

Autumn 2007

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

What's ahead for Idaho Earth Institute

September 14, Leonardo DiCaprio's *The 11th Hour* begins screening at The Flicks in Boise. This "great-looking" documentary, featuring interviews with a variety of scientists and activists, provides "a look at what can be done in the near future" to help heal the environment. www.11thhouraction.com

September 15, IEI annual yard sale, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. 1520 N. 12 (Eastman and 12th) "Early bird" prices from 8:00 to 8:30 am, and "dollar bags" from 2:30 to 3:00 pm.

September 21, IEI Turtle Talk, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, "Sustainability and 'shrooms." Sue Zollinger travels from her new Utah home to her previous IEI haunts (the Treasure Valley) to tell us about an opportunity to hear several NWEI course book authors speak on sustainability issues (see Bioneers article at right). The evening's program begins with a DVD of Paul Hawken, a long-time friend of Bioneers and consistent contributor to NWEI course books, offering his 25-minute talk about "Biology, resistance, and restoration: sustainability as an infinite game" and what he calls "the new superpower". Then to end the evening on a lighter note, we'll hear Paul Stamets on "How Mushrooms Will Save the Earth." Although not an NWEI author, he is just like you and me, trying to live a more sustainable life while making a positive contribution to the world. Come and be entertained as well as inspired. Location: MK Nature Center on Walnut between Warm Springs and Park.

September 20 & 21, "Let's Tend the Garden," environmental stewardship conference at The Vineyard church in Boise. http://letstendthegarden.org/conference/new_conference07.htm Keynote speakers: Richard Cizik is the Vice President for Governmental Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals, an umbrella organization that represents over 60 evangelical denominations nationwide. He has become a leading proponent of Creation Care since 2002. Scott Sabin is the Executive Director of Floresta, a Christian nonprofit organization, which reverses deforestation and poverty by transforming the lives of the rural poor in Mexico, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Tanzania. Related note: here's info about the October 2006 Bill Moyers PBS special "Is God Green?" which featured Tri Robinson of the Boise Vineyard and commentary by local reporter Rocky Barker. <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/moyersonamerica/green/index.html>

September 21, Idaho Nonprofit Development Center's (INDC) 4th annual nonprofit statewide conference. Details: <http://www.idahononprofits.org/>

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Turtle Times



Bioneers on the frontier

"Founded in 1990, ...Bioneers [biological pioneers] is a nationally recognized nonprofit dedicated to disseminating practical and visionary solutions for restoring Earth's imperiled ecosystems and healing our human communities." As explained on their web site (www.bioneers.org): "Our vision of environment encompasses the natural landscape, cultivated landscape, biodiversity, cultural diversity, watersheds, community economics, and spirituality." If this sounds like the concepts in NWEI course books, you're right on the nose.

In fact, there's quite a bit of cross pollination between Bioneers and the NWEI course books. Just a few examples: Bill McKibben, David Orr, Fritjof Capra and Jeanette Armstrong appear in *Exploring Deep Ecology*, Van Jones and Severn Cullis-Suzuki are in *Global Warming: Changing CO₂urse*, and Paul Hawken is in *Choices for Sustainable Living*, *Globalization and Its Critics*, and *Voluntary Simplicity*.

Bioneers offers an annual national conference: an opportunity to plug in to the latest ideas and solutions, plus network with others on the journey toward true sustainability. In 2007, it takes place October 19 to 21 in California. Happily, numerous "beaming locations" will offer closer-to-home regional versions (national speakers via satellite in the mornings, local workshops in the afternoon).

To see previous years' speakers via DVD and learn more about Logan, Utah's "beaming" event (just four hours away, an easy carpool adventure), come hear Sue's Turtle Talk on September 21.

Treasures for sale, treasures to donate

Reduce, reuse, recycle, restore. When you follow these precepts, your life is more... satisfying, simple, manageable, earth-friendly, and easy on the wallet. Employ these steps by donating your-no-longer-needed items to Idaho Earth Institute's annual yard sale – then shop for gently-used pieces you may want to add to your household.

Saturday, September 15. 8:00-8:30 am early bird prices (double), 8:30 - 1:00 regular pricing, 1:00 sales begin, 2:30 "dollar bags" begin, 3:00 pm event is over until next year. 1520 N 12th at Eastman. (Bonus: Hyde Park Street Fair is that weekend; festive!)

To donate items ahead of time, contact donation/pick-up coordinator John Repogle at 447-8010 (his drop spot is 6222 Elmer off Pierce Park). Drop-off storage, east side: Sydney Howland, sydland1z@juno.com, 206-542-7591 (long distance). Her drop spot is 2795 S Zola Avenue.

