



Event Release



Event Release Draft



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Assessing Beneficial Insect Habitat on Your Farm: A Predacious Ground Beetle Example

A collaborative farm walk of Gathering Together Farm and the Farmscaping for Beneficials Project at the Integrated Plant Protection Center and the Horticulture Department of Oregon State University

EVENT DATE: Thursday, September 1st, 2011

PLACE: Gathering Together Farm (GTF), Philomath, Oregon

TIME: 1:00-5:30 P.M.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Gwendolyn Ellen, 541-737-6272

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Are you interested in the important roles generalist predators like ground beetles play in biological pest management and the on-farm habitats associated with them? Can you define the gaps in beneficial insect habitat on your farm? Are you eager to enhance on-farm habitat for beneficial insects and find the labor and time costs involved quite high? Then come join OSU Farmscaping for Beneficial and landscape ecology researchers Thursday, September 1st from 1-5 as we tour a habitat-diverse, certified organic vegetable farm with expert farmer and land steward, John Eveland.

After the tour we will be working with you to develop in-field, graphic tools to assess beneficial insect habitat and learn about practices you can use to enhance habitat. We will be concentrating on practices that can be adapted within busy farm production plans. We will also be treated to some of the latest information gained from years of research conducted with GTF and other Willamette Valley farms on on-farm populations of predacious ground beetles and the habitats they prefer. Then after we finish up we will cool off with mouth-watering samples of GTF's fabulous watermelons.

You will be enjoying an intimate snapshot of our local agricultural biodiversity and its benefits on a locally favorite organic farm. GTF (www.gatheringtogetherfarm.com) is owned by John Eveland and Sally Brewer and has been a certified organic vegetable farm for over 20 years. They are a 300 share CSA with an exquisite on-farm restaurant and market. They attend 7 local farmers markets, and sale to local restaurants and wholesale markets. The farm is over 65 acres consisting of various small parcels nestled beside the Marys River. It contains mature riparian habitat, forested and grassy edges, a four year old beetle bank and abundant blooming in-field habitat practically all season long partially due to their long-time partnership with Wild Garden Seeds, which grows certified organic flower and vegetable seeds on site.

This is a free **BYOB** (bring your own bug) event so if some insect has been *bugging* you this summer and you don't know what it is pop it in a jar and bring it along. We'll help you identify it.

The Farmscaping for Beneficials Project works to support grower-led activities that build the knowledge and implementation of conservation biological control (CBC) on local farms. CBC involves methods used on and around farms to restore and enhance beneficial organism populations that may limit pest populations. Such methods may include insectary plantings, flowering field margins, beetle banks and hedgerows.