

Spring 2005

# TURTLE TIMES

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



## WHAT'S AHEAD

### IEI Turtle Talk

■ **May 13**, 7-9pm "I Can't Believe It's Vegan" presented by Chef *Abi Thomas*. Take your favorite recipe and make it delicious & animal-free! Learn how to make food choices that promote economic, environmental and social health in your community. A supplementary vegan workbook with gourmet recipes will be provided. Downtown YMCA.

### Landscaping sessions

■ **May 14**, Get hands on design experience with IAGA (Idaho Arid Gardening Alliance) landscaping professionals; take home a custom landscape plan. Contact: *Draggin' Wing Farm*, 5211 Hill Rd., Boise. To register call *Elizabeth Wasson* at 381-0521 or send e-mail to [ewasson1@cableone.net](mailto:ewasson1@cableone.net).

### IEI Presentation

■ **May 15**, *Diane Jones* will speak on the Idaho Earth Institute at this week's American Community Values (ACV) gathering at the *Kopper Kitchen* by the airport. Breakfast is at 9am, Presentation: 9:30am. For more info, visit [www.americancommunityvalues.org](http://www.americancommunityvalues.org).

### Wastewater Conference

■ **May 24-25**, First Idaho Wastewater Reuse Conference at *Owyhee Plaza*. [www.wvreuse.forsgren.com](http://www.wvreuse.forsgren.com)

### IEI Picnic/plant swap

■ **June 11**, Sat, 3-5pm, *Municipal Park*. Please bring a dish to share, along with your own utensils, cups, plates, blanket(s) and children - and your donated plants.

### Board and Volunteers

President-*Sue Philley*  
 Vice-President-*Andrea Bogle*  
 Secretary-*Natalie Chavez*  
 Treasurer-*Jane Huebner*  
 Communications-*Sharon Matthies*  
 At-Large-*Mike McClenahan*  
 At-Large-*Dan Walters*  
 Database-*Kathy Woodbury*  
 Mentor Coordinator-*Ryndy Williams*  
 Newsletter -- *Nadine York & Beth Workman*

## IEI's Goal: To promote classes throughout Idaho

### An invitation to members and friends of the Idaho Earth Institute

The Idaho Earth Institute wishes to promote the Northwest Earth Institute courses throughout Idaho. Over the years most of the classes have been in the Treasure Valley. But there have also been classes in locations such as Sandpoint, Twin Falls, Weiser, and the Wood River Valley. Currently, several folks are interested in forming classes in the Moscow and Sandpoint areas and there is also interest in Mountain Home. In Sandpoint, the contact person is *Amy Flint* and for Moscow it's *Steve Hollenhorst*.

If you or someone you know might be interested in helping promote the courses in your community, please contact us. We'd love to help you do so. ■

## It's Official!

IEI received great news from the IRS: we are approved as a 501(c)3 organization retroactive to August 2004! As a result, donations made since August are tax-deductible. If you didn't claim your gifts for the 2004 tax season, you can still claim them next year. ■

## Promote IEI

IEI buttons are now available, generously made by *Jody Hull*, one of our BSU interns serving on the Plant Sale Committee and also the treasurer for the Idaho Native Plant Society. ■

## Making Contacts

### Rural Roots, Sustainability in the Inland NW & BSU Progressive Alliance . . .

This winter and spring our members attended the Rural Roots Conference in Moscow, Sustainability Conference in Boise and BSU Progressive Alliance Training (also Boise), sharing information about IEI with various participants. The Moscow event allowed us to identify a community coordinator and about 15 folks in the area who are interested in courses. At least one class is likely to start there this spring and at least two are expected in the fall. ■

**IEI has started 22 classes since July 1, 2004!** *Ryndy Williams* and *Dan Walters*, who have been shepherding the mentor committee and data collection, report that of those 22 classes, 11 took place just since January 1. And of those since January, at least 5 are likely to start a subsequent course/topic. We will end the class year (measured from July to June) with about 25 to 30 courses overall, which is about average for the last five class years. In a year full of transition and change, that's quite an accomplishment! If you would like to help kick off a class, please phone IEI at 378-7033.

