



# Earthlands *Newsletter*

Volume 7, Issue 2

Fall 2007

Institute for Environmental Awareness

## The New Institute for Environmental Awareness

Substantial changes are happening for the Institute for Environmental Awareness (the parent nonprofit of Earthlands). This September, Bill Grover accepted the nomination for President and he has taken the helm with determination and confidence. He has appointed Frank Deitle and Lucinda Ramsey as Executive Co-Directors transferring to them fiscal responsibility for the organization and its programs: the Earthlands Program Center and the University of the Wild. This is a significant shift for our organization which has relied largely on the generous support of our founder and previous Executive Director, Larry Buell, for the past 35 years.

In taking on this responsibility, the Board and Executive Co-Directors are committed to developing a truly sustainable organization. We will need to raise \$45,000 to meet our annual fund (operational budget) through the end of our fiscal year in June 2008. We have pledges of \$19,000 toward this and we are broadening our donor support with our fall fund raising campaign, community sponsored fundraisers, and other member coordinated activities. We invite you to participate in this new endeavor with the IEA. Please assist us in finding ways to create a viable future for a place that has touched so many of our lives.



Thank you for your support,  
Lucinda Ramsey and Frank Deitle  
Executive Co-Directors



## This Year's Transformational Experiences

Thank you to all the guests and facilitators attending this year's Earthlands events. Thank you for opening your hearts to the magic of this land. Earthlands was blessed with an amazing ensemble of programs in 2007, touching many lives in profound ways.

Earthlands acknowledges Alisa Starkweather for powerfully bringing issues of diversity to the forefront of her *Daughter's of the Earth* event, a theme that was echoed during *EarthStory* with a captivating presentation by Enoch Paige on racism and white privilege.

We welcome *Mankind Project* back to Earthlands for their first season in many years here. The rustic simplicity of our site complemented their program and they are enthusiastic about their return in 2008.

This year's *ForestDance*, organized by Jason Cohen, was the most successful and potent on site yet, with of up to 111 dancers and drummers invoking sacred self-expression for three full nights around the fire circle until the light of sunrise glistened in the morning dew.

We will soon be updating our website

with 2008 events, so check in periodically to peruse the work and play that can connect you in the coming year.



**The Institute for Environmental Awareness, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1973, dedicated to supporting and promoting programs and services that encourage living and learning in harmony with the Earth and all Life.

**Board of directors:** Bill Grover, President; Tim Fuller; John Knuerr; Frank Deitle; and Larry Buell

**Executive Co-Directors:** Lucinda Ramsey and Frank Deitle

Visit us on the web at:

[www.instituteforenvironmentalawareness.org](http://www.instituteforenvironmentalawareness.org) and [www.earthlands.org](http://www.earthlands.org)



## The Ecological Living Project



*June-August 2008*

The Institute for Environmental Awareness is excited to present its alternative education program, the Ecological Living Project (ELP). ELP is a learning community that explores sustainable living through a mentored and self-directed approach. It will be a laboratory to explore

the vision and philosophy of University of the Wild, with ten to twelve participants living on-site at Earthlands for 3 months. Within the context of community living and connection to Earth, participants will explore areas such as permaculture, wild-edibles, sweat lodges, a wilderness trip and much more. With a 10-day opening intensive

in collaboration with Sacred Earth Network ([www.sen.org](http://www.sen.org)), this program will be a deeply transformational experience.

For more information, visit: [www.universityofthewild.org](http://www.universityofthewild.org) or contact:

Nika Fotopolous-Voeikoff  
[nika@universityofthewild.org](mailto:nika@universityofthewild.org)  
 (978) 724-3448

### Upcoming Events

#### November 24

*Thanksgiving Gratitude Potluck: diner at 2pm, fun all day long.*

#### December 22

*Winter Solstice Celebration.*

#### January 18-20

*Sacred Earth Network Winter Retreat.*

#### February

*Valentines Dance: to be announced.*

*“I had one of the most powerful experiences of my life: crying, sharing and singing with friends...”*

## One Man's Journey

The spirit of life flows throughout Earthlands. In the shade of a towering old Oak tree at the back corner of the north field, I had one of the most powerful experiences of my life: crying, sharing and singing with friends passionately committed to the healing of our

world. A chipmunk, hearing our voices, popped up on the rock wall and chimed in. It seemed only natural that all animals would sing together under that ancient tree.

- Orion

## Our Summer Crew

Earthlands staff was a community of 5 this summer, with Frank and Lucinda as coordinators, Patrick and Nika as apprentices, and Joanna as a summer intern. Together we completed a new permaculture mandala garden with a pond in the center. We had a lush and abundant har-

vest and the pond was an active social scene for the local frog community. Thanks to generous help from friends of Earthlands we raised the roof of a new 24' