



# GREEN REVOLUTION

School of Living, 432 Leaman Rd., Cochranville, PA 19330 Vol. 57/No.1 2000

## AFTER SEATTLE... THE WTO, THE US CONSTITUTION, AND SELF-GOVERNMENT

By Richard Grossman\*

If the World Trade Organization (WTO) were disappeared tomorrow, many people in other nations would feel a bit of relief. But nothing fundamental would change in the USA. This is because corporations already have the special privilege (which lawyers call their "right") to make basic governing decisions. WTO or no WTO, corporations are protected by our constitution and our Supreme Court, and therefore by the police, army, navy, air force, CIA...

In late November, thousands from around the world joined people across the Pacific Northwest to protest WTO maneuvers in Seattle. Outside the United States, WTO decrees inflict great harms upon human life and biological systems. We in the US have a responsibility to support efforts by activists from other lands to neutralize and abolish the WTO.

But now, after Seattle, we in the USA have a formidable challenge: to identify and undo over 200 years of constitutional doctrines and laws designed to clothe corporate property with the power of government.

One example (among a zillion) of how these doctrines work: a few years ago a Massachusetts people's movement got a law passed restricting state officials from buying goods or services from corporations trafficking with Burmese dictators. Corporate directors did not like this public assault upon their "rights." But they did not have to summon the WTO into action. Why? Because men of property in the USA have long relied on the federal courts as their very own safety net. So they expected federal judges to nullify this law. And these judges did not disappoint, saying simply that it was beyond the authority of the Massachusetts people to legislate such matters.

We have a long history of corporations vetoing people's laws and making their own. And the idea of merchants using some kind of world trade organization to do this work is nothing new. Towards the end of the 17th Century, a new class of global merchants -- architects of the expanding British Empire -- realized their need "to create or adapt agencies to enforce British law on the one hand and restrain colonial legislatures on the other." So they set up a Board of Trade and Plantations to "scrutinize [the] colonial economy with an eagle eye...[and] recommend...with firm insistence the annulment of objectionable bills passed by colonial legislatures."<sup>1</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*

The American Revolution unleashed a great democratic spirit. This led to struggles between the more-propertied and the less-propertied. In a number of states, activists were able to qualify more white men to vote, increase the authority of lower legislative houses, lessen the ability of creditors to milk their debtors forever and ever, and limit the veto powers of governors and judges.

This of course is not what the wealthy, landed men who helped lead the revolution had in mind. They were, after all, a small minority of 20%: European and Colonial class structures had already defined the majority --women, slaves, Native peoples, indentured servants and workers in general -- as non-legal persons...indeed as property. So in self-defense, Washington, Hamilton, Madison and other leaders of this minority wrote and fixed in place a constitution "to contain the threat of the people rather than to embrace their participation and their competence."<sup>2</sup> Committed to "preventing popular liberty from destroying itself" because "the anarchy of the property-less would give way to despotism,"<sup>3</sup> they made it extremely difficult for the majority to use the constitution to make basic changes in law even if and when they should ever win the civil and political rights of persons.

### What's Inside?

After Seattle. . . . .	Page 1-3
Community Notes. . . . .	Page 4-5
In Defense of Organic Ag. . . . .	Page 6-7
Permaculture Course . . . . .	Page 8
Page O' Poetry . . . . .	Page 9
Letter from the Editor . . . . .	Page 10
Upcoming Events . . . . .	Page 11

In addition, these Federalist founders defined decisions about investment, production, labor and technology as private property's "rights." They believed such decisions were proper matters only for the wealthy landed gentry and commercial class (the corporate managers of today). Accordingly, at the 1787 constitutional convention in Philadelphia, Federalist delegates maneuvered a leap from the Articles of Confederation -- which had kept power and authority in state legislatures -- to a totally new constitution erecting a powerful central government. In the constitution's commerce clause (article 1, section 8), they forbade majorities, through state legislatures, from making rules for production, commerce and trade.

And to appointed Supreme Court justices, they gave the authority of kings.

So when today's corporate managers assemble at a meeting of the World Trade Organization, it is in this triumphant Federalist tradition that they deny legislatures representing communities, states, provinces and national governments the right to make decisions over what shall be produced, where it will be produced and who shall produce it under what conditions.

\* \* \* \* \*

Photographs of the blue-green Earth floating in space help people see our planet's fragile place in the Cosmos. A decade's experience with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) and the World Trade Organization can help us examine our country's camouflaged histories.

