DYNAMICS ECOLOGICAL DESIGN

Site Planning • Landscape Design • Construction • Education • Permaculture

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EDIBLE FOREST GARDENING
LECTURE AND WORKSHOP PROSPECTUS

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The following prospectus describes some of the workshops I offer on the subject of edible forest gardening and ecosystem agriculture. We can adjust titles and content to meet your needs, interests, and market. Customized lectures, workshops, and courses are also available on a broad range of topics relevant to ecological design and permaculture in general. Please inquire.

EVENING TALKS/SHORT CLASSES (1.5-2 HOURS)

Gardening Like the Forest: Home-Scale Ecological Food Production

Healthy forests maintain, fertilize, and renew themselves, naturally. Wouldn't you like to grow an abundant food-producing ecosystem like this in your back yard? You can! Edible forest gardens mimic the structure and function of natural forests through all their stages of development and grow food, fuel, fiber, fodder, fertilizers, farmaceuticals, and fun. We can meet our own needs and regenerate healthy ecosystems at the same time! This talk introduces the vision of forest gardening with some scientific background, a few living examples, and a sampling of some useful perennial edibles you can use in your own garden.

This talk is intended for the general gardening public, and can be adapted for varied levels of experience, education, and interest.

Ecology, Design, and Agriculture: A New Synthesis

The monoculture mindset of our current culture separates things that are, in reality, integral to each other. The science of ecology, the art of design, and the practice of growing food are three related disciplines that stand divorced from each other in America today. What might an ecologically designed agriculture look like? We will focus here on the concept of edible forest gardening as an example of such a synthesis appropriate to the temperate deciduous forest biome, and then extend the discussion to other regions.

This talk is intended for college students and other more academic audiences.

The Epicurean Imperative: Energy Descent and the Future of Food

Every calorie of food produced in America takes ten calories of energy to produce, and most of this energy comes from fossil fuels. We depend on these nonrenewables for our food, so we need to understand the implications of oil depletion for ourselves and for the economy at large. Peak oil theorists state that the key moment in fossil fuel depletion comes, not when we burn the last drop, but when

the rate of oil production peaks and begins it inexorable decline. Many believe that time is now at hand, or will come quite soon. What is the future of food in this era of "energy descent"? How can we feed our communities and ourselves as oil and food prices rise? While this scenario may sound depressing, the reality is that we have many opportunities to rebuild both human and ecological communities that offer numerous advantages over our current economic system. We can create cultures of richness, joy, delight, and fun even as we use less fossil energy to support ourselves. Indeed, such Epicurean experiences may be a requirement for success in the coming times.

This bracing talk is intended for the public at large.

Soil Ecology and Self-Renewing Fertility

The soil is a complex environment involving interactions between physical, chemical, geological, biological, and ecological forces. How does the soil work as a whole system? In a world of specialists, this question is often not even on the radar screen. As fossil fuels become more expensive, so will conventional fertility sources increase in cost. We need to use our time, energy, resources, and knowledge to build toward long term nutrient cycling and conservation, rather than constantly importing nutrients from far away. This talk examines the soil as an ecosystem with an eye toward creating long-term soil health and self-renewing fertility, the way natural forest ecosystems do. This systems perspective offers practical solution-directions useful to farmers, gardeners, landscapers, and restorationists for site assessment, site preparation, plant selection, planting techniques, and ecosystem management.

Other possible topics include:

- ***Coppice Agroforestry: Resprout Silviculture for the 21st Century***
- ***Turning Water Problems into Landscape Opportunities.***
- ***Ecological Culture Design: A Holistic View***
- ***Eden Arising: The Inner Landscape of Ecological Culture Design***
- ***We Are Nature, Working: Lessons from Ecology for Designing Social and Economic Structures***
- ***Questioning the Invasive Species Paradigm***

ONE- AND TWO-DAY WORKSHOPS

These workshops can stretch to fill two days for a more relaxed pace, greater depth, and to allow for field trips or more field classes. They can also work as short classes.

