

# **Bridge to an Organic Future**

**Opportunities for health and the environment**

**The 27<sup>th</sup> National Pesticide Forum  
Century Center ■ Carrboro, NC  
April 3-4, 2009**

**convened by  
Beyond Pesticides  
Toxic Free North Carolina**

**co-sponsored by**

**Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Haw River Assembly, North Carolina Coastal Federation, North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project, Piedmont Environmental Alliance, Rural Advancement Foundation International – USA, Slow Food Triangle, Student Action with Farmworkers, UNC Alianza, UNC Environmental Law Project, UNC Environmental Science and Engineering Student Organization**



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Century Center ■ Carrboro, NC ■ April 3-4, 2009

### A Chronological Summary of the Program

#### Friday, April 3

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1:00 - 4:00pm	<b>Piedmont Biofuels Farm Tour</b>
5:00 - 7:00pm	Registration
6:00 - 7:15pm	<b><i>Pesticides, Alternatives and Organizing: The Basics</i></b>
7:00 - 10:30pm	<b>Welcome, Reception and Keynote</b>
7:00 - 7:30pm	Reception
7:30 - 7:45pm	Welcome
7:45 - 8:45pm	<b><i>Poisoned Profits: The toxic assault on our children</i></b>
8:45 - 10:30pm	Reception and booksigning

#### Saturday, April 4

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8:00 - 8:40am	Continental Breakfast and Registration
8:45 - 9:00am	Welcome
9:00 - 10:15am	<b><i>Growing a Fair, Local, Organic Food System</i></b>
10:15 - 10:45am	Break ( <i>move to workshops</i> )
10:45am - 12:15pm	<b>Workshop Block I</b>
	Follow-Up Market Tour and In-Depth Organic Discussion ■
	Schools and Daycare: Creating a healthy learning environment ■
	Protecting Waterways, Health and the Environment ■
	Cultivating Worker Leadership
12:15 - 1:45pm	<b>Lunch and Keynote: <i>Social Justice and Food Production</i></b>
1:45 - 3:00pm	<b><i>Cutting Edge Pesticide Science: Linking exposure and health effects</i></b>
3:00 - 3:30pm	Break ( <i>move to workshops</i> )
3:30 - 5:00pm	<b>Workshop Block II</b>
	Cutting Edge Pesticide Science: In-depth discussion ■
	Organic Land Management: Lawns, gardens and open spaces ■
	Progressive Policies: Local to Global ■
	Farmworker Health Training
5:00 - 6:30pm	Dinner break
6:30 - 7:15pm	Transportation to Community Church of Chapel Hill for Jim Hightower's talk ( <i>Shuttles will begin at 6:30, last shuttle 7:15</i> )
7:00 - 10:30pm	<b>Reception and Keynote</b>
7:00 - 7:30pm	Reception
7:30 - 8:15pm	<b><i>Putting "Progress" Back In Progressive: The route to social justice, fair food and a sustainable environment</i></b>
8:15 - 10:30pm	Reception and booksigning

*This is a fragrance-free event. No scented body products, please.*

## Call to the Conference

“We are no longer faced with the false choice of a strong economy or a clean environment. The president’s budget shows that making critical and responsible investments in protecting the health and environment of all Americans will also lead to a more vibrant and stable economy. With these proposed resources, and the president’s strong environmental agenda, it should be overwhelmingly clear that EPA is back on the job.”

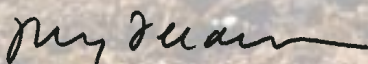
-Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator, January 23, 2009

We believe that this is a transformational time. It has become clear that this is our opportunity to create the necessary bridge to an organic future, where toxic pesticide use is the exception rather than the rule. We can end the false assumption that hazardous chemicals are necessary for cost-effective food production, public health, and beautiful surroundings. With this opportunity, we have a responsibility to ensure that people no longer have to sacrifice their health and the environment with every meal, breath or drink, and that those who harvest our food do so in safe conditions, for fair wages. We face all of these challenges today due in large part to the outdated assumption that hazardous chemicals are always necessary to grow our food and manage our land and buildings. We have all been suffering from the false assurances of risk assessment standard setting, that claim to offer adequate health and environmental protection despite huge gaps in knowledge. This thinking must be transformed, and it is our challenge to do so.

