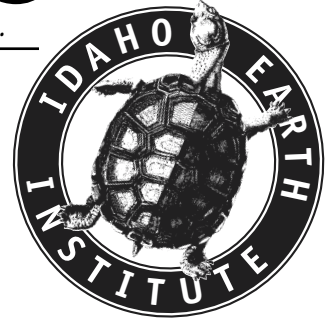


# TURTLE TIMES

*Choosing the slow lane, living close to the earth, heading for sustainability at the end of the race.*

Volume 5, Number 7

FALL 2004



## WHAT'S AHEAD

### IEI Annual Yard Sale

■ IEI annual yard sale is coming up. *Sat, Sept 11th, 8:30 am to 2pm at 1520 N. 12th Street (corner of Eastman in church yard)*

### IEI Fundraising Dessert

■ Special Guests: Dick & Jeanne Roy Co-Founders of Northwest Earth Institute *Sat, Sept 11, 7:30pm, 424 N. Mobley (off Warm Springs Ave just west of Adams School) RSVP: Deanna Smith 344-2261, [quanix@rmci.net](mailto:quanix@rmci.net)*

### IEI Gala Gathering Potluck

■ **SEPT 18**, *Sat, 5pm to 8pm at Municipal Park Shelter (Walnut St. S. of Warm Springs Ave), bring dish, cup(s), plate(s), & silverware. (No dogs or glass beverage containers in park)*

### UPCOMING COURSES . . . PLUS:

#### Choices for Sustainable Living

■ **SEPT 13**, *Mon 7pm, Boise Public Library, Marion Bingham Rm, 3rd fl, Cost: None! (This course-workbooks loaned free) Contact: Anne Hausrath 345-9631 [iei@velocitus.net](mailto:iei@velocitus.net)*

■ **OCT 17**, *Sun 5-6:30 pm Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6200 N. Garrett St, Garden City, \$15 for workbook, Contact: Mike Philley, 378-1714, [mphilley@cableone.net](mailto:mphilley@cableone.net)*

#### Voluntary Simplicity

■ *Coming soon through Boise Schools Community Ed & Downtown YMCA. Contact Anne Hausrath 345-9631 [iei@velocitus.net](mailto:iei@velocitus.net)*

#### Deep Ecology Book Study

■ *Contact: Dan Walters 424-0409 [danchavous@msn.com](mailto:danchavous@msn.com)*

#### IEI Monthly Gatherings

■ **UPCOMING:** *Conversation & light snacks on topics, ie: Boise Bartering Network, Simplifying the Holidays, a "green audit", & Community Supported Agriculture. Contact Anne Hausrath, 345-9631 [iei@velocitus.net](mailto:iei@velocitus.net).*

#### Horticultural Symposium

■ **SEPT 18**, *"Right for the Region" - Apply xeriscape principles & hardy perennials in Idaho gardens Cost: \$37 per person for day long program. For registration call Maurine, 722-6701, Ext. 228.*

## We did it! We are officially the Idaho Earth Institute

### A Letter From the IEI Board President

*Dear Members and Friends of NWEI Idaho:*

Your participation and support have empowered an Interim Board to create an independent Idaho Earth Institute. On July 1 we became the newest sister member of an increasingly active network of earth institutes across the country. We Board members have accepted the challenge of creating this new non-profit organization because, like you, we value the opportunities it provides to help us explore our values and connect with others in the community who wish to live more sustainably. We invite your support in meeting this challenge.

This change brings an opportunity to strengthen the organization and to redefine its mission to better reflect the desires of the earth institute community here in Idaho. The change also puts responsibility for our existence solely on our shoulders. Your continued volunteer participation and financial support are more valuable and necessary than ever as we enter this new phase of independence. We plan to continue offering courses throughout the state and supporting the much-needed work of our paid staff. We also want to open a modest office and expand programming and special events. Success will come with our abilities to create an extensive membership base and to identify generous donors at all levels of giving. We invite you to consider gifts of time and money to help us achieve these goals.