With critics properly identifying the Seattle WTO meeting as an illegitimate global constitutional convention, we can now recognize the US constitution as the first NAFTA. Sent to Philadelphia by their states to address some problems of interstate commerce under the Articles of Confederation, the (mostly Federalist) delegates pledged themselves to secrecy. Once behind closed doors, they replaced the Articles with a new plan...and denied the public any details about their deliberations for 53 years. Their constitution turned a cooperative venture among sovereign states into a set up where Congress would decide commerce, an unelected Senate would approve treaties, a Supreme Court would dictate the law of the land, and an indirectly-elected president would command a standing army.

There are many similarities in the critiques put forward by the foes of the 1787 constitution and by foes of today's corporate WTO:

- \*Ultimate authority to govern should be in the hands of elected legislators meeting in decidedly public processes, not of appointed judges;

- \*Government should promote democracy, community and public virtue, not special privileges for the few, not a commercial empire based on accumulation of wealth; property should not translate into privilege and political power;

- \* Communities and states should not give up their authority to distant, absentee rulers...especially to an appointed Supreme Court or to tribunals of corporate lawyers and trade bureaucrats;

- \* The majority must be able to amend bedrock doctrines and laws without waging a revolution every time;

- \*Mechanisms must exist to cut out of the body politic all institutions which improperly seize property and governing authority, or cause vast harms.

Overpowered and outmaneuvered by the Federalist founders, critics of the constitution yielded when promised a Bill of Rights. With spotlights on global production and trade deals revealing our constitution as the first NAFTA, our Bill of Rights stands exposed as the first diversionary "side agreement!" This is because, just as the labor and environmental "side agreements" did not alter NAFTA's basic undemocratic design, the Bill of

Rights did nothing to change the very specific language of the constitution which empowered the propertied minority to rule. In addition, the state ratification process -- during which the text of the constitution itself could not be changed -- was the continent's first "fast track" vote.

For two centuries, people -- especially those disinherited by the Federalist founders -- have sought to use these first ten amendments to gain their rights and stop assaults by the wealthy and powerful. But to this day, the courts have not used the Bill of Rights protect people from entities defined as "private" -- such as corporations. That is why, for example, workers on corporate property enjoy no Bill of Rights powers such as freedom of speech and assembly. Indeed, the Bill of Rights has been used to give even greater powers to the propertied -- as with the Supreme Court's creation and expansion of corporate "free speech."

What's more, invoking the Bill of Rights frequently requires appeals to property's safety net -- the federal courts. Such appeals legitimate federal court authority -- particularly the Supreme Court's -- to nullify the laws of towns, cities and states (just as we legitimate the whole cockamamie NAFTA structure by invoking a

NAFTA "side agreement" to save a worker or a tree. In other words, we empower the Supreme Court (or NAFTA) to amend the constitution. This is what Supreme Court justices did by ruling that the slave Dred Scott had no rights a court must respect because he was someone's property; that states could not control railroad corporations within their borders; that unions were criminal conspiracies; that the 14th amendment made the corporation a legal person; that speaking out against war was a crime.

The surface language of the US constitution is about We the People, our delegated authority, consent of the governed, the blessings of liberty. But the coercive power of the constitution is directed to limiting authority of the majority to make the rules for governing this country.

The surface language of the WTO is about the free trade of goods and services across national borders. But the coercive power of the WTO is directed to limiting the authority of the majority in every country to govern -- that is, to control their own labor, spend their natural wealth, use their property, conserve their resources, structure their communities, define their institutions, choose their technologies. Backed by the military power of governments controlled by men of property (especially by the United States), the WTO is about enabling a few to rule over multitudes.

Let us all help get the WTO off the backs of other countries. But after Seattle, we'd best start changing the rules which the propertied minority put into our constitution two hundred years ago. Growing numbers of people have been exploring this challenge, but a definitive blueprint is yet to emerge. So there is great need for creative people from all walks of life to help frame this work.

As throughout human history, our collective task is protecting human rights over property privileges; empowering local, elected and public authority against private and distant unilateral decree; nurturing democracy, equal opportunity and the Earth...as opposed to protecting the wealthy minority's "property rights" in governing, accumulating and denying others.

This minority uses elections, mayors, governors, legislatures, regulatory agencies, courts, police, armed forces and the president to keep the people from assembling to make the rules for investment, production, work, property and self-governance. We can replace the legal codes, judicial precedents and corporate culture which enable them to do so.

