

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

Turtle Times



What's Ahead for 2007

Jan. 3: 7-9:30pm: IEI mentor & presenter training session near downtown Boise. Contact Dan Walters at 424-0409 or danchavous@msn.com to RSVP and get directions.

Jan. 19: 7-9pm: Author David Korten speaks at the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (boiseuu.org), 6200 Garrett. Co-sponsored by Idaho Earth Institute.

Jan. 22: 7pm. Former Vice President Al Gore speaks at BSU as part of global warming conference. Tickets are required and free. 750 available Jan 3 at the BSU SUB info desk; 250 more on Jan 17. For more about his talk, the reception at 5pm, or the day-long conference, go to www.frankchurchinstitute.org.

Jan. 26: 7-8:30pm. IEI Turtle Talk: Eating locally & CSAs. Casey O'Leary will cook for us & talk about food sustainability issues. Location: TBD. Free.

Feb. 9: 7-8:30pm. IEI Turtle Talk: Permaculture presentation by Carrie Jones. Location: TBD. Free. To learn more about this topic, visit www.permaculture.org

Feb. 16 to 18: Pacific Northwest conference, in Boise, of the Unitarian Universalist Association. A presentation about IEI is on the schedule. Details: www.pnwd.org/pages/agm.php

March 16: 7-8:30pm. IEI Turtle Talk: Discovering a Sense of Place: The Hyatt Wetlands. Mike Morrison of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society will talk about this local spot. Garden City Library, 6015 Glenwood St. Free.

April 19: 7pm. Author & priest Matthew Fox, excerpted in NWEI course books, speaks about "A Spirituality for the 21st Century" in Boise as part of the Kessler-Keener lecture series. \$10. Also open to public on April 20: Interfaith prayer breakfast; workshop 1-4pm. Contact Ed Keener at 429-0266 or edmakeener@cableone.net.

April 19 or 20: 7-8:30pm. IEI Turtle Talk. Free.

Idaho Earthfest 2007 (Earth Day, late April). Includes IEI's annual plant sale.

May 18: 7-8:30pm IEI Turtle Talk: Healthy Children, Healthy Planet topics. Wendy Young from BUGS and Jennie Rylee from Foothills Learning Center. Location: Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Rd (8th St to Sunset Peak, 1/3 mile after pavement ends). Free.

May: Eagle Island Experience. To help staff an IEI booth, drop us a line.

July 20th to 24th: Annual regional NWEI training. Alton Collins Retreat Center in the Mt. Hood National Forest near Portland, OR. To know more, write to deborah@nwei.org.

The Great Turning Author Speaks January 19 in Boise

David Korten, who is excerpted in Northwest Earth Institute's course books, is author of the international best seller *When Corporations Rule the World*, among other books, and is also co-founder of *YES! A Journal of Positive Futures*. He will speak about the options available to humanity in reaching a just and sustainable global society. His most recent tome, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*, weaves history, science, economics, politics, and spirituality into an empowering vision of possibility for the 21st century and beyond. His one-hour multi-media talk, advocating a grassroots process of community dialogue and local economy that can lead to a better future, will be followed by a Q&A plus a book signing. Registration is \$10. For more information, phone Mike Philley at 378-1714 or visit <http://thegreatturning.net> or www.davidkorten.com

Environmental News Delivered to Your E-inbox

Alan Durning, a long-time collaborator with NWEI and IEI and founder of Sightline (until recently: Northwest Environment Watch) spoke in Boise in March. The publisher of the annual book, *Cascadia Scorecard*, Sightline keeps watch on issues that have real importance to us all, such as housing density, traffic patterns, and other environmental indicators that are much more meaningful than what the mainstream press tends to focus on (such as the NASDAQ). Two e-mail services are available from this non-profit. Lyn McCollum, long-time IEI volunteer and former staffer, is part of Sightline's regional stable of "clipping service" volunteers, watching for environmental stories in local media and passing the info along to Durning's group. To get your own copy of the Weekly Scorecard (formerly ripTIDE) or the daily morningTIDE, visit <http://www.tidepool.org/subscribe.cfm>.

