much distraction. The first of the herb seeds go in today. Last week's seeds are already germinating, a bit faster than I had planned, but good news anyways. Doing final clean up chores in all the greenhouses, disinfecting walls and floors. Repairing injectors and starting the trucks and tractors so they will be ready to roll when we really need them. Attending the many workshops all over the state this month, while I still have time. I really love my free time in the winter.

(Shelburne/South Burlington) Glad to be through the very cold spell and looking for some rebound and growth during this "thaw". I am interesting in measuring growth through these

(Rochester) We have pre-paid for the plants that will go in this spring to take advantage of Nourse's early-pay discount. We have two Workamper couples lined up for the 2013 season

(Hampton NY) Soil test is back for the new garden. Fertility is low to good and the pH is low so

Our real hurdle at that site is trying to get someone to come in and do a horizontal bore under the railroad tracks and a State road so we can get irrigation lines into the field. At home we have been putting up a ceiling and enclosed florescent fixtures in the washing and packing area, which seems like a better idea now than when we originally planned doing it, since new food safety regs are coming. Slowly we have been finding the back of our shop as we get some maintenance done on our aging collection of machinery. The house is a mess of file folders and catalogs which Anne is trying to sort through and organize as she changes the business end of things from 2012 to 2013. In the greenhouses I am getting ornamentals seeded, cuttings on the heat bench and hoping that the tomato rootstocks show up here pretty soon. Have a little too healthy population of thrips and foxglove aphids overwintering in the stock plant house that am trying to deal with biologically; the verdicts are still out on that. Outside, we lament the loss of the snow; it was fun having a winter for the two weeks that it was here, but now we are worrying that the loss of snow cover will bring the deer and turkeys back to work the strawberries over, as well as bring more dramatic off-season soil temp fluctuations.