

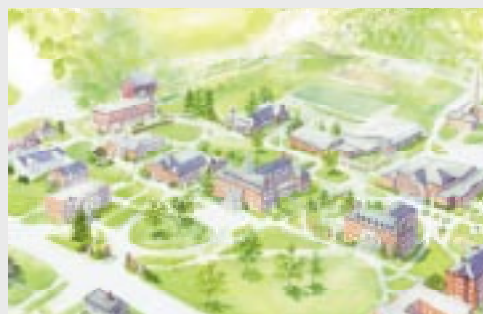
# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Campus Map- painted by Masumi Nyui



GMC Recycling Crew

- Visiting Scholar: Fred Kirschenmann
- Fall Block Course
- Spotlight: GMC ES Alumni
- Spotlight: Eco League
- Rutland Area Farm-Food Link
- ES in the Field
- Greening the Campus
- Student Work
- Upcoming Events

## VISITING SCHOLAR

One of the heroes of sustainable agriculture, Fred Kirschenmann will be a visiting scholar at GMC from April 18-23. In addition to visiting classes and local farms, Fred will be giving the keynote speech for GMC's Earth Week festivities on Thursday, April 20th at 7pm in the Gorge of Withey Hall.

Fred Kirschenmann holds a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Chicago, and has written extensively about ethics and agriculture. He is a charter member of the Whiterock Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that manages a 1,300-acre conservation area in west-central Iowa.



The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture was created by the Iowa Legislature to develop sustainable agricultural practices that are both profitable and conserve natural resources. Since his appointment to the Center, Kirschenmann has been a frequent speaker, engaging audiences to help shape a new vision for agriculture.

Fred's talk is entitled Getting Ready for our 21st Century Food World: Will it All be Local?

Our Industrial Food System was launched a little over a half century ago. It promised to solve the Malthusian dilemma and provide us with all the food that an expanding human population needed- and to do so cheaper, more efficiently, more simply, than any food systems humans could heretofore have imagined. And that promise was largely fulfilled. But as we enter the 21st century new challenges have emerged. As it turned out this miraculous, industrial food system, that we invented, weighed heavy on the planet, mutated into an economic system that spawned intolerable inequities, provided us with food that is increasingly dissatisfying, and left us with a farming system that is extremely vulnerable to the challenges ahead. Can we re-imagine a new food system that meets the needs of the 21st century and beyond?

## CONTACT US

If you have news, announcements, or events to publicize in the ES Newsletter, please e-mail materials to:

[esnewsletter@greenmtn.edu](mailto:esnewsletter@greenmtn.edu)

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## ES COURSE SAMPLER

### ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CORE

- Biodiversity
- General Chemistry I
- Ecology
- Intro to Statistics

### ES GENERAL ELECTIVES

- Introduction to Environmental Studies [Strongly recommended for all ES Majors]

### AGROECOLOGY TRACK

- (Now Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production)
- Sustainable Farming Systems [part of 9-credit block]
  - Food Systems in the Northeast [part of 9-credit block]

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Introduction to Env Education

### HUMAN SCIENCES AND POLICY

- Environmental Law
- Native American Environmental Politics
- Building Sustainable Communities [part of 9-credit block]
- Human Ecology
- Social-Political Phil: Peace, War, & Justice

### NATURAL SCIENCES TRACK

- Organic Chemistry I
- Intro to Geology

### ART, LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Intro to Painting
- Topics in Drawing: Beyond B&W
- Environmental Sculpture
- Writing About the Environment
- American Literature 1860 to Present

### RECREATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Introduction to Rec and Leisure
- Essentials of Scuba: Level I
- Program Planning for Recreation
- Essentials of Paddling
- Management Outdoor & Adventure Programs

### NON-ES COURSES OF INTEREST TO ES STUDENTS

- Environmental Ethics [Strongly recommended for ES majors]
- Persuasion [Recommended for ES majors]
- Drawing from the Environment
- Eco-Tourism

\*\* A full listing of "Courses for Environmental Studies Majors" is posted around campus, or visit: [http://campus.greenmtn.edu/Library/course\\_schedules.asp](http://campus.greenmtn.edu/Library/course_schedules.asp)

## FALL BLOCK COURSE

"Food, Agriculture, and Community Development in the Northeast"  
Fall 2006, 9 credits Block Course (Tuesday, Friday: 1:00-5:15 PM)

### Courses:

Building Sustainable Communities (ENV 3004 /SUS 3003)  
Sustainable Farming Systems (ENV 3054)  
Special Topics in Environmental Studies (ENV 3000)

### Faculty:

Jacob Park, Philip Ackerman-Leist and Eleanor Tison

### Course Overview:

"Food, Agriculture, and Community Development in the Northeast" is an interdisciplinary, team-taught block course that will challenge students to develop a sophisticated understanding of how food, agriculture, and community development operates as a system by exposing them to a broad array of perspectives as well as offer opportunities to visit persons and facilities related to food, agriculture, and community development issues in the Northeast.