Our Annual Fundraisers

This year's April 22 plant sale, part of the Idaho EarthFest celebrations at Julia Davis Park, was a blast. Folks from Idaho Rivers United staffed a corner of the booth, IEI had course books on display plus brochures and bookmarks at the ready for handouts, and shoppers gleaned tons of info about native, organic and xeric plants from the green thumb volunteers. Thanks to Diane Jones of Draggin' Wing Farms and Beth Rasgorshek of Canyon Bounty Farm for donating a portion of their sales to IEI, and to project chair Gail Kirgis, along with the rest of that day's volunteers, for a huge investment of time and creativity. If you'd like to hang out with a bunch of gardening geeks at the next sale, contact Sharon at info@idahoeearth.org or 375-0675.

Our popular September yard sale was scheduled this year to concur with the Hyde Park Street Fair, and despite the drizzly weather we received a lot of foot traffic and drive-ups. Business was brisk and we chatted folks up about discussion groups, Turtle Talks, and all things IEI. Project chair Jeanette Ross, along with a great team of transporters, pricers and sellers, pulled many rabbits out of the hat this year to create a successful event!

It seems, though, that we've tapped the same loyal donators for years, and they're getting close to having ultra-streamlined homes. In other words, we'd love a higher volume of gently used items at next year's event. If you've not yet thrown your no-longer-needed stuff our way, watch your e-mail for announcements about when we'll begin accepting donations next year. And if you have empty space in your own garage or business where you could store items for us in advance of the sale, please let us know.

Comings and Goings Within IEI

This year we're thrilled that Jonna Moore and Stan Kidwell have joined the board. Both have a long history of involvement with the organization and sustainability issues in general.

Jonna has jumped right in as the new Turtle Talk coordinator, almost immediately putting together a full and interesting line-up for the entire "season" (Sep 2006 through May 2007). She has special interest in youth issues and is currently researching how aspects of NWEI Portland's high school outreach program might be implemented locally.

Stan, a graphic designer and the publisher of *Sprout Magazine* (which has recently been providing the back of each issue for a full-page IEI ad), naturally has joined the Communications Committee.

The healthy ebb and flow of an all-volunteer organization includes several departures as well.

Beth Workman, former layout person for *Turtle Times* newsletters and the IEI brochure, and creator of our excellent green bookmark, is moving with her partner Jeff to Alaska. We'll miss her talents, questions, wry sense of humor – and her gardens.

Colette Thomas, also a graphic designer who's helped create our letterhead and the above-mentioned ads in *Sprout Magazine*, among other projects, is on hiatus from the communications committee while she builds Earthships and explores other adventures.

Sue Philley, former president of the board, officially moved on to other pursuits early this year, although she remains very active as a volunteer, especially in terms of outreach (speaking about IEI at events, staffing tables and booths).

Andrea Bogle, who had finished her term as VP late last year, remained on as the membership and database coordinator through October 2006. She's now handed that important task off to Jonna and is helping run husband Josh's new green remodeling business.

Finally, Dan Walters is also moving on. Like Andrea, he remained in his current role (course starts coordinator) for several months after leaving the board. He will hand that task off to a new person (yet to be named; if you're interested, let us know!) at the end of the year, and will provide training and other transitional support through late spring 2007.

Please thank Beth, Colette, Sue, Andrea and Dan for all of the time, energy and financial support that they dedicated to IEI while in their former roles – and continue to offer in different capacities.

This kind of ongoing connection and dedication is common among former staff, board members and committee participants. What a wonderful community we have in the Treasure Valley and around the state!

Meeting Space Tidbits

If you know of a free or low-cost meeting space that IEIers can utilize for Turtle Talks, discussion groups, or other events, please let us know.

Grassroots Media Efforts

A few years ago, several IEI volunteers and staff members met with the *Idaho Statesman* in order to network. The results have been wonderful. Specifically, we're thrilled about recent articles mentioning IEI. www.idahoearth.org has excerpts and links to each full piece. And of course, now the *Statesman* has two regular "green" columns: Environment at Home and Environment at Work. Thanks to everyone who's been planting the seeds.