It is up to We the People -- which now includes whole classes (such as women, African Americans, workers and Native peoples) who the culture, law and the Federalist founders once defined as property -- to define corporations as public instruments subordinate to the people, and not as private contracts.<sup>8</sup> Let us break the hold which dead Federalists and Supreme Court justices have maintained over our lives and this fragile

Earth.

##

\* Mike Ferner, Dave Henson, Peter Kellman, Ward Morehouse and Mary Zepernick contributed to this article.

#### Endnotes

1. Charles and Mary Beard, *The Rise of American Civilization*, volume 1, pp. 197-98.
2. Jennifer Nedelsky, *Private Property and the Limits of American Constitutionalism: The Madisonian Framework and Its Legacy*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994, p. 159.
3. Nedelsky, pp. 27-28.
4. Wealthy planters, land speculators, bondholders and slaveholders like Washington and Madison who sought a strong central government, and who organized states to ratify the constitution (written largely by Madison), were known as "Federalists." Those who opposed these men and their constitution were labeled "Anti-Federalists." Among the most famous were Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Mercy Otis Warren.
5. Only after Madison's death were his detailed notes on the constitutional convention published.
6. The 17th amendment, ratified in 1913, replaced selection of senators by state legislators with direct election.
7. Electors appointed by each state -- comprising the so-called "electoral college" -- technically control selection of the president.
8. In an 1819 decision (*Trustees of Dartmouth College v. Woodward*, Wheaton 518), the Supreme Court decreed that corporate charters were contracts which legislatures could not change.

From *By What Authority*, a publication of the Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy, Vol. 2, No. 1, Fall 1999

Copyright 2000 by POCLAD

Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy

P.O. Box 246

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Phone: 508-398-1145, FAX: 508-398-1552, e-mail: [people@poclad.org](mailto:people@poclad.org)

# Community Notes

## From Homestead to Community Planning for the Future of Birthright Center

Birthright Center has been a successful homestead, a successful School of Living (SOL) office, a successful demonstration/education site and at various times in its history a successful un-intentional community. All of this was accomplished while under the cloud of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Now that cloud has lifted with the settlement between SOL and the IRS. What might we accomplish now?

After the January SOL meeting there was a meeting of people interested in the future of Birthright Center. Despite impending snowfall, the meeting was well attended by SOL members, neighbors, friends and people who may be interested in being residents of Birthright in the future. We weren't sure what would come out of the meeting. Some of us hoped to create a new community. At a minimum we were looking for a single couple or family who would be interested in learning all the work that Artie Yeatman does for SOL to ensure that Birthright can continue to be a successful SOL office if/when Artie becomes unable to do that work. The response was immense. There are a lot of people who want to see Birthright continue to succeed. It was enough to schedule another meeting.

A week later we came together again, and a community was conceived. It will take several months (9?) before it is actually born, but we decided to give it our best go. We decided that we will be a consensus group, although the majority of the group has never done consensus work before. It will be a learning process, but isn't that what community is about? There are several individuals who expressed an interest in learning what is necessary to run the SOL office, so you can breathe a sigh of relief on that point. We all acknowledge that we can learn a lot from Artie, even those not interested in the office.

The group (potential community) is five/six couples (two with children) who are interested in living on the land with Artie, the current farmhouse renters and some neighbors. Interest from the neighbors ranges from interest in being a full community member, to an interested friend. We also have friend with community experience who wants to help us out as a friend, but probably won't become a community member. Finally there

are a few people who are interested in seeing us further education work at Birthright, but probably aren't interested in being community members.

We are going to take a look at the finances and lease fees at a future meeting. If all goes well maybe we'll be coming to SOL to start working on a draft lease in the near future. You'll be hearing from us. We may be SOL's newest intentional community, and if all goes well, Birthright will be as successful as a community as it is as a homestead.

## Heathcote Update

The big news around Heathcote is that members Carol and Paul are buying the 68 acres adjacent to the community - the land where the cabin is. They've been living in the cabin since the beginning of July, hoping that the land would be put up for sale. If all goes according to plan, the deal will be final by the end of March. Our hope is that we can come up with a plan to gradually transition ownership of the property to the community.

Other news around the community is that we've got a new wood-burning stove in the farm house. Jette found one that has as good of an emissions rating as the new pellet stove we just put into the mill conference room. It's a nice alternative for augmenting the oil furnace, and it has big glass doors so we can sit and enjoy the fire.

We have a new membership applicant named Mary Hall living in the museum room in the mill for most of February. She and her two cats have braved the cold and the boots tromping past her glass door, and we've enjoyed the after-dinner tea parties with her in the mill kitchen. Mary is hoping to live in the Greenhouse once her provisional membership begins.

