

Special Collections and
University Archives
UMass Amherst Libraries 

Bill Duesing Collection

Digital

1995-2000

1 box (1.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 760



[About SCUA](#)

[SCUA home](#)

[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Living on the Earth](#)

[Politics of Food](#)

[Admin info](#)

[Download](#)

[xml version](#)

[print version \(pdf\)](#)



[Read collection overview](#)

A pioneer in organic agriculture in New England, Bill Duesing has been as an environmental educator, writer, artist, and lecturer over for four decades. After graduating from Yale University (1964), Duesing worked as a Cooperative Extension agent before turning to organic principles in the early 1970s. Emphasizing sustainability and greater local food sufficiency, he has been instrumental in developing organic standards for gardening and land care and he has served as both founding president and later executive director of the Northeast Organic Farming Association Connecticut and president of the NOFA Interstate Council. During the 1990s, Duesing produced two radio shows, "Living on the Earth" and "The Politics of Food," and he is author of *Living on the Earth: Eclectic Essays for a Sustainable and Joyful Future* (1993).

The Duesing collection consists of transcripts of his radio show, "Living on the Earth," which was broadcast over station WSHU (91.1 FM), 1990-2000, and fourteen recordings of "The Politics of Food," broadcast monthly over WPKN (89.5 FM) in Bridgeport in 1997-1998. Each half hour segment of "Politics" included news, a fifteen minute interview, recipes, and tips, with interviewees including Mel Bristol, Jac Smit, Vincent Kay, John Wargo, Hugh Joseph, Joseph Kiefer, Julie Rawson, Michael Sligh, Kathy Lawrence, Lee Warren, and Elizabeth Henderson.

See similar SCUA collections:

Farming and rural life

New England

Organic farming

Background on Bill Duesing

A pioneer in organic agriculture in New England, Bill Duesing has been as an environmental educator, writer, artist, and lecturer over for four decades. After graduating from Yale University (1964), Duesing worked as a Cooperative Extension agent before turning to organic principles in the early 1970s, and from 1979 to 1983, he served as Extension Energy Agent for New Haven County, working with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service.

Working toward a socially just and environmentally sound future, Duesing has long emphasized sustainability and greater local food sufficiency. He has been instrumental in developing organic standards for gardening and land care and served as both founding president and later executive director of the Northeast Organic Farming Association Connecticut and president of the NOFA Interstate Council. He has also been a notable proponent of using simple solar technologies to address problems ranging from health care to pollution, and has been involved in education to put theory into practice. Between 1983 and 1987, Duesing developed an innovative series of hand-on courses in food, energy, and agriculture for schools in New Haven and Bridgeport as part of the University of Connecticut High School in the Community curriculum development project.

During the 1990s, Duesing produced two radio shows, "Living on the Earth" (WSHU) and "The Politics of Food" (WPKN), and he is author of *Living on the Earth: Eclectic Essays for a Sustainable and Joyful Future* (1993). His collection of essays *Living on the Earth* was published by Long River Press in 1993, and he has been a regular contributor to the Low Tech Page for *plain: The Magazine of Life, Land and Spirit*. He and his wife Suzanne continue to operate the Old Solar Farm in Oxford, Conn.



Bill and Suzanne Duesing

Scope of collection

The Duesing collection consists of transcripts of his radio show, "Living on the Earth," which was broadcast over station WSHU (91.1 FM), 1990-2000, and fourteen recordings of "The Politics of Food," broadcast monthly over WPKN (89.5 FM) in Bridgeport in 1997-1998. Each half hour segment of "Politics" included news, a fifteen minute interview, recipes, and tips, with interviewees including Mel Bristol, Jac Smit, Vincent Kay, John Wargo, Hugh Joseph, Joseph Kiefer, Julie Rawson, Michael Sligh, Kathy Lawrence, Lee Warren, and Elizabeth Henderson.

Detailed contents

Living on the Earth

1995-2000

232 items

Transcripts of Duesing's radio show, arranged chronologically by date of broadcast.