On the farm and in our homes and communities, those who use organic practices: (i) ensure cleaner air and water; (ii) improve soil health and sustainability; (iii) reduce escalating global warming; (iv) protect bees and other pollinators; (v) create safer workplaces for those who grow and harvest food; and (vi) enable a richer, safer diet. And they do this in larger numbers each year. This year the White House announced its kitchen’s transition to organic. Next year, why not all federal land and buildings? How about all local and state owned properties? Every public park and school?

The change begins in meetings like this and in communities across the country where we hone our messages, update our facts, share our experiences and plan to expand the reach of our networks so that our voices are effective, convincing and powerful. The transformation is our responsibility and, if we choose to use it wisely, the power is in our hands.

Thanks for joining us at Bridge to an Organic Future!



Jay Feldman  
Executive Director, Beyond Pesticides



Fawn Pattison  
Executive Director, Toxic Free NC

# Bridge to an Organic Future

## Opportunities for health and the environment

Century Center ■ Carrboro, NC ■ April 3-4, 2009

### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, April 3

**1:00 - 4:00 pm**

[MEET AT THE CENTURY CENTER]

#### ■ Bus Tour to Piedmont Biofuels

A biodiesel bus tour of Piedmont Biofuels, a cooperative that runs a research farm and sustainable biodiesel production facility, manufacturing local fuel out of waste vegetable oil, in Pittsboro, NC.

**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

[CENTURY HALL LOBBY]

#### Registration

**6:00 - 7:15 pm**

[ROOM 2/3]

#### ■ Pesticides, Alternatives and Organizing: The Basics

**Caroline Cox**, research director, Center for Environmental Health, Oakland, CA

**Fawn Pattison**, executive director, Toxic Free North Carolina, Raleigh, NC

**7:00 - 7:30 pm**

[CENTURY HALL]

#### Reception

**7:30 - 7:45 pm**

[CENTURY HALL]

#### ■ Welcome

**Allen Spalt**, board member, Beyond Pesticides and Toxic Free North Carolina, Carrboro, NC

**Mark Chilton**, Mayor, Carrboro, NC

**Robina Suwol**, president, Beyond Pesticides board of directors, California Safe Schools, Los Angeles, CA

**7:45 - 8:45pm**

[CENTURY HALL]

#### ■ Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on Our Children

**Philip Shabecoff and Alice Shabecoff**, authors, *Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on Our Children*, Brookline, MA

**Andrea Kidd Taylor, DrPH**, moderator, professor of public health, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD

**8:45 - 10:30pm**

[CENTURY HALL]

#### Reception and booksigning

Please join us for organic food and drinks in Century Hall. Authors Philip and Alice Shabecoff will be signing copies of their book, *Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on Our Children*.

## Saturday, April 4

### 8:00 - 8:40am Continental Breakfast

#### 8:45 - 9:00 am

[CENTURY HALL]

#### ■ Welcome

**Jay Feldman**, executive director, *Beyond Pesticides*, Washington, DC

**Fawn Pattison**, executive director, *Toxic Free North Carolina*, Raleigh, NC

#### 9:00-10:15am

[CENTURY HALL]

#### ■ Growing a Fair, Local, Organic Food System

**Neill Lindley**, owner and farmer, *Lindale Organic Dairy*, *Organic Valley Coop member*, Snow Camp, NC

**Sandi Kronick**, sales and marketing director, *Eastern Carolina Organics*, Pittsboro, NC

**Tes Thraves**, community-based food systems coordinator, *Center for Environmental Farming Systems*, Raleigh, NC

**Sally Lee**, *Just Foods* assistant, *Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA*, Pittsboro, NC

**Jim Riddle**, moderator, organic outreach coordinator, *University of Minnesota*, Lambertton, MN

### 10:15 - 10:45pm Break, move to workshops

### 10:45am - 12:15pm ■ Workshops 1

#### 1) Follow-Up Market Tour and In-Depth Organic Discussion

[CENTURY HALL]

