

The Alchemical Nursery



February 1, 2012, with gratitude ∞ . . .

2011 Annual Review

“Another way is possible.....”

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The Alchemical Nursery envisions an alternate approach to much of current development based on growth and relationships based on commodities. To that end we utilize Permaculture as a design methodology developed according to the principles of cultures around the globe rooted in careful observation of the natural world. This way of life incorporates best practices as they relate to food, water, community, energy and shelter. These principles are integrated into landscape, agricultural and urban designs for the mutual benefit of people, plants, animals and local ecosystems. And the ethics of Permaculture – People Care, Planet Care, and Fair Share – allow us to operate under a shared value system for the good of all.

Permaculture is just one way to understand our world better, as we travel towards an ecological society. We hope you'll join us in discovering more old ways, and creating new ways. To better actualize our mission and participation by everyone who is interested or curious, the Alchemical Board of Directors has updated our mission statement to reflect our current programs, interest, and values, and to ensure a focused passion to lead us into that better world. Please read the mission on the next page, and then visit www.alchemicalnursery.org to learn more and to get involved.

In sincerity,

Frank Raymond Cetera, President
Jason Gallagher, Treasurer
Sasha Batorsky, Secretary
Mack Macner
Charlie Sam

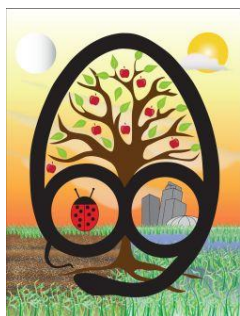


MISSION

1.
Facilitate Permaculture based ethics, education, and hands-on experiences to assist individuals in becoming more self-reliant and connected to their ecological environment.
2.
Advance an understanding of Intentional Community and Ecovillage based lifestyles and philosophies
3.
Direct the continued research and development of the DUCk (Decentralized Urban Community) Land Trust model
4.
Aggregate and coordinate educational and project based initiatives based in cooperative and mutual aid methodologies
5.
Provide logistic, financial, organizational, and public support to other like-minded endeavors creating alternative systems for transitioning to our newly emerging reality.

Programming Report

COMMUNITY



We worked through the winter & spring facilitating the organization of the **Upstate NY Permaculture Gathering** once again in 2011 – this time around in Rochester with the leadership of Peter Turkow and Rochester Green Living. The event brought together over 100 people to take part in conversations and presentations related to financial Permaculture, community design, ecovillages, intentional communities, natural building, and regional updates.

The **Work That Reconnects** – a workshop based upon the teachings of Joanna Macy, was presented by local community member Cindy Squillace, and was extremely well received by the participants, and brought us closer to an understanding of our inner selves in relation to our outer selves and relationships.



September saw us at the Westcott Street Cultural Fair, sharing a **clothing swap** with everyone who came by. This was so much fun and well received that we hope to make it a yearly tradition!

The **Spring Equinox Come Unity** event at the Westcott Theater, organized by Ali Rutherford, brought together community for hula hooping, live music, and fun to honor the spring solstice and our natural world rhythms, and to bring awareness to concerns that are detrimentally affecting that same world.

Jason Gallagher joined us as **Program Administrator**, allowing us the pleasure of hiring our first employee and providing a job to a fellow community member here in Syracuse. The first of others to come we can only hope. And **Heather Helman**, who **joined us as a summer intern from SUNY-ESF**, was instrumental in the clothing swap success and contributing to our general operations.

We ended the year by producing a **statement of solidarity with the Occupy movement**: “In recognition of the strength of community, the intentionality of purpose, and the commonality of values which embody the Occupy encampments and movement”. It is hoped that such a statement will help bring further attention to the message of our economic system’s failures and prejudices that Occupy is broadcasting to the world.

SKILLSHARING



The **Education and Release: Practicing Synergy** series brought together the community to learn skills for autonomy and interdependence. The series included trainings in **rain barrel construction, building an herb spiral, herbal medicine making, sheet mulching, and yurt construction.**

The film presentation of **First Earth: Uncompromising Ecological Architecture** at the Westcott Bulb Give-A-Way Garden Extravaganza, showcased building with cob, clay and straw bale. A panel including Erich Kruger (Deconstruction Program Coordinator at Finger Lakes ReUse), Kirk Glundal (Owner Operator of EarthEmbers Natural Building), Frank Cetera (President of The Alchemical Nursery), and Josh Morrow (Community Planning Student at SUNY-ESF) shared experiences and answered

questions from the audience and promised more learning about how to build locally with natural materials as opposed to adulterated industrial complex green products.

SECURITY AND ACTUALIZATION THROUGH PERMACULTURE



The Rahma Clinic Edible Forest Snack Garden at 3100 South Salina St, and the landscape design and implementation at **717 Otisco St**, present examples of how Permaculture can lead us to increased food and material security. Hands-on workdays, educational presentations, and time learning and doing together enable everyone to contribute and in the future, to reap rewards.

By teaming up with the Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute, we are bringing the **Community Ecological Design Training** curriculum to Syracuse to facilitate continued Permaculture based learning and ethics. Participants in the course will work on a design for their own place-based project, and contribute to the Rahma Forest Garden.

Contributing Donors and Partners

In addition to all of our partners and supporters mentioned in the Programming Report above, The Alchemical Nursery would like to thank and recognize the following partners and supporters from 2011:



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The Gifford Foundation

Westcott Bulb Giveaway and Garden Extravaganza

Our individual donors and fiscally sponsored projects

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And so many more . . . Many thanks.



Support the Alchemical Nursery

The Alchemical Nursery is a 501(c)3 registered non-profit organization. As such your contributions can be tax deductible. To make a donation, Use the Network for Good donation button on our website at www.alchemicalnursery.org



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