The Barnyard

1995 Nov. 3

The Power of a Place

1995 Nov. 10

Thanksgiving Bounty

1995 Nov. 17

Free Turkey

1995 Nov. 24

Saving for the Future, Part I

1995 Dec. 1

Saving for the Future, Part II

1995 Dec. 8

Local Lumber

1995 Dec. 15

The Wonder of Life

1995 Dec. 22

Stardust

1995 Dec. 29

Planning to Garden

1996 Jan. 5

What If?

1996 Jan. 12

A Solar Solution

1996 Jan. 19

Tea Party

1996 Jan. 26

Fake Food

1996 Feb. 2

Winter Nutrition

1996 Feb. 9

Diversity

1996 Feb. 16

Pesticides and Food

1996 Feb. 23

Growth of the GDP

1996 Mar. 1

Garden Ecology

1996 Mar. 8

The Sap's Rising

1996 Mar. 15

Free Food

1996 Mar. 22

Education and Business

1996 Mar. 29

Spring is Here

1996 Apr. 5

A Big Beef

1996 Apr. 12

Diapering Baby for Earth Day

1996 Apr. 19

Building Health

1996 Apr. 26

Spring on the Farm

1996 May 3

The Cost of Gas

1996 May 10

Broccoli

1996 May 17

Strawberries

1996 May 24

Keeping Cool

1996 May 31

What's Organic?

1996 June 7

Educational Environments

1996 June 14

Solstice, 1996

1996 June 21

Weeding Our Gardens

1996 June 28
The Wall of Ignorance
1996 July 5
That Article
1996 July 12
Farmers Markets
1996 July 19
Making Connections
1996 July 26
Midsummer Garden Report
1996 Aug. 2
Plant Science Day
1996 Aug. 9
NOFA Summer Conference
1996 Aug. 16
Summer Squash
1996 Aug. 23
Labor Day
1996 Aug. 30
Consider the Potato
1996 Sept. 6
Fill'er Up?
1996 Sept. 13
For the Equinox
1996 Sept. 20
Durable Wood
1996 Sept. 27
How is Your Coffee Grown?
1996 Oct. 4
Autumn Garden Work
1996 Oct. 11
Party Food?
1996 Oct. 18
Used Solar Collectors
1996 Oct. 25
Our Ecological Footprint
1996 Nov. 1
Our Food System
1996 Nov. 8
Genetic Engineering Is Here
1996 Nov. 15
Thanksgiving Bounty
1996 Nov. 22
Institutional Ignorance
1996 Nov. 29
Feeding the World, Feeding Ourselves
1996 Dec. 6
What We Don't Know
1996 Dec. 13
The Wonder of Life
1996 Dec. 20
For the New Year - Value
1996 Dec. 27
Let's Eat Less Meat
1997 Jan. 3
The Hourglass
1997 Jan. 10
Plan to Garden This Year
1997 Jan. 17

A Sunny Meal!
1997 Jan. 24

Winter Nutrition
1997 Jan. 31

Supercitizens
1997 Feb. 7

What Else? LOVE
1997 Feb. 14

Too Many Cars!
1997 Feb. 21

Tapping Maple Trees
1997 Feb. 28

Global Chills
1997 Mar. 7

Ignoring a Solution
1997 Mar. 14

Dandelions
1997 Mar. 21

In the Garden
1997 Mar. 28

The Underlying Assumption
1997 Apr. 4

Common Ground
1997 Apr. 11

Wild Things
1997 Apr. 18

For Earth Day: The Direction of Nature
1997 Apr. 25

Big Ugly Houses
1997 May 2

Fertile Soil
1997 May 9

Environmental Education - What to Believe?
1997 May 16

May
1997 May 23

Hatching Eggs
1997 May 30

Energy
1997 June 6

A Great Hike
1997 June 13

Summer Solstice
1997 June 20

New Potatoes
1997 June 27

A Large-Scale Experiment
1997 July 4

Farmers Markets
1997 July 11

Bountiful Berries
1997 July 18

Harvesting Garlic
1997 July 25

Say Good-bye to Lawns
1997 Aug. 1

Growing Organically
1997 Aug. 8

What's Organic Produce?

