

WELL NEWSLETTER – October 13, 2006

Calendar of WELL Events

October 21: Harvest Festival

10AM – 7PM, Little Lake Grange – 291 School Street

This day-long event will include informative demonstrations such as a solar oven cook-off, fruit & vegetable dehydration by the Willits Action Group, apple crushing & juicing by Jason Bradford and acorn preparation by Donna D'Terra. Kids can come learn too – there are special events scheduled just for them!

At 5PM we will share a 100 mile Harvest Dinner where all of the food served will be local. Cost for dinner is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and under. This event is co-sponsored by the Little Lake Grange. More information will be forthcoming regarding this event.

We need volunteers to help provide local food for the dinner. Anyone who contributes will pay a reduced rate for the meal but you must sign up in advance. Please call Annie Weller at 459-4499 to sign up and get more information

October 28: Halloween Harvest Dance

6PM – Midnight, Little Lake Grange – 291 School Street – Adults - \$10, Kids 11-18 - \$5, Kids 10 & under are free.

Dress in your wackiest costume and come dance to local favorite Sweet Spot, as WELL, REDI, and the Little Lake Grange resurrect an old Willits tradition. We will have kids' activities from 6PM until 8PM. Also during this time we will have a costume contest for all ages with fun categories such as "Costume Made from the Most Locally Made Items." Support these great local organizations by purchasing something in the silent auction, featuring items donated by local Willits businesses.

November 13: Speaker Event: David Korten, Author of "The Great Turning"

6:30PM, Willits Community Center - 121 E. Commercial St.

WELL is pleased to host an informative evening featuring David Korten author of the new bestseller "The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community." In this book David describes how the convergence of Peak Oil, Climate Change and the impact of economic globalization has created both an incredible challenge and a unique opportunity to remake our culture. In this talk David will share his vision of how we can create "Earth Community" locally in response to this mammoth challenge.

Other Events

The Now and Then Film Series – Fall 2006 schedule:

All films are to be shown starting at 7PM at the Little Lake Health Center, 45 Hazel.

Suggested Donation of \$5.

OCTOBER 19th - "FED UP" – Postponed so we can go see Brad Lancaster at the Willits Community Center (see below for details). Look for this film to be rescheduled.

NOVEMBER 9TH – “Rainwater Collection for the Mechanically-Challenged” (37 minutes) – An inspirational and how-to video about collecting your water from the sky.

Food Preservation Classes at Willits Action Group (WAG)

Linda Cushman is teaching the following food preservation classes at WAG. Call 459-2396 to pre-register (required) or more information. All classes listed will be held at the WAG Log Cabin.

October 16 – The ABCs of Canning High Acid Foods – 5:30PM –\$10

October 19 – The ABCs of Drying Fruits & Vegetables – 5:30PM –\$10

October 25 – Home Canned Food Tasting/Technique & Recipe Sharing – \$6

October 17: Willits City Council Candidates Night

The American Association of University Women is sponsoring an opportunity to meet the candidates running in the election for Willits City Council. This event will be held in the Willits City Council Chambers at Willits City Hall beginning at 6PM.

October 18: Foundation of Sustainable Living Meeting in Ukiah

The Foundation of Sustainable Living (FOSL) is setting up a large scale eco-village - like community here in Mendocino County. It will be built from scratch on a large tract of land here, by the members. Members can be those of money or skills or both. It is a 501c-3 organization that has addressed many facets of concern ranging from tax liability, member shares, the appropriate use of technology and the necessary mix of traditional technologies as appropriate, education and the raising of children by the community, etc.

FOSL will be holding a meeting to discuss their plans and answer questions on October 18th at the Washington Mutual Bank at the corner of Gobbi and State in Ukiah. There will be a potluck dinner from 6 to 7pm, and the presentation and interactive session will begin at 7pm. More information can be found on their website at www.foundationofsustainableliving.org. For more information please call Parker Watwood at 1.877.675.0604.

October 19: Brad Lancaster in Willits

On October 19th MELC & REDI will present an evening with Brad Lancaster at the Willits Community Center. Brad is the author of the book “Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands.” Join us to hear Brad Lancaster explain various tools & techniques for implementing sustainable water systems into your homes, landscapes, and communities using onsite resources. This event begins at 7PM and a \$10 donation is requested. For more information call Maximillian Myers at MELC at 456-0779.

October 21 & 22: Straw Bale Work Party

The St. Francis of the Redwood Episcopal Church is building a new sanctuary on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. The design calls for straw bale infill walls. The bales will be delivered Friday, October 13.

