



P.O. Box 93, Maxwell, CA 95955

5th Annual HGSA Summer Conference & Trials

Where does Home Garden Seed come from?

September 5-8, 2012 • Boise, Idaho

ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY, September 5

AFTERNOON:

Arrive in Boise, Idaho. Our conference hotel is the Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown, centrally located near the center of beautiful downtown Boise. We're staying in the heart of the Treasure Valley, a world renowned seed production area. Hence the theme of this year's meeting, "Where does Home Garden Seed come from?"

EVENING

Welcome reception

Settle in, and then attend the opening reception from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., hosted by *High Mowing Seeds and Renee's Garden*. Spend a little time catching up and socializing with new and old friends. Enjoy dinner on your own at any number of downtown restaurants within walking distance . . . take in "Alive after Five" at the Grove Plaza fountain. Empty Pockets (a country variety band) is the performing act this evening. Alive After Five begins at 5pm and lasts until 8 pm.

THURSDAY, September 6

MORNING:

Breakfast: We'll start the morning with breakfast at the hotel and our HGSA Membership meeting before we dive into this year's trials and tours.

- I. **HGSA Summer Membership Meeting EZ from Seed** <http://www.ezfromseed.org>
Becoming a gardener has taken on a new cachet and growing your own food continues to be the "next best thing". We'll talk about how the HGSA can continue to help all members to educate and grow their markets. Outline what the HGSA is doing and have a proactive discussion of what we should do to sustain and promote growing from seed.
- II. **Syngenta's Nampa Research Station** <http://www.syngenta-us.com>
Our first stop is the local Syngenta research station to view our 2012 HGSA Vegetable trials. We will tour the facility and have plenty of time in the field. It will be a real treat to see one of Syngenta's North American vegetable seed research locations.

III. Crookham's Sweet Corn Nursery <http://www.crookham.com>

Our second stop is a visit and tour of Crookham Company's sweet corn nursery and a second planting of our 2012 HGSA trials. Take this opportunity to learn about the mysterious world of breeding everyone's favorite snack, popcorn!

AFTERNOON:

Lunch: A special outdoor luncheon will be hosted by Crookham Seed Company at Ste. Chapelle Winery in the Snake River Valley. <http://www.stechapelle.com>

IV. Master Gardeners - To take advantage of this outdoor setting, we will have a guest panel of local master gardeners/garden media on the topic of "Marketing 201: What Do We Need to Tell Gardeners?" The panel will discuss and answer our questions about increasing and promoting gardening from seeds. This discussion will also follow up on our Spring Mailing "**Seed Buying 101**".

V. Charter Packaging <http://www.charterseed.com>

Onward to Melba, Idaho where we will have a personalized tour of Charter Packaging by Gene Hayes. What better way to end the day than a stroll through this specialty packaging facility.

EVENING:

Dinner: A very special evening is planned for us. Hosted by Wild West Seed, we will begin our evening reception with wine & beer tasting from one the area's local wineries, Sawtooth Winery. For dinner, the Chef will create a wonderful regional menu for us to experience the fresh summer flavors from Idaho. Dinner is hosted by Syngenta Seeds. Come, relax and enjoy the breathtaking view of the Treasure Valley, plus all that Sawtooth has to offer.

FRIDAY, September 7

MORNING:

Breakfast: Gather at our hotel for a group breakfast before we depart for another day of tours and informative sessions.

I. Nunhems' US Headquarters <http://nunhemsusa.com>

You will enjoy an informative tour of the Nunhems facility in Parma, Idaho. This is a unique opportunity to visit this newly update North American state-of-the-art seed processing and shipping hub.

II. Dorsing Seeds <http://www.dorsingseeds.com>

Travis Parish will host us for a tour of our HGSA Flower trials at their corporate headquarters. Included in the visit will be a glimpse of their research trials, warehouse and conditioning equipment.

AFTERNOON:

Lunch: The afternoon schedule necessitates box lunches on the bus ride back to Boise.

III. Idaho Department of Agriculture

<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/InspectionsExams/indexInspectExams.php>

We start with a brief stop to visit the state capital's main agriculture office. The State of Idaho produces crops that are shipped globally, so we will have an overview as to what is required to meet global phytosanitary requirements. We will have a brief presentation from Celia Gould, Director and Mike Cooper, Bureau Chief.

- IV. **Community Garden** - step out the door from the Dept. of Ag and you will notice the community garden sponsored by Seminis Garden. This unique garden is maintained by the women's transitional facility, right next door. John Marchese from Monsanto will relate the story of the garden and how it's flourished under the care of the women in residence.
- V. **Idaho Botanical Garden** <http://www.idahobotanicalgarden.org>
Walk across the street for a beautiful tour of the Idaho Botanical Gardens. The lovely location of these gardens offer a unique view of what grows at this elevation and region, including the Lewis & Clark Native Plant Garden and the Bureau of Land Management Firewise Garden.
- VI. **Round Table Discussions**
Walk one block to the Bishop's House for **Seed Production 201 "Where does Garden Seed Come from?"** An informative and interactive session centered on specialty seed production. We will begin with three different seed producers showing a brief video about their specific production areas and species. Many spirited questions and answers to follow from the attendees.
- VII. **The Importance of Pollinators** – guest speaker Eric Mader from the Xerces Society <http://www.xerces.org> will speak to us about habitats and conservation of natural and cultivated pollinators. Pollinators are essential to 70% of the world's flowering plants. Without pollinators, we would not enjoy strawberries, apples, pumpkins, blueberries . . . the list goes on to over 100 US crop plants that need pollinators. This topic is of central importance to our US food supply and our business!

EVENING:

Closing Reception <http://www.thebishopshouse.com>

Our hosts will be Seeds by Design at The Bishop's House. Enjoy your refreshments in this historical building or move outside to the covered porch or shade trees. Following the reception the bus will return to the hotel for you to enjoy a leisurely dinner on your own in the Boise area. A listing of recommended restaurants will be provided. Downtown Boise is a wonderful place to stroll and has many excellent restaurants in all price ranges.

SATURDAY, September 8 - OPTIONAL DAY

MORNING:

For those how have registered for our optional day, we will meet in the lobby at 9:30 am to walk to the **Capital City Market** <http://www.capitalcitypublicmarket.com>. This Saturday morning market in downtown Boise is right around the corner from our hotel. Partake of the vendors that supply fruit, vegetables, baked goods, local crafts jewelry and much more to the region. After our time in the market we will drive the short distance to tour and enjoy a freshly prepared lunch at **Peaceful Belly organic farm** <http://www.peacefulbelly.com>.

We look forward to seeing you in September!