

A HISTORY OF PERMACULTURE GATHERINGS HELD IN THE UNITED STATES & CANADA



By Michael Pilarski
April 4, 2021

Here is a history of permaculture gatherings in North American and International Permaculture Convergences. The list was compiled by reviewing the calendar section of the Permaculture Activist combined with a bit of Internet research. A very few non-permaculture events are included because they are closely related. In most cases, I give the date, the name of the event, the location, and the name of the contact person/center. There is also a section at the end for the international and continental convergences.

I compiled this list as a bit of history for the overall movement. It provides an indication of where permaculture has been most active over the years.

Please send in information on other permaculture gatherings to make this list more comprehensive.

Michael Pilarski
Friends of the Trees Society
michael@friendsofthetrees.net

April 3-5, 1981, Interior Region Permaculture Conference, Sagle, Idaho. Nearly 1050 people attended the first of a two-part series of Northwest permaculture conferences hosted by the Friends of the Trees.

May 8-10, 1981, Maritime Region Permaculture Conference, Corbett, Oregon. More than 250 people participated in the second Northwest permaculture conference hosted by the Friends of the Trees.

August 4-7, 1986, 2nd International Permaculture Consultants Convergence, Breitenbush Hot Springs, Oregon.

August 8-10, 1986, 2nd International Permaculture Conference. The Evergreen State College, Olympia Washington. 700 people attended from around the world and around the USA.

August 4-7, 1986, 2nd International Permaculture Consultants Convergence, Breitenbush Hot Springs, Oregon.

August 8-10, 1986, 2nd International Permaculture Conference. The Evergreen State College, Olympia Washington. 700 people attended from around the world and around the USA.

November 1989 to March 1990 (to be held sometime between). North American Permaculture Designer's Gathering. Location to be announced. This appeared in the May 1989 Activist. Sue Colpas-Ross at Nobody's Mountain, TN was the contact person. Did this ever happen?

October 11-13, 1991, 6th Annual Eastern Permaculture Conference. Standing Stone State Park, Tennessee. Earth Advocates. This means it must have started in 1986.

March 14-16, 1992, Northwest Permaculture Teachers Reunion. Gearhart, Oregon. Jude Hobbs. October

9-12, 1992, 7th Annual Eastern Permaculture Conference, Central New England, David Jacke. October

8-10, 1993, 8th Annual Eastern Permaculture Conference, Butler, Pennsylvania, John Irwin. June 24-26, 1994, West Coast Permaculture Convergence. Orleans, California, Sandy Bar Ranch.

July 29-31, 1994, 1st Annual Southeastern Permaculture Gathering. Celo, North Carolina. Chuck Marsh.

September 26- Oct 1, 1994, Permaculture Designer's Convergence for Eastern North America, Amesville, Ohio, David Jacke.

June 24-26, 1995, 2nd West Coast Permaculture Convergence, Orleans, California, Sandy Bar Ranch.

July 28-30, 1995, 3rd Annual Pacific Northwest Permaculture Rendezvous and Orcas Island Bog Toss. Orcas Island, Washington, Michael Pilarski.

August 11-13, 1995, 2nd Annual Southeastern Permaculture Gathering. Celo, North Carolina. Gred Gross.

September 4-9, 1996, Eastern Permaculture Convergence. Almonte, Ontario, Maureen McEown.

June 20-23, 1996, 3rd annual West Coast Permaculture Convergence. Orleans, California. Sandy Bar Ranch.

August 8-11, 1996, 3rd annual Southeastern Permaculture Summer Gathering. Celo, North Carolina. Tony Kleese.

August 16-18, 1996. 4th Annual Pacific Northwest Permaculture Rendezvous and Bog Toss. Orcas Island, Washington, Michael Pilarski.

August 30-September 1, 1996, 10-year Reunion of the Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute, Basalt Colorado. CRMPI.

July 18-20, 1997. 5th Annual Pacific Northwest Permaculture Rendezvous, Orcas Island, Washington, Michael Pilarski.

August 7-10, 1997, 4th Annual Permaculture Summer Gathering. Chuck Marsh.

October 10-13, 1997, 1st Annual Lost Valley Permaculture Reunion. Dexter, Oregon. Lost Valley Center.

March 14-15, 1998, Eastern Permaculture Teacher's Association Gathering. Freeland, Maryland, Heathcote Center.

August 7-9, 1998, 5th Annual Southeastern Permaculture Gathering. Celo, North Carolina, Chuck Marsh.

August 21-23, 1998, Permaculture Gathering, Quebec, Canada. Terra Flora.

October 10-11, 1998, Eastern Permaculture Teacher's Association Gathering. Freeland, Maryland, Linda Felch.

June 6-12, 1999, Natural Building & Permaculture Convergence. Taos, NM, Permaculture Drylands Institute.

July 30-August 1, 1999, 6th Annual Southeastern Permaculture Gathering. Celo, NC, Tony Kleese.

September 24-26, 1999, Northwest Permaculture Gathering, Dexter, Oregon, Lost Valley Center.

June 25-July 2, 2000, "Build Here Now" Natural Building and Permaculture Convergence. Taos, NM, Lama Foundation.

July 14-16, 2000, Orcas Island Permaculture Rendezvous & Bog-Toss. Orcas Island, Washington, Michael Lockman.

August 3-6, 2000, 7th Annual Southeastern Permaculture Gathering. Celo, NC, Tony Kleese.

September 22-24, 2000, 4th Annual Oregon Permaculture Gathering. Dexter, Oregon. Lost Valley Center.

September 21-23, 2001, 5th Annual Oregon Permaculture Gathering. Dexter, Oregon. Lost Valley Center.