In addition to the three faculty members, the course will feature John Turenne, a nationally recognized culinary/food industry educator and the former executive chef/director of the Yale Sustainable Food Project, as a visiting faculty, and other notable individuals from private companies, and non-profit organizations as guest lecturers. An importance focus of this course will be the college dining hall, which we plan to use as a service learning 'laboratory' that will allow students to better understand the economics and eco-efficiencies of the current campus food service within the context of the local/regional food, agricultural, and community development system.

We're happy to announce that we received a \$3,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF)'s Sustainable Futures Fund to use toward the proposed Fall 2006 "Food, Agriculture, and Community Development in the Northeast" block course and related activities. There is a good chance that we will be able to get a few extra thousand dollars from another fund at VCF in the near future and hope to publicize the two announcements together sometime before the end of the spring semester.

Block course informational meeting- Wednesday, March 29 at 4:30 in classroom #2 of Griswold library. Applications are required in order to register for this innovative course. They will be handed out at the meeting and are also available electronically from Jacob Park.

## CERRIDWEN FARM

The Rutland County Youth Council has once again awarded \$1011 to Cerridwen Farm for the annual GMC Farm Camp for youth in the region interested in a weeklong experience in farming and food. The Farm Camp will be held August 7-10, 2006. This camp is free for Rutland area youth aged 12-16 (some exceptions for younger campers may be granted). Campers will enjoy a host of activities, including gardening, livestock care, food preservation, garden-side lunches, and even a river dip for the hot days! Thanks to the Rutland Youth Council for their continued support of this fun, educational endeavor for our area youth!

## Current Alumni Careers:

- Air Quality Monitoring , Shenandoah National Park (VA) — Elizabeth Garcia
- Campus Coordinator, Vermont Energy Group — Elizabeth Cunningham
- Consultant, city planning for municipalities (NY) — Justin Woods
- Crew Leader, Smokey House Center (VT) — Mark Raishart
- Research Assistant, Collier Mosquito Control (FL)— Marin Moe-Brouillard
- Environmental Educator, Phillips Exeter Academy (NH) — Jennifer Wilhelm
- Environmental Field Instructor, Smokey House Center (VT) — Kurt Waggoner
- Environmental Instructor, Thornton Burgess Society (MA) —Angela Janssen
- Greenhouse Manager, Whipple Hollow Farm (VT) — Derek Patt
- Senior Associate/Team Leader, Rodgers Consulting (MD) — Dusty Rood
- Owner, Chapparral Farm (VT)— Misse Doe Burrows
- Owner, Vermont Herb & Salad (VT) — Heather Polhemus
- Outreach Solar Electricity Staff, Solar Works (NH)— Michael Spitze
- Assistant, Rutland Region Planning Commission(VT)— India Bernett-Farmer
- Project Coordinator, Environmental Hazards Management (NH)— Mike Cote
- Proprietor, Northeast Vine Supply (VT) — Andy Farmer
- Preserve Manager, Brandywine Conservation (PA)— Kevin Fryberger
- Red Bank Recycling (NJ) — Derek Tietjen
- Science Teacher, Chesterfield School (NH) — Elisebeth Sheltmire
- Staff, Solar Energy International (CO) — Khanti Munro
- Technical Service Specialist, Efficiency Vermont — Rachael Pendleton-Fredericks
- Wetlands Research Associate, Colorado State University —Jennifer Voss

## RUTLAND AREA FARM-FOOD LINK

The Rutland Area Farm-Food Link (RAFFL), of which Green Mountain College is a founding member, was recently awarded a \$9900 grant to hire a part-time coordinator. Efforts to create a nonprofit advocacy group for expanding regional agricultural markets and enhancing consumer awareness of food production issues began in 2003, as a result of the GMC Family Farm Forum series that year. The theme for that year's forum series was Planning for Agriculturally-Focused Communities: Working Together for a Working Landscape. Students in Ron Steffens' Environmental Communications course this semester have been collaborating with RAFFL to develop a region-wide marketing campaign to support the upcoming "buy local" campaign in the Rutland area. GMC alum India Farmer, a regional planner for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, was the primary author of the grant and has been working with Ron's class to plan the campaign. Louisa Normington, a student in Stefanie Wickstrom's Environmental Advocacy class, is working with RAFFL as a service-learning volunteer to update their database of regional farmers and to assess the best use of RAFFL's new logo for produce coming from the area. (look for the logo, above, on regional produce beginning this season!)