1997 Aug. 15
Weeds in the Garden
1997 Aug. 22
Back to School
1997 Aug. 29
Urban Agriculture
1997 Sept. 5
Organic Isn't Enough!
1997 Sept. 12
What's Important?
1997 Sept. 19
Tomatoes
1997 Sept. 26
Two Visions
1997 Oct. 3
Apple Season
1997 Oct. 10
Oatmeal
1997 Oct. 17
Zapping Meat!
1997 Oct. 24
Lettuce and the Laws of Thermodynamics
1997 Oct. 31
PCBs and POPs
1997 Nov. 7
Recycling
1997 Nov. 14
Thanksgiving Turkeys
1997 Nov. 21
Farms
1997 Nov. 28
Institutional Ignorance
1997 Dec. 5
Climate Changes
1997 Dec. 12
The Wonder of Life
1997 Dec. 19
Local Lumber
1997 Dec. 26
Hope and the Garden
1998 Jan. 2
Organic Standards?
1998 Jan. 9
Farmland is Not Somewhere Else
1998 Jan. 16
A Stealthy Plan
1998 Jan. 23
Hormones and Hubris
1998 Jan. 30
Starting Seedlings
1998 Feb. 6
Educational Testing
1998 Feb. 13
Authentic Learning
1998 Feb. 20
Tapping Maple Trees
1998 Feb. 27
Garden Ecology
1998 Mar. 6

Rhode Island Report

1998 Mar. 13

The March Garden

1998 Mar. 20

Organic Food and Airbags

1998 Mar. 27

Boss Hog's System

1998 Apr. 3

Holy Day Connections

1998 Apr. 10

Get Rid of Your Television

1998 Apr. 17

A Safe and Sustainable Food System

1998 Apr. 24

Good Gardening

1998 May 1

Trees are Quiet, Solar-Powered Air Conditioners

1998 May 8

Democracy in Action the Organic Way

1998 May 15

Broccoli

1998 May 22

No essay because of fundraising

1998 May 29

No essay because of fundraising

1998 June 5

Get Rid of Your Lawn Mower

1998 June 12

Climate Change and the Summer Solstice

1998 June 19

Local Berries

1998 June 26

Globalization and the Fourth of July

1998 July 3

Herbicides and the Right to Choose

1998 July 10

Mid-summer Garden Report

1998 July 17

The Buckwheat's Buzzing

1998 July 24

Weeds

1998 July 31

Learning from our Mistakes

1998 Aug. 7

Genetically-Engineered Food

1998 Aug. 14

Tomatoes

1998 Aug. 21

Eating Organically

1998 Aug. 28

Real Work

1998 Sept. 4

Modeling Destructive Behavior

1998 Sept. 11

For the Equinox

1998 Sept. 18

Back to School II: It's Testing Time Again

1998 Sept. 25

Jeffrey's Dogwood

1998 Oct. 2
Autumn Garden Work
1998 Oct. 9
No essay because of fundraising
1998 Oct. 16
No essay because of fundraising
1998 Oct. 23
Raising Tilapia
1998 Oct. 30
Potatoes
1998 Nov. 6
Salad Party
1998 Nov. 13
Thanksgiving Bounty
1998 Nov. 20
Buy Nothing Day
1998 Nov. 27
Live broadcast, no transcript
1998 Dec. 4
Hogs and Crude Oil - Economic Questions
1998 Dec. 11
The Wonder of Life
1998 Dec. 18
No essay on Christmas Day
1998 Dec. 25
No essay on New Years Day
1999 Jan. 1
So Far in the Wrong Direction
1999 Jan. 8
On-site audio, no transcript
1999 Jan. 15
Polluted Information
1999 Jan. 22
Seeds
1999 Jan. 29
The Pullets
1999 Feb. 5
Poisoning Our Children
1999 Feb. 12
Growing Sprouts
1999 Feb. 19
Solar-Powered Beings
1999 Feb. 26
Local Battles
1999 Mar. 5
Melinda's Garden
1999 Mar. 12
Visit to the Heartland
1999 Mar. 19
Terminator Technology
1999 Mar. 26
Spring is Here
1999 Apr. 2
Safe and Beautiful Lawns
1999 Apr. 9
Keeping Us Ignorant and the Right to Know
1999 Apr. 16
For Earth Day: Nature's Healing
1999 Apr. 23