Our garden committee has been getting ready for spring, planning the various gardens around the community. We're very excited about being able to use our new greenhouse this year. There's already some spinach sprouting in there, plus flats of various seeds just sown in preparation for spring.

## A letter from Julian Woods

Dear SOL,

We here at Julian Woods Community are experiencing some expansion and changes in the new millennium.

One of our local long-time friends and friend to SOL as well, Barbara Anderson, has joined the JWC membership and hopefully will be building a new home here this spring. Ms. Andersen is the director of Sustainability studies at nearby Penn State U. Barb is a victim of eminent domain proceedings (the highway expansion of local Route 322 and Interstate 99 will be passing through her current Skytop home.)

We've had to do some restructuring of the JWC housing lot plan to get Barb the location for her new home by relocating two downhill lots to a sunnier place up the hill. Of course, everything at JWC is either uphill or downhill – not much flat land in our hollow. That's why you can always recognize a Julian Woods member. One leg is shorter than the other!

A group of refreshing young people will be taking turns trying community living here at Robert & Jean's "guest house" this year, starting end of March for a few months! And Robert is frantically finishing the new shower stall in the wood stove area for guests arriving very soon. We all look forward to the infusion of young energy from these young seekers for alternative living. For more information about this talk to Jean Forsberg. Two other couples are pursuing membership here as well, beginning the process of being at meetings and getting to know each other.

JWC beautification is happening due to Barb's moving here. The old auto sal-

vage yard at "Boogie Bend" (home of the parts of Volvos, Citroen, Saabs, and an occasional domestic vehicle) will be organized, sold off and moved to create a nicer front yard and driveway for Barb & Chuck's arrival. Nothing cleans up a house like company they say!

Robert has decided to not be Mr. Maintenance for JWC any more and will be heading up a group effort to record, classify, and label all the utility systems he's designed for JWC. So other members have created an interim maintenance committee to start off this restructuring and getting Robert's mechanical designs onto paper. Now it's other JWC member's turn to play Mr. Maintenance, but in order to do this they'll need a manual.

Time marches on in 2000 AD and JWC is moving into the new millennium - or being dragged - I'm not sure which, but we're sliding along with stout hearts and smiles.

We are hosting Bill Coperthwaite here at JWC for about 10 days. Barbara Anderson brought him to us through The Center for Sustainability at PSU. He will do a number of workshops on what he calls "Democratic Furniture" and other stuff on yurts, etc.

Sincerely, Wayne THE DANE  
figuredane@aol.com

# In Defense of Organic Agriculture

The following is a letter written by an independent organic inspector to John Stossel of the television show *20/20*. As proponents of Organic Agriculture we should be prepared to respond to Anti-Organic propaganda that hits such a large population.

Dear John Stossel,

For the past ten years I have worked as an inspector of organic farms and food processing facilities, and for the past three years have Chaired the Board of Directors for the Independent Organic Inspectors Association. From this perspective, I watched with keen interest your piece on organic agriculture which was aired February 4, 2000.

The following comments will follow the order that the associated issues were presented in the program.

In the program you state that organic consumers are driven by perceptions of food safety and increased nutrition. While such perceptions may or may not be valid, the organic industry makes no such assertion. Nevertheless, this appears to be a strong foundation of your presentation. This would be similar to condemning carrot growers because some consumers say that eating 10 carrots a day will increase your vision to 20/20. Not only bad logic, but questionable journalistic technique. The program portrays organic consumers as naive wild-eyed gullible trendies... A woman says that her kids act better when they eat organic food; another says that her kids will eventually only want organic foods. Though such statements may seem to be a bit of a stretch, they may not be as extreme as you implied with your smirky "Wow." In the 1980's, Dr. Feingold published a study connecting hyperactivity in children to artificial colors, flavors, preservatives, all of which are disallowed in certified organic food.

In the program you make the point that organic farmers say they use nothing artificial, only natural. This is indicative of the simplistic and erroneous nature of your whole presentation. Actually, in certified organic production, some natural products are disallowed (ex: copper sulfate, ammonia products, arsenic, lye, etc.), and some artificial materials are allowed (isopropyl alcohol as disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide, lime sulfur as a fungicide, newspaper mulch..but not glossy, pheromones for mating disruption, etc.).

The rule of thumb is.. if natural, innocent until proven guilty; if artificial, guilty until proven otherwise.

