

SEEDS OF CHANGE eNewsletter #61, March 16, 2007

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100% Organic Seeds and Food

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DEAR ORGANIC GARDENERS,

http://www.seedsofchange.com/enewsletter/issue_61/dear_gardeners.asp

Spring is just around the corner, and with each day the increasing warmth of the sun lends more hope to our unfolding plans for starting seeds and sowing our gardens and farms with spring crops. If all that sun and those piles of seed packs aren't enough motivation for you, we've got more inspiring tales in this edition of the Cutting Edge.

We've added two different regular features to the newsletter. We are happy to kick off our series of interviews with the seed farmers featured in this year's catalog by presenting a conversation with Beth Rasgorshek of Canyon Bounty Farm. Hers is a wonderful story of someone returning to her roots to demonstrate the potential of organic seed production in an area that has seen its agriculture become highly industrialized and its farmland eroded by development. We also begin a new feature by Seeds of Change Seed Pathologist Emily Gatch called *The Disease Corner*. Since nothing excites Emily like a fully expressed plant disease, this should be an informative and entertaining addition featuring information about identifying and controlling a particular disease each month.

As many of you may already know, Seeds of Change is now selling organic chocolate inspired by flavors from around the world. We are pleased to announce the launch of a new partnership between Seeds of Change and Conservation International to support local farmers in Brazil with their efforts to protect an ecologically important area while developing a truly sustainable agriculture producing organic cacao, the primary ingredient in chocolate.

On the seed side of the business, we are thrilled to announce that our new seed packing machine has finally arrived and we are working overtime to pack and distribute our seeds in new, state-of-the-art, re-sealable seed packaging.

And finally, with this edition, Farm Field Coordinator Kelle Carter takes on the task of sharing the exciting activities happening at the Seeds of Change Research Farm.

**With springtime inspiration,
Scott Vlaun, Editor**

FARMER INTERVIEW WITH BETH RASGORSHEK

by Scott Vlaun

http://www.seedsofchange.com/enewsletter/issue_61/farmer_interview_one.asp

Beth Rasgorshek has returned to her childhood home, just west of Boise, Idaho, to farm. In the midst of a landscape dominated by chemically intensive industrial agriculture, and under intense development pressure, she has carved out her niche as a pioneering organic seed grower. Utilizing the cast-off machinery of a waning local seed industry, Beth produces some of the finest seed available of many treasured varieties, to the delight of gardeners everywhere. Beth has grown for Seeds of Change since 2001. She was interviewed at her farm...

Scott Vlaun: How long have you been farming?

Beth Rasgorshek: I started farming in 1993 in Portland Oregon. We were a very small community supported farm, I and a business partner. Over a five year period it grew into a 120 share CSA (community supported agriculture) business in Portland. We lived in the inner city and commuted out to some pretty beautiful farmland on Portland's urban/suburban intersection. So that created this huge passion in me around fresh produce and food. It was something I didn't even know I had in me. But thanks to some business partners and just being able to grow a lot of fresh produce, food became my passion. I love fresh vegetables, and I love to eat, and I love to talk about food. So after five years of doing a year-round CSA, because in Portland we could keep some crops in the field all winter and do a lot of storage crops, I decided I wanted to go home.

And home was here in Nampa (ID). I didn't quite know what I would be doing. I just knew that I wanted to go home. I got called for whatever reason. My family has been seed farmers for several generations and I returned in 1999 right when the federal organic standards were being implemented and they were requiring organic seed for organic production. And so I thought well, if I could be mechanized, maybe I could do seed crops and stay a very small business, and make it. This was all theoretical. Maybe I could make it. So I decided that, with a lot of family help, I would figure out how to do organic seed production and see if I could eke out a living on seven acres.

SV: So how has that worked out for you?

BR: I can't make 100% of my income on the seeds; it's just not there for whatever reason. I also do a seasonal greenhouse business for six weeks in the springtime. I try to get people turned on to food, and turned on to some really exciting varieties. There are a lot of tasty tomatoes out there beyond Jetstar or Big Boy. It's a great way to connect with people here in my hometown—around food—because we're maybe not going to connect around other topics, or other issues. If I can get somebody talking about food, and maybe recalling a food memory, it's been a great day.

SV: Did you start growing for Seeds of Change in 1999?