To volunteer your time & energy before or during the sale, contact Jonna Moore (333-0312, jonnamoore@aol.com). She'd love your assistance with advance activities (such as picking up items from donators around the valley, pricing parties are from 6 pm to 8 pm on September 6 at John's and on September 11 at Syds (see locations above), or moving items from the drop spots to the sale location on September 13 and 14 from 6pm to 9pm) and day-of-sale shifts (signage & set-up, cashiering, explaining the discussion courses, clean-up).

As co-chair Jeanette Ross says: "It's enjoyable, the company is the best, and you know where the money goes!"

Thanks to all who've donated so far. And to those who are in that process: happy sorting!



The Why, What, Where, When, and How of taking an Idaho Earth Institute discussion course

by Becca Stroebel, IEI course starts coordinator

If you are considering taking an Idaho Earth Institute course for the first time or are ready for your next topic, or if you are just curious about the process, read on to learn more.

Why take a course?

"This course has awakened me and made me passionate about life, the earth, and my community" *Voluntary Simplicity* participant.

"Through this course I met people who had similar interests and concerns and were working on coming up with interesting solutions." *Global Warming* participant.

These quotes come from participants who have taken IEI courses in the last year and illustrate the benefits of taking a course.

How do the courses work?

The seven topics are discussion-based courses lasting from 6-10 weeks including the presentation and celebration sessions. Each consists of readings on a variety of pertinent topics accompanied by discussion prompts for the facilitators to use in guiding the group. Participants in courses select a class coordinator and members take turns facilitating the discussions. IEI provides the group with a mentor who assists in setting up the class, modeling the first session, and providing guidance on an as-needed basis.

Where do courses take place?

Groups gather in a variety of locations, such as faith centers, workplaces, community centers, schools, and neighborhood associations, as well as friends or neighbors in each other's homes. Some groups are formed when existing teams, such as workplace colleagues, decide to get together and take a course. Others form when like-minded individuals meet at IEI events.

When are they offered?

Courses are organized when there are enough people who are interested in a certain course. An ideal amount is 8-12 people. This size allows for a variety of viewpoints to stimulate discussion, and time for everyone to be heard.

How do I get involved?

If you are interested in organizing a course with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, or others from your circle, please let us know and we

will assist you in putting one together.

Also, check out our website at www.idahoeearth.org or contact Becca Stroebel at beccastroebel@yahoo.com to find out about other individuals who are interested in forming courses.

Discussion groups now forming

September 5, 12, 19, 25 and October 2, 7:30-9 pm, *Global Warming: Changing CO₂ course* discussion group at New Leaf Healing Arts, 605 S. Orchard St. This is an existing group of five looking for additional members. The September 5 session is the introduction presentation; books will be distributed and the concept of the courses explained. Contact Crystal Spicer at 208-573-0434 or SpicerC@aol.com.

October 8, 15, 22 & 29, 7-9 pm, *Global Warming: Changing CO₂ course* discussion group at Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6200 N Garrett in Garden City. Registration fee \$25 (includes \$15 cost of IEI course book). Maximum enrollment: 12. Contact: Mike Philley, 378-1714 or mphilley@cableone.net

About the newest NWEI course topic

Al Gore's academy award-winning film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, accelerated public discourse and mounting concern about our warming planet and the prospects for a sustainable future. Climate scientists, economists, politicians, and business leaders alike are increasingly in agreement with the following statement by Alan AtKisson, President and CEO of AtKisson Group, a global network of consultants and small firms working on the climate crisis: "We are no longer passive victims of the climate system's slow oscillations; we are now, as a collective, atmospheric engineers."

The four-session *Global Warming: Changing CO₂ course* explores the history and science of global warming, our personal values and habits as they relate to climate change, and individual and community actions that can curb the effects of a warming atmosphere.

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September 23 – autumn begins; autumnal equinox

October 19, IEI Turtle Talk, "Preserving the Harvest" potluck and presentation. Speaker(s), location, etc. to be announced.

October 23, Dr. Helen Caldicott lecture, 7 pm, BSU Special Events Center: www.caldicottinboise.com

October 24, Take Back Your Time Day. www.timeday.org has simplicity tips and international vacation comparisons.

Autumn is the time for workplace giving campaigns. Whether through Choices in Community Giving or United Way, employees can designate specific nonprofits for all or some of their donation. Choose IEI.

