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NASGA's Ninth Annual Summer Tour 2006

**“ NASGA Members Coast to
Coast...meet with us and learn the
most!”**

**Explore Agriculture in “Vacationland”
The Way Life Should Be...Portland, Maine**

August 22-24, 2006



Registration Information





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.



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Page 3

Wednesday, August 23

Final Stops & Evening Events



Poland Springs, ME - Chipman Farms

Hosted by: Doug & Elaine Chipman

Established in 1781 as a dairy farm, Chipman Farm is one of Maine's oldest working farms. During the 1970's strawberries and vegetables were added to the operation, and are now the major focus. The Chipmans sell vegetables, flowers and fruit at three farm stands they operate in the area, and pick-your-own strawberries at the Farm in Poland Spring (yes, The Poland Spring). Doug and Elaine become leaders and innovators in entertainment farming, creating a "Pumpkin Land" every Halloween season and offering fall farm tours for school groups.



Cape Elizabeth, ME - Maxwell's Farm

Hosted by: Ken & Elsie Maxwell and Family

The Maxwell's have been farming in this coastal community for more than six generations, specializing in vegetables and, more recently, strawberries. The Maxwell's have been long-time NASGA members, with Ken serving as director for several years. Their strawberry fields are close to Portland, Maine's largest city, and while this has put tremendous development pressure on the area, the Maxwells have worked with the community and enjoy their support. Maxwell's Farm has long been a showplace for growing strawberries, with its beautiful seaside fields and great customer service.

5:30 pm *Group returns to Holiday Inn*

AG Tour Concludes

6:00 & 6:15 pm
Meet in Hotel Lobby to depart for Harbor Cruise & Lobster Dinner. (Bus will make 2trips)



6:30 - 9:30 pm *Harbor Cruise & Dinner*



9:45 pm *Return to Holiday Inn*

Thursday, August 24

Optional Side Trip to L.L. Bean & Outlet Shopping, Freeport, Maine

Ticketed Separately



<http://www.freeportusa.com/>

Freeport is a beautiful coastal Maine village with over 170 upscale outlets, designer shops, eclectic boutiques, B&B's, hotels, fantastic restaurants & casual cafes. Home to world-famous L.L.Bean and to numerous outdoor adventures; we invite you to come shop, play, dine and stay in Freeport! We're a beautiful drive north from Boston, and just 15 minutes north of Portland.

8:45 am Meet in Hotel Lobby to depart for Freeport
9:00 am Bus Departs Portland for Freeport

The bus will return and pick up passengers from a central location in Freeport returning to the Holiday Inn at 6:30 pm.

6:30 pm *Return to Holiday Inn*

Friday, August 25

Depart or Extend Your Stay in Portland, Maine





NASGA 2006 Summer Tour Details

TOUR GUIDE & HOST

Dr. David Handley, Vegetable & Small Fruit Specialist & NASGA Board Member, will be your host. David's career spans 20 years of innovative research on small fruit and vegetables. He will begin the tour by taking you to his home base at the University of Maine's Agricultural Experiment Station site, Highmoor Farm. Sign up today & learn about Maine agriculture!

The Maine 2006 NASGA Tour is also hosted by the Maine Vegetable & Small Fruit Grower's Association.

Take a closer look at some of our tour stops
Visit these web sites

- <http://www.chipmanpumpkinland.com/about.html>
- <http://www.maxwellsfarm.com/history.html>
- <http://dolesorchard.com/>



Portland's Old Port is one of the most successful revitalized warehouse districts in the country. Seamlessly connected to the waterfront, the Old Port is both a working waterfront and a chic shopping, dining, and entertainment district.

Taking a walk at the water's edge along Commercial Street provides a window into the working waterfront. Just steps from the water, one can stroll down the cobblestone streets and experience the quaint charm of this district. The boutique shopping, one-of-a-kind stores, restaurants serving Maine's famous lobster dishes or the latest nouveau cuisine, and a vibrant nightlife are all unparalleled to any other New England city.

The smell of the sea air, the sound of a foghorn, and the chatter of seagulls add to an atmosphere that is undeniably Portland, undeniably Maine.

- <http://www.portlandmaine.com/>
- <http://www.portlandmaine.com/index.php?sec=5>

HOTEL & TRAVEL INFORMATION



Our tour will be based at the **Holiday Inn By the Bay.**

1-800-345-5050
88 Spring Street
Portland, ME 04101

<http://www.innbythebay.com/>

Hotel Reservations The deadline to reserve a room in the NASGA group block is Friday, **July 14**. Discounted room rates will not be available after the deadline and we cannot guarantee room availability.

To Make Reservations: Call toll free 1-800-345-5050. Mention NASGA to receive the NASGA special room rate.

NASGA Room Rates: \$150.00 single/double. Rates are subject to local and state taxes (currently 7%). Arrivals are best after 4:00 pm and check out is at Noon.

Credit card upon check in required.

NASGA's room rates apply from August 21-24.

The Hotel Offers:

- 239 Guest Rooms, 3 Suites 11 Floors
- Port of Call Restaurant
- Within walking distance of the Old Port, working waterfront and Arts District
- FREE high-speed wireless Internet access in all rooms!
- Port of Call Restaurant and Lounge
- Complimentary Parking For Our Guests
- Largest Indoor Pool in area/Fitness Center and Sauna
- Gift Shop/Newsstand
- Dry Cleaning/Laundry
- On-site Guest Laundry Facilities (washer/dryer)
- Safety Deposit Box
- Wake Up Calls

Courtesy Vans Available: For transportation to and from Portland International Jetport, Amtrak Train Station and Bus Terminals.

Directions: Take I-95 to Exit 44 (formerly Exit 6a). Continue on I-295 to Exit 7, (Franklin Street). Stay on Franklin Street for five (5) lights. Take a right onto Middle Street, travel approximately 1 mile. (Middle Street turns into Spring Street.) Holiday Inn is on the left.

