

Pacific Northwest Permaculture Design Course

February 16 - March 2, 2008

Held at Sahale Retreat Center
Tahuya River Valley
Southern Puget Sound

A Two-Week Immersion, Permaculture Design Course

Sustainable Food Production & Food Security for Everyone

Urban, suburban and rural properties, intentional communities, renters and marginalized populations.

100s of strategies!
1,000s of techniques!
1,000s of species!



Instructed by:

Michael Pilarski - Friends of the Trees Society

Laura Sweany - Terra Flora Farm

Guest presenters include:

Larry Korn - Mu Landscaping Company

Marisha Auerbach - Herb'n Wisdom

Jenny Pell - Wilder Institute

Albert Postema - Earthwise Excavation

John Henrickson - Wild Thyme Farm

John Hoff - Goodenough Community

Gary Koch - Building Contractor

Course tuition: \$1,095

Tuition includes instruction, housing, delicious, mostly organic meals, materials, and permaculture design certificate. Graduates are entitled to use the term "Permaculture" in pursuit of livelihood and for educational purposes

Private rooms available for an additional \$100.

Some partial work trades and scholarships available.

Course is limited to 30 participants.

Contact:

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Friends of the Trees Society

PO Box 253, Twisp, WA 98856

www.friendsofthetrees.net

www.goodenough.org

"What permaculturists are doing is the most important activity that any group is doing on the planet. We need options, we need people experimenting in all kinds of ways and permaculturists are one of the critical gangs that are doing that."

~David Suzuki, International Environmental Advocate

Course topics:

- * Permaculture principles
- * Permaculture methodology
- * Observation skills
- * Zones and sectors
- * Site analysis
- * Large property design
- * Ecosystem restoration
- * Native plant restoration
- * Organic gardening
- * Organic agriculture
- * Fruits, berries, nuts
- * Edible landscaping
- * Tree crops
- * Agroforestry systems
- * Medicinal herbs
- * Ethnobotany and ethnoecology
- * Wildcrafting
- * Animals in the system, livestock and wild
- * Urban permaculture



- * Water in the landscape
- * Swales, keyline, & pond building
- * Aquaculture
- * Rain water harvesting
- * Grey water & bioremediation
- * Irrigation
- * Dry land strategies
- * Windbreaks, hedgerows
- * Seed collecting
- * Tree planting
- * Integrated pest management
- * Sustainable forestry
- * Natural building
- * Alternative energy and fuels
- * Intentional communities
- * Ecovillages
- * Permaculture networks
- * Green Economics
- and much, much more!



About this Course

Permaculture is the premier design system for sustainable, food production systems. This course is recommended to community organizers concerned with food issues. In addition to the plant landscape, permaculture also considers transportation, energy, buildings, water supply, community economics, and the social and spiritual fabric of life.

Every permaculture course teaches how to design productive and beautiful yards, farms and properties at the individual property scale. This course will also focus on the larger scale of city-wide and regional food systems with local food security for everyone.

If you are a landowner interested in food production and other useful plantings, this permaculture course will give you information on many species of plants and production techniques. Even more important, you will learn a set of principles and a design methodology which will enable you to achieve your goals in a more cost-effective manner. An additional goal is aesthetic beauty, color, fragrance and outdoor living space.

Intensive vegetable gardening techniques can quickly produce large amounts of food in small spaces, but intensive gardening is not for everybody or everywhere. Permaculture emphasizes the creation of low maintenance, self-reproducing ecologies. The proportions of native plants, non-native plants, long-lived perennials, food plants, etc is determined by the client goals and nature's dictates. One of the key premises of permaculture design is to minimize inputs. The inputs of one part of the system are met by the outputs of other parts. More cycling of nutrients, energy, water, etc. Each site is unique and each client is unique, thus each permaculture design will be different.

This course will impart permaculture principles and methodologies which can be applied anywhere in the world. Through lecture, slide shows, discussion, observation, field trips and hands-on activities, permaculture design students will develop the practical skills and knowledge necessary to design and implement sustainable systems that are in harmony with the natural world. We will cover hundreds of crops which can provide family needs or cash income. Although this course's focus is on the Pacific Northwest, participants from other bioregions are welcome.

Restoration of native habitats and native species is a component of permaculture. We can assist nature to regenerate healthy biospheres. This means soils get richer, forests increase, trees get bigger, biodiversity increases, the web of complexity of relationships increases, more oxygen is produced and more carbon is stored.

At the same time, the productivity of the landscape to meet human needs dramatically increases. Human landscapes which have permaculture applied to them will look wilder, be wilder, be more bio-diverse, be more productive, be more beautiful and will run itself to a large extent. All this for less work in the long run.

There are currently around 200,000 plant species in the world. The number is going down rapidly. About 4,000 species are native to the Pacific Northwest. Northwest gardeners have about 10,000 useful plant species to choose from. The course will touch on many native plants, food plants and medicinal plants. Every type of habitat can be put to good use whether dry, marshy, rocky, sandy, clay, riparian, seaside, and so forth. One of the goals in permaculture is to increase the number of habitats on site to enable a wider range of plants to thrive.