# W A L K T H E T A L K

**Join the Program Committee:** to plan next year's Turtle Talks, fun outings and family events. There will be one or two meetings during the summer months.

**Save your leftovers:** from your summer yard sale or let us know if you have donations we can store for our annual fall yard sale.

**Course marketer needed:** IEI is looking for a volunteer course marketer to contact area businesses and/or faith communities to initiate new classes for next fall. Lists of contacts provided. 5-10 hours per week.

**Do the Turtle Talk walk:** Do you have a personal or career passion or interest that could be the topic for a future Turtle Talk? We're looking for volunteer presenters for fall.

To contact: Leave a message on the IEI phone line at 378-7033.

## Join IEI.

Membership form/coupon:  
Four ways YOU can support the Idaho Earth Institute:

**1.** Join the Founders Circle - pledge \$100+ each year for three years.

I want to be a:  Patron \$100 - \$249  
 Sustainer \$250 - \$499  
 Earth Steward \$500+

I pledge:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly

**2.** Become a Member - join today at whatever level you can.

\$35 Member  \$250 - 499 Sustainer  
 \$50 - 99 Supporter  \$500+ Earth Steward  
 \$100 - 249 Patron  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$15 Living Simply

**3.** Become a Mentor, Join a Committee, Find your Niche: Volunteer!

new board members  book manager  
 special events  mailings  
 newsletter articles  community resources  
 mentoring & presenting  fundraising  
 Turtle Talks (monthly gatherings)

**4.** Start a discussion course in your neighborhood, church or workplace!

Please call or email me about starting a course:  
 Voluntary Simplicity  Choices for Sustainable Living  
 Deep Ecology  Globalization and Its Critics  
 Sense of Place  Healthy Children, Healthy Planet (Fall 2005)



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
State/City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Idaho Earth Institute (IEI), PO Box 245, Boise, ID 83701, 208 378-7033

WATCH FOR OUR NEW BUSINESS EMAIL IN THE NEXT ISSUE

## NWEI Retreat with Joanna Macy

near Portland

Volunteer leaders from 20 sister earth institutes and 24 states will be attending the 2005 National Training for Earth Institute Members and Leaders event outside Portland July 22-26th.

Workshop leader and presenter Joanna Macy, PhD, is an eco-philosopher as well as a scholar of Buddhism, General Systems Theory, and Deep Ecology. She is also a leading voice in movements for peace, justice and a safe environment.

The Idaho chapter plans to attend with five delegates; two of those spaces are reserved for new leadership development. As a result, if you have never attended an NWEI retreat or training and would like to connect with other leaders in the Sustainability Movement, you may be able to join our delegation!

Registration fee: \$275-375 (estimate for camping/dorms including meals). To learn more, please contact Sue Philley at 378-1714. ■

## IEI Picnic/Plant Swap Learn from Master Gardeners

Please plan to attend a new IEI event on Saturday, June 11th, from 3-5pm at Municipal Park (on Walnut St. off Warm Springs Ave.). We're combining a new "plant swap" with an opportunity to socialize: a potluck picnic. Beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, along with your own utensils, cups, plates, blanket(s) and children - and your donated plants.

Native, non-invasive drought-resistant plants are especially encouraged. Please indicate if your selections are organic. If you don't know what you have, don't fret: Master Gardeners will be on hand to help identify and explain how to care for your plants! ■

# Green Your Workplace! *by Brandy Wilson*

*Is your workplace being crushed by a dumptruck full of styrofoam coffee cups? Reams of paper printed only on one side? Mountains of paper plates and plasticware? You can do something about it!*

## **How we started . . .**

At my office, a few of us started a Green Team in 1999 to measure and reduce our environmental impacts at work. We began by chipping away at the pile of styrofoam cups. First, we convinced management to switch from styrofoam to paper. Later, we asked to put up signs near the coffeepots to encourage the use of real coffee cups: "Give the Planet a Hug! Use your mug!" Finally, with management support, we cut \$900 out of our annual budget by no longer purchasing paper cups. This action made sense for the bottom line and for the planet.

