



GREEN REVOLUTION

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Local Scrip Returns Accountability to Economics by Dawn Shiner

Every day we choose who to associate with, who to buy and receive products and services from, and most days we choose to spend money. Every time we exchange money, we show with our hard-earned dollars how much we value specific products and services. Across America today, folks are choosing to value local people who make the products and perform the services. Knowing the face behind the product or service means enhanced credibility, assurance and quality.

Over 29 communities in the United States are presently choosing to keep their money circulating locally by purchasing goods and services with local scrip. Money that once left the local community to support multinational corporations (“cheap” products with all their hidden costs) is now cycling over and over again within their community. People are nourishing a healthy pride in being part of their community’s well-being and increasing the opportunities for supporting themselves. Businesses are buying more locally-made goods, searching out tradespeople to perform services, and increasing their sales with local scrip. The underemployed and the unemployed are utilizing their skills, learning new skills and enjoying being valued with local scrip. And both children and adults are understanding the value of the resources in their local areas while taking great pleasure in meeting their needs as locally as possible and knowing they’re making a giant step in their own personal and community’s sustainability with local scrip. Before centralized money was issued to support the Civil War, local scrip was used regionally everywhere. During the depressions, local scrip was reintroduced to keep community exchanges happening and food on tables. Re-recognized legally in the US in 1973 and right up to the present, local scrip has proven more stable and far more locally responsive than Federal Reserve Notes (US dollars). Why? Because the process is managed by a locally controlled, non-profit, membership organization that is run by consensus and made up of community residents with an agreed-upon mission statement.

Working by consensus is not even new to us. Federal Reserve Notes have always worked by consensus. Every time we exchange money for a

product or service, we agree, i.e. consense, on value. By working with a clearly-defined purpose and using consensus facilitation for group decision-making, decisions are determined by the involved members making the community as a whole responsible and building trust.

Local scrip provides us with the opportunity to add ethics to our economic exchanges. If we know how a product is made, how its resource materials are procured and how its by-products effect our environment, we can choose to act with our money ethically--for the good of our watersheds, our forests, our soil, our children and grandchildren.

Local scrip assists us in assessing what our values really are, and it is timely and imperative that money represents our ethical values. As Susan Witt of the E. F. Schumacher Society writes, “When a good idea pops up simultaneously in a lot of places, it’s viable.”

Federal Reserve Notes are backed by debt. Local scrip is backed by products and skills (brains & muscles). The cycles we feel economically--inflation, deflation, depression and recession--are all centrally regulated by those who determine the amount of Federal Reserve Notes in circulation. Local scrip, on the other hand, is locally controlled and locally responsive. The amount of scrip in circulation is locally determined by its use. Members (individuals & businesses) assess the flow of scrip and regulate the amount in circulation, building the web of credibility. If there’s not enough scrip in their cash drawer for change, they can purchase more and/or increase the percentage they take from their customers. If

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too much scrip sits in their drawers, they can redeem it and/or lower the percentage they take from their customers.

Local scrip works alongside Federal Reserve Notes, complimenting rather than replacing them. one model has businesses and individuals buying their local scrip at a discount: \$10 worth of local scrip for \$9 worth of US dollars. Local banks serving the community hold the money in savings accounts, making local scrip redeemable: 90 US cents on a scrip dollar. Money in circulation is worth more than money redeemed, and no one loses. Interest accrued from the savings account assists with expenses and excess can be used for printing more scrip or channeled into a community fund. Individuals are accountable for their own exchanges and responsible for their own taxes in Federal Reserve Notes. (Unlike the LET's System, there are no individual accounts, no debit or credit tracking.) Businesses accept a percentage of their sale price for products and/or services in local scrip, and pay their sales taxes in Federal Reserve Notes.

A free monthly newsletter informs the membership, the larger community and tourists of the skills, services and products available from members and what's happening economically. Individual memberships pay a nominal yearly fee (\$5 or \$10), business memberships (\$100-150). Newsletter memberships and advertising monies pay newsletter expenses and administrative costs.

In context with our daily lives, the use of local scrip expands nourishing human interactions. Increased dialogue provides an opportunity to honor what is here, what has been and what is evolving.

