

Rogers Farm Demonstration Garden **Field Day 2016**

"I want to compliment you, and all involved for a wonderful presentation. It was the first time attending for us!" (One of the many positive comments from Fall Field Day participants.)

Building on 2015's hugely successful Field Day at the Demonstration Garden, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Penobscot County Master Gardeners expanded their efforts at marketing and content for this annual event. The results were spectacular!

- **An increase in Master Gardener Volunteer and community partner participation** in planning, cooking, engaging with visitors, and running activities from roughly 25 to almost 50
- **An increase in visitor attendance** from roughly 100 to a best estimate of 207 this year, an increase of over 100%!
- **Two appearances on local television**—one from Kate Garland the day before to advertise and a second during Field Day itself highlighting our programs and activities
- **Headline programs** were Heron Breen's "Growing Great Garlic," State Toxicologist Dr. Lebel Hicks' "Poisonous Plants in the Garden," and an ongoing peony division demonstration by the Peony Society of Maine
- **Other activities** included a greatly-expanded and well received children's A-Z scavenger hunt, face painting, animal yoga for kids, dye swatches from plants in the garden, an herbed vinegar and butter exhibition by the Maine Herb Society, more home-cooked food than could be eaten, pest management information from the Cooperative Extension, and live bluegrass music from farm manager Joe Cannon and several members of his band and UMaine graduate students



A wonderful day with the citizens of Penobscot County was facilitated by the kind support, cooperation, and participation we received from the Peony Society of Maine, the Maine Herb Society, Sprague's Nursery and Garden Center, Windswept Gardens, and Treworgy Family Orchards. To those of you who were able to join us, thank you so much for your visit and the energy you brought to a fun celebration. To those who weren't able to make it, we missed you, but will hopefully see you for an even more successful Field Day in 2017!