You then bring on Dennis Avery who speaks about the vested interest and motivation for organic farmers to spread misinformation about organic food. You mention Mr. Avery's prior affiliation with the Department of Agriculture but fail to mention his affiliation with the right wing think tank, Hudson Institute, that is reported to receive funding from agribusiness. Ironic that Avery would mention "vested interest." And also interesting that you, John, would mention his GOVERNMENT connection as a credential.

Avery's critique of organics is based on the assumptions that organic products have a higher chance of microbial contamination and that organic agriculture is bad for the environment. He states that organic farmers fertilize with manure and therefore produce products that have a higher incidence of pathogenic microbial contamination. Again, pertinent facts are omitted... Nothing prohibits conventional farmers from using manure as they choose (and they do use manure), while in certified organic production, there are standards prohibiting the application of fresh manure to fields between 90 to 120 days prior to the harvest of crops for human consumption. Additionally omitted is the fact that organic farmers also gain fertility through diverse crop rotations, and allowed fertility products such as kelp, rock phosphate, fish emulsion, etc.

The program shows an aerial application of pesticides and suggests that this diminishes the chances of pathogenic microbial occurrence in food. The connection is dubious at best. Pesticides are typically herbicides and insecticides, which do not diminish the activity of *E. coli* or salmonella. Then showing the child who ate organic lettuce (that may not have been washed properly) and having Dennis Avery talk about the 5000 people who die each year from food borne illness.. directly connecting this to organic food.. was misleading. Yes, many people have died from these microbes, but mostly it is from poor food handling of beef, chicken and eggs. Everyone should wash their food very well, organic or not.

The program then moves into the testing of organic and conventional vegetables for microbial contamination, using organic samples collected from California and Georgia. As stated by Katharine DiMatteo, half of all organic labeled products are not third party certified. Were these certified organic products that you tested? No doubt there are a lot of people trying to cash in using the organic label, but it's not right to connect certified organic growers

with anybody that simply wants to use the word "organic" to make a buck. You should have done a better job at distinguishing between certified and non-certified organic. Certified growers/processors have standards that they must comply with. If their products don't meet these standards, they often get sold on the conventional market! The contaminated spring mix may have come from an uncertified processor.

As far as your finding of no levels of pesticides in your testing, the National Academy of Sciences found otherwise. This highly recognized organization has recommended that children eat organic produce because pesticide residues build up to dangerous levels in relation to body size. Avery spoke of NO deaths from pesticides. Though long term low level exposures to pesticides are likely to have harmful health effects, the connection between mortality and pesticide exposure is very difficult to ascertain. Yet Avery concludes that there have been NO deaths due to pesticide exposure. Additionally missing in the discussion are the health hazards associated with the handling of on-farm pesticides and accidents. How often are conventional farmers checked for the proper handling and application of these chemicals?

You make the statement that the "organic industry mostly polices itself," with the implied conflict of interest. The fact of the matter is that practically all certified organic farmers/processors utilize third party independent inspectors. These inspectors spend between three to five hours inspecting each farm and food processing facility that applies for certification, and certification applications must be renewed on an annual basis.

Dennis Avery states organic farmers waste land because they have to compensate for production lost from weeds and insect competition. Though this may be the case with some organic farmers, good organic farmers control weeds and insects by using timely planting, tillage, beneficial insects, diverse crop rotations that disrupt weed and insect cycles, and resistant crop varieties. Accomplished organic farmers often equal and even surpass the yields of conventional farmers and are spared the economic burden and contamination hazard of pesticides.

Dennis Avery states, "Organics is less good for you and less good for the environment." John, are you unaware that the biggest source of non-point water pollution in this country is from agricultural chemicals, or did you just choose to omit this fact?

In conclusion, while the thrust of the program is based on the assumption that organics is about food safety, the fact of the matter is that organic certification is a process guarantee and not a statement of food safety. Though it is likely that a higher quality product is created when toxic materials are not used in food production, this should be seen as the result, rather than as the mission, of organic agriculture. Organics is about process more so than product. Taking into account the numerous omissions and erroneous assumptions, it appears that the intent of the program was to condemn organics. How else can the failure to mention the study by the National Academy of Sciences or the greatest source of non-point water pollution in the United States being from agricultural chemicals be explained? There is an important story in the distinction between certified and non-certified organic products in the marketplace. This would have been a constructive direction to go with your piece. You had an opportunity to educate the public with valid information pertaining to the organic market, but you missed it and did the public a disservice.

