

Village Roots
Permaculture Design Course 2017
Emerging Resilience



Course Description:

Permaculture is applied ecological design. In this course we'll be exploring a myriad of strategies and techniques that deepen the human connection to the natural world. Designing and implementing resilient food, fuel, shelter and community systems is paramount to the permaculture designer. We'll cover the tools necessary to investigate and narrate one's landscape from the point of view of a designer and co-creator of the managed farm or homestead with the goal of creating interdependent human/animal/plant relationships. The core ethics of permaculture are: Caring for the Earth, Caring for People, and Reinvesting in the Future (abbreviated Earth Care, People Care & Fair Share.)

Permaculture is the regeneration of people and place Penny Livingston Stark

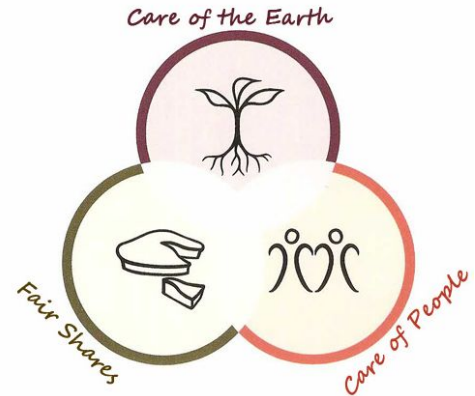
Core Instructors and Contact Info:

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Bryan Felice

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Site, Meals and Accommodations:

This course takes place mostly on the Orchard Hill Community in East Alstead, NH. Orchard Hill is home to three house sites, two farm business (Orchard Hill Farm and Village Roots), a wood-fired, organic and sourdough bakery (Orchard Hill Breadworks), a hostel (the Farmhouse at Orchard Hill) and a community learning center (The Orchard School) In addition, we will visit several sites throughout southeastern and central NH.

Your tuition also includes four farm fresh meals prepared and served on site with many ingredients right from Orchard Hill and surrounding farms. The meals themselves serve as instruction and community building activities. Meals include Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch. We also provide healthy snacks throughout the weekend. Saturday dinners are a real community affair; you are welcome to invite a friend; guest instructors join us and exciting conversations and possibilities emerge.

If you are coming from further away, overnight accommodations can be made available. There is a dormitory room in the Farmhouse that can be rented for \$50/night. There is also dormitory style space available in our big yurt for \$30/night. Tent platforms can be rented for \$25/night or you can pitch a tent for \$20/night. If you looking for indoor and private accommodations we can provide you with local contacts for B&Bs.

Class time and schedule overview:

