

Winter 2005

TURTLE TIMES

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



WHAT'S AHEAD

- **Jan 20**, Turtle Talk (3rd Friday)
Downtown YMCA 7-9pm Discovering
YOUR Sense of Place, BSU Prof Todd
Shallat
- **Feb 4-5**, Feb 4&5 Sustainable
Agriculture Conference: Reclaiming Our
Local Foods & Farms, Basque Center. See
www.ruralroots.org for information
- **Feb 17**, Turtle Talk YMCA 7-9 pm
The Natural Step--A Prescription for
Sustainability? Will businesses lead us
toward sustainability? Bob Vestal
- **Mar 3-4**, Idaho Environmental
Education Association (IdEEA) Summit,
BSU (see article)
- **Mar 17**, Turtle Talk YMCA 7-9 pm
Alternative Funeral Arrangements. Susan
Randall, IdaHome Funerals
- **April 16-29**, Permaculture
Design Course, Hagerman, ID
www.IdahoPermaculture.com
- **April 21**, Turtle Talk YMCA 7-9 pm
Safe Cosmetics, Maria Mabutt, Women's
Voices for the Earth
- **May 19**, Turtle Talk YMCA 7-9 pm
End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion & the
Collapse of the American Dream (video)
Jon Barrett, Smart Growth
- **Ongoing**, American Community
Values--progressive forum Sundays 9:30,
10:30 am speaker & discussion The
Kopper Kitchen, 2661 Airport Way
Contact: Mary Rohlfing at 387.0131 or
www.americancommunityvalues.org

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Walking the Talk

Are we consistently following our motto in our everyday operations?

A recurring question surfaces in a variety of Idaho Earth Institute conversations: Are we consistently following our motto in our everyday operations? The answer is a resounding "yes!" We'd like to share with you some of the ways we are collectively walking the talk, from board meetings to community events.

Beth Workman, who's expertly been laying out each issue of Turtle Times for years, developed an impressive idea for reducing paper usage while enhancing our marketing and networking efforts: a bookmark. If you've seen one already, you know how beautiful they are. Beth's vision was to create a piece that is durable and has "cute appeal." The green (literally and figuratively) bookmarks are both.

One of the main reasons we were able to create this less text-intensive tool is because of Glenna Rhodes' amazing work this year on our new web site. Previously, we relied mostly on our brochure as an outreach tool to explain and promote the courses. Now, everyone can visit www.idahoearth.org to learn about the coursebooks, discussion groups, events like the annual yard sale, and a variety of other information about IEI and Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI). The brochure, still a key component of our toolkit, is now available in a paperless version on the site.

Equally revolutionary, Jennifer Miller came up with the concept of a ticketless garden seminar this fall. By relying on phone and e-mail pre-registration, we were able to save time (on design, print coordination and distribution), money (printing costs) and paper.

Speaking of reducing paper usage, the option to receive Turtle Times solely via e-mail is growing in popularity. While some people don't have e-mail, and another type of reader enjoys having a physical copy to hold, carry around, or mark up (say, circling events to attend), others prefer their issue in an e-version -- and we're thrilled to comply. We remain strongly dedicated to outreach and will therefore continue distributing physical newsletters at various locations in the Boise area and around Idaho. However, whenever possible and appropriate, we're utilizing e-versions to spread the message.

Please thank Beth, Glenna, and Jennifer for their excellent ideas, and let us know if you have any related suggestions to help IEI live more sustainably on the earth. ■

IEI Hot Tip Corner

"Green Clean" Resources Do you have questions about what products to use to clean this or that, or what to use for your pets, or what to apply on gardens, lawns, trees and shrubs? Wonder what's safe and what isn't? Check out these resources:

Clean House! by Alison Haynes (Laurel Glen Publishing)
No-nonsense, no-chemicals-needed tips on how to clean everything in the house. A handy glossary defines chemicals found in household cleansers and assesses toxicity.

www.detoxourhomes.org "Helps consumers make healthy decisions about the chemical products they use in their homes."

LED Holiday Lights IEI member Steve Walker passed on this sustainable holiday tip: "If all conventional incandescent Christmas lights in the United States were replaced with LED lights, annual energy savings would total 2 billion kilowatt hours -- enough to power 200,000 homes for an entire year." US Department of Energy.

Steve saw LED lights available at Lowe's probably available elsewhere too. A 50 light string for \$14.99. (Forever Bright™ L.E.D. Lights: Advanced Lighting Technology) See website www.holidaycreations.com for more info.

Party Party Party Recycling and waste reduction doesn't have to be boring. Make it fun! Set a trend! Have a Home Eco Party. Nothing for sale. You provide the home and guests; a trained volunteer will provide information and innovative approaches for you and your friends to try. Contact Natalie Chavez at 853-7326.

New Discussion Course a Hit

The sixth NWEI course, *Healthy Children, Healthy Planet*, has been released. Two full-to-the-brim groups of Foothills School parents and friends, organized by Anne Wescott and Ruth York, were the first folks in Idaho to take the course. Groups at Healthwise and elsewhere are eyeing the course for this winter. Join the bandwagon; form your own group now. Contact Dan Walters (danchavous@msn.com or 424-0409).

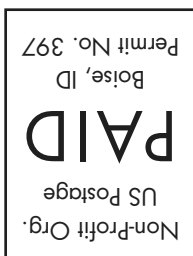
A Great IdEEA!

And it's not even new. The Idaho Environmental Education Association (IdEEA pronounced idea), a 501c3 non-profit based in Pocatello, has been around since 1982. Its target constituency includes anyone involved or interested in environmental education. With 300 members and a full-time executive director, IdEEA uses a cooperative, non-confrontational, non-partisan approach to expanding education about the environment and sustainability in Idaho. Its current goals, activities, and accomplishments include:

- Annual awards and scholarships for deserving educators
- Working with Idaho State Dept of Education to administer 5 model schools with plans to add 12 more
- Maintaining and marketing a clearinghouse of environmental education resources
- A list serv and a newsletter Earth Tracks for members
- Look for their summit conference March 3-4 at BSU. See details and more info at www.idahoe.org.

Turtle Times provides updates of IEI activities. To continue receiving Turtle Times: become a member or send us your email address. Contact info@idahoeearth.org. Annual membership \$35. Send to PO Box 245, Boise, ID 83701. Make checks payable to IEI.

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