

5.8.2013 Topical Lunch on Permaculture

Steve Gabriel presented initially about the recent resurgence of interest in permaculture. He began with a definition of permaculture as...

- “Looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system”—Bill Mollison
- “Consciously designed landscapes which mimic the patterns and relationship found in nature”—David Holmgren
- “Meeting human needs while increasing ecosystem health”—Rafter Sass

Current projects in permaculture at Cornell...

There are many projects currently in the Department of Horticulture with opportunities for making connections. Dilmun Hill; the McDaniels nut grove; the Permaculture club; Permaculture design certification course—happening again this fall (blogs.cornell.edu/permaculture); Distance learning permaculture course—professional development, adult education; Blogs: Permaculture @ Cornell.

Discussion of opportunities for connections

Opportunities exist for engaging with staff in dining and facilities; implications on contaminated sites, with growing food. There are fruit trees and other plants that fit the permaculture model that could be integrated into a current healthy soils, healthy communities & soil quality project. Point was made that food is one link, but there are many different links with campus. Suggestion to tie permaculture to a larger set of theories and practices. Since Permaculture is now part of a larger set of issues (sustainability, ecological design, green infrastructure, consider how it nests in larger contexts. There is a lineage at Cornell; connect it back to culture.

Paradigm shift on campus

Call for bolder efforts which are larger, integrative, and more sustainable to represent paradigm shift. Comment that is positive to have a club designing a garden on campus, but perhaps people from many different disciplines/student experts should be designing a garden.

Consider integrating permaculture into avenues such as university courses that are broad and interdisciplinary to engage students all over campus. Consider partners from vastly different disciplines.

Food purchasing in the college at dining halls (fair trade, organic, in season produce, etc). Most of what the dining hall purchases is not available locally. Compost and minimizing food waste in cafeteria—“food is a nexus point of activity.” Food can link into any subject.

Next steps

Channel of distribution for the various permaculture projects is needed.

Next step collectively→ becoming part of different committees within university, finding a way to connect students across courses, (Ex. urban eden course—model after and apply to permaculture)

Permaculture reading group with a diverse background of students—good discussions, make students aware of various courses on campus that are incorporating permaculture. Possibility of connecting students with extension and community engagement projects. Permaculture as a strategy for repurposing urban land. Internships for a few really interested individuals.

Green infrastructure model and the need to see things as being connected, saying that part of the thinking is seeing how things can be connected. Sustainable group to look at developing sustainable neighborhoods—working with groups showed that we are still suffering from interdisciplinary biases—we don’t understand each other’s language. Need to redefine identities, get out of traps of biased world views to be able to work together.

Possible steering committee to start charting things to determine next steps as we move forward.

Attendees at Permaculture Topical Lunch on May 8, 2013

Hosts:

Brewer	Lori	ljb7	CGBL/HORT	CALS
Eames-Sheavly	Marcia	me14	CGBL/HORT	CALS
Gabriel	Steve	sfg53	CGBL/HORT	

Participant RSVP (attending):

Last Name	First Name	NetID or email	Dept (if known)	College (If known)
Anelli	Jonathan Russell	jmr5	CSS	CALS
Burrichter	Emily	emb287		
Camuti	Liz	ejc83		
Chambliss	Lauren	elc55	ACSF	
Cortell	Aiden	aiden.cortell@gmail.com		
DiSalvo	Frank	fjd3	ASCF	
DiTommaso	Toni	ad97	CSS	CALS
Falk	Liz	erf59	HORT	CALS
Horrigan	Paula	phh3	Landscape ARCH	CALS
Leonard	Betsy	bai1	CUAES	
Mt Pleasant	Jane	jm21	HORT	CALS
Mudge	Ken	kwm2	HORT	CALS
Nechamen	Sarah	sdn27		
Nelson	Lauren	lmn28	HORT	CALS
Peureax	Asia			
Schember	Helene	hrs6	ACSF	
Trimber	Gillian	gmt47		
Wolford	Wendy	www43	ACSF	