Come join us in new beginnings and continued camaraderie at the upcoming Gala Celebration at Municipal Park. All of us on the Board thank you for past support, welcome current questions and suggestions, and invite your involvement into the future.

*Sue Philley, Interim President  
([sphilley@cableone.net](mailto:sphilley@cableone.net); 208-378-1714)*



**IEI's Great Harvest:** *the Interim Board l. to r.: Sue Philley, President; Mike McClennahan, Personnel/Earth Institute Liaison; Deanna Smith, staff; Kathleen Romito, Program Chair; Andrea Bogle, Vice President; Sharon Matthies, At-Large/ Resources Not pictured: Jane Heubner, Treasurer; Anne Hausrath, staff*

# Foundation for a Future: Be a Builder

The newly established Idaho Earth Institute invites you to become a founding member!

It is your chance to lay the foundation for a stable sister institute in Idaho. A founding membership is a pledge to contribute for three years at a level most comfortable to you. We encourage those of you who can, to join our Founders Circle and pledge \$100 or more per year. Your pledge can be given in one lump sum or divided into annual, quarterly or monthly payments.

If you cannot pledge at the founder level, we invite you to become a regular member. To those who have supported us in the past as members of NWEI we thank you and hope you will renew your support. To those potentially new members, now is the time to act. Be in the forefront of this new adventure as a sister institute. Help build a future for us all. Mail your pledge to Idaho Earth Institute, POB 245, Boise, ID 83701. ■

# Idaho Earth Institute Gala Gathering

Join in celebrating our transition to an independent sister earth institute:

**Sat Sept 18, 5 - 8pm**

at Municipal Park Shelter (Walnut St south of Warm Springs Ave)

**5:30 - 7pm** Nature activities, important announcements and door prizes

**6pm** Potluck supper begins

Music, fellowship, and fun throughout the celebration! Family and friends welcome! Please bring a potluck dish to share and your own cup(s), plate(s), and silverware. (Note: Dogs and glass beverage containers are not allowed in park) Contact Anne at 345-9631 or [iei@velocitus.net](mailto:iei@velocitus.net) ■



IEI Annual

## YARD SALE

**Sat, Sept 11th**

**8:30 AM - 2 PM**

1520 N 12th St

(corner of Eastman in church yard)

To donate or volunteer:  
contact Kathleen at 363-0165, [k\\_romito@yahoo.com](mailto:k_romito@yahoo.com)

There will be a **Special Sneak Preview** on Friday Sept 10th from 7:30 pm to 9 pm at the same location. Admission \$5 (IEI members and yard sale volunteers free)

**A L E R T !**

## Turtle Times Change Imminent

In the interest of sustainability, future printed Turtle Times newsletters will be sent only to IEI members. However, an email (pdf) version will be available to anyone. Act now to continue receiving this newsletter.

**Print version:** Become an IEI member.

**Email version:** Send email address to Deanna Smith, [quanix@rmci.net](mailto:quanix@rmci.net). We will not share our email list or use it for any purpose other than to send you IEI news.



## Join IEI.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Regular Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100/yr Founders Circle (3year pledge)

Send tax deductible checks payable to "IEI" and mail to: IEI PO Box 245, Boise, ID 83701



Draggin' Wing Farm  
& MK Nature Center staff

## Fall Plant Sale

*natives* ■ *drought tolerant*  
■ *medicinal* ■ *fire resistant*  
■ *wildlife habitat*

**Sunday, Sept 19**

**10am - 2pm**

Fall is a great time to plant perennials! Warm soil + cooler temperatures = great root growth and a head start on spring planting

**MK Nature Center**  
behind IDFG Headquarters  
600 Walnut Street, Boise

# Locally Appropriate Gardening & Landscaping

*Have you ever walked in your Boise neighborhood and thought to your self, "Hmmm, I could be in just about any town in the USA!" . . .*

With green lawns as far as the eye can see, big shade trees and lush shrubbery all clipped and mowed, one could mistake themselves for being in Michigan, Oregon or Kansas. In fact many people who come to live in Boise have no idea that this is a desert, receiving less than 12" of rainfall annually.

