

Summer



USA

# Permaculture and Edible Forest Garden Design

Study Abroad in Ecovillages

Learn how to create sustainable, productive, and beautiful human environments using natural ecosystems as models. Permaculture is an evolving and expanding design system for ecological living, integrating plants, animals, buildings, people, and communities. Through experiential, participatory and classroom learning, participants explore relationships between



personal, social, and ecological sustainability in the rich context of life at the Sirius Community - an educational Ecovillage in scenic Western Massachusetts. Students also complete a one-week hands-on practicum, putting permaculture into action in neighborhoods, farms, homesteads, orchards, and more.



Students work with real world clients to design and present sustainable systems and solutions.

## Program Highlights

- ☀ Become a Certified Permaculture Apprentice
- ☀ Build advanced skills with Dave Jacke, author of the ground-breaking book on Edible Forest Garden Design
- ☀ Visit old-growth forests, Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects, eco-homesteads
- ☀ Work in a team to create an integrated site analysis and permaculture design for a residential "client"

## Academic Credit and 2010 Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Course: Permaculture (Natural Resources Conservation 398P)

Summer 2010 ..... (see website)



Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.



## Sirius Community

Sirius is an Intentional Community of 25 adults and children, based on respect for the individual, cooperation with nature, and spiritual growth. The ecovillage practices sustainable techniques including organic tilth and co-creative gardens, passive and active solar architecture, composting toilets, rain and wastewater cycling, off-grid energy, water catchment, greenhouse bioshelter and season extending techniques. As an educational center, Sirius offers a wide array of workshops, internships, and short courses on sustainable living and design.



### Application Deadline

(rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

April 15

### Costs (subject to change)

Tuition\* . . . . . \$1,650  
 UMassAmherst credit . . . . . included  
 Room & Board \*\* . . . . . varies

\* Some need-based scholarships are available

\*\* Shared room, camping, and commuter options, range from approximately \$295 to \$1000

## Faculty

**Dave Jacke, M.A.**, Landscape Design, Conway School of Landscape Design; B.A., Environmental Studies and Land Use Planning, Simon's Rock College, MA  
 Jacke is a professional ecological landscape designer, land use planner, permaculture consultant and educator. His ground-breaking book, *Edible Forest Gardens: A Delicious and Practical Ecology* was published in 2005 to wide acclaim.

**Jono Neiger, M.A.**, Landscape Design, Conway School of Landscape Design, MA; B.S., Forest Biology, SUNY Syracuse, NY  
 Conservation biologist, permaculture teacher and ecological designer, Neiger's portfolio includes riparian restoration with the California Nature Conservancy, wetland restoration projects with Native Wet Prairie Seed Collection, and land steward at the Lost Valley Educational Center. John has conducted research in vegetable cropping systems, plant nutrition, seed emergence, and seedling vigor of new sweet corn genotypes, and pepper flowering and fruit set.

### Assistant Faculty

**Kay Cafasso, B.S.**, Environmental Geosciences Boston College; Natural Building and Solar Home Design Certification, Solar International; Permaculture Design Certification, Naropa University  
 Cafasso is a permaculture instructor, designer, gardener, and natural builder. She is inspired by the ability to regenerate natural systems with thoughtful design of landscapes, dwellings, and communities.

**Ethan Roland M.S.**, Associate Candidate, Gaia University International, Integrative Eco-social Design, TN;  
 B.S., Biology, Haverford College  
 Roland is a permaculture designer, teacher, and researcher based in the central Connecticut River valley. He studies and practices regenerative design in all corners of the world, from the wild apple forests of Kazakhstan to the tropical rainforest ecosystems of Central America.

## Course Topics

**Reading and Designing the Landscape**  
 Design principles and skills; land assessment for optimal, multi-functional use; patterns and cycles of nature; seat-of-the-pants engineering and site mapping skills; design drawing and presentation skills

**Water in Permaculture Design**  
 Water catchment and storage; keyline management; ditches, swales, dams, and ponds; aquaculture in streams, ponds, and tanks; grey and black water treatment and use

**Building Healthy Living Soil**  
 Reading a soil profile; self-renewing fertility design; dynamic accumulators and nitrogen-fixers; sheet mulching & composting; green manures, living mulches, and intercrops

**The Cultivated Ecosystem**  
 Low-maintenance ecological garden and orchard design; ecological pest management; small livestock; rotational poultry and animal forage systems; agroforestry systems and forest gardens

**Ecological Shelter**  
 Integrated, energy efficient design; alternative and least toxic building materials; appropriate technologies

**Community Strategies**  
 Regional economics; urban-suburban restoration; village and community design