The word 'Permaculture' was originally coined in Australia by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in the 1970's. The word "permaculture" itself came from the notion of establishing "permanent agriculture" or "permanent culture. Over the last 30 years, permaculture has grown to become a global grassroots movement involving tens of thousands of people. Permaculture offers a huge storehouse of solutions, strategies and practical techniques gathered from around the globe and throughout history. If permaculture designs were implemented on a planetary scale in cities, farms and homes the world would become a garden of Eden.

Instructors:

Michael Pilarski is a farmer, educator and author. Michael has personally worked with over 1,000 species of plants. He is the founder of Friends of the Trees Society (1978) and is the author of books on forestry, agriculture, agroforestry and ethnobotany. Michael has been involved in the permaculture movement since 1981 as a writer, teacher and networker. He has taught 23 full Permaculture Design Courses in the USA and abroad.

Laura Sweany is a garden designer, permaculture consultant, and owner and operator of Terra Flora Farm in Seattle. She will contribute her urban and suburban design and implementation skills to the course. Laura is a graduate of the first permaculture course at Sahale in 2004 and has since gone on to become Sahale Learning Center's chief land steward and grounds designer.

Larry Korn is an educator, editor and author in the fields of natural farming and permaculture. Larry spent several years with Masanobu Fukuoka, a farmer and philosopher, on Shikoku Island, Japan. Mr. Fukuoka developed a special no-till way of farming to demonstrate the practical value of his spiritual principles. Larry returned to the United States and helped translate and edit Mr. Fukuoka's book, *One-Straw Revolution*. Larry has operated the Mu Landscaping Company in the Bay area since 1985 and has much experience at blending permaculture into urban and suburban situations. www.mulandscaping.com

Marisha Auerbach has been practicing, studying, and teaching permaculture in the Pacific Northwest for the past decade. Her hands-on experience includes developing permaculture systems at Wild Thyme Farm and creating food forests at the family scale. She is enthusiastic about building local community and local economics to enhance resilience. Her other businesses include flower and gem essences, edible flowers and plantable greeting cards. www.herbnwisdom.com

Albert Postema is the owner of Earthwise Excavation, an earth-moving company that specializes in septic system installations in Snohomish and King counties. Albert will teach about earth moving in permaculture systems as well as alternative energy. Albert is one of Washington's, most experienced people on using biodiesel in heavy equipment. Albert hosts permaculture courses and workshops at his Wise Earth Community site outside of Snohomish, Washington. www.fromthegrounddown.com

Jenny Pell is a former tree planter, helicopter pilot, carpenter, and yurt builder. Jenny is a permaculture teacher and manages the Wilder Institute in Port Townsend which organizes permaculture courses in Washington State, Central America, Hawaii, and Europe. Jenny's presentations inspire, and motivate people to make changes that help move us towards a sustainable future. www.permaculturenow.com

John Henrikson. John is co-owner of Wild Thyme Farm where we will visit on a field trip. Wild Thyme Farm is one of Washington's premier permaculture sites as well as an exemplary, sustainable forestry operation. Permaculture has been applied to this old dairy farm for the past 14 years. The site includes a wide array of gardens, fruits, agroforestry, livestock, ponds, streambank restoration, and forestry projects.

www.wildthymefarm.com/permaculture.html

John Hoff is founder of the Goodenough Community which owns Sahale Retreat Center. John will talk about intentional communities and applying permaculture principles to people and social systems.

www.goodenough.org

Gary Koch is a builder/contractor in Ellensburg, Washington with familiarity in many building techniques including straw bale.

Other guest speakers to be announced. Course participants will also bring a wide range of knowledge and experience to share. We are all students. We are all teachers.

Sahale was established in 2001 as the retreat home of the Goodenough Community. Sahale is a Chinook word meaning "high" or "holy". The community offers educational and personal growth workshops at the site. Sahale's 64 acres includes a large and quiet forest, Tahuya river floodplain, an old orchard of many fruit varieties, and a sacred grove of ancient cedars. The land is shared with deer, black bears, mountain lions, beavers, and many kinds of birds. Coyotes sing up and down the valley at night.



Just 20 minutes from Belfair, Washington, Sahale is an easy drive from Seattle, Tacoma, Portland and the Olympic Peninsula. Facilities include a cozy teaching room with a fireplace, dining room, bathrooms, laundry facilities, phone, and internet access. There are nine buildings with sleeping accommodations including seven shared rooms (sleeping 2 to 6 people) and seven private rooms. There is a panoramic deck, lush grounds, spring-fed water for the hot tubs and trails to the Tahuya River and sacred cedar grove. As part of the course, design teams will develop a permaculture plan for the land. To see photos of the site go to www.goodenough.org and then click on Sahale.

2008 Course Registration Form:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____, Cell: _____ E-mail _____

Amount enclosed. \$ _____

\$250 deposit holds your place (\$100 non-refundable).

The remainder is due February 1st unless other arrangements have been made.

Checks payable to and send to: **Friends of the Trees, PO Box 253, Twisp, WA 98856**

Please attach a separate letter with your dietary preferences, transportation and carpooling information, questions and other pertinent details. A registration packet with map and further details will be sent.

I cannot attend this course but notify me of future courses.