Voicing our thoughts and feelings in our hometown economics gives more opportunity to enhance mutual respect and compassion for our diversity and uniqueness. Conscious change to recapture wholesome values is the kind of change that sustains our spirits with respect, love, and abundance--the kind of change we can all honor.

Support Requested to Make Food Bank Donations Deductible

We are urging you to support the Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Act (S.2084), a bill introduced by Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana. The legislation would make it easier for farmers and small businesses to donate food to emergency pantries, food banks and soup kitchens, thus helping to feed hungry people.

The bill would change the tax code in three ways for donors. It would expand current tax deductions, which now apply only to corporate donors, to include all businesses, including farmers, who donate to a food bank; it makes donors eligible for a deduction equal to the full value of the food donated and allows the donor, not the IRS, to determine the fair market value of the donation.

Currently, the USDA estimates 96 million pounds of food is wasted each year in the US. America's Second Harvest, a network of food banks, estimates that nearly 1 million people were turned away from food banks and other distribution points last year due to lack of food.

For further information check out America's Second Harvest at www.secondharvest.org/policy/policy.html

State of the School 2000

A letter from the President
Rita Jane Leasure

This has been a very good year for the School of Living. Even the supreme hassle of the IRS coming after the Birthright land has turned into a blessing. It took a bunch of our time, it took more money than we would have imagined, but we made contact with a 501 (c)(3) advisor that Herb trusts, and we have given Birthright a new lease on life with a budding new community.

The Land Trust is expanding faster than we can keep up with the paper work. The Itsodi (Raven Band) Land project is finished. Alana Hartzog is inquiring about putting her land in the trust. The new Birthright community is nearly ready for a lease. Julian Woods is asking for their paperwork to be completed. Heathcote is expanding their land base and may be needing paperwork to add that land to its lease.

Most of our communities are doing well. Julian Woods, Heathcote and Birthright are all bursting at the seams with new people. The Itsodi (Raven Band) people are happy as they can be with their new land, and even Common Ground (currently in chaos) is full up with visitors seriously looking for membership.

The long awaited Land Use Standards are well on their way with a model we are beginning to work through with Heathcote as the first group to give us feedback, which is totally appropriate since they were our first land in the trust. Thanks to Rebekah and Dawn and the rest of the Permaculture and Land Committees for all the hard work that went into that effort.

Permaculture has done several events including a greenhouse at Heathcote, a class through John Hopkins taught by our own Karen Stupski, and several other programs.

I believe the new Brochure is nearly ready, thanks to Karen for keeping us on that project and Linda for doing the layout and John for the Art work, and the rest of the Education committee for all the work that went into that effort.

All of our Land Trust holders, our loans, and our renters seem to be paying on time, so the cash flow is coming right along.

Our outreach to the Schumacher Society as a sister organization, in the form of sending Herb and Rita Jane to help draft annotations to their ground breaking collaboration with the Nature Conservancy for the In-

dian Line farm lease went very well. That land was the site for the first CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program so that work was important in many ways.

The committees are expanding with the Sombra Bueno project supplying us with great coffee, wonderful stories and a real sense of making a difference. Our newest land holding, Itsodi, has a long standing nonprofit branch called the Sedar foundation which will be bringing us a proposal for affiliation soon. I look forward to deeper ties and ongoing reports on their work.

The Green Revolution is back on schedule. We are very appreciative of Jennifer Chesworth's efforts as editor. She did great work in spite of her overwhelming work load with the development of Sombra Bueno, we are all sad to see her step down as editor. I am particularly appreciative of her efforts to expand our use of poetry and artwork in the Green Revolution and I am very happy to see the new editor team has continued that effort. Let's all turn in our doodles and our poems as well as our written words for their consideration. Remember what our official historian said - write it down. History wants to know what we think and what and why we do what we do. This new concept of a team of editors rather than a single individual is a very exciting concept. I have great hopes that this will be an answer to the long standing problem of isolation and frustration we have heard from editors for too long. Thanks to Rebekah Linda, and Carol for taking that on.

