



The Resilient Communities Project Blogs

Part 2: 11/24 – 2/25

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The Wise Old Oak Tree – A Fable

Fable - a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.

Living with The Wise Old Oak Tree

Rain waters leaves and into the roots

Mr. Squirrel and Mama Blue Jay live here

As the Wise Tree offers food and nesting to his friends

Inside the Wise Old Oak Tree

Rings of growth fan-out from the middle of the Old Oak

2 years, 12 years, fifty years and on...

Each new ring a symbol of added wisdom and longevity

Surrounding the Wise Old Oak Tree

The king of the forest

His acorns are his sons and daughters

His bark protecting his soul

Above The Wise Old Oak Tree

The Spirit caresses the Forest

Blessing Mr. Squirrel and Mama Blue Jay

With rain and acorns

Moral: Care for your neighbors and they will care for you.

The Village Barter Store

Definition of barter: "To exchange used or new goods or services without using money."

This is an honor-driven, resilient retail system that champions barter and recycling... in a not-for-profit business structure.

Walk in. Make an account or log-in. In the front of the house there is a tablet. This is a self-service process - drop-in, drop-off and search the inventory on the machine. The merchandise is stored in the back of the house.

Then tag and enter information in the computer on items that will be bartered, donated, or recycled. Each physical tag includes an exchange value and an expiration date. The tablet has pre-set sub directories for donations and recycling that will not be bartered. If an item is not bartered within 30 days, it is removed from inventory and donated or recycled. There is a lot of potentially barterable stuff that people might be looking for. This list is on the tablet, too.

The computer sends out text notifications to members about new offerings and donations.

Village Barter Store volunteers who monitor inventory and clean-up the space can contribute to their village housing costs through equity-share payments.

The Sweet Water Permaculture Rescue

Environmental resilience can be defined as nature's ability to recover from disruptions, resist degradation, and adapt to changing conditions. (WIKI)

####

Coal Dust, Oregon is a settlement on the west side of the Pleasant River which has conventional energy sources mainly, electricity and gas power from the traditional power grid.

Sweet Water, California is on the east side of the Pleasant River and is a resilient village - off-grid with alternative sources of renewable energy including: methane, solar, wind, and water power.

Hally and Buster are twin sisters, from the two different villages and value sets. Hally lives in Coal Dust. Buster lives in Sweet Water. They are opposites from each other in most ways.

The Pleasant River is a connector, an educator, a spiritual circuit. A part of Sweet Water's environmental resilience.

####

As the story is told, the Coal Dust grid goes down in a severe storm and power is out. Electrical power is sent to them from Sweet Water through a river bottom pipeline. Here permaculture principle 12 is helpful: Creatively use (pipeline) and respond to change (the outage). A kiosk is set-up to discuss alternative energy sources and resilience education in Coal Dust. A permaculture group is established by Buster that includes citizens from both villages. The goal is to build an off-grid system in Coal Dust.

The Compost Lady

New Myth*

Annie Young, 81, runs "The Compost Lady", a small, neighborhood-scale compost generation and education site in an Austin suburb. In the Front Yard, a demo project growing food with and without compost is active. In the Back Yard is a compostable material drop off and compost production site.

'Compost is a mixture of ingredients used as plant fertilizer to improve soil's physical, chemical, and biological properties. It is commonly prepared by decomposing plant and food waste, recycling organic materials, and manure. The resulting mixture is rich in plant nutrients and beneficial organisms, such as bacteria, protozoa, nematodes, and fungi. Compost improves soil fertility in gardens, landscaping, horticulture, urban agriculture, and organic farming, reducing dependency on commercial chemical fertilizers.' (WIKI)

The City Planning office is trying to shut-down Annie's vision. Once again a petition is circulated throughout the neighborhood in support of the compost works. Annie continues to operate as usual as the ruckus plays out. The City Council approves the permit with a unanimous vote. A massive public potluck attracts 270 people from all walks of life, including many local permaculturists.

Annie and her neighbors are Heroes.