## **Four simple steps**

Green Teams are a fun way to improve workplace morale, build partnerships, and help the planet at the same time. Here are four steps to a successful Green Team:

- 1. Step One:** The first step is to find a small group of like-minded individuals who want to partner with you on this adventure. Then, set up a chartering meeting and invite the whole office to participate.
- 2. Step Two:** Develop a mission statement suited to and prepared by the team -- statement that is unique to your Green Team. A mission statement is important because it makes the team clarify its goals. It helps to focus and choose activities, and it acts as a guide for the group. It doesn't have to be long. Here's an example: "Our Green Team is a volunteer group of employees committed to educating, organizing, and promoting responsibility towards the environment. We believe that by distributing information and suggesting solutions we can create positive change for the environment, our community, and ourselves."
- 3. Step Three:** Decide on your Green Team projects, in keeping with the mission statement. Don't forget to include fun activities that involve co-workers outside of the core Green Team group, such as short hikes, camping trips, and Boise River after-work float trips. NWEI courses provide excellent bonding for Green Team members and are a great outreach tool for involving the rest of your workplace.

- 4. Step Four:** Step back from time to time and review the mission and the team's progress. Is the mission still working or does it need revision? Do you need new members? Is the amount of Green Team effort aligned with the available volunteer energy? Are you having fun? Is the Green Team supported by your office? Are you adding value to your place of work?

Above all, remember to be patient. Consider the styrofoam cup story. At first, people were reluctant to give up the convenience of having the disposable cups available. It takes time to develop a new habit by carting your coffee mug around with you. The same applies to all environmental changes: they are habit changes that take time. ■

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Our Green Team at CH2M HILL is providing mentoring for some other businesses that would like to get started. If you are interested in learning more about us or starting a Green Team at your place of work, please contact Brandy Wilson, [bwilson@ch2m.com](mailto:bwilson@ch2m.com), 383-6297.

## **T H A N K Y O U**

### **Thanks to our mentors and presenters who recently helped with new courses . . .**

Nadine York (*Mentor trainer*)  
Ryndy Reed-Williams  
Veronica Daley Zaleha  
Sue Philley  
Bob Vestal  
Jon Barrett

Andrea Bogle  
Casey O'Leary  
Anne Hausrath  
Mike Philley  
Sue Zollinger

### **. . . and appreciation to the Class Coordinators:**

Mary Whitenack  
John J. (Jack) McMahon  
Lindsey Brockish  
Ryndy Reed-Williams  
Kit Parker  
Amy Siedentrang  
Blake Sherlock  
Mike McClenahan  
Mary Beth Nutting

Brad Smith  
Liz Merrill  
Shirley Randolph  
Isaac Bonn  
Peggy Faith  
Sue Roark  
Amy Flint, *Sandpoint*  
Linda Whittig  
Sally Brown

## Audio tapes

Audio tapes of the 13 part New Dimensions radio series *Deep Ecology for the 21st Century* are available for loan. If you would like to check out a set of the tapes, contact Dan Walters at 208-424-0409 or [danchavous@msn.com](mailto:danchavous@msn.com) ■

## Landscaping Sessions

May 14 - Idaho Arid Gardening Alliance landscaping sessions: Get hands on design experience with IAGA landscaping professionals; take home a custom landscape plan.

Session 1, 9am: Work from your basic layout to a completed design with individual assistance from landscape architects & designers.

Session 2, 1pm: Learn how to choose specific plants for your design for year long interest and receive tips for low maintenance care.

\$50 session 1, \$20 session 2. \$60 for both. Draggin' Wing Farm, 5211 Hill Rd., Boise. To register call Elizabeth Wasson at 381-0521 or send e-mail to [eawasson1@cableone.net](mailto:eawasson1@cableone.net).

Also, Draggin' Wing Farm is putting together a list of sustainable (xeric, native, etc.) plants they'll be offering this year. It will include information such as height, color, bloom time, etc. If you would like to receive the plant list, call or e-mail Elizabeth. The info is available via e-mail (handy, searchable, saves paper, allows you to copy and paste to a wish list) or can be obtained via postal mail. Let Elizabeth know which you prefer. ■

## Welcome

Natalie Chavez of Chavez Writing and Editing just joined our board as secretary. Welcome aboard! ■

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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 [sphilley@cableone.net](mailto:sphilley@cableone.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 e-address; we will keep it private.*



### Idaho Earth Institute

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