BR: It took me a while to get on board with Seeds of Change...because I didn't have a lot of seed growing experience. It took me a couple of years. It was Mike (Heath) and Fred (Brossy) that got me introduced to Seeds of Change. (Editor's note: Fred Brossy and Mike Heath are long-time Seeds of Change growers. Look for an interview with Fred Brossy in an upcoming eNewsletter.)

SV: So you started in 2001 with Seeds of Change?

BR: Yes. And of course I needed to be certified organic for Seeds of Change. This land was farmed conventionally by my father for over thirty years, so I needed three years to transition it to organic. So for those three years I could mess around. I could play with different crops. One year I just did [buckwheat](#). I did three or four back-to-back cover crops of buckwheat to build the soil. 2001 was the first year that I was certified organic.

SV: How many different crops have you tried?

BR: Too many! (Laughs) I got out of fresh produce because it was too diversified, so when you start growing 14–18 seed crops it's still too diversified. When you start growing five different kinds of [beans](#), and [leeks](#) and [onions](#) and [herbs](#), it just gets messy, it gets busy. You have to think about management issues; how's it all going to play out at the end of the season.

SV: So you're essentially a one-woman operation?

BR: Well, I have a lot of help from family. My brother is a seed farmer and he's helped with technical expertise. My dad and I work together almost every day...unless it's weeding... (Laughs) I feel like I'm the luckiest person in the world to have my dad teaching me seed farming, and all the mechanical skills that come with it. I'm amazed every day at just what I learn from him. I wouldn't be nearly as successful if I didn't have him helping me. Because of him I'm highly mechanical and I'm able to keep my labor expenses at a minimum.

SV: Where did you get all those amazing seed cleaning machines that are out there in your barn?

BR: There are interesting characters around here that wheel and deal in used seed cleaning equipment. In those three years that I was transitioning the land to organic, I spent a lot of time going to auctions, visiting these used equipment dealers, and also visiting a lot of the local seed companies here, trying to learn as much as I could, not only about seed production, but also the seed cleaning part of it because I have to clean my own seed and I knew nothing about it. It's probably the one thing I would change if I could; I would like to have been more well-versed in the seed cleaning part of it before I dove into the seed production part. It's a whole other world with a lot of different pieces of equipment and specialized cleaning techniques. I still wish I knew a lot more than what I know now.

SV: Now that you've tried all these different crops and techniques, how do you go about picking the crops that you want to specialize in?

BR: Thanks to some major crop failures, (Laughs) or just knowing that I've made mistakes, I've tried to look backwards at the whole process of seed production. So I'm looking at how the seed will be cleaned and how the seed will be threshed or combined. Also, can I direct seed or transplant? Can I cultivate with a tractor? Do I have to thin the crop once I get it planted? And what are its water needs? We are in an irrigated desert valley, so if we're in a drought year I have to consider that too. I'm always working backwards, as I call it. It helps me to figure out if I can raise a successful crop if I know the whole scenario from planting to harvesting to cleaning. That's kind of what I have wized up to. There are plenty of crops where you do it once and you know you don't want to do it again. Somebody else is better at it than you are, so you let them do it.

SV: So you are slowly starting to specialize more?

BR: I like doing the beans. I've been able to gather up the appropriate equipment to make beans pretty

straightforward, as well as the [edamames](#). (Soybeans)

SV: What's it like being a woman organic farmer in the middle of a fairly male-dominated, industrial-scale, conventional agriculture?

BR: I really didn't think about when I moved here. I'd been farming in a very progressive city, Portland. It didn't really occur to me. I just thought it was great to be back in my hometown. I don't know that *anyone* could get away with it. I had prior relationships with the families that farm around here. It's more of a challenge. The farm auctions are a trip. When you're in a sea of men wearing Carharts and you're one of the only women in the room, that's pretty intense. I'm only buying antique seed cleaning equipment. You do tend to get a lot of attention. It's not something I ever really wanted, I guess. It is a traditional male profession.

All my neighbors tell me I work too hard for having only seven acres.

SV: Is it because you have so many different crops?

BR: Yes, the diversity and the small scale.

