

A close-up photograph of a brown and black speckled hen perched on a wooden fence. The hen has a red comb and wattle, and its feathers are a mix of dark brown and black with lighter brown speckles. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a wooden fence.

Rudolf
Steiner
College

**Biodynamic Farming
and Gardening Education
2012-2013 Workshop Calendar**

Rudolf Steiner College

A Center for Biodynamic Education

Now in its 36th year, Rudolf Steiner College is one of America's leading centers for Waldorf teacher training and the study of anthroposophy, a path of human development initiated by Rudolf Steiner. An important part of the College's mission is bringing Rudolf Steiner's healing impulses to individuals, communities, and the earth. Located in Fair Oaks, California, near Sacramento, we offer a wide range of educational opportunities on a beautiful campus with dorms, a bookstore, and a biodynamic farm and ornamental gardens.



Biodynamic Education at Rudolf Steiner College

Rudolf Steiner College, a center for Biodynamic Education, proudly offers a comprehensive selection of biodynamic workshops, events, study groups, a farm apprenticeship program, garden tours, and volunteer days.

For more information or to register online, visit www.steinercollege.edu/biodynamics

Our Biodynamic Farm and Gardens

At the heart of Rudolf Steiner College sits Raphael Garden, our 3-acre, Demeter-certified biodynamic farm. Founded in 1987, the farm supports seasonal fruit, year-round vegetables, a large seed saving operation, farm animals, and natural beekeeping, in a beautiful, serene setting. The farm is a model of biodynamics in action. Soil fertility is maintained through use of compost, animal manure, cover crops, and crop rotations. Biodynamic compost and spray preparations, made locally, are used rhythmically throughout the seasons to enhance life forces. Most seeds are grown right on the farm. The farm is supported by more than 70 shareholders of the Raphael Garden CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).

What is Biodynamics?

Biodynamics, an agricultural method developed from indications given in 1924 by Rudolf Steiner, laid the foundation for a new way of thinking about the relationship of the earth and the formative forces of nature. The ideal biodynamic farm is a self-sufficient organism, enlivened by the biodynamic practitioner through the use of compost and spray preparations in cooperation with natural rhythms. The practice of biodynamics is a path of personal development that takes practitioners beyond physical labor into a deeper, more intimate connection with the earth, the cosmos and ultimately, themselves.

Biodynamic Apprenticeships

Raphael Garden at Rudolf Steiner College has positions for four apprentices annually. Through intensive garden work and unique academic experiences, individuals can gain valuable skills and a deeper understanding of biodynamics and small-scale farming. This apprenticeship qualifies for certification through NABDAP, the North American Biodynamic Apprentice Program.

Biodynamic Seeds

A variety of biodynamic seeds, locally grown at Raphael Garden, are distributed by Turtle Tree Seed. Purchase Raphael Garden (RG) seeds at the Bookstore at Rudolf Steiner College (916-961-8729) or visit www.TurtleTreeSeed.org

Farm Visits and Garden Tours

The farm and garden at Rudolf Steiner College are open to the public. Please come walk through them at your leisure. Formal tours of the farm and gardens can be arranged for small groups or organizations. Contact us at biodynamics@steinercollege.edu

Volunteer Days

Come work alongside our farmers and gardeners! Enjoy getting your hands in the soil and learn a little about biodynamics in practice.

Tuesdays, 9:30am-12:30pm. Just show up and find a farmer.

For More Information

www.steinercollege.edu/biodynamics

BDANC

BDANC, the Biodynamic Association of Northern California, is a member-run organization that promotes the biodynamic approach and fosters fellowship among farmers and gardeners throughout Northern California. Visit www.bdanc.org

To order locally-made, BDANC biodynamic preparations, call Harald Hoven at 916-965-0389.

Introduction to Biodynamics

September 8, 2012

With Harald Hoven and Jim Bowen

Learn the *whats, whys, and hows* of biodynamic agriculture while touring our biodynamic farm and garden. Bring questions and a desire for healthy discussion!

Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm

General

\$40 in advance

\$50 at the door

Student/Senior

\$30 in advance

\$40 at the door

Steiner's Lectures on Agriculture

Sept. 18 – Nov. 6, 2012

A study led by Harald Hoven. Please read Lecture One prior to the first session.

