

Farm Holidays 2009

Conservation Holidays with *TLC* The Land Conservancy of BC are a great way to experience special places all over the province. By pulling up those sleeves and participating in stewardship work that goes into caring for *TLC*'s partner farms, people are able to learn new skills, meet new people and enjoy the outdoors.

If you have an interest in growing food organically, protecting local farmland or learning about food security issues – these holidays are the perfect opportunity to do so. You get a taste of life on the farm and see the value of small-scale agriculture. All our farms demonstrate that agriculture that works in concert with natural systems can be productive as well as ecologically sensible.

Foxglove Farm: Experience Sustainable Food Production

Thursday, June 4 to Sunday, June 7, 2009

Join Michael Ableman and his wife Jeanne-Marie Herman on their stunning 120-acre farm on the shoulder of Mt Maxwell. The farm is surrounded by forest, pastures, and creeks, and borders pristine Maxwell Lake. The farm currently produces strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, asparagus, melons, a wide range of annual Mediterranean vegetables, and a new orchard of diverse varieties of peach, plum, apple, pear, quince, persimmon, and cherry. Grain production and mixed livestock are also in development. Michael and Jeanne-Marie have over 30 years of farming and market garden experience.

Madrona Farm: Planting Season (July) and Harvest Time (September)

Sunday, June 28 and Sunday, September 13, 2009

If you are looking for an introduction to our holidays – these are good ones to get your feet wet as they are a day long. Last year, this holiday was a great success due to the beautiful weather, useful wisdom passed on by farmer David Chambers and his wife, Nathalie, the interesting work tasks and the feast that was prepared from produce harvested that afternoon. Gathering on the picnic tables, participants had the opportunity to learn about the campaign to protect the farm in perpetuity. *TLC* is fundraising to ensure the land will continue to be used for local, sustainable food production and conservation of biodiversity.

Glen Valley Organic Farm: A Few Days in the Life of a Farmer

Thursday July 9 to Sunday July 12, 2009

This 50-acre farm is located on the south shore of the Fraser River and was purchased by the Glen Valley Organic Farm Cooperative. The Co-op leases land and facilities to two farming enterprises. Now in their second year, Chris Bodnar and Jeremy Pitchford are growing mixed vegetables and Alyson Chisolms is working her magic with chickens, goats, and salad greens. Several springs are located on the property which provide water for the farm. There are also drainage channels and ponds that provide habitat for frogs, salamanders and insects. Raptors and songbirds are abundant, killdeer nest in the fields, and barn owls live in constructed bird boxes. Biodiversity and wildlife is further supported throughout the farm by the large variety of crops grown, the nearly 30 varieties of heritage apple trees, hedges of blackberries, and a wide mixture of cultivated fields and uncultivated grasslands.

www.conservationholidays.ca

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