My neighbor over here (gestures to the south) always says, "You organics, you work too hard." (Laughs) I feel bad that I'm turning them off to organics because I work so hard. In some ways I wish my neighbors were doing organics, because they have the expertise when it comes to the equipment and the growing conditions. I'm surrounded by excellent farmers. They know the soil, they know their crops. They know what they need to do. I always think: They're the ones that should be farming. I don't necessarily have the mechanical skills to sustain me for a long time to be a farmer, but they do.

SV: What is that is keeping them from becoming organic? Do they spray a lot of Roundup?

BR: The trend now is that they are using a lot of GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) crops. That's a lot of what's going on, GMO corn and alfalfa seed. You name it. It's here. Organic farming? They just don't know anything about it. They're on a track or in a mindset that this is what they know. They don't want to change. They don't want to be different. Guys like Fred Brossy and Mike Heath, they were all conventional farmers, but somehow they took a look at the economics—and the soil quality—and they decided that they needed to change. I don't know why it doesn't appeal to the big brothers of the world, speaking of my brother.

SV: How does it affect you to be growing with all the GM crops around you?

BR: It's part of the process. If I take on a crop, I have to consider whether it could cross-pollinate with a GMO crop that is being grown across the road by my neighbor. I certainly can't do a corn seed project here because there is GMO corn in all four directions. So I certainly can't do that. (Laughs) It's just part of it. I have great relationships with my neighbors. I don't judge them. We just talk. And I would much rather have my farmer neighbors than a subdivision.

SV: Which it looks like a very real possibility around here.

BR: All the farmland is sold. It's just a matter of time before it's developed.

SV: So you'd rather see a crop of GMO corn over there than a bunch of row houses?

BR: I think so. Neither one is a pretty picture, but I have a lot of sentiment about the farmland having grown up here. It's the toughest thing about being home; all the farmland that is growing houses.

SV: It's got to be hard for you.

BR: It's a big emotional deal...but organics makes sense to me. It's the only way that I could farm, to take good care of my soil, and feed it. And know that through the healthy soil I'm growing some healthy plants that give me high quality seed. It's the only way that it's made sense.

SV: Do you think that organic seed is really important for organic production?

BR: That's a tough one. In my mind, I know that if I have a healthy plant it's going to resist pests and some disease pressures. I've grown enough fresh produce to know that I don't need treated seed, or conventionally grown seed, to get good production. I've grown enough with my own seed or with Seeds of Change seed to know that I get great results. It's been grown in an organic system and it's going to an organic system. That's what the seed knows. At the greenhouse, when people ask, "why would I want organic seed? Why wouldn't I want to get seed at the store that's been raised conventionally?" I try to explain that those seeds have been produced under high input production, with high doses of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, that's what that seed knows, and it's going into an organic system that doesn't use those fertilizers and obviously not those pesticides. The only way I have been able to try and communicate this is that it's like if you as an American got plopped in an Asian culture where you don't know the language or the food or the culture. You don't know any of that. That's the only way I can try to explain it to people. Aren't you going to be more comfortable being stateside? People all know what the American flag is, and spaghetti is spaghetti, and Wal-Mart is Wal-Mart... (Laughs)

SV: Bad analogy! (Laughs)

BR: But, you know. You drive on the right side of the road, all those things. That's the only way I've been able to explain it. I don't know if it works or not. You can give me some feedback.

SV: It makes perfect sense to me that seeds which are grown in an organic system and bred in an organic system are going to perform better in organic systems in the end. They're not going to be looking for those intense inputs.

SV: What are your favorite crops to grow, the ones that you have an attachment to? I heard you talking to some of them today like they were your buddies.

BR: Yeah, my buddies! (Laughs) I love the [edamames](#) because they are so nutritious as well as delicious and tasty. I wish more people in the world ate edamame because they are just so good. Economically they are a good crop for me as well. They take a little extra work to combine but I always look forward to all the edamame I can eat when they're in season.

For me, I love doing new things, like direct seeding a row of [onions](#) and getting a good crop from that, something that I've never done before. But you also have to keep doing what you know how to do, and do it well. The garden [beans](#) I like for different reasons. I can mechanically handle them from start to finish. I've been able to find some small scale bean cleaning equipment to make them efficient to grow. Does that make sense?

SV: Yes it does. Thanks so much for talking with us.