**Anne Everitt**, volunteer, *Toxic Free North Carolina*, Raleigh, NC

**Jim Riddle**, organic outreach coordinator, *University of Minnesota*, Lambertton, MN

**Neill Lindley**, owner and farmer, *Lindale Organic Dairy*, Snow Camp, NC

**Tes Thraves**, community-based food systems coordinator, *CEFS*, Raleigh, NC

**Sally Lee**, *Just Foods* assistant, *RAFI-USA*, Pittsboro, NC

**Sandi Kronick**, moderator, sales and marketing director, *ECO*, Pittsboro, NC

■ Tour the Carrboro Farmers' Market, one of the finest local markets in the country. The market enables local farmers to sell products directly to consumer since 1979. Participate in a discussion of local and national organic issues with participants from the food system panel.

#### 2) Cultivating Worker Leadership

[CENTURY CENTER, ROOM 4]

**Francisco Riso**, director, *Workers United of Western North Carolina*, Morganton, NC

**Gustavo Aguirre**, assistant director of organizing, *Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment*, Delano, CA

**Margaret Reeves, Ph.D.**, moderator, senior scientist, *Pesticide Action Network North America*, San Francisco, CA

■ Hear about successful efforts, from North Carolina to California, by workers organizing for a safe and just workplace. Join a lively discussion about worker conditions, projects to document hazards, organizing strategies, education and training campaigns, and learn new ways that you and your organization can support worker leadership.

## Saturday April 4 continued

### 10:45am - 12:15pm ■ Workshops 1 continued

#### 3) Schools and Daycare: Creating a healthy learning environment

[DSI COMEDY THEATER]

**Billie Karel**, program coordinator, *Toxic Free North Carolina*, Raleigh, NC

**Dawn Gouge, Ph.D.**, associate professor and specialist in Urban Entomology, *University of Arizona*, Maricopa, AZ

**Jerry Jochim**, IPM coordinator, *Monroe Co. Community Schools*, and *Lymphoma Foundation of America*, Bloomington, IN

**Kagan Owens**, moderator, senior project coordinator, *Beyond Pesticides*, Washington, DC

■ An overwhelming number of studies link pesticide exposure with adverse health impacts, especially in children. Explore with people working around the country strategies to eliminate unnecessary pesticide use in schools, daycare facilities and beyond.

#### 4) Protecting Waterways, Health and the Environment

[OPEN EYE CAFE, BACK ROOM]

**Elaine Chiosso**, executive director, *Haw River Assembly*, Bynum, NC

**Doug Harned**, supervisory hydrologist, *United States Geological Survey (USGS)*, Raleigh, NC

**Kathy Dolan**, triclosan program advocate, *Food and Water Watch*, Washington, DC

**Nichelle Harriott**, moderator, research associate, *Beyond Pesticides*, Washington, DC

■ Studies show nearly all surface water and groundwater contain pesticides at detectable levels in North Carolina and around the country. Agricultural and lawn and garden pesticides and fertilizers contaminate our water supply and impact aquatic environments. Discuss what's contaminating our water and what we can do to protect it.

