Steve,

Thanks for that brother!  Glad to have your full kit, almost.

You should be hearing from Jessie soon re: TN.  We have both been going through various wringers, and apologize for the long delayed responses!

Our policy is that the $50 application fee is nonrefundable to help cover our costs for reviewing applications, except it is refundable for scholarship applicants.  So officially speaking, your kit is not yet complete and I’m not s’pozed to begin reviewing your app until Jessie reviews and makes sure all the pieces are there, including the app fee.  However, yes, you are applying for scholarship and that fee is therefore refundable.  I do also know that paypal will do a full refund including transfer fees if I refund you.  There may be some losses one way or the other depending on the exchange rates at the beginning vs end of the process….  Pay it if that works for you, but I see your point.

I will say that we are not in a position to offer anywhere near a $900 scholarship to you at this point.  Our funds are limited and we need to spread them around and that limits how much we can give one person—and a lot of folks are asking.  Jessie is organizing a fundraiser in TN to see what else we can scare up (joy up?).  I get that your costs are high!  We have much to consider here, and I don’t want to give you a firm answer on what we can offer until I get through the other folks in front of you in the app line and we see how things go with Jessie’s fundraiser.

I’ve been pondering the suggestion of you doing a workshop here in our region—I expect you could fill a one-day workshop here, perhaps more than one of them in various parts of the Northeast, as we have several groups in various subregions.  I do not think I have the time to actually organize such, though I can put you in touch with some folks and recommend you to them.  I could easily see a workshop in NY city, Portland Maine area, n Vermont, Ithaca, NY, and Boston and Western Mass being possibilities, or that at least two of those possibilities would likely take.  The Northeastern PC Convergence last summer took place in Quebec, and had over 600 participants—there is likely some fertile ground for you there too.  Here in W Mass I expect I could find a free venue for you to teach in (perhaps my place, depending on numbers—not a huge amount of room here), though you’ll need organisers and someone to handle registration (think you can do reg stuff on the road maybe?).  It’s a risky proposition to commit to the trip without the income for sure until after you’re already here.  Do you have the funds to put in up front to get tickets, etc?

I also think that you may want to consider offering to folks over here something other than a principles workshop, or at least that you advertise heavily that you will offer people  examples of permaculture in OZ, as people will be interested to hear what is going on over there.  The "PC down under" angle will probably help you get students in the door to a fair degree.

I will also say that the intention of the CSE (see attachments) is that you organize a workshop IN YOUR REGION that you will teach after the teacher training, and the folks pay you ahead for that workshop to help you cover the training costs.  I expect you understand the multiple benefits of that approach, and suggest you do that, as well as organize for teaching while you on this side of the pond.  You’ll have so much more to teach about after you get back from visiting all over the place here anyway, I imagine you should be able to get some evening talks lined up and so on...

I have a large number of applications in front of you—I need to take these more or less in order.  So it may be a while before I get to your application.  I think we should proceed on the assumption that we will accept you into the course (unless my digging into your history and references uncovers something you haven’t told me about that puts the fear of God into me!).  That way you can begin putting together the resources and plans you will need for the trip.

CSE info below.  It’s pretty basic—I expect you can go well beyond what is there.  I suggest you compose an email I can send to colleagues in various places along with my own comments to get the ball rolling.  Also send me a suggested itinerary of where you think you might like to travel.  I have contacts in many places that may help you get short courses happening elsewhere than here in the northeast.

Peace, brother, we’ll be in touch.

d

PS: Jessie’s email has changed, and I slipped up and used her old one on some of the application info emails I sent out including yours.  Please use the address I used above not the other one.  [thenectaryproject@gmail.com](mailto:thenectaryproject@gmail.com) is the right one.  She does get the other ones, it just takes longer.