Scott Vlaun
Editor

PLASTIC OR PAPER?

http://www.seedsofchange.com/enewsletter/issue_61/plastic_packs.asp

Seeds of Change is switching out its seed packs to new reusable, recyclable envelopes. This state-of-the-art packaging requires less energy to manufacture, has a longer shelf life, and can be re-sealed to store unplanted seed or re-used for other purposes.

Why did Seeds of Change make this switch? It takes less fossil fuel and energy to make these plastic envelopes compared to our old paper envelopes. The new packs can be recycled as number one plastic, accepted by most recyclers. These new packs are therefore more environmentally friendly and have a smaller total carbon footprint than the traditional paper envelopes.

The packs can be re-sealed (in case all of the seed is not planted in one season), re-used, or recycled, rather than discarded after use. These new packs are therefore more user-friendly and allow you more flexibility in how you use them.

Hermetically sealed and unopened plastic packs remain fresh, per USDA requirements, for two years, much longer than traditional paper packaging. The new packs are therefore also superior for storing seed.

When we holistically examined the entire process of manufacturing, transporting, storing, and using this type of new plastic pack, we concluded that they had less of an environmental impact than our old paper envelopes, as well as superior performance and more user-friendliness. We are confident that this is the most functional and sustainable seed packaging available and that it is consistent with our twenty-year-old Mission. We trust that you will agree.

**SUSTAINABLE CACAO: Seeds of Change and Conservation International
Join Forces to Fight Rainforest Devastation**

http://www.seedsofchange.com/enewsletter/issue_61/cacao.asp

Partnership will focus on supporting an environmentally sustainable cacao industry

Seeds of Change is pleased to announce that it will partner with Conservation International (CI) on vital programs to create an environmentally sustainable cacao industry in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest where both cacao farming and biodiversity are in jeopardy.

Seeds of Change and CI will work to expand and strengthen beneficial practices of traditional cacao farming that help to naturally protect and conserve forest biodiversity, while at the same time benefiting the livelihoods of cacao farmers. Forest biodiversity has gradually disappeared in recent times as farmers in the region have battled devastating plant diseases that have put farms out of business and threatened the feasibility of these more eco-friendly growing methods.

The two organizations will work with local cooperatives in Southern Bahia to rebuild the more sustainable system of cultivating cacao called "cabruca" in which the cacao is naturally grown under a canopy of Atlantic forest trees. The canopy serves as an essential secondary habitat for endangered forest fauna and flora that are disappearing with increased deforestation. The Institute for Social and Environmental Studies of Southern Bahia (IESB) and the State University of Santa Cruz (UESC) will provide valuable local support to this project.

"This partnership with Conservation International is imperative to ensure and enhance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of cabruca systems," said Mark Koide, President of Seeds of Change. "Our work will help strengthen the cooperatives of small and medium-scale cacao producers and help the transition from conventional to sustainable agriculture, a crucial move to preserve the rainforests and stabilize the future of the cacao industry."

Farmers will receive critically needed education to prevent and manage the effects of "witches' broom" (*Crinipellis perniciososa*), a disease which has devastated cacao production and farming profits in recent years, and caused many struggling farmers to turn to more environmentally harmful businesses including logging, cattle ranching and robusta coffee growing in order to survive. Farmers will be taught how to graft the cacao trees with more disease resistant varieties, which will allow them to resume the cabruca system of growing that is so critical to advancing the restoration of farm forests in the most ecologically sensitive areas.

"The generous support of Seeds of Change will allow us to strengthen our alliances with Brazilian cacao producers in ways that both contribute to enhancing the biodiversity of the Atlantic Forest and the economic needs and interests of local farmers," said Paulo Gustavo Prado, Environmental Policy Director of CI's Brazil program.

Work will be concentrated on farms that can contribute to CI's 'Corridor' strategy which seeks to consolidate and connect established protected areas with unprotected forests to redevelop and expand essential habitats for local plant and animal species.

The project will help standardize important biodiversity farming practices throughout the Bahia cacao farming community and establish the necessary guidelines for the biodiversity-friendly production of cacao. It will also promote the region's practices on the national and international market. Small targeted research activities will be conducted to examine how these practices further contribute to biodiversity objectives and support cacao production.

The Seeds of Change partnership with CI marks the company's first global venture under its "One Percent Initiative," a philanthropic program the company created to dedicate one percent of its annual net sales to advance the cause of sustainable organic agriculture around the world.