### 12:15 - 1:45pm

[CENTURY HALL]

#### ■ Lunch presentation: Social Justice and Food Production

**Baldemar Velasquez**, president, *Farm Labor Organizing Committee*, AFL-CIO, Toledo, OH

**Routt Reigart, M.D.**, moderator, professor of pediatrics, *Medical University of South Carolina*, Charleston, SC

### 1:45 - 3:00pm

[CENTURY HALL]

#### ■ Cutting Edge Pesticide Science: Linking exposure and health effects

**Freya Kamel, Ph.D.**, staff scientist, *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*, National Institutes of Health, Research Triangle Park, NC

**Chensheng Lu, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of environmental exposure biology, *Harvard School of Public Health*, Boston, MA

**Tom Arcury, Ph.D.**, director, *Center for Worker Health*, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC

**Warren Porter, Ph.D.**, moderator, professor of zoology, *University of Wisconsin*, Madison, WI

### 3:00 - 3:30pm

#### Break, move to workshops

## Saturday April 4 continued

3:30 - 5:00pm

### ■ Workshops 2

#### 1) Cutting Edge Pesticide Science: In-depth discussion

[CENTURY HALL]

**Freya Kamel, Ph.D.**, staff scientist, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC

**Chensheng Lu, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of environmental exposure biology, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

**Tom Arcury, Ph.D.**, director, Center for Worker Health, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC

**Warren Porter, Ph.D.**, professor of zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

**Paula Dinerstein**, moderator, senior counsel, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Washington, DC

■ As a follow-up to the science panel, this workshop will give participants an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about pesticide exposure through food, air and water and the links to a wide range of health impacts.

#### 3) Organic Land Management: Lawns, gardens and open spaces

[DSI COMEDY THEATER]

**Chip Osborne**, president, Osborne Organics, Marblehead, MA

**Brett Ramey**, Urban Lifeways Project director, Native Movement, Flagstaff, AZ

**Lani Malmberg**, director, Ewe4ic Ecological Services, Lander, WY

**Terry Shistar, Ph.D.**, moderator, Beyond Pesticides board member, Lawrence, KS

■ To effectively manage outdoor spaces, it is necessary to understand soil health and the local ecology. Learn from a practitioner who converted parks and playing fields to organic, a rancher who uses a herd of cashmere goats to manage rangeland weeds and improve soil fertility, and an organization restoring native plants and knowledge to the land.

#### 2) Farmworker Health Training

[CENTURY CENTER, ROOM 4]

**Jose Manuel Guzman**, *El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA)*, Glassboro, NJ

**Griselda Alonso-Rojas**, promotora, Fuquay-Varina Promotoras, Fuquay-Varina, NC

**Janeth Tapia**, North Carolina Farmworkers Project, Benson, NC

**Ana Pardo**, moderator, communications coordinator, Toxic Free North Carolina, Raleigh, NC

■ Learn how to share health information through popular education. Hear success stories from people who use popular education to improve the health of their communities. Discuss how farmworkers and health/social service providers can use this approach to share valuable health information with their co-workers and clients.

#### 4) Progressive Policies: Local to global

[OPEN EYE CAFE, BACK ROOM]

**Jay Feldman**, executive director, Beyond Pesticides, Washington, DC

**Kathryn Gilje**, executive director, Pesticide Action Network North America, San Francisco, CA

**Fawn Pattison**, executive director, Toxic Free North Carolina, Raleigh, NC

**Jim Riddle**, organic outreach coordinator, University of Minnesota, Lamberton, MN

**Roland McReynolds**, moderator, executive director, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Pittsboro, NC

■ Discuss opportunities for the grass-roots to influence pesticide policy change at the state, national and international level. Session will focus on local policy priorities, recommendations sent to the Obama administration, and efforts to grow state organic programs nationwide.

## Saturday April 4 continued

**5:00 - 7:00pm**

**Dinner break**

**6:30 - 7:15pm**

[MEET OUTSIDE CENTURY CENTER]

**Transportation to Community Church of Chapel Hill for Jim Hightower's talk**

Biodiesel-powered shuttle service will be provided from the Century Center to the Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist (106 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill, NC) for Jim Hightower's talk. Last shuttle departs at 7:15pm. Return service will be available.