Wish List

Course Starts Coordinator – need an individual or team. Follow up with people who express interest in the courses to set up a presenter and a mentor for each discussion group as it is forming. Help the group with logistics (such as finding meeting space or more participants), coordinate paperwork, answer questions. If you're detail-oriented and enjoy networking and assembling puzzles, this might be just the volunteer gig for you!

New Board Secretary. Natalie's ready to pass the "meeting minutes torch." We currently meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. for a delish potluck plus gentle humor and engaging conversation about organization logistics.

Earth Day, late April 2007. **IEI plant Sale Coordinator and volunteers** needed.

Eagle Island Experience, May 2007.

Wanted: booth space to share with another org, or an IEI booth coordinator.

Hyde Park Street Fair, September 2007.

IEI booth coordinator and about 30 participants needed for 2-hour shifts all weekend.

Festival of Trees, November 2007. IEI is considering submitting a tree. If this sounds like fun to you, let us know.

Space for our lending library. Do you have room in your office for some bookshelves, and is your business or organization open at regular times for walk-ins?

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

Membership Form - We keep your information private.

Become a member at whatever level fits your budget:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone number(s) _____ E-mail _____

Check here if you prefer to receive Turtle Times via e-mail only.

If you'd like to start or join a discussion group, indicate the topic here: _____

Which volunteer and networking opportunities interest you?

board book inventory manager special events
 mailings newsletter articles media & graphics
 mentoring & presenting fundraising plant sale
 yard sale Turtle Talks (monthly gatherings)

NL1206

Idaho Earth Institute, PO Box #245, Boise, ID 83701

Tell Me A Story

Jonna Moore, long-time IEI volunteer and new board member, reminisced at a recent Turtle Talk about what made her aware of the discussion courses. It was at the local holiday parade, seven years ago, that she saw a group of IElers, some on bikes, moving down the street and bearing the slogan "less is more." This resonated with Jonna. She exclaimed: "I want some of that in my life!" and began to learn about and implement the ideas from the *Voluntary Simplicity* course.

We'd love to learn about your memories. Tell us: How did you hear of Idaho Earth Institute or Northwest Earth Institute?

Course Start FAQs: Soon To Be Unveiled

We're all about efficiency at IEI; it's an important part of the overall concept of sustainability. Toward that end, we're finishing up a new item that will appear on the Idaho Earth Institute web site in the very near future: "Course Start FAQs" (frequently asked questions). Encompassing all manner of information, from how long the sessions last to the recommended order for taking the courses (answer: there's not one), the Q&A is intended to save time for all involved while sharing some of the context in which the guidelines and processes take place. Thanks especially to the communications committee, the team of mentors and presenters, and web mistress Glenna Rhodes for helping to implement this valuable new tool!

Networking With Sister Institutes

Deborah McNamara, national outreach coordinator for NWEI, reports that the annual regional training in July 2006 was invigorating. She shares:

"Nearly 1,000 years ago, mystic Hildegard von Bingen said it well when she spoke these words: 'We shall awaken from our dullness and rise vigorously toward justice. If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion.' In the Pacific Northwest and beyond, the deep passion to care for the Earth and to act on this commitment is taking strong root.

Over 65 people from around the country gathered in Madison, WI, where participants learned about discussion courses and creative outreach skills, hosting introductory presentations, mentoring the courses, and building a committed volunteer community. The training also offered tours of a green building, local food co-op and community farm, all strengthening the vision of sustainable communities in action. Workshops explored zero waste principles, an eco-teams model, ecopsychology, the work of Thomas Berry and Joanna Macy, and lessons from the international Eco-Municipality movement.

As one participant said, "There is momentum gathering behind this movement, a shared passion that will continue to grow as everyone returns home to do the good work in their communities."