About Conservation International

Conservation International (CI) applies innovations in science, economics, policy and community participation to protect the Earth's richest regions of plant and animal diversity and demonstrate that human societies can live harmoniously with nature. Founded in 1987, CI works in more than 40 countries on four continents to help people find economic alternatives without harming their natural environments. For more information about CI, visit www.conservation.org

About IESB

IESB—The Institute for Social and Environmental Studies in Southern Bahia is a Brazilian NGO that

conducts research, field projects, and other activities aimed at conserving the Atlantic Coastal Forest. Since its founding, IESB has been working at the interface between conservation and development, emphasizing the inclusion of local people and communities in the search for shared solutions. For more information, visit www.iesb.org.br

DISEASE OF THE MONTH: BOTRYTIS spp. (GREY MOLD) by Emily Gatch

http://www.seedsofchange.com/enewsletter/issue_61/disease_corner.asp

Purpose: To acknowledge the dim, soggy days of late winter and to herald our new introduction of four varieties of strawberries, a coveted crop that is particularly susceptible to this month's disease.

Botrytis is a saprophytic fungus that attacks most species of vegetables, fruits, and bulbs, both in the field and in storage. A saprophyte feeds on dead tissue and hastens the normal decay process, so Botrytis tends to thrive later in the season when harvest injuries and other pathogens have already compromised plants. The disease is characterized by a rapidly-progressing decay that quickly invades plant tissue and produces a grayish, velvety/powdery mold on the surface of the lesions. Gray mold is most severe in cool, humid temperatures and is thus a challenge for many winter greenhouse crops. Botrytis may form storage structures called sclerotia that can survive in the soil for several years.

Basic recommendations for all Botrytis control include avoiding damage, such as topping of onions, maintaining proper drying techniques for vegetable and fruit storage, reducing nitrogen fertilization to avoid lush leaf canopies, increasing plant spacing to facilitate air movement, ensuring burial of plant residues, and maintaining a minimum three year crop rotation.

Primary crops affected by Botrytis:

Onion:

B. allii: neck rot (primarily a storage disease)

B. squamosa: Botrytis leaf blight or Botrytis blast

Basil, Lettuce, Bean, Pepper, Tomato, Cabbage, Strawberry:

B. cinerea: gray mold

Emily Gatch

Greenhouse and Pathology Coordinator

FARM REPORT: FEBRUARY 2007 by Kelle Carter

http://www.seedsofchange.com/enewsletter/issue_61/farmreport.asp

Even though the gardens are resting, we seem busier than ever here on the Research Farm. January and February have had us traveling around the country attending regional sustainable agriculture conferences. Some of these conferences attended by Seeds of Change staff include: the American Seed Trade Association Conference in Tucson, Arizona; Ecological Farming Association Conference in Monterey, California; Southern Sustainable Agricultural Working Group Conference in Louisville, Kentucky; the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin; The Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture Conference in State College, Pennsylvania; and of course the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We encourage gardeners and farmers on all

scales to attend these very informative and beneficial conferences. If you do, please visit the Seeds of Change booth to say hi and take home some free seeds!

The weather has been very unpredictable these days. Spring seems to be popping up, like the bulbs in my garden, and then I wake up to a new blanket of snow. We have been graced with some sunny 50° days that make everyone want to go outside and cut back the perennial flowers. Other work on the to-do list includes planting poppies and larkspurs, feeding the soil with compost, planting [apple trees](#), and putting in [strawberries](#) which we are excited to have added to our catalog of offerings.

Seed cleaning is continuing to keep us occupied; however, the piles of seed are slowly decreasing. We recently purchased some exciting new seed cleaning machines as well as pathology equipment, which will make our seed processing even more state-of-the-art. Emily Skelton, Seed Cleaning and Quality Coordinator, is excited to add to her collection of equipment a new Indent Separator and a Belt Grader. For hot water treating seed, Emily Gatch, Greenhouse Coordinator and Assistant Seed Cleaner, now has a machine specific to this need. As the equipment came from Holland, and has European wiring, we are waiting for our electricians to install them before we can power them up. These machines will increase efficiency as well as improve the quality of our seed.