City Farmland
1999 Apr. 30
Strawberries
1999 May 7
Direct Use of Solar Energy
1999 May 14
Blueberries
1999 May 21
Soil and Human Intestines
1999 May 28
No essay - fundraising
1999 June 4
No essay - fundraising
1999 June 11
For the Solstice
1999 June 18
Weeding the Garden
1999 June 25
Bananas
1999 July 2
Pesticides in Our Parks
1999 July 9
Farmers Markets
1999 July 16
Butterflies
1999 July 23
Now's the Time to Say Good-bye to Your Lawn
1999 July 30
Trees are Quiet, Solar-Powered Air Conditioners
1999 Aug. 6
Consider the Potato
1999 Aug. 13
The Imperative for Organic Agriculture
1999 Aug. 20
Durable Wood
1999 Aug. 27
Real Work
1999 Sept. 3
Rotting Watermelons
1999 Sept. 10
The Fall Equinox
1999 Sept. 17
Two Food Systems
1999 Sept. 24
After the Drought
1999 Oct. 1
Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
1999 Oct. 8
No essay because of fundraising
1999 Oct. 15
WSHU
1999 Oct. 22
Used Solar Collectors
1999 Oct. 29
External Costs
1999 Nov. 5
Simple Solar Solutions
1999 Nov. 12
Feeding Everyone

1999 Nov. 19
Free Trade Runs Amok
1999 Nov. 26
The "Wall of Ignorance"
1999 Dec. 3
December Harvest
1999 Dec. 10
Bringing in the Greens
1999 Dec. 17
The Wonder of Life
1999 Dec. 24
Tomorrow
1999 Dec. 31
Local Lumber
2000 Jan. 7
No essay
2000 Jan. 14
Frankenfoods
2000 Jan. 21
Farmland: We Can't Live Without It
2000 Jan. 28
Start Seedlings Soon!
2000 Feb. 4
WSHU
2000 Feb. 11
The Uses of Biodiversity
2000 Feb. 18
Organic Threat? Hogwash!
2000 Feb. 25
Let's Stop Complaining!
2000 Mar. 3
Spring and Dandelions
2000 Mar. 10
No essay
2000 Mar. 17
Alarming Trends
2000 Mar. 24
Spring in the Garden
2000 Mar. 31
The Final Crop
2000 Apr. 7
No essay
2000 Apr. 14
For Earth Day
2000 Apr. 21
Little Engines
2000 Apr. 28
Real Work: Making a Fence
2000 May 5
No essay
2000 May 12
Perennial Favorites
2000 May 19
No essay
2000 May 26
The New Organic Standards Need Fixing
2000 June 2
No essay
2000 June 9

Not All Insects are Bad

2000 June 16

Trees are Valuable

2000 June 23

No essay

2000 June 30

Fresh, Local Berries

2000 July 7

No essay

2000 July 14

A Birth and the Future

2000 July 21

New Potatoes

2000 July 28

Feeding the Soil, Feeding the Soul

2000 Aug. 4

Nick and the Gooseberries

2000 Aug. 11

Say Good-bye to Your Lawn

2000 Aug. 18

No essay

2000 Aug. 25

No essay

2000 Sept. 1

No essay

2000 Sept. 8

No essay

2000 Sept. 15

The last essay: Farewell and Thanks

2000 Sept. 22

Politics of Food

1997-1998

14 reel-to-reel tapes

Politics of Food

1997 Mar. 15

00:29:51

Contents include: news on seed biotechnology, Novartis -- interview with Mel Bristol (certified organic farmer, Sherman, Conn.) -- scalloped potatoes -- In the Garden (what to plant now).