August 2-5, 2001, 8th Annual Southeastern Permaculture Gathering. Black Mountain, NC. Earthhaven Village.

August 16-18, 2001, Skill Sharing & Permaculture Convergence. Williams, Oregon. Seven Seeds Farm.

August 5-8, 2004, 11th Annual Southeastern Permaculture Gathering. Black Mountain, NC. Earthhaven Village.

May 21-30, 2004, Village Building Convergence, Portland, Oregon. City Repair Project. (not specifically permaculture, but permaculture has always had a strong role.)

June 13-20, 2004, "Build Here Now" Natural Building Convergence. Taos, NM, Lama Foundation. [note that this year this gathering did not include permaculture in it's title.]

July 9-17, 2005. 9th Continental Bioregional Congress. Black Mountain, NC, Earthhaven Village. [The Bioregional Congresses have always had a strong showing of permaculturists. This one was hosted at a prominent permaculture ecovillage.]

March 10-11, 2006, Permaculture Convergence, Occidental, California.

July 25-27, 2008, 5th Bay Area Regional Permaculture Convergence, West Sonoma County, California. This means it started in 2004.

http://www.livingmandala.com/Living_Mandala/Bay_Area_Permaculture_Convergence.html

August 2-3, 2008, Permaculture Convergence, Boulder, Colorado, Living Earth Center.

August 29-31, 2008, 1st Annual Southern California Permaculture Convergence, Santa Barbara Permaculture Network.

www.permacultureconvergence.org

August 29-September 1, 2008, Southwest Drylands & Southern California Permaculture Convergence. New Cuyama, California. Quail Springs.

September 12-14, 2008. 1st Annual Washington State Permaculture Convergence, Belfair, Washington, Michael Pilarski.

January 24-25, 2009. Hawaiian Islands Permaculture Convergence, Hawi, Big Island, Uluwehi Farm & Nursery.

July 3-5, 2009, 5th Northeast Permaculture Network Summer Convergence, East Montpelier, Vermont. <http://northeasternpermaculture.wikispaces.com/Summer+Gathering>

Aug 25-27, 2009 - 10th Annual Northwest Permaculture and Bioregional Gathering, Eugene, Oregon, Dharmalaya Center.

September 18-20, 2009, 2nd Annual Washington State Permaculture Convergence, Belfair, Washington, Christy Nieto.

November 4-6, 2011, 1st Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Conference, Spokane, Washington.

November 9-11, 2012, 2nd Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Conference, Missoula, Montana.

September 13-15, 2013, 3rd Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Conference, Hayden Lake, Idaho.

September 11-14, 2014, 4th Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Convergence, Tumtum, Washington.

September 10-13, 2015, 5th Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Convergence, Tumtum, Washington.
September 9-11, 2016, 6th Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Convergence, Tumtum, Washington.
September 1-3, 2017, 7th Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Convergence, Hot Springs, Montana.
September 20-23, 2018, 8th Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Convergence, Hot Springs, Montana.
September 19-22, 2019, 9th Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Convergence, Hot Springs, Montana.
September 25-27, 2020, 10th Annual Inland Northwest Permaculture Convergence, Clark Fork, Idaho.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

August 30-September 10, 1994, 3rd European Permaculture Convergence, Germany. May

16-19, 1996. 4th European Permaculture Conference. Tournets sur Loup, France.

March 27-April 4, 2000, 1st Latin American Permaculture Congress. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

November 13-15, 2004, International Ecovillage Designers Conference. Maleny, Queensland, Australia, Max Lindegger.

July 7-12, 2001, 6th European Permaculture Conference, Vrable, Slovakia. Permaculture Institute of Europe.

March 20-25, 2008. 9th Australian Permaculture Convergence, Sidney, NSW, Australia. Celebrating 30 years of permaculture.

www.apc9.org.au

August 21-23, 2009, Festival de Permaculture 2009. Sambourg, France.

2010. 10th Australian Permaculture Convergence. Cairns, Tropical Far North Queensland.

[Richard Archer in a recent post from Australia said “In Australia there are many small grass-roots organizations but no national body. The grass-roots orgs are generally specific to a local area, they run PDCs and members help each other out with permie projects. There is not a whole lot of interaction between groups.”

I think that not everyone in Australia would share Archer’s assessment. The Australian permaculturists have held a major national convergence every few years since 1986. I attended the APC in 1995 in Adelaide. It was a great convergence with hundreds of permaculture people from all around Australia. It was evidence of a vibrant permaculture movement with a lot of interconnections.]

Locations of the IPC’s (International Permaculture Convergence and Conference)

The convergence is for design course graduates only and precedes the public conference.

IPC 1, 1984, Pappinbarra and Rowlands, NSW, Australia. IPC

2, 1986, Breitenbush, Oregon and Olympia, Washington. IPC

3, 1989, South Island and North Island, New Zealand.

IPC 4, 1991, Biratnagar and Kathmandu, Nepal.

IPC 5, 1993, Gerlesborg (Sweden) and Copenhagen (Denmark).

IPC 6, 1996, Bridgetown and Perth, Western Australia.

IPC 7, 2005, Slovenia and Motovun, Croatia.

IPC 8, 2007, Pirenopoli and Sao Paulos, Brazil, www.ipc8.org

IPC 9, October, 2009. Malawi, Africa. www.ipcon.org

IPC X, September, 2011. Jordan, Middle East Their website is not up as of 12/28/10.

IPC XI, Cuba? The 2011 location was a toss-up between Jordan and Cuba. The Cuban permaculture stated their desire to host IPC XI.