

GEN News In Brief



A hiker visits Kasteel's garden

Since opening its gates to the public in April 2011 Flemish Ecovillage Kasteel Nieuwenhoven has been visited by hundreds of hikers, cyclists and passers-by. Besides a cafe and organic produce shop, the main attraction is a footpath that winds through the castle's estate. Visitors pass along the large permaculture forest garden where they can see, taste and feel permaculture in action and learn about the principles and ethics. More at: www.kasteelnieuwenhoven.be

Members at Russian Ecovillage Shiram make their own puzzles out of wood from their forest, using them as tools for developing their minds and raising consciousness about self-sufficiency. For details visit: www.shiram.daism.ru

Spiti ton Kentavron, a holistic education centre in Anilio, Greece has created a permaculture garden and built a yurt. For details view: www.spititonkentavron.org

SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE

for submissions to
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Global Ecovillage Network
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African Permaculture Revolution Continues Across The Continent



Women participating in a Ghana Permaculture Institute training day. Inset: OTEPIC's Philip Munyasia

The European branch of GEN-Europe (GEN) is assisting in the emergence of GEN-Africa (www.genafrica.org) as an independent branch of the global network – there is a lot happening.

All over Africa inspiration is being offered to the ecovillage network. In the face of climate change and resource depletion, a network that builds bridges in a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect deserves respect. GEN can offer decades of experience in building relationships of trust within groups of rich cultural and ethnic diversity – bringing core ingredients for fruitful international exchange.

Ghana, like many other parts of Africa, is struggling with the combined challenges of social poverty and environmental degradation. These problems cause a spiral of degradation that threatens to turn the land into a barren desert, if it is not stopped and solutions taught.

The Ghana Permaculture Institute (GPI) trains people in permaculture and helps set up small social permaculture businesses. Since 2009, 1,000 women and 30 communities in Ghana have participated in GPI programmes on permaculture design, ecofarming, food and nutrition, ecovillage design and community sustenance.

GPI is working on creating demonstration sites across the country to bring permaculture to Ghana's diverse cultures in their local languages.

Learn more, or give support: <http://permacultureghana.wordpress.com/>

Likewise, a dream is coming true for more and more village farmers in Kenya. From a marginal life without much hope, Organic Technology Extension & Promotion of Initiative Centre (OTEPIC), directed by Philip Munyasia, is bringing knowledge, empowerment and joy to communities.

With the purchase of his first piece of land in 2003 he started to grow a variety of organic vegetables, make compost, save seeds and plant trees. Again, many of the participants are women. "Through training women, the whole community is empowered" he says.

For further information view: <http://organicfarminghealingtherift.blogspot.com/>

Other news includes the first ecovillage conference taking place in the Democratic Republic of Congo. GEN-Africa and the new Congo Ecovillage Network brought government ministries together with leaders and members of local and international NGOs, Pygmy leaders, United Nations, IUCN and other experts.

Finally, the Senegalese government has installed the first ministry of ecovillages worldwide and the German Foreign Ministry is funding ecovillage strategies in northern Africa.



Lets Do It! World Clean-up 2012



Some of the scenes from this year's clean-up



There's an estimated 100 million tons of garbage lying around the world. The growing Let's Do It! movement (which began in Estonia in 2008) is inviting people and organisations to join forces for World Clean-up 2012.

A series of clean-ups will sweep over the globe, touching all continents and bringing together a record-breaking 300 million volunteers. All in the name of cleaning up Earth from garbage and raising the level of awareness in our global community.

In September 2011 an online world waste map will be launched. Everyone will be able to map garbage around their home area with the help of mobile phones.

For full information and clips of projects to date please view: www.letsdoitworld.org

Ingenious Biomeiler Built

A new Biomeiler (or a bio-woodchip-kiln) has been built by workshop participants, including a permaculture group, at the Dragonmil Nature Reserve, in Saxony, Germany.

Biomeiler is an ecological, and economical, method of utilising wood chip, developed by French forestry officer Jean Pain in the 1970s.

The Biomeiler is a process that produces heat and bio-gas. Over a period of 18 to 24 months, micro organisms get to work and aerobically ferment the material into a highly potent compost. The temperature reaches and remains at about 70°C. The air or water that is run through the heap can be used for hot water, or to heat buildings and greenhouses.

You can visit Dragonmil yourself or register for one of the information days at www.drachenmuehle.de and read a fuller account of this in our next issue, Permaculture 70.



The Dragonmil Nature Reserve's new Biomeiler

Back To The Land In Ukraine



Girls from the Dolyana Dzherel Ecovillage

Ukrainian Ecovillage Dolyana Dzherel (the Valley of Springs) has been expanding its educational programme and range of courses.

Sepp Holzer recently visited and gave a permaculture seminar. Other courses have included organic architecture, classes on the experience of living in family residences, ancient folk customs, home childbirth, eco-building, strawbale houses and making of natural soap and detergents.

Dolyana was created in 2002, following the 'Kin Domain' model inspired by the Anastasia books. It has about 30 families and about half of the population are children. These practical skills are helping the village's residents, who originally came from the city, reclaim the heritage of their land lost while under the rule of the USSR.

2011 Conference

Biodynamic Association
vital soil, vital food

THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

A BIODYNAMIC APPROACH

Biodynamic farms and gardens consistently achieve outstanding results in soil fertility, animal health and food quality. This conference is for everyone who is interested in this unique approach to organic and sustainable food production.

10 - 13 November 2011
Emerson College, Sussex

Keynote Address
Patrick Holden
(Patron - Biodynamic Association)

www.biodynamic.org.uk

The 8th Annual

Festival of Life

SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2011

eco-living • arts and crafts • juice bars • kids space
raw food demos • nutrition • permaculture • activism
trance dance • meditation • yoga • healing • singing
live music • DJs • drumming • conscious partying

10:30am - Midnight

£15/£10 all day, £10/£8 after 4pm,
Under 16's free, £5 refund before 7pm
Free entry to Red Lion Square Festival

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square
Holborn, London WC1R 4RL

www.festivaloflife.net