

Alchemy of Permaculture: Adventures in Applied Deep Ecology

Boone's Farm, Little Applegate Watershed,
Southern Oregon
March 21-30, 2008

Our relationship to the vital earth we inhabit is inherently alchemical. But at this moment – evidenced by the looming planetary ecological crisis – the vessel of that relationship is on the verge of shattering. A crisis of this magnitude demands that we respond to the situation from a perspective that honors both exterior and interior landscapes. Our task is to examine how we have reached this critical point and to explore the possibilities of creating a more sustainable crucible for life. This ten day off-site residential field course (in Southern Oregon's Applegate Valley) will investigate the psycho-cultural origins of the planetary crisis and pursue direct practical solutions to it.

Utilizing the ethic and practice of deep ecology and permaculture, we will aim to envision, create, and live a sustainable way of being. Activities will include lectures, discussions, wilderness field trips, hands-on experience with bioremediation, permaculture design principles, water-catchment, wild food and medicine foraging, organic dairy production, practice in sustainable community, and – most importantly – exploring our playful and joyous kinship with the wild and natural world. Readings will include E.O. Wilson on the ecological crisis, C.G. Jung and others on alchemy, and a variety of readings on permaculture and deep ecology.

CIIS Instructors: Blair Carter & David Ulansey.

Host & Core Field Instructor: Michael “Mookie” Moss.

Assistant Field Instructors and Presenters: Mia Rose, Laurel Sutherlin, Nancy Metzger, Zac Miller, Kevin Kohley, Stu Oneill, Kerule Dyer,

Culinary Goddesses: Carin McKay & Clara Lindstrom

Special Guests: Chant & Bahaar Thomas, Tom Ward, Tom & Maude Powell, Becky White, Chalo, Nathan Pundt, and Coenrad Rogman.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will understand:

- 1.) The practical and theoretical relationships between human consciousness and ecological sustainability.

- 2.) The historical, cultural, and scientific background to our current ecological crises.
- 3.) The essential relations between ecology and psychology.
- 4.) How to embody a self-inclusive bioregional sense of place.
- 5.) The vital presence of forest ecosystems: to identify and distinguish forest health from forest disease and implement strategies for treatment.
- 6.) The basics of organic gardening and permaculture design principles.
- 7.) The living connections and co-evolutionary relationship between humans and the natural world.
- 8.) How to utilize mushrooms in regenerative earthworks.
- 9.) How to integrate natural history into permaculture design.
- 10.) How to grow soil.
- 11.) How to utilize locally harvested resources for natural building materials.
- 12.) The basis for animal husbandry and organic goat dairy production.
- 13.) How to be a responsible ecological citizen with the basic knowledge and tools to implement creative sustainable change.

Some Essential & Relevant Questions:

- How do we embody a self-inclusive, bioregional sense of place?
- Does an evolution of consciousness include, if not necessitate, a simultaneous evolution of matter?
- What is Permaculture and how might this ethical science provide guidance for our ecological moment?
- What is the function of the imagination in scientific observation?
- What roles do attention and intention play in conscious transformation and the transformation of consciousness?
- How is alchemy related to ecological philosophy and praxis?
- What can we do? How can we facilitate mutually beneficial, self-inclusive, self-regulating, holistic ecological transformation?
- What are some practical applications?

Learning Activities:

Lecture, dialog, hands-on experience, and student presentations.

Daily Schedule (please note: this is not an updated schedule, but it is a fair representation of what one may expect).

- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 - 9:00 Morning Circle
- 9:00 - 12:00 Morning Session
- 12:00 - 2:00 Lunch and Free-time
- 2:00 - 5:00 Afternoon Session
- 5:00 – 6:00 Free-time
- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
- 7:00 – 7:30 clean-up
- 7:30 – 9:00 Evening Program
- 9:00 - Free Time

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday March 21	Depart Berkeley 10:00 am	Arrival & Camp set-up	Orientation and Evening Campfire
Saturday March 22	Opening ceremony Introductions and Intentions Course Overview Natural History of Boone's Farm and site orientation Embodying Permaculture principles and ethics	Land Walk & Site Awareness (cont.) Learning how to read the landscape Zones, sectors and site planning Water Harvesting Swales, Springs, Keyline, Ponds	Intro. to Alchemy Part 1 Music and Dance
Sunday Mar 23	Natural Building Alternating ½ group on Cheese Cave ½ group on Riparian and Habitat restoration	The Alchemy of Permaculture Part 1 Intro. to An Ecological Psyche Imagination and Observation Pattern Recognition	Jung on Alchemy
Monday Mar 24	Alternating ½ group on	Natural History Hike	Jung on Alchemy

	Cave ½ group on Getting Tilty Growing Soil Building Soil Sheet Mulching Decomposition Composting	and Activities Adaptation Auction	
Tuesday Mar 25	Field trip to Trillium		Mindfully creating sustainable guilds in the landscape and in our educational institutions Sensory Awareness and Nocturnal Adaptation
Wednesday Mar 26	Natural Building Cheese Cave Alternating ½ group on cave ½ group on Planting an orchard	Trees: Gaia's Alchemists Orchard and Cave cont. Plant/Animal profile research	Viva la Revolucion! Drumming Circle
Thursday Mar 27	Field Trip to Wolf Gulch. Forest Restoration and berry planting		Myco-restoration and Biomimicry Bio-Astrology
Friday Mar 28 (We will take a pack lunch with us on this day)	Hike through an old growth forest Middle Fork	Old growth time cont.	Student group presentations/skits on Anatomy of Psyche Musical celebration with Chalo, Becky, and Nathan
Saturday Mar 29	The Alchemy of Permaculture Part 2 Perspectives on ecological/psychological evolution Soulscapes and Landscapes/Inscapes & Outscapes	Student Presentations***	Passion Show
Sunday Mar 30	Closing Ceremony Depart for Home		

Assignments:

1. Plant/Animal Profile: This is an opportunity for you to deepen your relationship to a particular plant/animal and research its characteristics (healing properties, its

- ecological/habitat role, material uses, etc.). There will be a variety of field guides available during the course for research. However, please note that your own observations of the plant/animal and its environment are of equal value.
2. **Journal Exercises:** Students should keep a journal throughout the course. Journal entries—drawings, poems, reflections, etc.—are a great way to deepen one’s inner experience with place.
 3. **Final Project:** Utilizing the course readings and your journal entries, please write a 10-15 page paper reflecting on those aspects of the course that have been most meaningful for you.

*** The Student Presentation is an opportunity for you to share either your plant/animal profile, or a general introduction to your final project for the course.

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