Both the Publications Committee and the Education Committee have new chairpersons, much to my personal relief, even if it did take a mutiny to get it accomplished. The Web site is bringing us contacts and giving us a presence that is valuable in this electronic age. Now if we could just get more of those intro pages done, (yeah, that's back to me), and a few pictures up, the web masters would be much happier. Thanks to Arthur Rodriguez and Wynn Solomon for that Web Work. Having the Green Revolution on line is a great bonus. Aero continues to be an inspiration to us all and continues to get significant grants. Thanks to Jerry Mintz for his continued self sacrifices for the cause of alternative education.

The Saturday night Education series continues to be inspirational - let's work on the publicity and reach more people with it. I know the Green Revolution will publish previews if we can get organized enough in advance.

Our quarterly board meeting structure has gotten into quite a rut with not enough time for committee work and too much repetition of reports, so Dawn has proposed a radical new structure that we are mulling over. Thanks to Will for the push and Dawn for the draft.

There were two Interim Meetings. The one at Ruth's was well attended, the one at Wygelia was not well attended but both were very productive.

The IRS 990 report went out on time this year, yea Herb, and the financial reporting has continued to be excellent, thanks to the finance team of Robert, Artie and Herb. The office work has been so seamless we don't even have to think about it, thanks Artie. I understand the new people at Birthright are stepping in to help in the office as Artie requested. When the time comes we will have experienced people on hand to take up the work there, thanks to all who have stepped up to help with that.

The Schumacher Society Library has an abundance of alternative books. They have sent some of their duplicates to the School of Living Library and some to the Common Ground Library and other School of Living friends.

Our annual meeting went very well although with our prime facilitator, John Mangan, having car trouble and not making it and with the agenda being fuller than usual, we all felt pushed. I was re-elected as President so you will be hearing from me for another year at least. We have a new Vice-President, Will Pierson. Herb Goldstein will continue as Clerk, and Robert Forsberg will continue as treasurer. I will miss Karen Stupski in the role of VP although she will be around to work on committees and such. She has been a great source of support for me for many years as well as a fine chair for the education committee, and committee member and teacher for the permaculture group. I am very pleased to welcome our new VP who has been a very active participant and personal friend since he discovered the School of Living several years ago. He will be the new chair of the Education committee as well as being active on other committees.

The Saturday night lecture at the annual meeting was particularly wonderful. Jeff Clearwater from the ecovillage movement held all 35 or so of us for a full three hour slide show and talk at the end of a very long day of meetings. They have set up a wonderful educational program called Living Routes, which links intentional communities and universities.

They have expertise in alternative sustainable technologies that is the best I have seen. We all look forward to future interactions between that movement and the School of Living. More on that is supposed to appear in a separate review.

Our connection with the Itsodi people was completed by the white man ways in February with the signing of the lease. It was completed by the Native peoples ways in the beginning of April when I as president, was privileged to attend an extensive ceremony to welcome the new year, (in Native cultures that is done in the spring when things are renewing not in the winter when things are dormant) renew the sacred fire, confirm new names, prepare and distribute healing tobacco, and many other things. During that time I (we) were presented with a sacred bundle prepared by the tribe to represent the agreements between their people and ours. I will be the keeper of the bundle and hold the trust to the best of my ability until I am no longer able to do so. As keeper of the bundle I decided to open the bundle in ceremony with the people at the Annual meeting. It was a lovely ceremony. I believe we were all touched by the many symbolic items we found there. I am pleased and humbled by the honor to carry this bundle in the name of the School of Living for the membership, the board and the supporters of our organization both present and past. Without all of your efforts this connection with the natives of this land would not have been possible. May this be the beginning of a healing of the wounds between us, and may we be the first of the white race to keep an agreement with the natives of this place.

My apologies for anyone I missed but there is so much I cannot know everything that has happened.

All in all a very good year.
Rita Jane

News From Heathcote – Spring 2000

The garden committee has been very busy. Every day as you walk around the community you can see various people in the gardens preparing beds, planting, and watering. Lots of sprouts are coming up, and we have even begun to harvest some of the first vegetables. The spinach has been delicious. We have agreed on a new system where the farmers will get paid for the garden produce, similar to a CSA model.

