

TURTLE TIMES

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

Volume 5, Number 8

Winter 2004



WHAT'S AHEAD

Interim Board Meetings

■ **Dec 6 & Jan 3**, Mon, 7-9pm, at Idaho Conservation League office, 710 N. 6th. Open to all members.

Solstice Party, Candlelight River Walk, and Annual Meeting

■ **Dec 17**, Fri, 6:30-9:30pm, Call 378-7033 & directions will be emailed to you.

Mentor Training

■ **Jan 5**, Wed, 7-9pm. For location and details email Ryndy Williams at ryndy1456@aol.com or phone IEI at 378-7033.

Turtle Talks . . .

The 2nd Friday of every month 7-9pm at the downtown YMCA (Emery Board Room).

■ **Jan 14** ■ **Mar 11**
 ■ **Feb 11** ■ **Apr 8**

UPCOMING COURSES . . .

To express interest in attending one of the new discussion courses that is starting up, please phone IEI or email sphilley@cableone.net.

April/Annual Plant Sale

National Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) Retreat

■ **July 22-26**, Portland, OR

Interim Board & Volunteers

President-Sue Philley 378-1714

Vice-President-Andrea Bogle

Secretary-Kathleen Romito

Treasurer-Jane Huebner

Communications-Sharon Matthies

At-Large-Mike McClenahan

At-Large-Gemma Utting

Database-Kathy Woodbury

Mentor Coordinator-Ryndy Williams

Newsletter -- Nadine York & Beth Workman

First Annual Solstice Celebration

An invitation to Members and friends of the Idaho Earth Institute

Friday, December 17th from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Join us at Mike and Sue Philley's home in Garden City for a candlelit walk along the Boise River. Please bring a plate of fingerfood and a beverage to share. Call 378-7033 and leave your name, number attending, and email address. Directions will be emailed to you.

Note: We are combining this event with our Annual Meeting. As a result, we will have a brief election of directors.

Turtle Talks

Turtle Talks will begin meeting in a set location in January. These monthly gatherings will give us an opportunity to meet as a community and discuss ideas near and dear to our hearts.

Mark your calendars- **2nd Friday of every month, 7 pm at the downtown YMCA.** Topics will include:

- **Slow Food**
- **Buying Local**
- **Community Supported Agriculture**
- **Freecycling**
- **Sustainable Landscaping**
- **and more to come!**

Thanks to the Downtown YMCA for donating space for our monthly Turtle Talks beginning in January.

January Turtle Talk

Friday, Jan 14th, 7-9 p.m.

at the Downtown YMCA located at 1050 W. State. **Josh Bogel**, Idaho Earth Institute member and a Certified Remodel Associate with Franklin Building Supply, will speak on:

"Green Homes: Practical Applications for Idaho Homeowners and Contractors".

Josh will share best design practices for this geographic area and state-of-the-art guidelines that he learned at the recent Annual International Conference of Greenbuild 2004. Refreshments will be provided.

To pre-register, please phone IEI at (208) 378-7033.

IEI has started thirteen classes since July 1, 2004! October class starts included a new Voluntary Simplicity class with a group of high school age Girl Scouts, a class on Creating a Sense of Place at the Downtown YMCA, plus a class on Voluntary Simplicity in Sandpoint, Idaho. (Thanks to mentors Ryndy Reed-Williams and Casey O'Leary, Mike McClenahan, and Amy Flint, respectively).

The Deep Ecology Movement and the Deep Ecology Platform *by Dan Walters*

The Deep Ecology Movement has been described as a grassroots environmental shift from an anthropocentric (human centered) to ecocentric (nature oriented) worldview

The term "deep ecology" was coined in the early 1970's by Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess to contrast with environmentalism for purely human interests ["shallow ecology"]. As currently used, the term identifies a school of thought (or body of ideas) and a social movement. The Deep Ecology Movement has been described as a grassroots environmental shift from an anthropocentric (human centered) to ecocentric worldview, and as a movement that seeks to "redress the shallow and piecemeal approach of technology-based ecology". (from *The Deep Ecology Movement, An Introductory Anthology*, Drengson and Inoue, 1995).