Sincerely,

Chip Kraynyk,  
Chair, Independent Organic Inspectors Association

## PERMACULTURE ON-SITE DESIGN WORKSHOP

Sunday May 7, 2000

9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This is your invitation to participate in a permaculture design session for a three acre garden, pasture and woodlot site near the village of Scotland.

Permaculture - or permanent (agri) culture - draws from a worldwide knowledge base of how humans can live in harmony and balance with the natural world. Permaculture views complex biological systems as integrated wholes with the intent to design living systems which optimize the overall health and productivity of component species. Originating with the work of Bill Mollison in Australia, there are now more than 4000 people who have been trained in permaculture design.

The morning will begin with an overview of basic permaculture design principles, after which we will walk the land with compass and tape measure, observing the relationships of wind, water, sun, soil, plants and animals. Talk time and walk time will continue throughout the afternoon and by the end of our day together we will have an initial working design plan. You also will have some ideas as to how you can begin to apply permaculture design to your own homesite.

This design session will be led by Darrel Frey, a permaculture design consultant and organic farmer. Darrel is President of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Organic Crop Improvement Association which works to certify organic farms. He is also Vice President of the Alter Project which advises on the sustainable design of Harmony Homestead at Slippery Rock State College. He will be assisted by Karen Stupski, a permaculture educator who lives at Heathcote Community and is an active member of the School of Living.

Fee for members of the Franklin Coalition or Unity Coalition is \$25. All others, \$35.

Please arrive early for a breakfast of bagels, fruit, eggs from our organic free range chickens, tea, and shade-grown organic coffee. Bring a brownbag lunch or plan a quick lunch break at nearby restaurants. If you would like to stay later to socialize, please bring something for a potluck dinner.

The design workshop is at the home of Alanna Hartzok on 1927 Hafer Road.

To register, please send your name, address, telephone number and check to her at Box 328, Scotland, PA 17254. Your registration will be confirmed and you will receive detailed directions. For questions, call 717-264-0957 or 263-2820.

## Bonsai Turtle

by Dana Bloomfield

Smooth, simple lines,  
Soft, sincere curves.  
The deep, muddy green of  
Algae  
In the shallows,  
Accessible.  
It's chipped at one foot  
I relate.

The children pawed this  
Ceramic Turtle  
In turn, Molly, Ian, Bryce,  
Benjamin...  
Jonathan put it in his  
Soup  
Habitat is a system

Finding it on the counter,  
Linda told the story,  
How it centuried  
With her bonsai.  
Two tiny crones in a  
Bowl.  
When her bonsai  
Tumbled in her car  
The turtle must have  
Bailed.

I can only take so much  
Turmoil.

But Linda left it there.  
It still lives on the  
Kitchen counter.  
One by one, my friends  
Come to breakfast.  
Absently, they pick it up,  
Stroke it, smile, set it back.  
Christopher, Jette, Charles,  
Michael, Michael, Karen,  
John, Susi, Richard,  
Fingerprint upon Fingerprint  
On the back of a  
Ceramic Turtle

Old Heathcote Mill  
Bonsai Building  
Home to centuries of Gardeners

Who come to trim  
So the tree can grow,  
To build with their  
Hands,  
Leaving fingerprints  
Over old ones;  
To stir smiles onto Faces  
At the sight of  
Each other.

And the bonsai turtle  
Has come to collect us.  
Our essences given  
Freely.  
One by one, with a  
Stroke and a smile,  
And something more.

I want to make a  
Treasure-spell-pouch  
To store those smiles.  
To hold our community  
Under the totem of the  
Bonsai gardener turtle.  
You hold it, while I hunt up  
Some cloth.

JO

Rita Jane Leasure  
July 1996

Daughter, Sister, Wife, Mother

Busy is the Life

Healer, Helper, Teacher, Cook

Full is the Time

Worries Drag, Laughter Lifts

Great is the Love

Letter from (one of) the editors

As part of an ongoing series Rita Jane Leasure presented Ralph Borsodi's 16<sup>th</sup> problem, the Institutional Problem, during the Saturday evening educational program at the January Board Meeting. The purpose of this series is to familiarize new School of Living members, and remind old ones, of the work of Borsodi which is the basis of our organization for us to discuss, re-evaluate and add on to. You can find the full text of Rita Janes presentation on our website at [www.s-o-l.org/16thprob.htm](http://www.s-o-l.org/16thprob.htm).