Politics of Food

1997 May 17

00:29:55

Contents include: news on genetic engineering, GMO corn seed and Novartis; sustainable agriculture initiatives -- interview with Jac Smit (director of the Urban Agriculture Network in Washington and author of *Urban Agriculture: Foods, Jobs, and Sustainable Cities*) -- potato curry -- what to plant and eat now.

Politics of Food

1997 June 21

00:30:19

Contents include: news on genetically modified organisms -- interview with Vincent Kay (beekeeper) -- green salads -- what to plant and eat now.

Politics of Food

1997 July 19

00:28:30

Contents include: news on NOFA summer conference -- interview with John Wargo (author of *Our Children's Toxic Legacy*) -- vegetable stir fry -- what to plant and eat now.

Politics of Food

1997 Aug. 16

00:30:12

Contents include: news on genetically modified organisms -- interview with Hugh Joseph (nutritionist and activist for food security with community groups) -- garlic -- drying vegetables.

Politics of Food

1997 Sept. 20

00:29:50

Contents include: news on nutraceuticals -- interview with Joseph Kiefer (educator, Vermont) -- tomatoes -- what to plant and eat now.

Politics of Food

1997 Oct. 18

00:29:40

Contents include: news on organic farming movement and Greenpeace -- interview with Julie Rawson (organic farmer, NOFA Massachusetts) -- apples -- what to plant and eat now.

Politics of Food

1997 Nov. 15

00:29:53

Contents include: news on food safety and imports -- interview with Michael Sligh (National Organic Standards Board) -- winter squash -- what to plant and eat now.

Politics of Food

1997 Dec. 20

00:28:46

Contents include: news on Pesticide Action Network of North America -- interview with Kathy Lawrence (New York City food activist) -- root cellars -- the wonder of life.

Politics of Food

1997 Jan. 17

00:28:45

Contents include: news on organic foods -- interview with Lee Warren (organic farmer from Connecticut) -- meals with chicken -- plans for the next growing season.

Politics of Food

1998 Feb. 21

00:29:54

Contents include: news on genetically modified organisms -- interview with Elizabeth Henderson (farmer and activist, New York) -- onion soup -- starting seedlings.

Politics of Food

1997 May 17

00:29:29

Contents include: news on opposition to national organic standards -- interview with Michael Colby (Real Food and Water) -- cake -- planting peas, pruning.

Politics of Food

1998 Apr. 18

00:29:50

Contents include: opposition to organic standards -- interview with Steve Gilman (organic farmer from New York) -- potatoes and greens -- planting time.

Politics of Food

1998 May 16

00:29:53

Contents include: news on national organic standards and USDA -- interview with Becky May (local activist) -- salads -- what to do now.

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Bill Duesing, 2012.

Digitized content

All recordings in the Duesing collection have been digitized and are made available through SCUA's online digital repository, Credo.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Aug. 2013.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Bill Duesing Collection (MS 760). Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Beekeepers
Bloodroot Collective
Natural foods--Certification
Natural foods--Standards
Northeast Organic Farming Association
Organic farming
Organic farming--Law and legislation
Seed Savers Exchange
Sustainable agriculture
Transgenic organisms
Urban agriculture
WPKN (Radio station : Bridgeport, Conn.)

Contributors

Duesing, Bill [**main entry**]
Bristol, Mel
Colby, Michael
Gilman, Steve
Kiefer, Joseph
Henderson, Elizabeth, 1943-
Joseph, Hugh
Kay, Vincent
Lawrence, Kathy
May, Rebecca
Rawson, Julie
Sligh, Michael
Smit, Jac
Wargo, John, 1950-
Warren, Lee

Genres and formats

Audiotapes
Broadcasts

Link to similar SCUA collections

Farming and rural life
New England
Organic farming



Special Collections & University Archives
University Libraries : UMass Amherst
154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275
Ph. 413-545-7282 (545-SCUA)



2020Site PoliciesAccessibility