

**Transition Guelph Urban Food Working Group
Forest Gardening Workshop and Work Exchange**

September 17, 2011

On a gorgeous sunny autumn day, a group of over twenty participants joined Ben Caesar at his new farm in the Beaver Valley, on which he is applying the principles of Permaculture. There were interactive discussions around Forest Gardening and Permaculture, with Ben sharing a few good reference books. The focus was on reviewing the maps of his current and future permaculture sites, building swales and sheet mulching. The group helped Ben design some swales, but the ground was too hard and rocky for manual digging, and sheet mulch some more area close to the house. The tour included linden trees (also called basswood), Asian pear, heritage apples, sea kale, shipova, chum, gooseberry and other perennial edibles. We finished the day with a walk to the Beaver River, where some participants waded in.