Tuesdays 7:00pm-8:45pm

Individual Sessions

General \$15

Student/Senior \$10

Entire Series (8 sessions)

General \$90

Student/Senior \$60



Perspectives on Biodynamics Workshop Series

Held one Saturday each month for nine months (September–May), with a five-day intensive in June. Sessions may be taken individually or as a series. Beginners and experts are welcome.



SESSION 1: September 15, 2012

Foundations in Biodynamics and Soils

This workshop will begin with an introduction to biodynamics: its origins, foundations, and defining concepts. The bulk of the day will be spent exploring the role of soil as a foundation for agriculture. Soil formation, classification, and management will be covered. Students will learn about agronomic aspects including fertility, nutrient cycling, and the role of soil organic matter. The workshop will conclude with preparation of a bed for planting. *With Hunter Francis and John DeRosier. Pre-register by September 8, 2012.*

SESSION 2: October 13, 2012

Understanding the Biodynamic Preparations

The preparations are Rudolf Steiner's special contribution to agriculture. Fermented herbs are used in compost to enliven the soil. Fermented cow manure and silica crystal are sprayed on soil and plants to stimulate root growth and aid plant maturation. We will make and apply "horn manure" (BD500), bury compost preparations, dig up "horn silica" (BD501), and learn about the balancing effect of the spray preparations (BD500 and BD501). *With Harald Hoven. Pre-register by October 6, 2012.*

SESSION 3: November 10, 2012

Principles of Biodynamic Composting

Compost and composting is at the heart of any biodynamic operation. This class will cover the essential tools for proper compost building; carbon to nitrogen ratios, porosity, water, and location of piles. We will build a compost pile together, learn how to make compost "biodynamic," and discuss how to understand the biodynamic compost preparations. *With Marney Blair and Lisa Bjorn. Pre-register by November 3, 2012.*

SESSION 4: December 1, 2012

Seed Saving for Self-Sufficiency

The miracle of the seed is the form of the future it carries within. Instead of importing seeds, learn to save your own seed—a crucial part of creating a self-contained farm organism—by encouraging varieties best suited for your environment. *With Harald Hoven. Pre-register by November 24, 2012.*

SESSION 5: January 26, 2013

Cosmic Rhythms and Planting Calendars

Life is rhythm. The plant is embedded in cosmic rhythms of the day and seasons, guided by sun, moon, and planets. Learn about cosmic influences that affect plants and how planting calendars help you see plants in relationship to cosmic events, increasing awareness of the land's cosmic surroundings. *With Harald Hoven and Brian Gray. Pre-register by January 19, 2013.*

SESSION 6: February 23, 2013

Biodynamic Orchard Care and Fruit Tree Pruning

Fruit trees have evolved with humanity over thousands of years. Their impressive yields of food, offerings of shade, and integration with the stable landscape make them incredibly valuable to the sustainable farm. We will discuss orchard site selection, planting techniques, pests and diseases, biodynamic applications, restoration of heritage trees, and orchard maintenance. We will have an extensive field component on tree pruning and root care. *With Daniel Nicholson. Pre-register by February 16, 2013.*

SESSION 7: March 16, 2013

Biodynamic Animal Husbandry

Explore the meaning of animal care from a biodynamic perspective. The class will discuss the role of the domestic animal and the role of the farmer in relation to the animal and the farm organism. Topics include proper nutrition, organic animal shelters, economics of raising animals, and how to develop an eye for your animals. *With Marney Blair and Lisa Bjorn. Pre-register by March 9, 2013.*

Continued on next page ►

Workshop Fees

Saturdays 9:00am-5:00pm

Individual Sessions

General

\$85 in advance
\$110 at the door

Student/Senior

\$65 in advance
\$90 at the door

Entire Series (9 sessions)

General

\$615 in advance
\$640 at the door

Student/Senior

\$465 in advance
\$490 at the door

Pre-registration is required for the following:

Advanced Intensive

General \$425
Student/Senior \$315

Entire Series (9 sessions) plus Advanced Intensive

General \$955
Student/Senior \$720





SESSION 8: April 13, 2013

Biodynamics and Permaculture

This workshop offers an integrated approach to soil, water, and rhythms of growth in plants and humans. We will explore patterns of energy and form in home-scale agriculture which connect us to the living soil, the living water, and the relationship between ourselves, our food, and our landscapes. We will explore the theory and practice of “swales”—on-contour ditches to reduce erosion, filter water, and build organic matter—with a hands-on exercise. *With Lydia Neilsen. Pre-register by April 6, 2013.*