The question addressed by Borsodi as the "Institutional Problem" is HOW should we conserve, reform, abolish, or establish social institutions when it is necessary or desirable to make survival less difficult, the pursuit of happiness possible, and the maintenance of social sanity a fact. He does not specifically address which social institutions need to be changed and what they should be changed to in this chapter. (Although he does address specific social institutions under other problems.) This chapter was about how we change them.

Borsodi looks at ways people can and have changed social institutions throughout history. Ultimately he favors what he calls suasion techniques (ie: persuasion by various means). While many suasion techniques are gradual, some may be radical, immediately going to the root cause of an evil. Although potentially radical, non-violence is the essence of suasion.

The problem is that some impositional methods may be hard to distinguish from suasion methods, particularly sophism. Sophism includes propaganda, venal and deceitful advertising and indoctrination through the school system. There was a fair amount of discussion of how to distinguish between propaganda and publicity during and after the Saturday evening presentation. Many of us felt that we just need to read and be exposed to the propaganda from both sides of an issue as there is generally no unbiased publicity available. One perspective put forth by Karen Stupski is that at Heathcote there is an attempt made to avoid "righteousness" i.e. "I've got the right answer so let me convince you." Generally if a person is not willing to hear, and give weight to an opinion other than their own, they are more likely to be inclined to use the "sophisticated methods" that Borsodi warns against.

Another impositional method, which is hard to identify, is impositional political practices. While this can be as drastic as revolution and institutional war, it can also be as seemingly benign as regulation. Ideally regulations are simply codification of practices and agreements which have already been accepted through an institutional change made through suasion methods.

The presentation sparked multiple conversations and really got people thinking. I encourage everyone to attend our Saturday evening presentations even if you are unable to attend our board meeting.

I have been thinking about the institutional problem a lot lately as I've been working on several current SOL initiatives. We are currently writing Land Use standards to become a part of SOL's leases with the various communities. We expect each community will make changes and individualize the standards they make part of their lease, but it has really been a challenge to get them ready for the communities to start that process.

Some of our members really want these standards to challenge us to be on today's cutting edge of sustainable living and land use, and integrated design; encouraging us to be constantly pushing ourselves to greater and greater sustainability in all aspects of our lives. Other members are more of the opinion that the standards should pertain only to the land held in trust, and should reflect more broadly accepted sustainability standards similar to those used in organic agriculture. I realized it was an institutional question. Do we encourage communities to accept standards that will push them to greater sustainability (not really impositional since the standards will be reviewed and changed before being accepted by the individual communities); or do we let the standards reflect current practice and continue to use suasion methods to encourage ourselves to create patterns of greater interconnectedness in our lives?

I encourage all of you to participate in this process of land standards, whether as a SOL member or a community member or both. I will be visiting all of the communities in the near future (hopefully before the next board meeting) to discuss the standards which have been sent to all of the communities. Please take the time to review them and give me your feedback.

Another thing which happened since January, was the airing of an episode of *20/20* dedicated to organic agriculture. I should say the airing of anti-organic agriculture propaganda on *20/20*. As supporters of organic agriculture I think we should be prepared to respond to the public which has been influenced by this propaganda. I'll bring a copy of the tape to the April meeting for those of you who missed it, and, as one of the new editors, I've included a letter to *20/20* written by an independent organic inspector in this edition of *Green Revolution*. It puts forth good arguments which I think are more suasion in nature and not as sophisticated as the methods used by *20/20*. But that is the difficulty of distinguishing between publicity and propaganda... you always think the side you agree with is not propaganda. We'll have to keep working on that question as we defend organic agriculture.

Linda, Carol and I look forward to editing this publication over the next couple years. We are anticipating lots of good articles, book reviews, poems and artwork. Please send them in. The web page is also looking for a "History of the School of Living". Anyone who wants to write up all or part of our history is encouraged to do so

Blessings  
Rebekah

## Calendar of Events

**School of Living Annual Membership Meeting**  
Heathcote Community, Freeland MD  
April 28-30  
Saturday evening program "The Eco-village Movement—Alive and Flourishing" by Jeff Clearwater.  
Please call (410)343-3478 if you plan to attend and if you are bringing children.

