Permaculture
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For more information on Small Farms, visit our website at: http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/ or contact your local County Extension Agent.

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Leon County Extension
Permaculture Design Certificate Course
Case Study

Will Sheftall, Extension Agent IV for Natural Resource Management
University of Florida/IFAS Extension – Leon County
Situational Drivers
Why Extension?

RATIONALE
SITUATIONAL DRIVERS

- program emphasis on sustainability and resilience
- clientele interest
- county government interest
- unfilled niche in the Tallahassee area
WHY EXTENSION?

- mission congruence
WHY EXTENSION?

- opportunity to integrate academic ecological expertise (county NR faculty) with experiential ecological expertise (permaculture practitioners)
WHY EXTENSION?

- facilities, equipment, clerical support, budget for expendables, liability coverage for sessions on private property
WHY EXTENSION?

- opportunity to partially defray cost of intensive instruction with taxpayer-funded Extension faculty time, facilities, etc, reducing course fee and increasing access
WHY EXTENSION?

- opportunity to decentralize design course learning and PDC certification opportunities for local students of ecological farming, Extension Master Gardeners, sustainable living/local foods clientele
DECENTRALIZE LEARNING BY...

- providing instruction locally, so as not to require expensive travel/CO2 footprint
DECENTRALIZE LEARNING BY...

- breaking instruction into biweekly sessions, as opposed to an intensive residential immersion experience that requires ability to take leave from work for 2 weeks
Syllabus
Instructional Team
Curriculum Elements, Structure and Integration
Instructional Methods

COURSE STRUCTURE
SYLLABUS, SCHEDULE

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- diversity
- distribution of tasks
- planning cycle/schedule
- evaluation/adaptive management
- ecological component (Earth Care)
- social component (People Care)
- economic component (Fair Share)
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

- homework
- class work
- hands-on field work
- individual site design
- team site design work for mock client
- movie nights
- course lending library
- permablitzes
BUILDING EXFILTRATION TRENCH TO DISTRIBUTE CISTERNS OVERFLOW TO DEEP ROOTS OF ADJACENT BED

DIGGING THE TRENCH UP-SLOPE OF BED

HANDS-ON FIELD INSTRUCTION
LINING THE TRENCH WITH FILTER CLOTH

PLACING GLASS CYLINDERS ON RUBBER BARRIER TO VERTICAL PERCOLATION

HANDS-ON FIELD INSTRUCTION
BUILDING WITH COB FROM NATIVE MATERIALS

HANDS-ON FIELD INSTRUCTION
HANDS-ON FIELD INSTRUCTION

MIXING COB

APPLYING COB TO LATHING TO BUILD A SOLAR THERMAL MASS WALL FOR WINTER PROTECTION OF CITRUS
FIELD TRIPS

SUBURBAN BACKYARD FOOD FOREST

TROPICAL MICRO-CLIMATE IN WESTERN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
FIELD TRIPS

BIOCHAR RETORT AT LONGWOOD FARMS

SCRAP WOOD TURNED INTO BIOCHAR
FIELD TRIPS

GREENHOUSE AT RAGGED GLORY FARMS

STARTING SEEDS FOR PLANTING
OUTDOOR PRESENTATIONS
PERMABLITZ AT STUDENT HOMESITE
BUILDING A LIMEROCK RETAINING WALL  STEEPLY SLOPING SITE ON LAKE TALQUIN

PERMABLITZ AT STUDENT HOMESITE
BUILDING A LIMEROCK RETAINING WALL  
STEEPLY SLOPING SITE ON LAKE TALQUIN

PERMABLITZ AT STUDENT HOMESITE
DIGGING A SWALE AND PERC BASIN

STEEPLY SLOPING SITE ON LAKE TALQUIN

PERMABLITZ AT STUDENT HOMESITE
WORK CREW, INCLUDING SOME OF ROBIN’S PERMACULTURE CLASSMATES

PERMABLITZ AT STUDENT ENTERPRISE
My Permaculture Site Plan

Amy Bennett
June 1, 2013
The purpose of my permaculture project is to:

- Produce food to feed the two people who are living on the site and reduce the need to purchase food elsewhere as much as possible
- Be prepared to share food with neighbors if needed
- Prepare the property to withstand potential changes in climate as much as possible
Issues to be addressed

- **Water** - The occupied land has a 30 foot downhill slope from top to bottom. This can cause erosion when it rains from water flowing down the hill and flooding from the stream, uphill.
Issues to be addressed

**Shade** - The shade caused by the dense woods surrounding the occupied area makes it harder to grow vegetables—especially in the spring/summer.
Zone 1

- Zones on my property are determined by where there aren’t trees. So there are really just two zones—zone 1, no trees; zone 2, trees.

- The area surrounding the house is cleared of trees. It’s the part we visit and where the veggie gardens are. So this is Zone 1.
Front Garden

- Erosion
  - sheet mulch, berm, rye grass, cisterns/tanks

- Shade
  - Thin underbrush

- Other permie stuff
  - Trellis
  - Solar panels
  - Fence for beans/sugar peas
Side Garden

- Erosion
  - Berms to redirect water
  - Buckwheat
  - Sheet mulch

- Shade
  - Thinning underbrush for front garden will help here too.
Back Garden

- Erosion/flooding
  - Ditch to redirect water (maybe)
- Rye grass
- Raised beds
- Cisterns
- Bananas
- Huglekultur

- Shade
  - Huglekultur
Zone 2

- Zone 2 is the wooded area where the land is relatively dry and flat, in the north part of the property.
When All’s Said and Done...