The Platform: A Common Ground

The Deep Ecology Platform, developed by Arne Naess and George Sessions in 1984, was intended to "promote clarity and provide consensus about the core principals shared by supporters" of the long term deep ecology movement regardless "of their different backgrounds, whether these are philosophical, religious, occupational, or cultural." (Drengson and Inoue, *ibid.*) This is a very important point. In addition to providing a relatively short explanation of what deep ecology means to Naess, the platform emphasizes the common ground among all individuals who deeply value all nature, whether they also consider themselves Christians, Buddhists, eco-feminists, pantheists, humanists, social justice advocates, environmentalists, peace activists, Spinozists, etc. It was intentionally created to be broadly inclusive. It was intended to encourage ecocentrists to join together under a common banner and to serve as a basis for unity among them. And it was intended to provide a face or identity to the grass roots movement which Naess noticed and first described over thirty years ago.

The Heart of Deep Ecology: The 8 points

In his 1993 essay by the same name, Andrew McLauhlin describes the platform as "The Heart of Deep Ecology" (from *Deep Ecology for the 21st Century*, George Sessions, ed. 1995). Indeed it is! The eight points of the platform are as follow:

1. The well-being and flourishing of human and nonhuman life on Earth have value in themselves (*synonyms: inherent worth; intrinsic value; inherent value*). **These values are independent of the usefulness of the nonhuman world for human purposes.**

- 2. Richness and diversity of life forms contribute to the realization of these values and are also values in themselves.**
- 3. Humans have no right to reduce this richness and diversity except to satisfy vital needs.**
- 4. The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the human population. The flourishing of nonhuman life requires such a decrease.**
- 5. Present human interference with the nonhuman world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.**
- 6. Policies must therefore be changed. These policies affect basic economic and technological structures. The resulting state of affairs will be deeply different from the present.**
- 7. The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating life quality (*dwelling in situations of inherent worth*) rather than adhering to an increasingly higher standard of living. There will be a profound awareness of the difference between big and great.**
- 8. Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an obligation directly or indirectly to participate in the attempt to implement the necessary changes.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Those interested in learning more about Deep Ecology are encouraged to contact **Dan Walters** (danchavous@msn.com; 424-0409) regarding the following activities:

- Participating in "Exploring Deep Ecology", the original NWEI discussion course
- Participating in discussion groups for the following books:

Deep Ecology for the 21st Century
(George Sessions, ed. 1995)

Ecopsychology: Restoring the Earth, Healing the Mind (Roszak, Gomes and Kannner eds., 1995)

- Listening to the New Dimensions radio program series "Deep Ecology for the 21st Century" (cassette tapes available for loan)

FOUNDERS CIRCLE



A special thanks to Idaho Earth Institute's Founders Circle. The Founders Circle is composed of those members who have made a three-year pledge of \$100 or more. You may also choose to participate as a Founding Member by making a three-year pledge of another specific dollar amount such as \$35, \$50 or \$75 per year. This three-year financial commitment will help Idaho Earth Institute build a strong foundation and plan for the future.

*Andrea & Josh Bogle
Jane & Rich Huebner
Sharon Matthies
Sue & Mike Philley
Kathleen Romito & Peter Sack
Deanna & Trejchel Smith
Daniell C. Walters
Warren J. Weihing
Webb Van Winkle & Maureen Cunningham
Janette Young
Veronica Daley Zaleha*

Welcome to New Members:

Idaho Earth Institute would like to welcome and thank the following new members.

<i>Dwight Allen Pam Baldwin Andrea & Josh Bogle Kris Barrash Dawn C. Blancaflor Brenda S. Critell Mark J. Davis Margaret A. Faith Nancy Goodrum Laura Grant Russ Grobe Mary Grunewald McGown Joanna L. Guilfoy Myrna Harrington Jane & Rich Huebner Anne & Alan Hausrath Elise Hughes & John M. Robison Khalia Huttler J. Keller Becky Kemery Gail Kirgis Phoebe Lansing Lee</i>	<i>Sharon Matthies Kathleen McDonald Jill Mitchell Sue & Mike Philley Kathleen Romito & Peter Sack Mary J. Schofield Blake Sherlock Amy Siedenstrang Deanna & Trejchel Smith Gemma and Mark Utting Bob Vestal Daniell C. Walters Warren J. Weihing Webb Van Winkle & Maureen Cunningham Janette Young Karen A. Youtz Veronica Daley Zaleha If you have joined since June and don't see your name listed, please call 378-7033.</i>
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Turtle Times provides updates of IEL activities. To continue receiving Turtle Times: become a member or send us your email address. Contact sphilley@cableone.net. Annual membership \$35. Send to PO Box 245, Boise, ID 83701. Make checks payable to IEL. 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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