###

*New Mythology utilizes a new definition of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey, also known as the monomyth, as a new template for modern myths. The stages involve a community that experiences a journey, is victorious in crisis, receives a reward, and is transformed as the Hero.

Mountain Heroes

New Myth

Part One

Marko brought Tina back to the family yurt, off the dirt road and past the solar panel racks. A stack of seasoned lumber along the side of the tent, to the inside fireplace; chimney puffing smoke. A wood-burning iron stove sits in the middle of a traditional yurt, with a long chimney reaching up past the roof. A yurt is essentially a tent constructed on top of a flat piece of earth, the floor often covered by carpets. The fall garden was cut down and fallow, having been harvested just days ago.

Canning jars and lids are scattered about. Glass jars and lids do not need to be sterilized before use if your foodstuffs will be processed more than 10 minutes in a boiling water bath or pressure canner. If jar-processing time is 10 minutes or less, jars must be sterilized before filling.

Tina vowed not to wade into the steam unless it is 60 degrees out. But autumn at the outpost rarely gets above 45. Marko knows that when she gets stinky enough, she will sneak in a sponge bath no matter the temperature! Tina makes soap to sell at the farmer's market and it is biodegradable, of course. "Biodegradable soaps have fewer chemical additives and synthetic components. So, they decompose quickly and break down naturally without harming the environment."

The outpost is a spiritual testament to Nature. Lots of candles and poetry. Kinda like the Light of the Quakers meets the Swiss Army Knife of the Scouts. The round yurt is oriented with the major compass points, North South East West having their own connection to Indian ways. "Each of the Four Directions is typically represented by a distinctive color, such as black, red, yellow, and white, which for some stands for the human races. The Directions can also represent stages of life: birth, youth, adult (or elder), death."

Part Two

The MAGA auxiliary army sponsors drills up and down the Valley monthly, and depending how you voted, you are nervous or grateful. Tina and Marko are of the former ilk, hoping that Trump's National Guard don't mis-step. In truth the yurters are politically neutral. When MAGA shows up for a census taking, Tina channels the discussion to other things, like the beautiful trout in the nearby stream and free camping soap. MAGA goes away happy that day, registering two adults at the outpost.

They heard from a neighbor that a second yurt was for sale. The sellers were moving off of the mountain and back to the State of Santa Cruz with their children. The free yurt was connected to the original one like two space modules and will serve as a living / storage room.

Marco is thinking "log cabin." Tina is pregnant. They are Heroes.

CooperativeLivingCommunities.org

aka icmatch.org

Public Service Announcement

CooperativeLivingCommunities.org (aka icmatch.org) offers several free services that had been missing in the residential intentional community (IC) movement:

- Back-end matching of communitarians for compatibility based on 28 key questions such as locations, purpose, and values.
- An easily searchable consultants listing where people can find the best help that is local to them.
- Resources to help new founders groups, such as templates and guidelines for agreements, pros and cons of various legal structures, and funding opportunities.

Further details on icmatch.org:

- There's no cost to list yourself.
- There's no cost for your potential clients to search the main consultant listing.
- Site viewers do not need to sign up in order to see consultant profiles.
- They don't mediate transactions between you and clients.
- You set your rates and can link to your external information.
- It's limited to consultants who have expertise specific in ICs. They vet consultants individually to ensure the database doesn't get cluttered with commercial spam.

They use a freemium model. If you would like to also be listed on specific pages that target a type of community, there's a \$3 per month subscription that can be ended at any time.

Their listing shows up as the first unsponsored google search result for "IC consultants."

The Permaculture Garden and AI/AR

Augmented reality (AR) involves overlaying visual, auditory, or other sensory information onto the real world to enhance one's experience. Unlike virtual reality, which creates its own cyber environment, augmented reality adds to the existing world as it is.

The Permaculture Garden: Permaculture is a form of land use modelled on natural ecosystems. This conscious design method follows the cycles, diversity, and resilience found in nature. Along with 12 principles, the ethics of earth care, people care and fair share form the foundation of permaculture / garden design.