SESSION 9: May 4, 2013

Biodynamics through the Grapevine

In this workshop we consider how observation and rhythms help develop a whole system outlook in the vineyard which leads to a healthy and full expression of the grape. Topics include cover cropping, diseases and pests, soil development, irrigation, and canopy work. Discussion focuses on the practices and principles of biodynamics as they relate to the health of the vineyard and the farmer. *With Daphne Amory. Pre-register by April 27, 2013.*



June 2013 (dates to be announced)

Weeklong Advanced Biodynamic Intensive

Culminating the year's sessions, this week will recapitulate and deepen the entire series' experiences. It includes presentations on the self-enclosed farm organism, plant observations, theoretical discussions, hands-on activities, and lectures and eurythmy based on the four kingdoms of nature. (This intensive can be taken separately, with permission.) *With Harald Hoven and Cynthia Hoven. Pre-registration is required.*



Four Seasons Biodynamic Beekeeping Workshop Series

With Keith Gelber. Sessions may be taken individually or as a series. Beginners and experts are welcome.

SESSION 1: October 20, 2012

Autumn Rest: Anticipating Winter

Get introduced to biodynamic beekeeping practices as we learn to care for the honeybee during the cold, dark time of the year. What is required before, during, and after winter? Topics include hive size, ventilation, overwinter feeding, and integrated pest management. We end with gifts from the hive: tasting honey and making lip balm. *Pre-register by October 13, 2012.*

SESSION 2: December 8, 2012

Mid-winter Dreams: Spring Planning

Form the basis of your beekeeping practices by developing an understanding of the honeybee's innate wisdom. Learn the respectful ways of biodynamic beekeeping and how to perform a "land audit" to prepare the location of your apiary. End by dipping candles to bring in light during the dark winter months. *Pre-register by December 1, 2012.*

SESSION 3: March 2, 2013

Spring Swarms: Building the Colony

We will cover spring buildup, first nectar flow, brood rearing, and spring integrated pest management. Get hands-on experience housing or catching a swarm and inspecting a hive. You will also have the option of assembling your own hive (e-mail kgelber@gmail.com by Feb. 5 if you plan to take home a hive: \$170 payable in class). *Pre-register by February 23, 2013.*

SESSION 4: May 11, 2013

Mid-season: Preparing for Dirth

Look at the honeybee within the greater context of the earth and cosmos, as presented in biodynamics. Deepen your skills in hive management according to biodynamic standards as we explore behavior of the bees through the season and what we need to do in response. We end by getting sticky as we learn to make feed for the bees. *Pre-register by May 4, 2013.*

Workshop Fees

Saturdays 9:00am-5:00pm

Individual Sessions

General

\$85 in advance
\$110 at the door

Student/Senior

\$65 in advance
\$90 at the door

Entire Series (4 sessions)

General

\$275 in advance
\$300 at the door

Student/Senior

\$210 in advance
\$235 at the door

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.



Meet our Faculty and Staff



Harald Hoven is director of Raphael Garden at Rudolf Steiner College, faculty member, and founder of BDANC. Trained in Germany as a certified horticulturalist, he is well known as a regional and international speaker on biodynamics.



Laura Liska is administrative coordinator for Biodynamic Education at Rudolf Steiner College. She teaches phenomenology and is involved regionally and nationally in organizing biodynamic education efforts. She is currently on sabbatical to do research at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland.



Daphne Amory works as a vineyard consultant and winemaker. She currently sits on the board of the BDA. Walking in a healthy, bio-diverse vineyard is her vision for every winegrower.



David Basile, former beekeeper and manager of the ornamental gardens at Rudolf Steiner College, teaches beekeeping and phenomenology. He is currently studying at Dominican University of California.



Marney Blair and Lisa Bjorn own Fulcrum Farm in Grass Valley, California. They raise turkeys, chickens, and cows, and run a biodynamic compost operation for use on small- and large-scale farms.



Jim Bowen is a biodynamic gardener and former Raphael Garden farm apprentice. He is the owner of Bowen Landscaping and Gardening. Jim is passionate about making biodynamics accessible to backyard gardeners, school gardeners, and commercial landscapers.



John DeRosier is a graduate of the Soil Science program at California Polytechnic State University where he served as production manager for its organic farm. He owns With the Grain, a certified biodynamic farm specializing in heirloom grains.