Now is also the time for farm maintenance that cannot be tackled during the growing season. Joe, all-around handyman, has been busy fixing the roof on our storage shed and installing new pipes for the irrigation in the greenhouse, which is also full of activity. We have begun to propagate the [Yacon](#) for sale in April, as well as beginning the cold stratification for any hard-to-germinate perennial herbs and flowers.

We are still enjoying the fruits of our labor from this past summer. The jars of tomatoes are rapidly disappearing from the shelves and the freezer door is having an easier time closing. We are staying well fed with the onions, garlic, potatoes, and winter squash harvested last season, and the greenhouse is now full of [lettuce](#) and [kale](#).

I hope everyone has had a nice winter season and is feeling rejuvenated and excited for this coming growing season.

**Happy spring,
Kelle Carter
Farm Field Coordinator**

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NEWS & VIEWS

http://www.seedsofchange.com/newsletter/issue_61/news.asp

Organic Seed Alliance calls for Input and Proposals for 5th Biennial Organic Seed Growers Conference

Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) recently announced the 5th Organic Seed Growers Conference, to be held February 14-15, 2008 at the Salem Convention Center in Salem, Oregon. The Organic Seed Growers Conference, co-hosted by OSA, Oregon State University (OSU) and Washington State University (WSU), is the largest meeting of seed professionals engaged in organic seed production, research, and plant breeding in the United States. The event brings together producers, university extension and researchers, seed industry professionals, and food industry participants from across the country. Past conference topics have included seed pathology, seed biology, breeding for nutrition, breeding for ecological complexity,

seed economics and marketing, and presentations from experienced organic seed producers. Conference attendees receive practical information, cutting edge research, and inspired stories from the field. The public call for input and proposals of presentations or posters is open through June 1st, 2007. The 2008 conference will also feature a one day pre-conference Short Course on the Fundamentals of Organic Seed Production to be held on February 13, 2008.

Please visit <http://www.seedalliance.org> for more information or to learn about opportunities for sponsorships and vendor booths.

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Pollinator Populations at Risk

Long-term population trends for some North American pollinators—bees, birds, bats, and other animals and insects that spread pollen so plant fertilization can occur—are "demonstrably downward," says a recent report from the National Research Council. Research indicates that shortages of pollinators for agriculture already exist and that decreases in wild pollinator populations could disrupt ecosystems in the future.

The report notes that much more data has been gathered on pollinators in Europe, where researchers have definitively documented declines and even extinctions. Nevertheless, there was sufficient evidence for the committee to conclude that some North American species are in decline, especially the honeybee. Honeybees are crucial to agriculture, pollinating more than 90 commercially grown crops.

To learn more about this important issue visit <http://www.pollinator.org/> For the full press release from the National Academy of Science and a link to the full report, go to <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=11761>

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Keyline Design Workshops & Lectures in Southern California with Leading Permaculturist Darren Doherty April 21–May 4, 2007

The Keyline Design Courses (KDC) in Southern California will be an intensive blend of technical and practical sessions and are targeted at professional land managers & consultants, earthmovers & anybody interested in practical and cost-effective broadscale landscape restoration. The KDC's will outline all of the principles and techniques involved with the modern, practical application of Keyline Design.

Courses will include a six day Workshop Intensive in Goleta, CA (near Santa Barbara), a two day Course in Cuyama, CA (near Ojai), and a one day Course in San Luis Obispo, CA.

Keyline systems of water and soil conservation were developed in Australia during the 1950s by P.A. Yeomans as a response to increasing desertification and erosion of the landscape. Keyline is a set of principles and techniques based on a whole systems approach that works with natural patterns to restore or increase the depth and fertility of the soil, while increasing its water holding capabilities.

For more information contact the Santa Barbara Permaculture network online at <http://www.sbpermaculture.org/upcoming.html>

8th International Permaculture Conference

The 8th International Permaculture Conference and the following Convergence (IPC8) will be held in Brazil in May 2007. The Conference theme will be Greening our Economy with the Principles of Permaculture. Over forty countries will be participating and an internationally prominent panel of presenters will be focusing on designing the dynamic economies capable of challenging the specter of global warming and peak oil.

The international umbrella organization responsible for the event will be Permacultura America Latina (PAL), which is a USA registered 501(c)3 non-profit that has been working in Central and South America since 1989. The director for IPC8 is renowned permaculturist and teacher Ali Sharif. See his [Director's blog](#).

For more information visit www.ipc8.org

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