Driven by AI, the permaculture garden can be visualized with AR to see how a garden may grow out to maturity and produce a yield.

####

The newly planted permaculture garden includes a diversity of plants and mulch. This initial stage, or segment 1, will serve as the base film for the AR study. AI will project how the garden will look after mid-life and final stages. The AI-driven videos will be AR segments 2 and 3. The garden is planted in Zone 1, which is adjacent to the house. The AR technology will over-lay the two AR videos on the base film.

The AI / AR combined computer investigation will take one weekend to produce with the use of a solar-powered, computer-laden production van from Forecaster, Inc.

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In permaculture, when we assess a piece of land, we look at all the factors – mapping out where the sun comes in, where the water runs, where the wind comes into the property, what the soil is like; seed sources are equally important. According to the computer-driven AI/AR process, all of the following garden plants grew to a standard height (and maturity) and appeared in AR Segment 3:

Brassicas

Snow peas

Black turtle beans

Chard

Kale

Parsley

Arugula

Beets

Turnips

Cilantro

Chervil

Carrots

Summer celery

Lemon balm

With the help of AI/AR, the final composite video reveals plants that could be grown in the garden and those that could not.

Driving the Long Boat

New Myth

"Touring canoes (sometimes called expedition or long canoes) are like recreational canoes, but they're designed to help you cover longer distances with less effort. Compared to recreational canoes, touring canoes are slimmer and longer, usually between 16 and 19 ft long." (<https://coolofthewild.com/>)

The first team of artisans that came to the abandoned bowling alley had no idea that they were repurposing the alley's pine plank lanes for a Watership. The aim is a long canoe.

The first step in the process is to sand off the varnish and paint from the lanes, then pry-up the planks to construct the boat's hull. The infrastructure pieces also need to be engineered to hold the curved linear rows of planks.

Robert, the Project Manager: "Folks, we are way behind schedule. The American Indian Museum ordered three boats but we are on-track to deliver only the large one."

The curved bow soon came together as natural sources of adhesive and lacquer were applied to the planks to create the hull. Seats, paddles, and foot rests were adapted from historic boat plans.

Finally, lifejackets and a cooler filled with drinks and lunch were placed in the canoe as the four-person team shoved away from the dock and started paddling to the City and the waiting American Indian Museum staff.

An Historic Achievement Award was accepted by Robert and several members of the artisan guild after the boat was placed in the exhibit. Robert and crew are heroes.

Disaster Preparedness for Resilience Communities

Permaculture is a design philosophy that can be used to create resilient communities and prepare for disasters. Permaculture principles like observe and interact, can be applied to disaster management to help communities adapt to and recover from emergencies.

Disaster preparedness strategies:

1. Emergency kits: Prepare an emergency kit with non-perishable food, water, a flashlight, batteries, a first aid kit, and more.
2. Evacuation plans: Develop evacuation plans and emergency services.
3. Community preparedness: Encourage communities to work together to build resilience.
4. Prediction and mitigation: Use weather and climate modeling, early warning systems, and other methods to predict and mitigate disasters.

Resilience communities prepare for disasters with permaculture principles, like design from patterns to details and collective action.

Developing Core Groups

"We are moving toward more in person organizing where possible, which will still be facilitated by and usually preceded by online communications. So social media blogs, the webpage, and the contact form are still as important as ever. And some people are just not very comfortable online or on video. It is just that people need to eventually meet in person to really get to know one another and develop the kinds of bonds that can lead to community." Brad Smith, Co-Founder, RCP

###

Adam: "It was nice to meet-up last night at the RCP online visioning session."

Caren: "Right on. But it would be nice to meet in person."

In two weeks, RCP meets at the public library for a face-to-face meeting. Adam and Caren are two of 12 attendees.

Edward is leading the discussion: "RCP's economic structure offers a novel framework for small groups (perhaps 5-15 adults) to cooperatively acquire permanent land and housing subject to sound agreements for the good of all. This framework largely frees us from the extractive economy: by greatly reducing exorbitant living costs we can invest the surplus into growing a more sustainable and equitable alternative economic system."