The All-volunteer Board

Anne Barker, Treasurer
 Natalie Chavez, Secretary and Eco-Parties Maven
 Jane Huebner, At Large
 Stan Kidwell, At Large
 Sharon Matthies, Communications Chair, Acting President
 Jonna Moore, Turtle Talks Coordinator and Membership/Database Chair

Our current mentors & presenters (also volunteers)

Sr. Agnes Reichling (St. Gertrudes)
 Sr. Carlotta Maria Fontes (St. Gertrudes)
 Casey O'Leary
 Claudia Fernsworth
 Diane Jones
 Dwight Allen
 Gayle Dixon (Council & McCall)
 Joanna Guilfooy
 Jon Barrett
 Jonna Moore
 Mike Philley
 Paige Keck
 Ryndy Reed Williams
 Sare Kate Foster (Moscow)
 Tracey Kindall (McCall)

Just some of the other cool volunteers

Glenna Rhodes, web mistress
 Jeanette Ross, September 2006 yard sale co-coordinator
 Gail Kirgis, April 2006 plant sale co-coordinator
 Nadine York, mentor & presenter trainer
 Veronica Daley-Zaleha, talks us up at events
 Sue Philley, another "tabler"
 Dan Walters, outgoing course starts coordinator

Recent Turtle Talk speakers & host sites

Christine Lacedra (Dec, healing power of nature); spoke at the MK Nature Center
 Ed Keener (Nov, simpler holidays); spoke at First Congregational United Church of Christ
 Annie Black (Oct, home energy efficiency); spoke at Idaho Power
 Katie Wilde, Meg Roberts (Sep, gardening with nature); spoke at Foothills Learning Center

About IEI

Idaho Earth Institute offers six discussion courses developed by the Northwest Earth Institute: Voluntary Simplicity; Exploring Deep Ecology; Discovering a Sense of Place; Choices for Sustainable Living; Globalization and its Critics; and Healthy Children, Healthy Planet (for parents & teachers, about children). 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 & 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

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*If you prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail rather than postal mail, please let us know.
Write to info@idahoeearth.org.*

Simplifying the Holiday Season

In November, local activist and retired minister Ed Keener provided a Turtle Talk on simpler holidays; a topic many of us become especially mindful of when we're finally able to relax after the holidays are over! He asked us to reflect on and share a happy holiday experience, then a sad or regretful one, and then discuss two or three values we wanted to honor this holiday season. He spoke about obstacles to living those values (such as connection, joy and gratitude), and how to make holidays meaningful without spending lots of money. One thing to be especially mindful of: how our culture (i.e. advertising) confuses "want" and "need," telling us we're incomplete or insufficient without a particular item.

He recommended non-profits like the local store Ten Thousand Villages and the group Heifer Project International. Local volunteering options include Corpus Christi house on Americana and 16th, nursing homes, and the Interfaith Sanctuary homeless project (he mentioned that half of the clients are veterans). The two handouts he provided, full of additional ideas that might help as we think ahead to next year, are available online. See IEI's web site for links to both pieces.

Get Connected

Wanna get e-mail updates about discussion groups that are forming, IEI issues and other progressive events? Drop us a line at info@idahoeearth.org if you're not yet on our dist list. Yeah.

Your Financial Support

Did you know? Idaho Earth Institute maintains a supply of "loaner" course books for use by the media, for display at events, and for those who are unable to afford – or simply prefer to borrow – a book during a discussion group. Further, the books that we do sell can only be sold at cost; we are unable to add administration fees. As a result, your membership dollars and other financial donations help to offset the difference between book income and expenses.

Additional Items of Interest

Jan. 28 – 30: 7th annual Harvesting Clean Energy Conference. DoubleTree Hotel Riverside, 2900 Chinden Blvd., Boise. Learn from those who have harnessed clean-energy technologies like wind power, biofuels, solar and geothermal. www.harvestcleanenergy.org.

Annual Bicycle Congress: May 2007. Bicyclists needed to help IEI participate. Details at www.boisestate.edu/bicyclecongress.

2nd Permaculture Conference: Hagerman 4/29-5/13, 2007. Website: www.idahopermaculture.com.

James Reed, Sage Waters, Bliss, Idaho

"Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages" U of I Extension Office courses. 6:30 - 9:30pm, Jan - May. Mondays Boise/Caldwell, Tuesdays Parma/Marsing. Includes soil, water & forage tests, class binder and tours. Limited to 25. Scholarships available. 377-2107, <http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/sustag/LOTL%20small%20oster%202007.pdf>, plus related articles at uidaho.org.