Hunter Francis, MS, is Director of the Center for Sustainability in the College of Agriculture at California Polytechnic State University, Board Director for the Central Coast Ag Network and the Kusa Seed Research Foundation, and co-editor of *Applied Biodynamics*.



Keith Gelber is the beekeeper at Rudolf Steiner College. He has worked with Gunther Hauk at Spikenard Farm and Honey Bee Sanctuary, is a trained Waldorf teacher, and has worked locally with the therapeutic craft curriculum of the Ruskin Mill Educational Trust.



Brian Gray, MLArch, is director of our Foundation Program. He has been a scholar of Anthroposophy, Cosmology, Sacred Architecture, and Star Wisdom for over 30 years.



Cynthia Hoven, MA, is a member of our arts faculty. She is a performing and therapeutic eurythmist who brings a special enthusiasm to the interface of eurythmy and biodynamics.



Lydia Neilsen is the Garden Teacher at the Santa Cruz Waldorf School and a Permaculture instructor with the Regenerative Design Institute in Bolinas. She works to bridge biodynamics and permaculture and bring awareness of the spiritual work of agriculture.



Daniel Nicholson is a naturalist and horticulturalist from the Sierra foothills. He operates an organic farm, cares for orchards and gardens, maintains educational and restoration efforts with the Yuba Watershed Institute, and teaches natural history and horticulture.



Workshop Calendar

NEW! Registration Requirements

For discounted prices pre-register online at www.steinercollege.edu (click on *Online Registration > Events, Workshops, and Special Events*).

Mail-in/fax pre-registration fee is \$10; workshop fees are higher for at-the-door registration (see workshop listings for pricing).

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged and in some cases required. If a course is cancelled you will be notified in advance and refunded promptly.

Questions? E-mail conferenceregistration@steinercollege.edu or call 916-864-4864.



September 2012

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- 15 Foundations in Biodynamics and Soils
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February 2013

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March 2013

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- 16 Biodynamic Animal Husbandry

April 2013

- 13 Biodynamics and Permaculture

May 2013

- 4 Biodynamics through the Grapevine
- 11 Four Seasons Biodynamic Beekeeping—Mid-season: Preparing for Dirth

June 2013

- TBA Weeklong Advanced Biodynamic Intensive

Mail-In/Fax Registration Form

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Introduction to Biodynamics

Single Session General \$40 Student/Senior \$30 \$ _____

Steiner's Lectures on Agriculture

Entire Series (8 Sessions) General \$90 Student/Senior \$60 \$ _____

Individual Sessions* General \$15 Student/Senior \$10 \$ _____

*Specify sessions: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Perspectives on Biodynamics Workshop Series

All 9 Sessions General \$615 Student/Senior \$465 \$ _____

All 9 Sessions + Intensive General \$955 Student/Senior \$720 \$ _____

Individual Sessions* General \$85 Student/Senior \$65 \$ _____

*Specify sessions: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Advanced Intensive* General \$425 Student/Senior \$315 \$ _____

*With permission can be taken separately.

Four Seasons Biodynamic Beekeeping Workshop Series

Entire Series (4 Sessions) General \$275 Student/Senior \$210 \$ _____

Individual Sessions* General \$85 Student/Senior \$65 \$ _____

*Specify sessions: 1 2 3 4

Mail-In/Fax Registration Fee \$ 10.00

TOTAL \$ _____

Registrations must be accompanied by payment. Returned check fee is \$25.

Check is enclosed, payable to **Rudolf Steiner College** MasterCard Visa

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ 3-Digit Security Code _____

Mail or fax form to: Event Registration, Rudolf Steiner College, 9200 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks, California 95628; Fax: 877-782-1885. **Cancellations:** To receive full refund of course fees, mail or e-mail cancellation requests 15 days before course begins. Cancellations/changes after 15-day deadline incur a \$25 fee. Refunds are issued 30 days after request. No refunds are given after course begins. **Questions?** E-mail conferenceregistration@steinercollege.edu or call 916-864-4864. **Housing:** Call 916-864-4816 or e-mail housing@steinercollege.edu





Rudolf Steiner College
BIODYNAMIC
Farming and
Gardening
EDUCATION

2012-2013 Workshop Calendar

Biodynamic Beekeeping * Compost
Grapes * Biodynamic Preparations
Seed Saving * Cosmic Rhythms
Tree Care * Animal Husbandry

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION: JEANNE DEPRINCE BOWEN
PHOTOGRAPHS: JIM HEATH, PETE HUFF, LAURA LISKA,
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