There is a movement afoot to become more attuned to our local environment by landscaping and gardening in a sustainable way that celebrates the unique fauna, flora, climate and geology that make Boise stand apart from other cities. Why is this becoming a popular movement? Because sustainable landscaping will save you \$\$\$ on your water bill. It is aesthetically pleasing. It can help support and attract birds, insects and animals that are rapidly losing habitat due to development. It utilizes fewer chemicals, fossil fuels and machines to maintain. And finally, it helps create a sense of place. If you are interested in how to join this movement, keep reading.

## **Xeriscape's Seven Principles:**

Once you have decided it is time to begin gardening and landscaping in a locally appropriate way, the concept that many people have already embraced called "*xeriscape*" (meaning low water use landscaping) is a good place to start. There are seven principles to xeriscape landscaping, which actually make sense for any type of landscape:

- 1.** *Consider the microclimates around your house and specific use areas while planning and designing your yard.*
- 2.** *Analyze your soil with soil tests and improve with amendments such as compost that will help the soil retain moisture and keep your plants healthy.*
- 3.** *Research, select and group plants that do well with similar watering needs.*
- 4.** *Limit high maintenance lawn to where it is necessary for use and consider using lawn alternatives such as drought tolerant prairie grasses instead of lawn.*
- 5.** *Design your irrigation system so that it waters each plant efficiently. Drip-irrigate where possible.*

**6.** *Mulch your landscaped beds with a material that will help the soil retain moisture and limit weeds.*

**7.** *Trim and prune your plants to keep them healthy.*

Once you have a pretty good handle on those seven water saving principles then you can begin exploring how to incorporate the additional concept of sustainability. You can start to restore your landscape back to something that is meant to grow in Boise's climate; it can survive both the hardest winter and the hottest, driest summer and still look great with the least need for commercial pesticides and fertilizers, mowing, trimming and watering.

Collecting run-off from your downspouts into rain barrels, composting your kitchen and yard waste and encouraging birds and other wildlife into your yard to help control weed seeds, are some additional practices that can help make not only your yard but also your home more sustainable.

If you're convinced you need to get going ASAP. Then the following list may be of help to you.

## **Resources:**

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**Draggin' Wing Farm** Growing and selling xeriscape perennials and shrubs. Diane Jones, 345-4199 .

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**Katie Wilde, Landscape Architect** Landscape architecture for a sustainable human habitat, (208) 344-7010.

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**Desert Design, Dale Donahue** New ways to design and blend with our desert climate and helping you to preserve our water resources. We bring the magic of the desert to you, (208) 331-2388.

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**Earthly Delights Sustainable Landscaping, Casey O'Leary** Specializing in xeriscapes, attracting wildlife, permaculture, native and edible landscapes, using respectful, responsible methods, (208) 343-0569.

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SUPPORT THE IDAHO EARTH INSTITUTE



*You're Invited*

## To a Fun and Fundraising Dessert with Dick & Jeanne Roy

Our special guests, Dick and Jeanne Roy, co-founders of the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) will talk about the importance of the national network of earth institutes.

**Sat evening, Sept 11, 7:30pm**

*At the home of Mark and Gemma Utting, 424 N. Mobley  
(off Warm Springs Ave just west of Adams School)*

**RSVP** Deanna Smith at 344-2261 or [quanix@rmci.net](mailto:quanix@rmci.net)

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*Turtle Times provides updates of iei activities. To continue receiving Turtle Times: become a member or send us your email address. Contact [quanix@rmci.net](mailto:quanix@rmci.net). Annual membership \$35. Send to PO Box 245, Boise, ID 83701. Make checks payable to IEI.  
If you prefer to receive this newsletter via email please send us your address, we will keep it private.*



**Idaho Earth Institute**

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Boise, ID 83701

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