November 3, "The Poetic Cosmos," 10 am-12:30 pm workshop, 7-9 pm evening performance. Eco-philosopher and poet Drew Dellinger [<http://www.drewdellinger.com>] is the founder of the non-profit Poets for Global Justice, giving poetic voice to social and environmental justice, cosmology and ecology, and grassroots democracy. Registration \$15 for the morning workshop, \$15 for the evening performance, or \$25 for both. Call Mike Philley, 378-1714, to register. Location: Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6200 N. Garrett St., Garden City.

November 16, IEI Turtle Talk, To be announced

November 29, IEI fundraising night at Ten Thousand Villages store in Hyde Park (1609 13th Street). 7 to 9 pm. Fifteen percent of the evening's sales will go to Idaho Earth Institute. www.tenthousandvillagesid.com

December 14, IEI Turtle Talk. "Place-Based Internet Activism: Social Networking for Sustainability," 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Gary Grimm, web designer and conservationist, will explain how an emerging third generation of the Internet (the new Semantic Web) is leading to a Geo Web that is location and time based. He will show attendees how they can use the Internet to learn about and connect with local and worldwide efforts to affect positive social and environmental change. Location: Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6200 N. Garrett St., Garden City.

December 22 – winter begins; winter solstice

2008

January 31, Focus the Nation, www.focusthenation.org, is promoting a nationwide non-partisan discussion of global warming action choices.

February and March, United Water's free 8-session series of classes on xeric landscaping, in conjunction with the City of Boise and the Ada County Cooperative Extension Service. Learn how to plan and install low water-use landscaping in advance of the spring planting season. (<http://www.unitedwateridaho.com>)

Wish list

New Turtle Talks committee, starting with our January presentation.

Storage space for various materials, such as inventory of course books and canopy for booth at events like Hyde Park Street Fair.

Course starts coordination team – would like several individuals to join Becca in helping support discussion groups from start to finish. This includes matching folks up, corralling course books and paperwork, and scheduling mentor training, public presentations, and even tabling opportunities. If you're detail-oriented, enjoy networking and like to solve puzzles, this might be just the volunteer gig for you!

A web site person who knows how to do CSS (cascading style sheets) - to help Glenna.

IEI walking the talk

reduce, refuse, reuse, rethink, recycle, repair/restore

Cloth napkins wherever food is offered, such as at potlucks, board meetings, and Turtle Talks. (reduce, reuse)

Paper name tags affixed with pins, since adhesive name tags are not recyclable. (reuse, rethink, recycle)

Newsletter, bookmarks and other materials produced at Printworks in Eagle. They are a local business, use recycled or low-impact paper whenever possible, and are a union shop. They also keep informed about the latest sustainability issues as they relate to printing, such as the chemicals required to clean up a press from soy ink, which may negate the environmentally-friendly aspects of using that particular product. (reduce, reuse, rethink)

A new look for the web site

Web wizard Glenna Rhodes has been devoting extra creative energy to idahoearth.org lately, updating format, providing new graphics, creating consistency among pages, and adding our recently-finalized "course starts frequently asked questions (FAQ)" document to the site. There's a new calendar, too. Whether visitors arrive for the first time or have a habit of checking often for new information, they'll find an inviting, informative and easy-to-navigate experience. Hats off to Glenna!

Getting connected, staying connected

If your contact info has changed, you want to receive Turtle Times via e-mail only, you'd like to be added to our e-mail list to hear about discussion groups that are forming, or would like to start your own discussion group with friends or co-workers, contact us at info@idahoearth.org To join IEI, please complete the membership form on our bookmark, our brochure, or our website.

IEI fundraising evening at Ten Thousand Villages

During an evening this fall, you can participate in a win-win-win-win event.

By coming to Ten Thousand Villages in Hyde Park, you'll be embracing fair trade, enjoying lovely crafts and artwork from around the planet, supporting two local nonprofits (the store and IEI), and crossing lots of items off your holiday shopping list. Plus enjoying coffee, tea and some treats.

Part of a national fair trade organization, the local Ten Thousand Villages store exemplifies sustainability in a variety of ways, including:

- xeric landscape
- many of the items offered for sale are made of recycled materials
- fair trade (people making the goods are paid a fair wage)
- life-balance is encouraged; work schedules in the store reflect that whenever possible
- recycle or reuse all packaging materials
- diversity (artisans are from around the world)
- community (local volunteers and staff members work closely together and provide extensive outreach)

On November 29, come join other IEIers in "sustainable shopping" -- and enjoying each other's company!