**7:00 - 7:30pm**

[CHURCH ACTIVITY ROOM]

**Reception**

**7:30 - 8:15pm**

[COMMUNITY CHURCH SANCTUARY]

■ **Putting "Progress" Back In Progressive: The route to social justice, fair food and a sustainable environment**

*Jim Hightower, author and radio commentator, Austin, TX*  
*Jay Feldman, moderator, executive director, Beyond Pesticides, Washington, DC*

**8:15 - 10:30pm**

[CHURCH ACTIVITY ROOM]

**Reception and book signing**

Please join us for organic food and drinks in the Activity Room. Jim Higtower will be signing copies of his latest book, *Swim Against the Current: Even a dead fish can go with the flow*. Shuttle service available to hotels and Century Center.

## Thank You!

Beyond Pesticides would like to thank the organizations that helped make this event a success:

Toxic Free North Carolina, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Haw River Assembly, North Carolina Coastal Federation, North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project, Piedmont Environmental Alliance, Rural Advancement Foundation International – USA, Slow Food Triangle, Student Action with Farmworkers, UNC Alianza, UNC Environmental Law Project, UNC Environmental Science and Engineering Student Organization

**Please visit our business sponsors listed on the following pages. They want to work with you!**



**Beyond Pesticides**, founded in 1981 as the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, works with allies for a future free of hazardous pesticides and collaborates with grassroots people and organizations to educate the public on pesticide hazards and promote non-toxic alternatives. Beyond Pesticides convened the first National Pesticide Forum in 1981.

**Beyond Pesticides Board of Directors:** *Robina Suwol* (President), California Safe Schools, Toluca Lake, CA; *Routt Reigart*, MD (Vice-President), Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC; *Terry Shistar*, PhD (Secretary), Lawrence, KS; *Lani Malmberg* (Treasurer), Ewe4ic Ecological Services, Inc., Lander, WY; *Caroline Cox* (At-Large), Center for Environmental Health, Oakland, CA; *Ruth Berlin*, Maryland Pesticide Network, Annapolis, MD; *Paula Dinerstein*, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Washington, DC; *Lorna Donaldson*, Donaldson Family Farms, Tiptonville, TN; *Jay Feldman*, Beyond Pesticides, Washington, DC; *Chip Osborne*, Osborne Organics, Marblehead, MA; *Warren Porter*, PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; *Brett Ramey*, Native Movement, Flagstaff, AZ; *Jim Riddle*, University of Minnesota, Winona, MN; *Floribella Redondo*, Campesinos Sin Fronteras, Somerton, AZ; *Allen Spalt*, Toxic Free North Carolina, Carrboro, NC; *Andrea Kidd Taylor*, DrPH, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD

**Toxic Free North Carolina**, founded in 1986 as the Agricultural Resources Center and Pesticide Education Project, believes pesticides are over-used in North Carolina and around the world, polluting our food, water and our bodies. Toxic Free NC fights pesticide pollution in North Carolina by advocating for common-sense alternatives that protect our health and environment.

**Toxic Free North Carolina Board of Directors:** *Colleen Boudreau* (Treasurer), Raleigh, NC; *Ghassan Hamra*, UNC School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC; *Laxmi Haynes* (Engagement Chair), Student Action with Farmworkers, Durham, NC; *Mindy Hiteshue* (Board Development Chair), North Carolina Conservation Network, Raleigh, NC; *Cathy Jones*, Perry-winkle Farm, Chapel Hill, NC; *Omar Láinez*, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC; *Michelle Nowlin* (President-Elect), Duke University Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, Durham, NC; *Annie O'Leary*, Southern Environmental Law Center, Chapel Hill, NC; *Katherine Shea*, North Carolina State University Student Health Service, Raleigh, NC; *Allen Spalt*, Carrboro, NC

**Forum Organizing Committee.** Beyond Pesticides: Jay Feldman, John Kepner, Jane Philbrick, Allen Spalt; Toxic Free North Carolina: Fawn Pattison, Ana Pardo

**Beyond Pesticides**, 202-543-5450, [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org)

**Toxic Free North Carolina**, 919-833-5333, [www.toxicfreenc.org](http://www.toxicfreenc.org)