Gardening Like the Forest: Fundamentals of Ecological Gardening
Ecosystem Agriculture: Patterns, Principles, and Practices *(alternate title)*

Ecosystem agriculture attempts to mimic the structure and function of natural ecosystems in food-producing ecologies. This workshop explores the vision, theory, design, and practice of ecosystem agriculture using the temperate deciduous forest ecosystem as the model. Lectures, field observations, and experiential classes will reveal the nature of ecosystem architecture, social structure, underground economics, and succession. Participants will draw conclusions from these experiences, developing practical design principles, practices, patterns, and processes for garden design and management.

This is an introductory workshop for gardeners, designers, and students of gardening, ecology, and design.

Designing Perennial Polycultures

An effective perennial polyculture is a mixture of useful perennial plants that minimizes competition, creates additive yields, and minimizes the gardener's work and outside inputs. Polyculture design is the most interesting and challenging part of the garden design process. This in-depth, intermediate-to-advanced workshop explores the specific ecological theories behind polyculture design through experiential exercises and games. Participants will also design a perennial polyculture during class using Niche Analysis, Guild Build, Ecological Analogs, Patch Design, and other processes.

This workshop best follows *Ecosystem Agriculture*, above, and assumes knowledge of the overall ecological design process usually discussed there. Combine the two to create a two-, three-, or four-day workshop. It will work for students of ecology, design, or agriculture, as well as for serious gardeners and garden designers.

Perennial Favorites: The Best Plants for Forest Gardens

Plants act as the primary building blocks of any forest garden: fruits, nuts, vines, berries, herbs, perennial vegetables, habitat plants for beneficials, fertility plants, and more. Take a tour of the best plants for creating your own food-producing ecosystem mimic, and learn how to select species for your own forest garden. We'll discuss the uses and functions of each species, as well as their ecological characteristics and possible polyculture combinations. This class will include slide lectures, participatory exercises, and, depending on venue and timing, field classes and taste testing. You will receive numerous handouts and nursery catalogues. Bring your questions, tales of plants, plant ID and reference books, and plants to share if you have them!

Remaking Eden: Ecological Design as a Spiritual Practice

Essentially, the goal of ecological design is to recreate the Garden of Eden—and why not? It is technically quite feasible in this age of high technology and information to create food-producing ecosystems that work like healthy natural systems with minimal maintenance and diverse yields. Yet, this is also a spiritual quest.

Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden after eating the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge and realizing their separateness from the One. Yet, they lived unselfconsciously there in the Garden, like children, dependent on the Garden's beneficence. What would a healthy, functional, adult relationship to God/Goddess/Nature look like? How can the practice of ecological design teach us how to see, how to act, and who we really are in our New Eden? Using design work, field classes, meditation, observation, participatory exercises, discussions, and other experiences, we will explore these questions together, finding our questions and answers within ourselves and in our shared circle.

COSTS

Costs for short workshops/evening talks listed above: US$750 plus expenses within 4 hours driving distance or when combined with one- or two-day workshops. For one- and two-day workshops listed above: US$1,500 per day plus expenses within 4 hours drive. Beyond 4 hours drive add US$40 per hour for driving time. For distances requiring air or train travel, minimum fees are US$2,250 plus expenses. For workshops longer than two days or for original presentations on a topic of your choice, prices vary; please contact me to request a quote. Expenses include, but are not limited to, mileage at 55¢ per mile, travel expenses, food, accommodations, handouts, other workshop-related expenses.

BIOGRAPHY

Dave Jacke, primary author of the award winning two-volume book *Edible Forest Gardens*, has studied ecology and design since the 1970s, and has run his own design firm—Dynamics Ecological Design—since 1984. Dave is an engaging and passionate teacher of ecological design and permaculture. He has designed, built, and planted landscapes, homes, farms, and communities in the many parts of the United States, as well as overseas. A cofounder of Land Trust at Gap Mountain in Jaffrey, NH, he homesteaded there for a number of years. He holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Simon's Rock College and a M.A. in Landscape Design from the Conway School of Landscape Design.

A detailed resumé is available as a pdf download in the bio at the bottom of the page at www.edibleforestgardens.com/about_book.html.