Ecological foundation, patterns & observation

Saturday, March 11	9:00 am - 9 pm
Sunday, March 12	9:00 am - 4 pm

It starts with you & the nature of home

Saturday, April 8	9:00 am - 9 pm
Sunday, April 9	9:00 am - 4 pm

Building connections, nuclei that merge, stacking functions

Saturday, May 20	9:00 am - 9 pm
Sunday, May 21	9:00 am - 4 pm

Designing for resilience

Saturday, June 10	9:00 am - 9 pm
Sunday, June 11	9:00 am - 4 pm

Action and pollination

Saturday, July 8	9:00 am - 9 pm
Sunday, July 9	9:00 am - 4 pm

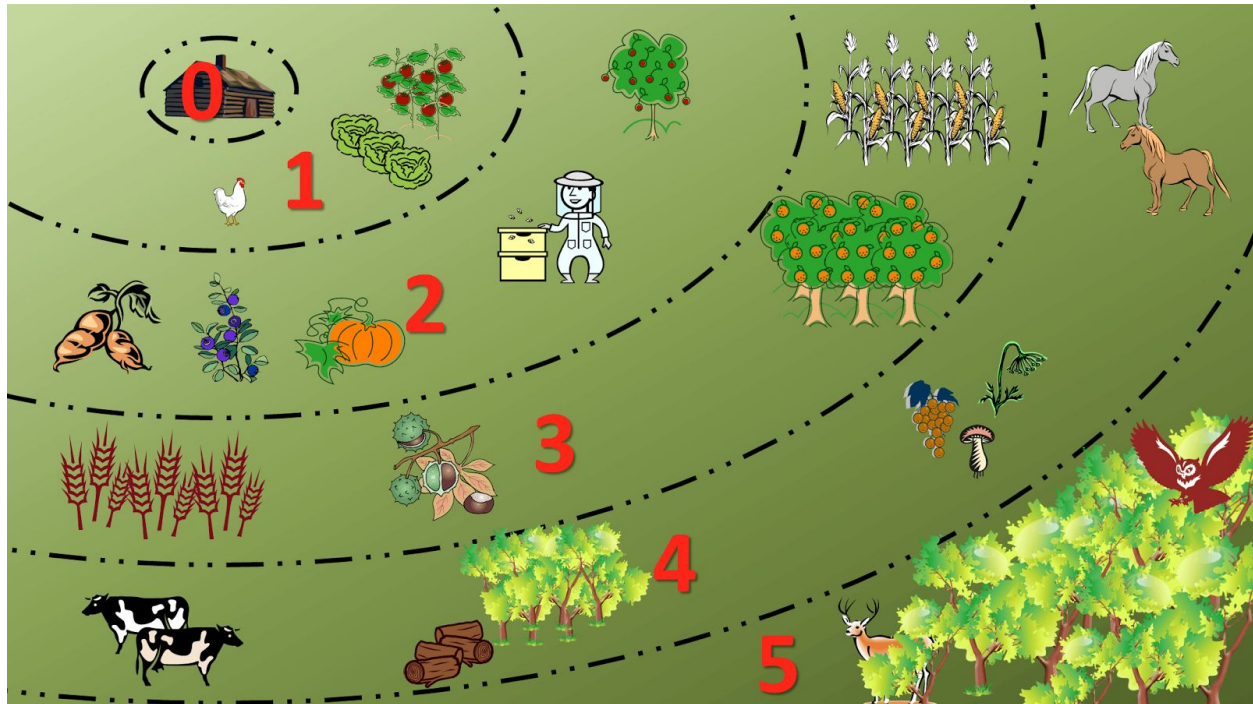
Supplemental offerings:

Students will be required to attend at least one of these hands-on learning days.

May :	Timber framing	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
June :	Building hugel beds at Village Roots	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
July :	Forest garden site visit	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
August:	Poultry processing	9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Course Overview:

We will use the zones of permaculture as a rough outline to the inner and communal work of permaculture. Starting with the self, through one's home, into the surrounding land and to the world at large.....



Topics and Areas of Inquiry:

Permaculture Ethics and Principles

Soil structure and soil building

Site assessment and analysis

Designing resilient systems

Homesteading skills

Community planning

Natural building

Farming with mycelium

Sustainability and the built environment

Application of permaculture principles

Integration of food systems with human habitats

Earthworks and rainwater harvesting

Herbs in permaculture

Forest gardening

Cooperative design and construction

Polyculture techniques

Organic and holistic Orchards

Animals in the farm ecosystem

Find your place on the planet. Dig in, and take responsibility from there. **Gary Snyder**

Learning Objectives:

- To explore humans as keystone species in our ecosystem
- To look at human impact as a result of design
- To identify and strengthen our individual roles in our foodshed and watershed.
- Develop a personalized “goals articulation” statement for a specific site that reflects their own values and the Permaculture Ethics and Principles.
- Measure the dimensions of all elements of their site and produce a legible and accurate base map.
- Demonstrate proficiency with observation, design methods and techniques, pattern recognition, and systems understanding.
- Discover, develop and describe the *relationships between* the Permaculture Principles and Ethics, the goals articulation, site realities and final design elements.
- Communicate these interpretations through effective maps, graphical analysis and assessment, and a professional presentation of a design project.

Course Requirements:

- Students will have weekly assignments to further explore issues and ideas presented in class
- Students will perform a niche analysis of a species of their choicely in class lectures, tours and presentations
- Students will participate in several individual and group designs
- Each student will do a full site assessment for a piece of land that will include basic existing species inventory, geological and topographical & infrastructure and a full design of the plot using permaculture principles
- Students will present their final designs to the class for feedback and evaluation

In nature's economy, the currency is not money, it is life. **Vandana Shiva**

