

## NASGA Explores Maine!

August 22-23 2006



Above: Host David Handley discusses research at Highmoor Farm while Anne Geyer looks on.

Below Charles Keddy with fellow nurseryman Gilbert Allen



## Maine 2006

NASGA summer tours continue to be a popular venue for it members. The Maine tour had two buses full of enthusiastic growers and extension specialists. Tour hosts David Handley and Donna Buckley did not disappoint us providing a variety of great tour stops. Our farm hosts were wonderful and not only welcomed us on their farms but openly described their operations.

Research at Highmoor Farm focuses on a wide variety of horticultural crops including Strawberries, raspberries, apples, cut flowers in tunnels and a variety of vegetables. Cut flowers appeared to be very popular with the growers we visited. Below is an example of flowers growing on raised beds at Chipman's Farm.



David Pike had a very impressive operation that had some of the nicest raised beds I have ever seen. Below you can see the grass strips between the rows





## NASGA'S Ninth Annual Summer Tour

"NASGA Members Coast to Coast - meet with us to learn the most!"

Explore Agriculture in coastal areas of Maine

### Tuesday, August 22 - Thursday August 24, 2006

#### Tuesday, August 22

Bus leaves Holiday Inn By the Bay at 11:30 am  
(Lunch will be provided on board the bus)

7:30 am - 11:00 am	NASGA Board Meeting (Breakfast Buffet Provided)
11:15 am	Meet in Hotel Lobby
11:30 am	Bus Departs Holiday Inn

#### Tour Stops



**Monmouth, ME - Highmoor Farm, Maine  
Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station**  
Hosted by: Dr. David Handley, Vegetable & Small Fruit Specialist, & Mr. Greg Koller, Highmoor Farm Superintendent

*Highmoor Farm has been serving the fruit and vegetable industries of Maine since 1909 when it was purchased by the State to serve as an experiment station for apples and other horticultural crops. Since that time, it has served a broad range of agricultural interests, ranging from fruit and vegetable breeding, to composting. The "Brock" apple and "Patriot" blueberry were developed here, as well as some of the first scab resistant cucumbers and red stele resistant strawberry lines.*



**Farmington, ME - Farm to You Market**  
Hosted by: David Pike

*David Pike has been a leader and innovator in bringing new production methods to strawberries in northern New England. He has developed raised bed systems, and experimented with different types of mulches and nutrient schemes to maximize production and fruit quality. Recently, he has been working to adapt a plasticulture system for Maine that can produce early high quality fruit and high yields under Maine's limited growing season. This promises to be a visit loaded with good ideas to take home.*



**Livermore, ME - Stevenson's Farm**  
Hosted by: Ford Stevenson

*Ford Stevenson has been one of the premiere growers of pick-your-own strawberries in Maine for over two decades. A long time NASGA member, Ford has adopted many innovative techniques to produce high quality fruit and maintain a loyal clientele year after year. This will be an opportunity to see some great looking fields in a beautiful location.*

 denotes NASGA Farm

**7:00 pm - Arrive Holiday Inn by the Bay**  
(Dinner and evening on your own in Portland, ME)

#### Wednesday, August 23

Bus departs Holiday Inn 7:00 am

6:45 a.m. Meet in Hotel Lobby to Board Bus  
7:00 am Bus departs for full day's tour

#### Tour Stops

**Limington, ME - Dole's Orchard**  
Hosted by: Earl Bunting

*The first apple trees were planted at Dole's Orchard in 1910, and it has been a working fruit farm ever since. Earl and his family grow pick-your-own apples, strawberries and raspberries as well as a range of other fruits and vegetables for their farm stand. The farm is situated on a scenic hilltop and surrounded by lakes and rivers, drawing customers from near and far to enjoy the produce, views and live music offered on summer weekends. The family also makes their own baked goods and preserves to sell at the stand.*

**Gray, ME - Cherryfield Foods Wild Blueberries**  
Hosted by: Dr. David Yarborough, Blueberry Specialist

*The Wild Blueberry holds a special place in Maine's agricultural history. Maine's Native Americans were the first to use the tiny blue berries, both fresh and dried, for their flavor, their nutrition and their healing qualities. In the 1840's, Wild Blueberries were first harvested commercially. Today, with an annual crop valued at more than \$75 million, Wild Blueberries make a major contribution to Maine's economy. The largest fields of Wild Blueberries are in the far eastern part of the state, but we will visit one of the smaller fields in southern Maine to see how this unique crop is managed.*



**New Gloucester, ME - Gillespie Farms**  
Hosted by: Lawrence & Greg Gillespie

*The Gillespies have been growing fruit and vegetables in the New Gloucester area for more than 30 years, and were one of the first farms to grow pick-your-own strawberries. The farm is now part of Pineland Farms; a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting local agriculture. The farm has recently undertaken an extensive program to develop modern irrigation facilities while preserving wetlands. Their strawberry crop is marketed both pick-your-own and wholesale.*