Edward uses a white board to discuss alternative payments at an RCP Village:

"Instead of paying rent or a mortgage, members make affordable monthly equity-share payments along with a specified share of operating costs. Mechanisms can be created to provide for "sweat equity" or valuation of material contributions." RCP website

Edward: "Please sign-up for the Economic Core Group before you leave!"

Video conferencing then face-to-face sessions, then group meet-ups. This is how RCP works.

The Canoe People

New Myth

Dori and KuKu love to paddle with the Loons on pristine lakes, near the Crandon (and Stone Lake) areas of north central Wisconsin. The aqualung (a gas-powered floating engine supporting long underwater breathing tubes) is always gassed up for underwater exploration. Snorkels are ready, too.

The proud Forest County Potawatomi Indians once fished the rivers and lakes of North Central Wisconsin until they were forced onto reservation land:

"The Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) have lived in the Forest County area, Wisconsin, since the late 1800s. Around 1880, groups settled in areas near Blackwell and Wabeno and have lived in that area since.

Today, life on the reservation is very different than it was for the elders. They have done much for the younger generation, and it is because of the elders that the younger generations are who they are today."
(fcpotawatomi.com/)

###

The fresh water preserved battle canoe that the kids found on the bottom of Forest Lake is retrieved for restoration and exhibit at the FCP Museum is approximately 75 years old. There are arrows from a rival tribe shot into the bow of the boat.

Museum curators use the canoe as a history lesson for the community and the kids got their story in the paper. The FCP and Dori and KuKu are transformed as heroes.

The Permaculture Crossing

Designing the emergence of a permanent culture

The Permaculture Crossing (AKA PcX) brings together Permaculture practitioners and enthusiasts from around the world to connect and support one another as they design and co-create equitable, inclusive, and regenerative landscapes, ecosystems, and communities. Come to learn, to share, to connect with colleagues and opportunities. Make an offer, an ask, an exchange. As they connect and support one another, they weave networks and grow movements.

One will find the following functionalities at PcX:

They have polls, prompts, posts, and questions that can bring more people into a conversation.

They have Spaces (like Groups on social media) to organize activity.

One can search and save posts so you can quickly come back to your favorites.

One can direct message ("chat"). You can also post and have threaded conversations.

They organize virtual sessions and in-person events.

One can keep conversations and messaging going before, during, and after events.

They have spaces for bioregional groups and special interests.

PcX is also a learning and course delivery platform.

Site: <https://community.pcx.earth/spaces/11607386/page>

Questions for the Journey Ahead

"It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine." R.E.M.

'I think most of us here understand that the collapse that has been underway for years takes many forms and proceeds through steady decline punctuated by catastrophic environmental, social, economic, and political disasters. Today's wakeup call checks all those boxes. For me this renews my motivation to get together as soon as possible on land where we can live more resiliently during this new acceleration of collapse and for the long term. This is collapse. Let's get a cracking.'" From an email message from Brad Smith, RCP.

"As an environmental education, justice, and advocacy organization and as a community of high desert, off-grid dwellers, we nurture our kinship to land to guide us through these times. The future may be uncertain, but we can be certain about our mission, our resolve, and our connectedness to this earth that sustains us."
Quail Springs Permaculture Online Newsletter 11/24

"The RCP, composed of an experienced organizing team, multiple Pacific Northwest landholders with from 2 to 120 acres, and an initial formative group of prospective community members, has recently developed a framework to accelerate this necessary trend. We are forming a network of small socially and economically cooperative communities that can survive and thrive as the currently dominant neoliberal system continues to unravel. Together we will innovate and demonstrate the transformative power of a truly convivial, equitable, and sustainable way of life." Brad Smith, RCP Founding Document

Questions -

Have you lived through a major disaster?

Are you prepared for the next one?

How do you describe the current pace of collapse?

Are you a leader or a follower? What needs to change?