The Greater Baltimore Permaculture Group (GBPG) has put together their 2000 schedule (which is now on the Heathcote web site) and the first workshop took place on April 30. It was a tree planting as part of our Forest Stewardship Plan (with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources). In past years we have hosted the Permaculture Design Course as a 16-day residential program. This year we are investigating alternative structures (such as a series of weekends) that might better fit today's busy lifestyles. We are also focusing more on internships, which concentrate on gardening, building renovation, and community living.

Members Carol and Paul have been in the process of purchasing the 68 acres of land where the cabin is since January. It's been a long and stressful road, but it seems to be almost over. There have been hold ups in finding a mortgage because of the size of the land and because the cabin is in such a poor state of repair. The first mortgage application fell through, and the mortgage being applied for now is a two-stage mortgage. The first stage is a construction loan, which allows some repairs to be done before refinancing into a second, conventional mortgage. The community has pitched in an enormous amount to help with the construction project. We are working to form an agreement under which Heathcote can put money and work hours into the land in exchange for a share in the equity. We have created a committee to handle the equity exchange contract, and to make decisions about the land.

Last summer we started the process of planning for a new house on Heathcote land. That road has led to the involvement of a "Green Architect" named Julie Gabrielli and her University of MD architectural class has taken us on as a class project. We've had a very exciting design charrette here and are looking forward to seeing the final presentations on May 12th. Even though Paul and Carol won't have money to build the house due to the land purchase, we're using this process to spark our vision for the

future of Heathcote, still hoping to find a way to put up a new building at some point.

We have weekly community check-in/discussion community-building meetings, which we call Communi-Teas. Our discussions have recently wandered onto the topic of our quarterly community retreats. We began to question their structure, and even their value. This led to the idea of focusing our spring retreat on the topic of retreats. We had the retreat the first weekend in May, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. We affirmed our feelings about the value of retreats and set up a more flexible retreat schedule and structure.

A few other odds and ends... Paul and Carol became full members and Mary became a provisional member back in March. The composting toilet project is moving along under the efforts of Charles, who is working on a revised plan to present to the community in the near future. And we're looking forward to our spring issue of the Heathcote Harmonies newsletter, which will be published in mid-May. We will be focusing on getting email addresses from as many people on our mailing list as possible, so that we can send them newsletters via email. This will help reduce our publishing costs and save a lot of paper. We have a form on our website (www.heathcote.org) where people can join our mailing list and give us their email address.

Walking Meditation

By Dana Bloomfield

the walking meditation class is poised
watching pumpkins swell
watching crow's feet creep
time lapsed
photography
to chronicle
an epic
of an
opening orchid
a sunset
high tide
or charles remembering that
if you walk slowly enough
you need only stand still

Paul Phillips – An Introduction to the New School of Living Board Member

I'm going to try to summarize what I said by way of introduction at the SOL annual meeting before the board member election. I am a fairly new member at Heathcote community, having moved there at the beginning of last July. I'm excited about living in community and about some of the things going on at Heathcote, especially in the potential for growth with the new land and the possibility of a new building. I'm also excited about working with the School of Living because of the opportunity it represents for communities to form around land-trusts, and for the education and networking potential that I see. I have joined the Education committee and look forward to bringing together the educational work of SOL with the education programs of the individual communities and other related groups.

I have always been interested in getting to the roots of social problems, particularly those that are economic and spiritual. For many years I served on the board of a Baltimore-based spiritual community called Inspiration, in which I helped to establish a barter system and taught the C. T. Butler version of consensus decision-making. My family is a member of a Quaker Meeting, where we have been learning about their form of consensus decision-making as well. I like the idea of intentional community as a place to experiment with lifestyle and societal alternatives, and as a model for a cooperative and earth-friendly way of life. When I first started going to SOL meetings I read Henry George's book and am looking forward to learning more about Ralph Borsodi's ideas.

I'm a person who likes to get involved and make things happen, and I'm looking forward to working with the School of Living in whatever way I can serve.

Let's Make Shoes Glen Leasure's Shoe Making workshop

An important aspect of making a community succeed is finding ways for people to earn an income while living on the land. Cottage industries can provide that means, and enable people to be on the land as much as possible. Cottage industries also usually allow people to use and nurture their creative selves, learn and keep alive disappearing craftways and use appropriate technologies.