The all-volunteer board

Anne Barker, treasurer

Natalie Chavez, secretary and eco-parties maven

Stan Kidwell, at large member, graphics designer, 2007 yard sale co-chair

Sharon Matthies, communications chair, acting president, 2007 plant sale co-chair

Jonna Moore, membership/ database committee, outgoing Turtle Talks coordinator

Becca Stroebel, course starts coordination committee chair

Our current mentors & presenters (also volunteers)

Sr. Agnes Reichling (St. Gertrudes)

Sr. Carlotta Maria Fontes (St. Gertrudes)

Casey O'Leary

Claudia Fernsworth

Crystal Spicer

Derek Hurd

Diane Jones

Dwight Allen

Gayle Dixon (Council & McCall)

Jeff Rylee

Jennie Rylee

Joanna Guilfooy

Jon Barrett

Jonna Moore

Mary Beth Nutting

Mike Philley

Paige Keck

Ryndy Reed Williams

Sara Kate Foster (Moscow)

Sharon Matthies

Tracey Kindall (McCall)

Veronica Daley Zaleha (also a frequent tabler)

Just some of the other cool volunteers

Glenna Rhodes, web mistress

Jeanette Ross, September 2006 & September 2007 yard sale co-coordinator

Gail Kirgis, April 2006 & April 2007 plant sale co-coordinator

Nadine York, mentor & presenter trainer, frequent newsletter editor

Jenn Siegel, database project manager

About IEI

Idaho Earth Institute offers seven discussion courses developed by the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI): *Voluntary Simplicity; Exploring Deep Ecology; Discovering a Sense of Place; Choices for Sustainable Living; Globalization and its Critics; Healthy Children, Healthy Planet* (for parents & teachers, about children); and *Global Warming: Changing Course*. Our monthly presentations on sustainability topics, Turtle Talks, provide local expertise at no cost. And our home Eco-Parties, where nothing is sold, are all about finding non-toxic (and often less expensive & time-intensive) solutions to household and yard care. In addition to *Turtle Times* several times a year, we communicate about specific events and upcoming courses via e-mail (info@idahoeearth.org) and our web site (www.idahoeearth.org).



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Turtle Times

Autumn 2007

Recent IEI accomplishments

excerpted from our August 2007 annual report

- 15 discussion groups in 2005, 22 in 2006, and 17 so far in 2007
- Membership survey compiled November 2005
- Launching our web site in August 2005
- Updating the look of the site in June 2007
- Adding a "course starts frequently asked questions" document to the web site March 2007
- Adding a page to our web site for "discussion groups now forming" (January 2007)
- Launching our own e-mail address (info@idahoeearth.org) for receiving incoming messages – September 2005
- Our September 2006 yard sale netted \$1331 and involved 22 volunteers.
- April 2006 plant sale netted \$483. We sold 365 plants (and 18 seed packets) with the help of 22 volunteers.
- At the April 2007 plant sale, we sold 657 plants and 40 seed packets, netting \$1162. Thanks to our 25 volunteers.

- *Idaho Statesman* "Environment at Work" column May 3, 2006, "'Dumpster diver' helps HP take recycling seriously," mentioned IEI and included some volunteer quotes.
- *Idaho Statesman* "Environment at Work" article Oct 11, 2006, "Talk about going green: Idaho Earth Institute hosts environmental discussion courses" profiled an HP group.
- *Idaho Statesman* global warming article Jan 22, 2007 highlighting Natalie Chavez (IEI board member) and her family's simplicity journey
- *Idaho Statesman* article on April 12, 2007, titled "Idaho Earth Institute teaches sustainable living through courses." Complete with sidebars, featured two long-time volunteers, excellent and inspiring quotes, plus info about plant sale.
- Sitting on the organizing committee for Dave Korten's January 2007 visit to Boise, including a talk at BUUF, a local business networking breakfast, and a progressive individuals' network brunch/workshop
- Sitting on the organizing committee for Idaho Earthfest 2007

Some cool statistics about IEI:

- There are more than 1200 folks on our postal mailing list.
- Our e-mail dist list currently contains approximately 320 names.
- We distribute 200 to 300 free copies of *Turtle Times* around town, each time it's printed.
- We have a total of 189 members, including 36 who have joined in just the last year.

And about NWEI:

- Between July 2006 and June 2007, NWEI distributed 12,000 course books!
- "The National Earth Institute Network has over 600 volunteers organizing courses, presenting information on NWEI programs and mentoring others through the discussion course process. To date, cumulative enrollment has reached over 80,000 participants and courses have been offered in all 50 states." (www.nwei.org/NWEI/National%20Network.html)