What is your long-term goal for the planet?

What is an advocacy organization? Are you a member of one?

Are there any cooperative communities near you?

Are they accepting new members?

Emergency Preparedness & Climate Change

"The past couple of months have illuminated the importance of community in our lives. In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, communities from all walks of life came together in solidarity - to show support in helping to rebuild the places damaged by the storm. It takes Community to face the climate crisis." (Erin McMichael, Foundation for Intentional Community)

Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, which can lead to more costly, widespread, and frequent disasters. Emergency managers are working to adapt to these changes by improving the nation's ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to future climate conditions.

Here are some ways climate change is affecting emergency preparedness:

More severe storms -

Warmer temperatures lead to more evaporation, which results in heavier rainfall and stronger winds. This can lead to more frequent storms, especially in regions that aren't used to them.

Flooding -

Rising sea levels, high tides, and storm surges can increase flooding in some areas.

More destructive hurricanes -

Warmer ocean temperatures and more heat in the atmosphere can lead to longer, more destructive hurricane seasons.

Heat waves -

Heat waves are expected to become more frequent and severe. Heat is already the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States.

Wildfires -

Droughts can parch vegetation, creating more tinder for wildfires.

Landslides -

When rainfall events occur, the lack of plants can cause water to shift more of the soil, leading to landslides.

Some ways to prepare for climate change include:

- * Incorporate climate change into emergency preparedness
- * Emergency managers should consider the potential impact of climate change on their response efforts.
- * Plan for consequences

Instead of planning for specific events, plan for common consequences and the actions or capabilities that can address them.

* Educate about climate change

Improving climate literacy across the nation can help address the impacts of climate change.

Elements to Build a Permaculture Village

- + Vegetable Gardens
- + Herb Gardens
- + Spice Gardens
- + Various Grains
- + Apiary
- + Seed Harvesting & Use of Seed Inoculants
- + Teaching kitchen skills: Butter, Ghee, Cheese Making/Cooking/Baking
- + Teaching food preservation
- + Processing Cold-Pressed Oils
- + Coop/General Store Operation/Maintenance
- + Restaurant Operation/Maintenance
- + Bed & Breakfast Operation/Maintenance
- + Flower Garden (Processing Tinctures & Essential Oils)
- + Cotton, Hemp, Other Fiber Crops
- + Fiber Crafts/Spinning, Sewing, Weaving, Quilting, Knitting, Crocheting
- + Textile & Fabric Shop/Clothing Manufacturing
- + Bamboo Products
- + Basketry Weaving / Straw Plaiting
- + Pottery Making
- + Homemade Cleaning Products
- + Soap Making
- + Harmonic Earthworks/Gabions, Swales, Dams
- + Ponds & Lakes Management
- + Water Collection/Purification
- + Food Forest Garden Design & Development
- + Orchards, Vineyards & Berries (Guild designing)
- + Animal Fodder
- + CEB Block Making/Construction
- + Grist Mill
- + Lumber Mill
- + Basic Woodworking, Carving, Inlay/Furniture Shop
- + Blacksmith Forge/Tool Making
- + Cows
- + Oxen Teams
- + Horses

Download Doc: https://willipaulstudio.com/pdf/Elements_Permaculture_Village.pdf

Contemplation, Play, and Passion!

Here we have three different levels of conscious involvement. Definitions:

*** Contemplation:**

the action of looking thoughtfully at something for a long time.

Example: Permaculture Zones and Garden Plans

*** Play:**

engaged in an activity for enjoyment and recreation rather than for a serious or practical purpose.

Example: Frisbee Golf

*** Passion:**

a strong liking or desire for, or devotion to, some activity, object, or concept.

Example: Global Warming

Questions:

How do you define Contemplation, Play, and Passion?

Do you incorporate more than one of these ideas at the same time?

Can you have passion for a favorite game?

Do you think that frisbee golf represents a revolution in play?

What are you devoted to? Is it spiritual?

Do you have a passion for solving global warming?

Forecaster

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