

James Gilbert

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Work Experience

Fort Hill Farm - Grower - New Milford, CT,

2019-Current

Fort Hill Farm is a 30+ acre certified organic, production vegetable farm in New Milford, CT

- Operations co-manager
- Seed, fertilize, cultivate, harvest, store, and sell over 40 crops grown
- Operate various farm machinery including tractors, seeders, transplanters, and spreaders
- Manage and train crew members for various operations
- Coordinate day-to-day tasks for the whole farm
- Manage one of the farm's markets in Chappaqua, New York since its inaugural year. This has become a main source of income for the farm.

High Falls Farm - Farm Apprentice - High Falls, NY

2017-2018

High Falls Farm is a multi-enterprise regenerative agricultural farm.

- Transitioned 18 acres of old, mature apple trees previously sprayed with harmful pesticides and fungicides into a healthy and resilient orchard
- Grafted disease-resistant apple varieties onto conventional apple trees. This transition made the farm adhere to organic USDA regulations
- Worked with all aspects of managing a mature apple orchard including pruning, spraying, thinning, mowing, composting, fencing, irrigating, harvesting, packaging, selling, etc.
- Managed flock of sheep by rotationally grazing them in 18 acres of mature apple trees which increased nutrients to the soil and improved overall soil health.
- Produced shiitake and oyster mushrooms on logs in the forest. This became one of the most profitable enterprises on the farm and offered a unique product that customers enjoyed
- Planted and tended chestnut, hazelnut, mulberry, and paw-paw agroforestry plantings
- Responsible for all equipment maintenance (BCS tractor, chainsaw, generator, etc.)
- Sold food to local families, restaurants, and retailers

Threshold Farm - Philmont, NY 2017-2018

Threshold Farm is a well-established, biodynamic, diversified farm and orchard. The self-sufficient farm gets many of their farm needs met on site.

- Worked with livestock (feeding, rotationally grazing, etc.) including cows, chickens and pigs
- Managed a young, newly established apple orchard (training, cultivating, mowing, thinning)
- Worked in a mature apple orchard along with other fruit crops (pruning, thinning, harvesting, etc.)
- Assisted with building of farm infrastructure

Sylvester Manor Educational Farm - Apprentice - Shelter Island, NY**2017**

Sylvester Manor is a small, diversified vegetable field.

- Managed all aspects of growing food from seeding in the greenhouse to selling our food at our farmstand.
- Creatively melded my love of making music into farming through the ages-old tradition of work songs, as practiced in the Manor fields.

Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery & Landscaping - Woodbury, CT**2016**

- Responsible for transplanting, maintenance, and care of nursery's native trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and vines for the entire growing season
- Managed composting at nursery
- Performed customer service duties
- Periodically went to client properties to implement designs

Greens Farms Academy - Lower School Garden Apprentice - Westport, CT**2015**

- Worked under the Lower School science teacher/manager of GFA's Seed to Table program
- Seed to Table inspires students to develop meaningful connections with the world around them through explorations in GFA's organic garden, experiences with food, and investigating the many natural communities that surround the school.

Certifications and Other Experience

Omega Institute - Ecological Literacy Immersion Program & Permaculture Design Course
Learning from some of the best practitioners in permaculture, regenerative agriculture, ecological engineering, water and soil science, wilderness awareness, and whole systems design. I learned about the potential for building a regenerative future and explored ecology from a social, economic, and spiritual perspective. Through this process, I learned and explored:

- Design principles to help build a regenerative landscape
- How to work with people to homogeneously develop and complete a design
- How to mimic ecological whole living systems in the same way we design human systems
- How to build social systems that will support human well-being
- How to consciously design my learning goals
- Approaches and tools that can be applied to creative problem solving anywhere

Education

2016 Associates of Science Degree in Horticulture— Naugatuck Valley Community College—
Waterbury, CT

Relevant Classwork:

Landscape Design, Botany, Herbaceous Plants, Woody Plants, Greenhouse Operations & Management, Fruits & Vegetables Production, Principles of Soil & Water Restoration, Turf Management, Arboriculture, Landscape Maintenance, Integrated Pest Management