

## County Sustainability Group Announces 2023 Ecological Farmer Bursary Winners

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produce it with the brush from their property by using a controlled burn with limited oxygen. Last year, they participated in the Farmer Led Research program with the support of EFAO, with the intention of finding an alternative to peat moss use in seed starting mediums. The theory was that BioChar can potentially make it a substitute due to some similar physical characteristics. The results showed that not only was BioChar a viable alternative, but is likely a superior one. Furthermore, the use of BioChar not only reduces the damage done by harvesting peat, but also actively sequesters carbon.

With the bursary funds, Hans and Judy hope to conduct more studies on BioChar, and create better spaces to conduct workshops on BioChar production and use. They hope that by sharing the knowledge with the community, that more people will make it part of their gardening staples. The benefits of more BioChar use can be pretty much miraculous if widely adopted and they believe that they are capable messengers of its potential. Learn more about them

at [www.paperkite.farm](http://www.paperkite.farm) and follow on Instagram at @paperkite.farm, or search for Paper Kite Farm on Facebook.

The other winner, Mike Barnes of Lamb's Quarters Farm

is a small farm in Picton dedicated to demonstrating ways to grow food without the use of added chemicals and fertilizers, while revitalizing natural habitat for insects and wildlife. Their motto is "Growing for Today and Thinking of Tomorrow".

Mike will be providing

tours and education to school groups and not-for-profit groups for free. Mike and Rachel have three children themselves that have gone through the local school systems, so they know first hand that young people are just not getting the access and education to farms like theirs.



Winner Mike Barnes of Lambs Quarters Farm , Picton is flanked by CSG members Don Chisholm (left) and Jennifer Ackerman.—Don Ross Photo

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