## ECO LEAGUE

The Eco League is a consortium of colleges that specialize in environmental learning. Green Mountain students can study for up to two semesters at other Eco League schools.

Visit [www.ecoleague.org](http://www.ecoleague.org).

Alaska Pacific University—Anchorage, Alaska

College of The Atlantic—Bar Harbor, Maine

Antioch College—Yellow Springs, Ohio

Northland College—Ashland, Wisconsin

Prescott College—Prescott, Arizona

## PRESCOTT COLLEGE

Prescott College is a small, independent, liberal arts college offering bachelor's and master's degree programs, located in Prescott, Arizona. The college emphasizes experimental learning and environmental literacy, rather than classroom situations. Small class sizes, field-based classes and a personalized learning experience make that possible.

Prescott is surrounded by 1,408,000 acres of National Forest, with more than 796 miles of trails. The area offers warm weather and a diverse sampling of outdoor activities: rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, and nearby canoeing, rafting, kayaking, and downhill skiing.

Students attending Prescott College are responsible for finding their own housing in the area.

([www.prescott.edu](http://www.prescott.edu))

## ES IN THE FIELD

EDU 3012 Interpretation has taken or will be taking the following trips:

Feb. 3 and Mar. 17— Deane Nature Preserve

Mar. 24— East Poultney Historical Society

Mar. 28— Green's Sugarhouse

## GMC Picks Up Recycling With a Full Crew



Recycling on GMC's campus is getting a lot of student attention these days. Last semester the Enviro/Bio club surveyed recycling in Pollock and purchased bins for staff folks there. At a January workshop Resident Assistants made recycling signs for their dorms and sorted out recycling in the Gorge. Chemistry and Images students recently volunteered class time to sort recyclables at the trailer. Currently, a group of Environmental Science students is assessing recycling in the dorm "hubs" and will be making suggestions to improve the program there.

Most notable is the dedication of a small group of committed students working hard to keep your recyclable waste out of the landfill. Ashley Graban, Lauren DiSessa, Ruth Larkin, Gabrielle Bellegarde, and Zac Behney can frequently be found picking up, hauling, sorting, and thinking about your trash. Though this full crew has only been at it a couple of weeks together, they're already making great progress for the program. After a training week trip to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Rutland, and just a few meetings to share ideas, the crew is eager to increase participation of recycling on campus and the visibility of the program.

You can help out by recycling in all buildings on campus and by sharing your ideas with the crew – and make sure you thank the student crew and the housekeeping staff for all the work they're doing. Keep an eye out for more improvements to the program throughout the spring, and stop down by the recycling trailer when you get the chance.

## Student Campus Greening Fund

Ten applications were recently submitted requesting money from the Student Campus Greening Fund (SCGF). These proposals lay out plans for a variety of student-led greening initiatives with a price tag of nearly \$50,000. After a voting period ending Sunday, March 26th, the Student Senate, aided by the SCGF Steering Committee, will award \$20,000 based upon votes and comments from students. Voting can take place online through the Student Senate website, at the library reserve desk, the Yes! Coffee House, or in the Student Life office.

The projects proposed are:

- Library Double-Sided Printer
- Cerridwen Farm Root Cellar
- Killington Lodge Greening
- Food, Ag. & Community Development Block Course
- Local Entrees in Dining Hall
- New Water Distillation System
- Help Recycling Program
- Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs in Withey
- Natural Succession Sculpture
- Biomass-Cogeneration Boiler Project

Hospitable Deception  
By Robin Brown

Here I stand on a marshy quagmire  
speckled by reeds and pitcher plants  
as the carnivorous vegetation waits impatiently  
for an insect to travel near and fold  
to the temptation of hospitality.

They linger,  
still and silent like idle winter snow blankets,  
until the chance comes to  
violently drown the gullible critters,  
the naïve bugs fooled by signs of  
generosity and benevolence –  
illusions of mutualism that really scream  
with raspy voices of manipulation  
once the pretty, shiny veneer is peeled off.

Beneath the façade  
all that remains is a set of  
hungry eyes and hollow,  
pale lips.

Atop the floating sphagnum mat  
creatures undulate and rock  
with volatility  
like a ship's crew arriving at port,  
disembarking  
after ten months out at sea.

With each step I take  
on the buoyant entwine,  
the delicate surface life  
is crushed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- New England Society of American Foresters Meeting  
April 4-6-  
Sheridan Tara Hotel, Nashua, New Hampshire
- Sierra Club Vermont Wilderness Conference  
April 8, in the Gorge  
Joe Karr is working with Sierra Club to host this event, and it is open to the public.
- Earth Week at GMC  
April 19-21