Common Ground community has many members who use their craft work to support themselves. Herb and Rita Jane make jewelry that they sell. Ella is a professional weaver and Glen makes shoes.

If you have attended recent SOL meetings you have probably seen the beautiful shoes that Glen makes, modeled by Rita Jane and samples that she brought.

In addition to making shoes to sell, Glen periodically offers shoemaking workshops. By attending a workshop, you can not only get a pair of these unique, comfortable and practical medicine shoes, but you can have the pride of knowing you made them yourself.

Glen is offering a shoemaking workshop either immediately before or after the School of Living meeting at Common Ground in October to enable members to combine trips. The workshop is three days long and costs \$150.

If you are interested, contact Rebekah Hicks at (570)648-0293 or artrod@ptd.net, and let her know which days are best for you (before or after the board meeting.)

From Grace Lefever

Thanks for reprinting my asparagus article—but I've learned something since I wrote that which must be corrected. Dr. Carey Reams, biochemist, isolated one active enzyme in the raw asparagus which was very hard on the heart. Of course eating a few raw sticks will not cause any real problem. My daughter Willa heard this first and called me and told me to stop eating it raw, because I was eating a lot every day.

Dr. Ted Baroody has compiled the most amazing data on using cooked or steamed asparagus everyday in his little book called "Asparagus-can do it for you!" He has now produced Aspara-can capsules to use if you don't have any fresh, canned or frozen asparagus. But eat some every day for amazing results for many unhealthful conditions including cancer and kidney and gall bladder stones.

The FDA, AMA and their allied drug manufacturers cannot stop you from consuming it even if the information in this little book should ever prove to be even slightly threatening to their multi-billion dollar business.

Here are some basic ideas for Health and Energy:

- Oxygen— Do deep breathing every day, exercise at least 5 minutes twice a day
- Water— Drink at least 8 glasses a day, If you use distilled water add liquid trace minerals.
- Sun— Get out in the sun everyday without glasses or sunglasses for at least 15 minutes, use vita lights inside
- Salt— Get "real salt" or sun dried salt
- Enzymes— Eat 80% of your food raw to get the live enzymes to keep cells oxygenated. Cancer cells cannot grow in oxygenated cells. Cooking or heating food kills the enzymes.
- Alkalize— Keep the bloodstream in an alkaline state. Chlorophyll is one of the best sources of an alkaline food. Green is the color of health
- Digestion— Chew your drinks and drink your food! Chew thoroughly everything that goes in your mouth because that is where digestion begins.
Chew, chew chew your food,
thoroughly every meal.
The more you chew
The less you eat
The better you will feel.
(sung to the tune of row your boat)
- Assimilation— It is important to utilize all your food and drinks for health in your body. "You are what you assimilate."
- Elimination— Death begins in the Colon. Be sure you keep working on this.
- Get Grounded— Walk barefooted, work in the soil, hug a tree.
- Accentuate the positive— Keep in tune with your creator, you are a miracle and very special. Find your creative purpose in life.
- Eliminate the negative— Avoid negative influences. Avoid bad news and television.
- Greens— Use raw dark greens in salad everyday. Green is the life color. The green grasses that have been juiced and dehydrated like Barley green or wheat grass are like hemoglobin except for one molecule difference. In the blood its iron and in the chlorophyll its magnesium so its like getting the best blood transfusion possible when you drink green juices.

I write in defense of the so-called “weed,”
I’m a plant whose virtue people do not heed.
God made me too, and I’m really quite special,
An excellent food, nutritious and delectable.
The sun’s energy created my green chlorophyll
Plus vitamins and minerals, extremely plentiful
There’s dandelion, chickweed, lambs quarters and purslane
Red root and plantain, to name some of fame
So study a book of weeds, herbs and flowers
To discover treasures growing in the backyards
Because they are growing where they haven’t been planted
They’re pulled and thrown out with a vision that’s slanted
From now on behold God’s wondrous provision
Of plants that will heal, which is truly their mission.
They can be cut into salads or seeped into tea
That will bring health and healing and great energy
Since green’s the life color, look around you and see
What God has provided for you and for me.

Grace Trimmer Lefever

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