



the sustainable homestead

MAY 4 - 6, 2012

NORTHERN SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM



NORTH HOUSE FOLK SCHOOL
On the harbor in Grand Marais, MN
www.northhouse.org | 888-387-9762

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Event Coursework - Educate

Register for an event course—it's North House Folk School at its best, hands-on education to enrich lives and build community. Registration required, tuition and materials fees vary, see www.northhouse.org

Yurt Building: Design & Construction | May 4-7

Wildlife Gardening: Birds, Butterflies & other Pollinators | May 4

Chickens for Your Backyard | May 4

From Tiny Homes to Tiny Homesteads: The Half-Acre Homestead with Lloyd Kahn | May 4

Planning a Sustainable Homestead | May 4

Green Medicines | May 5

Rocket Stoves | May 5

Graft Your Own Orchard | May 5

Planning Your Garden for Seed Saving | May 5

Dry it, You'll Like it: Build a Solar Food Dehydrator | May 5

Essentials of Cordwood Construction | May 5

Cooking with the Seasons: Spring Harvest | May 5

Energy Efficient Home Tour | May 6

Northern Bee Keeping | May 6

Lasagna No-Till Gardening | May 6

Seminars, Demos & Tours - Engage

Enjoy afternoon seminars, discussions and celebration of the sustainable lifestyles. Some fees or registration required.

Fri, May 4 | Noon | Lunch & Learn "Modern Homesteading & Local Sustainability" w/ David Abazs of Round River Farm at the Angry Trout Cafe | Prices vary; participants order from menu

In 1988, David and his wife Lise began homesteading 40 acres in Finland, MN. Nearly 25 years later, they operate their farm and business almost entirely with renewable resources – solar and wind power and biodiesel fuel their home, family, 25 share CSA, chickens, bees, and more. If that weren't enough to keep him busy, David is also actively involved in several innovative projects, including a greenhouse biofuel energy system and research into the potential of local food production with the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. Join David as he reflects on his experiences as a northern homesteader and how this has shaped his vision for sustainable, self-reliant communities.

Sat, May 5 | Noon | Lunch & Learn: Grant Olson of Seed Savers Exchange | Catered by The Pie Place at NHFS | \$12 or bring a lunch
Seed Savers Exchange is a unique not-for-profit farm in Decorah, Iowa, dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom seeds. Since 1975, their members have been passing on our garden heritage by collecting and distributing thousands of samples of rare garden seeds to other gardeners. To better understand our seeds' stories, SSE has launched the Collection Origins Research Effort (CORE), to collect complete histories on the thousands of records in the collection. Hear the stories that are coming out of the CORE project and learn how some of our favorite varieties came to be.

Sun, May 6 | Noon | Lunch & Learn "Blogging the Sustainability Story" with Lloyd Kahn | Brown Bag Lunch: Bring Your Own
There's no shortage of ways to tell the world what you're up to these days: Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Pinterest, blogs...the list goes on. How can people interested in creating a more sustainable future use these new tools to learn from one another and tell the larger story? Lloyd Kahn has a few ideas: from the Whole Earth catalog on, he's been shaking up the world of publishing since the 1960s, and has embraced blogs, Twitter, and new media to continue telling stories of people creating sustainable lives. Bring a brown bag lunch, your questions and ideas, and join Lloyd for a lively discussion.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS SEMINARS: SUNDAY, MAY 6

Life on the edge of the boreal forest presents some particular challenges to homesteaders. Spend Sunday exploring the creative solutions local residents have implemented in three different settings, co-sponsored by local organizations.

Energy Efficient Home Tour with Don Grant and the Cook County Local Energy Project | 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Let your imagination run with a tour to 3+ home sites in the greater Grand Marais area that feature a variety of energy efficient technologies. You'll meet the owners, discuss their planning processes, success and setbacks, and have a chance to ask questions. Sites will include photovoltaic solar systems, solar hot water systems, super-insulated housing and passive design. Participants will meet at North House for an opening discussion and to arrange car-pooling.

"Lasagna" Style No-Till Gardening with the Northwoods Food Project | 1-4 pm

Lasagna gardening? No, not tomatoes, basil and oregano, but an easy way to improve your soil. Gardening in northern climates presents more challenges than simply a shorter season: often, the same glaciers that shaped the landscapes left very little topsoil behind. This session, hosted by local farmer Melinda Spindler and the Northwoods Foods Project, will include both discussion and hands-on experience. We'll discuss the philosophy behind the no-till gardening method, and cover the how-tos and experiences of both the presenters and participants. After a lively session, we'll head to the Community Garden at WTIP and install a no-till "lasagna" bed. Helping hands are enthusiastically appreciated, but observers are welcome too.

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Natural Bee Keeping in the Boreal Landscapes with the Cook County Bee Keepers Group | 1-4 pm

Beekeeping in Cook County is truly a unique experience. By connecting with the Thunder Bay Beekeeper Association in Ontario, Cook County Beekeepers are striving to maintain the only mite-free honeybee populations in North America. Starting with strong locally raised bees we greatly reduce the need for all medications and pesticides. At this hands-on workshop, participants will learn the basics of hobby beekeeping; where to purchase healthy honeybees; and how to maintain and over-winter their bee hives in a harsh northern climate. We will also cover the importance of maintaining pollinators for a healthy landscape, and bountiful gardens.

Community Gatherings

Join fellow students and community members for stimulating and engaging presentations and discussion about sustainable living.

Fri, May 4 | 6:30 pm

Global Problem, Local Solutions: Homeowners Energy Efficiency Workshop and Update on Local Energy Projects

Cook County, Minnesota presents an interesting case study for local energy self-reliance. Geographically remote and sparsely populated, the county provides an opportunity for small-scale, innovative technologies to profoundly shift the energy needs of the area. The Cook County Local Energy Project has been working on a variety of projects and solutions to local energy needs for the past four years. Cook County residents and visitors alike will be inspired by local energy innovations and efforts.

Fri, May 4 | 8 pm | \$5 suggested donation

Film Screening: *Greening the Cube: 100-Mile Housing*

Follow the efforts of green-builders Pete Matheson and Sean Sands as they strive to imagine and construct homes that are affordable, habitable, ethical, and environmentally responsible—in a word, sustainable. Taking inspiration from the local-food treatise 'The 100 Mile Diet,' a concept for '100 Mile Housing,' localized solutions for house and home, begins to take shape in the backwoods of Grand Forks, British Columbia, Canada. Ultimately, the lifestyle and movement documented poses but one question; what kind of future will you build?

Sat, May 5 | 5:30 pm | Wood-fired Community Pizza Potluck

Bring your favorite pizza toppings to share and beverages (local, organic, fresh) for this casual, harbor-side pizza potluck as North House Folk School fires up the wood-fired oven and provides the dough. No reservations required. Enjoy good company and good eats

Sat, May 5 | 7:30 pm | Featured Speaker: Lloyd Kahn

Tiny Homes: Simple Shelter: Scaling Back in the 21st Century

The world of micro-housing, houses under 500 square feet, is exploding as people look for creative, efficient and practical solutions to the challenges of our modern world. Lloyd Kahn has been at the forefront of alternative approaches to shelter building since the 1960s, and in his latest book, *Tiny Homes*, he offers 250 tiny, tasty solutions to the big questions of housing. He'll discuss tiny homes, publishing, and whatever else might strike his fancy.

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