If you are interested in hands on learning, you are invited to participate in a bale-raising work party on the weekend of October 21 and 22, rain or shine. Work orientation is at 8AM with days running until 3PM. Lunch will be provided if you let Sam Senerchia - 459.3374 - know that you're coming for the day. Please wear work clothes, sturdy boots and gloves.

This weekend will not be a workshop, but rather an opportunity to get dirty and get experience.

If you're unable to make it on the weekend but would like to volunteer, call Sam to arrange a time during the following two weeks. He can only accommodate this if you call ahead. The congregation and crew thank you for your interest and help in this exciting project.

October 28: Willits Community Services & Food Bank 25th Anniversary Celebration

WCS will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on October 28th at the Senior Center in Willits from 5PM to 8PM. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served as they wish Executive Director Jim Marill farewell.

Locavore Corner

Join or Follow the Progress of the Willits Locavores!

As part of October's Food Month activities, seventeen pioneering souls have already signed a pledge to eat locally for one month. These are the Willits Locavores! Jason is already sharing his experience in local eating, meal planning, food preparation, and sourcing of local food on his blog at: <http://www.relocalize.net/blog/42>

The most recent entries are at the top of the blog, so scroll down and read from the bottom up if you want a full history of Locavore activities. If you still want to team up with the Locavores it is not too late. Help them research what local foods are available and join them in potlucks and food preparation activities. Share what information you have with the Locavores directly on the blog, or email Jason directly at jason@redinet.org.

Jessica Prentice Interview

On September 18, 2006 Jason Bradford interviewed Jessica Prentice on the Reality Report on KZYX. Jessica is the cofounder of the Locavores, a San Francisco Bay Area group that gathers its food from within 100 miles of where they live. She is also a professional chef and author of the book "Full Moon Feast", a culinary tour through the year that details the history of food in different cultures. Her website is WiseFoodWays.com. You can download and listen to this informative interview at <http://www.globalpublicmedia.com/interviews/745>.

Time to Become a "Locavore"

The spinach E. coli scare helped us all become aware of where our spinach is grown. Yesterday Seattle Times columnist Neil Peirce shared his two cents on the impact of eating food grown far away. He invites all of us to dive in and eat local. Check his article out here: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2003295327_peirce09.html

Get Involved

Halloween Harvest Dance

As I mentioned above, the Halloween Harvest Dance is happening on October 28th. We need a bunch of volunteers to make this event run smoothly. This is a great opportunity to get to know other members of our Willits community. Huge thanks to Melinda Clarke who has agreed to be the volunteer coordinator. If you are interested in helping out, please call me at the WELL office at 459-1256.

This event will include an auction of local art, crafts and other items of interest. If you have something you would like to donate for the auction, please download our auction item request form at <http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/HalloweenHarvestAuctionItemRequest.pdf> complete the form, and then contact me at the WELL office.

Volunteers Needed for WELL's Water Project Team

Many WELL members may be aware of water capacity issues confronting both the City of Willits and Brooktrails District. A Water Focus Group has been instituted by WELL to study the City's current position and explore possible alternatives. We believe the City ought to consider increasing water productivity through interim residential water conservation programs and study a waterless waste disposal system for the future.

WELL is seeking volunteers with or without expertise to join this group in studying various interim applications of retrofitting traditional systems for efficiency and the future feasibility of waterless systems like dry and composting toilets. For further information please contact Rachel Olivieri at 459-1382 after 4pm or rachelolivieri@yahoo.com or Suzie at the WELL office.

Volunteers Needed To Assemble Community Solar Dryers

Dave Mullein at the REDI office needs help assembling community solar dryers for the Grateful Gleaners and other members of the Willits community to use to process food. Dave needs help with this effort. If you are interested in helping, please call him at 459-1256.

Membership News

WELL now has 155 members and counting! Thanks to all of you who have been so actively recruiting new members.

Big Thank You

WELL would like to thank the Post Carbon Institute for generously supporting WELL over the last eight months. Their support has funded the WELL office manager position making it possible for WELL to operate more efficiently and communicate more effectively.

Office Note

Political Endorsements

Please note that WELL has REDI (Renewable Energy Development Institute) as its fiscal sponsor. REDI is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Consequently, WELL cannot endorse political candidates at all, and is very restricted in its ability to support legislation. Doing so could jeopardize REDI's non-profit status. If you have any questions about this issue, please call the office.

WELL Financial Statement

WELL has prepared its financial statement from its inception through the period ending August 31, 2006. WELL generated a net income of \$510 during this time. If you are interested in reviewing this financial statement, please contact the WELL office.

If you would like to be taken off this mailing list, please let me know and I will gladly oblige.

Cheers,

Suzie

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