**May Day Fairie Festival**  
Saturday May 6th, Rain Date, May 7th  
10 AM to 6 PM  
Spoutwood Farm, Glen Rock, PA  
(717)235-6610  
A Celebration of Nature, Elves, Gnomes and other Wee folk. Guests are invited to come in costume or create a costume when they arrive and can participate in Fairie Dust making and Fairie crafts. There are also Fairie Tale Tea Parties, Fairie Circles and a Fairie Marketplace

**Permaculture On-site Design Workshop**  
May 7 9:30 AM –5PM  
Scotland PA 17254  
Contact Alanna Hartzok at Box 328, Scotland PA 17254  
(717)264-0957 or e-mail [Earthrts@pa.net](mailto:Earthrts@pa.net)  
See Page 8 for Details

**Queer in Community Spring Gathering**  
Twin Oaks Community, Louisa VA  
May 12-14  
An opportunity to meet other lesbian, gay, bi and/or transgendered people who either live in an intentional community or are interested in doing so.  
Contact Valerie at (540)894-5126 or  
<[valerie@twinoaks.org](mailto:valerie@twinoaks.org)>

**Twin Oaks Women's Gathering**  
August 25-27  
138 Twin Oaks Road, Louisa VA 23093  
Come Celebrate women— our knowledge, wisdom, humor and courage— through many creative venues and fun activities at the 17th annual gathering. Rustic accommoda-

tions. Sliding scale \$40-\$140.  
For more information contact Women's Gathering at the above address or call (540)894-5126;  
[gathering@twinoaks.org](mailto:gathering@twinoaks.org)

**Twin Oaks Communities Conference**  
September 1-3  
138 Twin Oaks Road, Louisa VA 23093  
We welcome a diverse group of folks who live cooperative lifestyles or would like to learn about them. Please join us for workshops, music, dancing, stories and camping. Sliding Scale \$50-\$150. For more information contact Communities Conference at the above address or call (540)894-5126; [conference@twinoaks.org](mailto:conference@twinoaks.org).

**Permaculture Design Apprentice Certification Course**  
Sept 29– October 15th  
Floyd County, VA  
Sponsored and led by Dancing Green.  
In addition to the basic design course, a four day pre-course on personal sustainability is offered and recommended Sept 25-28. A Tour of Floyd County is available Oct 16th .  
Contact Dawn Shiner at (540)745-5994

GREEN REVOLUTION  
Published Quarterly by  
School of Living

Editors: Rebekah Hicks  
Linda Felch  
Cara Moragus

The School of Living, founded in 1934 by Ralph Borsodi, is dedicated to the learning and teaching of personal responsibility and right living. It aims to foster self governing communities, which are democratic, humane, globally conscious and ecologically sound. All of its resources, especially the land it holds in trust, are held in responsible stewardship for all living creatures. We are happy to receive your comments and suggestions. Articles for publication are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Comments and Articles can be sent to [GreenRev@s-o-l.org](mailto:GreenRev@s-o-l.org) or the below address.

School of Living membership is \$20 annually and includes a subscription to *Green Revolution*.

Visit our website at [www.s-o-l.org](http://www.s-o-l.org)

SCHOOL OF LIVING  
432 Leaman Rd. , Cochranville, PA19330  
(610)593-6988

The Ecovillage Movement - Alive and Flourishing!  
An Interactive Talk and Slide Show  
April 29, 2000, 7pm  
Saturday Night Presentation at the Annual Membership Meeting  
Heathcote Community, Freeland Maryland

Ecovillages are springing up all over the world. The blossoming ecovillage movement is developing new models of human settlements and relationships to the Earth and to each other. Grounded in intentional community, the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) and its member regional networks, communities, and partners are in the forefront of pioneering new ways to live sustainably - both socially and ecologically. Ecovillages address both the human need for true community and the need to live in harmony with the Earth. In contrast to the present trends in globalization, the ecovillage movement represents a breath of fresh air and a viable alternative to the increasing mono-culturism and environmental destruction of the present paradigm of human development. Ecovillages offer a pathway to become a globally aware culture rooted in local community and bioregion.

Jeff Clearwater is Council member of the Ecovillage Network of the Americas, Founding member of Living Routes - Ecovillage Education Consortium and Principle in Ecovillage Design Associates. Jeff has enjoyed a 22-year career in social activism and appropriate technology and renewable energy design and installation including passive solar, renewable energy electric systems, electric vehicles, integrated community energy systems, and ecovillage design.. Jeff has consulted to numerous homesteads, communities, and sustainability projects in the U.S, Guatamala, Mexico, Nepal, and Turkey. Jeff presently lives at Sirius Community where he pursues his real love of living and working and playing in Community

**GREEN REVOLUTION**

*Published by*

**School of Living**

432 Leaman Rd.,  
Cochranville, PA 19330

Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage PAID Cochranville, PA Permit No. 1
--

Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed  
Address Correction Requested