

# Finger Lakes Permaculture Convergence

August 27, 2017 (9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Schuyler County Human Services Building

323 Owego Street, Montour Falls NY

## MORNING WORKSHOPS

### **1. Wild Bees & Woody Perennials**

*Kass Urban-Mead*

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Teaching Garden (outdoors)

There are over 400 bee species in our New York landscape that are not honey bees that live. This workshop starts by discussing the ecology, daily habits, and habitat requirements of wild bees, particularly solitary spring bees that are often invaluable pollinators for fruit trees, crops, and wild plants alike. We will identify and visit trees and shrubs that are commonly found in hedgerows, woodlots and smallholder forests that are important resources for wild pollinators. These woody perennials are increasingly recognized for carbon sequestration, animal forage, soil and water quality. This workshop will add a pollination component to these benefits. We will use the idea of "bee networks" to think about times and places in their farms where specific "bee trees" could be added to support wild bee pollinator communities.

Kass is a new PhD student at Cornell in the Entomology Department. She works with Profs Danforth and McArt to understand the ecology and pollination of agroecological systems, particularly orchards and the woody plants that support the wild pollinators who visit fruit trees. She fell in love with honey bees in undergrad when she was studying their symbiotic gut microbiota, but quickly got excited about the 20,000+ wild species in the world that are also great pollinators and hasn't looked back. Kass grew up raising 4-H dairy goats in the Hudson Valley, and can be found sketching, singing, and roller & ice skating when she's not chasing bees.

### **2. The Slow & Small Business Plan**

*Dwight Mott*

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Room/Location tba

Having recently opened a now highly successful coffee shop in a 'dying' rural village, Dwight will share a simple one-page business plan, organized around the permaculture principles, that guided the initial concept development, startup phase, and continues to inform Day to Day operations. Using The Meeting Place and its process as a model, participants will find uses in developing their own enterprises, homesteads, organizations and communities.

Dwight spent the past fifteen years in school leadership at American Schools Abroad (in Africa, Latin America and the Pacific) leading his own schools and consulting with boards of other schools and nonprofits in Strategic Planning. This isn't that... introducing the Permaculture Principles and the one-page format yields a much more enjoyable (and realistic) process and a much more powerful (and useful) product.

### **3. The Haudenosaunee Peacemaker**

*Jhakeem Haltom* of New Roots Charter School

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Room/Location tba

How did the original people of this land view a sense of community, caring for nature, and mindfulness practices? What is the legacy they left to guide how we engage in creating meaningful lives in 2017? In this session, we will be exploring inspiration from what the Haudenosaunee call the Great Law and its messenger The Great Peacemaker. As we move forward in time an illusion can arise, the illusion of progressing beyond earlier stages in the history of the land we are only current tenants. We will do our best to attain a 7 generational perspective beyond our own personal life span and see clearly how ancient archetypes of this land apply directly to what we are experiencing now, in both the positive aspects and much of what we wish we could change.

#### 4. Permaculture Plant Medicine

*Amanda David* of Rootwork Herbals and Bramble Community Herbalism  
10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Room/Location tba

Your permaculture gardens are filled with plant communities that regenerate the soil, increase biodiversity, preserve water, provide nourishment, create habitats for life and bring forth beauty. Your permaculture gardens are also full of medicine! Come learn about the medicinal uses of plants commonly used in permaculture gardens and how to easily process them into medicine.

#### 5. Moving with Cycles: Survival Through Mobile Living

*Blache Marie, Taylor Shuler, and Edgar Bernal Sevilla*  
11:00am - 11:45 am Room/Location tba

Nomadic living is and continues to be a method of survival under capitalism. In response to the vulnerability of black, indigenous, people of color and other marginalized groups, it becomes necessary to return to “nature” and land-based practices to survive. Presenters will discuss the ties between historical and modern nomadism, ecological sustainability, and share stories of their lived experiences with medicinal plants, camper maintenance and infrastructure, and daily living in close proximity to each other and elements. Join them to collectively build resources for a return to nomadic living as a weapon against modern capitalism.

#### 5. Introduction to Permaculture

*Michael Burns* of the Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute.  
10:00 to 10:45 a.m., 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. Room/Location tba

What is permaculture? In each of these brief presentations a basic definition and history of permaculture will be offered along with a description of permaculture principles and the design process.

#### AFTERNOON OPEN SPACE DISCUSSIONS

##### **Theme: How can permaculture best serve our communities?**

Facilitated by *Karryn Olson-Ramanujan* of the Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute  
1 to 3:00 p.m.

We will explore the theme using Open Space Technology (OST); a participatory conferencing format we gathered from other regional permaculture convergences. OST is a non-hierarchical format that allows attendees to create the agenda and self-organize around interests. All participants are invited to bring their wisdom, passions, and questions revolving around the theme. This session will start with an orientation, so please arrive promptly.

*The Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute would like to thank our generous sponsors who have made this whole weekend possible:*

