

Atlantic Master Gardeners Association 2018 Annual Conference



Gardening in a Changing Environment

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture, Truro (Bible Hill), Nova Scotia



Program

09:00	Registration	Collins Building 160 College Rd.
09:15	Welcome	
09:30	Keynote Speaker	Catherine Abreu Climate Action Network Canada
10:45	Break	
11:00	Monarch Butterfly Project	Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Stephanie Hughes	Seed Bank Initiative ACORN
14:00	Seed Bank Tour	
14:30	Break	
14:45	Jayne Melrose	Building Community Gardens Common Roots Urban Farm
16:00	Conference Wrap Up	



Program Outline

Keynote Speaker

Catherine Abreu

Climate Action Network Canada

Impact of Climate Change on our Environment

Catherine is one of Canada's foremost sustainable energy campaigners, with over 10 years of experience campaigning on environmental issues including 6 years in the heart of the Canadian climate movement.

She joined CAN-Rac Canada in July 2016, after five years leading the energy and climate change mitigation programs at the Ecology Action Centre, Atlantic Canada's longest-running environmental advocacy organization. She is also the former Coordinator of the Atlantic Canada Sustainable Energy Coalition (ACSEC).

Catherine is committed to work that confronts climate change head-on, wielding bold and creative strategies. She thinks a lot about citizenship, community, and beauty, and does her best to incorporate those values in all that she does.

An accomplished public speaker, Catherine has been honoured to share the stage with some of Canada's leading environmental thinkers including David Suzuki and Maude Barlow. Her commentary has featured in many news outlets including the New York Times, the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, the Financial Post and VICE. She appears frequently on CBC, CTV, Global and other current affairs television and radio programs.

Catherine is a dedicated collaborator and community organizer. In the last decade, she has founded and/or supported the work of nine distinct coalitions, including: the Nova Scotia Coalition for Climate Action (NSCCA), the Nova Scotia Fracking Resource and Action Coalition (NOFRAC), the Maritimes' Sustainable Energy Transition Initiative, Ladies' Beverage Room (a female DJ collective) and Friends of the Khyber (a heritage- and arts- preservation society)



The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute Monarch Butterfly Project

The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI) is a co-operative of land owners and researchers in Kempt, Queen's County, Nova Scotia, working together with a mission to promote sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation. They have many projects, including the "Butterfly Club" that works to help monarch butterflies by planting *Asclepias incarnata*. Staff from MTRI will present on this and other recent research and education projects.



Stephanie Hughes
Atlantic Canada Regional Organic Network ACORN
Regional Program Coordinator
Seed Bank Initiative - [seed@\[acornorganic.org\]](mailto:seed@[acornorganic.org)

Stephanie joined ACORN in February of 2013. Since then she's been working as part of The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security to support farmers and seed savers, increase ACORN's knowledge of and involvement with seed networks, and strengthen Atlantic Canada's wonderful, and blossoming seed movement. Steph's work includes designing and supporting research, training, and networking projects and events for growers, as well as working within the emerging seed library movement. From ACORN's renowned annual conference to the Bauta Initiative's many field-based projects, Steph's role is central to ensuring that Atlantic Canada's seed community is visible in this work, supported by the program, and able to contribute to a national seed movement that is everyday finding itself stronger and more capable.

Steph has an academic background in International Development Studies, with a focus on food issues and a minor in Political Science, from Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the execution of her work for ACORN, Steph draws upon nearly a decade of experience working in social and environmental justice movements, including years of exploration (volunteering and studying) to better understand and improve food sovereignty at the community level, both in Canada and internationally. With a particular background in community development, permaculture, and communications, Steph endeavours to bring a systems approach to this work, engaging with folks in a collaborative and empowering way.



Jayne Melrose
Common Roots Urban Farm

Jayne Melrose was raised feral in the boreal forest of northern BC, by European parents who firmly believed in self-sufficiency, especially in regards to food. She studied ecological horticulture and permaculture at Linnaea Farm School on Cortes Island, BC., followed with a Bachelor of Community Design from Dalhousie. From 2011- 2017 she was the Project Coordinator at Common Roots Urban Farm, Halifax NS.