- It’s a beautiful thing!
Recruitment
Demographics
Fees and Fee Structure
Work-study Option

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS
Recruitment

- 26 students maximum
- Direct marketing via Extension flyers, viral e-mail, web site posts, electronic newsletters
- Indirect marketing via partner organization web posts, electronic newsletters, Facebook pages, community events calendars
WHAT IS PERMACULTURE?

Wednesday January 16, 2013
5:30 — 8:30 PM (light supper included)
Leon County Extension Center, 615 Paul Russell Rd, Tallahassee

Permaculture is an ethical design system for humanity. It begins with observation and understanding of nature and natural systems, in order to mimic the embodied wisdom and resilience of nature’s elegantly-adaptive design. Permaculture embraces humanity’s dependent position in the web of life, our holistic relationship with nature as a biological species and as spiritual beings, and our opportunity to live in community with each other, with respect for all. Come Explore Permaculture on January 16th! This event is FREE but seating is limited, so please register at http://exploreperramulture.eventbrite.com/

You can bring Eco-cultural Resilience to practical fruition in your life by participating in Leon Extension’s 2013 Permaculture Design Course — a group journey of re-tooling family and community living for food and energy security, and for healthier, happier, richer lives. Course flyer at http://leon.flas.ufl.edu/

Leon County Extension Center

Beyond Sustainability to Permaculture and Regeneration: reconnecting people’s lives with Earth’s operating systems

Imagine Ecocultural Resilience bringing dreams to practical fruition with new knowledge from Extension’s PERMACULTURE course—a group journey of re-tooling our family and community living for food and energy security, and for healthier, happier, richer lives.

Instructors

Wendi Blevins, M.A. Environment and Community, UF Interdisciplinary Ecology Doctoral Student, Certified Permaculture Designer, Permaculture Practitioner

Anna Lee, Doctor of Oriental Medicine, Certified Permaculture Designer, Lead Permaculture Practitioner at Lululand Permaculture Institute (Charles FL)

Sipsy Taylor-McNeely, Certified Permaculture Designer, Permaculture Practitioner at N. Vison Farms (Panaka, FL)

Will Shewfelt, M.S. Botany, UF/IFAS Extension Agent for Natural Resource Management, Certified Permaculture Designer, Permaculture Practitioner

Leon County Extension Center

615 Paul Russell Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301

To register, contact Will Shewfelt
E-mail: shewfelt@leoncountyfl.gov

The syllabus for this course is organized to enable each student to engage with the Permaculture Principles and apply them to his/her own aspirations for how to live sustainably on the Earth—on the land and in the community, in the home and in the market.

Courses will include a mixture of classroom and field instruction; hands-on application of permaculture techniques at various practitioners’ installations in the region; group and instructor critique of students’ personal permaculture design plans; and discussion of assigned readings and on-line readings.

Course Dates: One Friday evening introductory session plus ten 7.5-hr Saturday sessions focused on permaculture concepts and practice. The final Saturday session will feature student presentations of their designs for chosen sites. To earn a Permaculture Design Certificate requires participation in sessions totaling 78 hrs.

Course Schedule

Wednesdays January 14th (optional session)—What is Permaculture? (5:30-8:30 PM) including supper at the Leon County Extension Center, for all persons interested in the course and/or topic

February 1st (optional session)—Introduction/Orientation to the 2013 Permaculture Design Course (5:30-8:30 PM, including supper, at Leon Co Extension Center)

Saturday Course Sessions: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
January 26
February 9 and 23
March 9 and 23
April 6 and 27
May 4 and 18
June 1

June 1—Graduation Celebration! (evening meal)

This course is sponsored by the Leon County Extension Center and the Leon County Faculty of Agriculture. It is offered to the public to provide a vehicle for teaching and sustained learning of agriculture and horticulture fundamentals. The Leon County Faculty of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. 

Course Fee: $350 per course. Scholarships are available to students who meet eligibility criteria. To apply, please contact Will Shewfelt, shewfelt@leoncountyfl.gov

Financial Need: Students may be eligible for financial aid for some classes. For more information, please ask Will Shewfelt, shewfelt@leoncountyfl.gov

Certificate Requirements: Course participation may be documented as an elective credit, depending on the student’s institution. To earn a Permaculture Design Certificate requires participation in sessions totaling 78 hrs. Students must also earn 60 hrs of classroom instruction. 

Course Textbook: Introduction to Permaculture by Bill Mollison (Student responsibility to purchase)
FEES AND FEE STRUCTURE

- 2012 - $100/quarter x 4 quarters, payable in each quarter enrolled
- 2013 - $500 for course, payable in 4 installments
- 2014 - $245 for course, payable in 2 installments
- fees cover food costs, course books, honoraria for guest instructors
HAULING AND SETTING UP EXTENSION TENTS, TABLES & CHAIRS FOR SESSIONS

PROCURING AND STAGING MATERIALS FOR HANDS-ON FIELD SESSIONS

WORK-STUDY OPTION
COURSE INSTRUCTOR-STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORM
Completion Stats
Evaluation Insights
Testimonials

OUTCOMES
COMPLETION STATS

- 2012 – 8 earned PDC
- 2013 – 18 earned PDC
EVALUATION INSIGHTS
North Carolina State University)
South Dakota State University

OTHER US CASES OF
LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY FACULTY
HOSTING/ CO-INSTRUCTING A
PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE
undergraduate course taught by Dr. Will Hooker
grant provided funding to videotape entire course, and post videos to the Web
extension Specialist co-instructs a course hosted by a local permaculture NGO
OTHER MODELS OF PERMACULTURE EDUCATION IN FLORIDA NOT INVOLVING EXTENSION
EARTH LEARNING

- Community FoodWorks Apprenticeship Program for Beginning Farmers
- Advanced Permaculture Design Courses
GROW PERMACULTURE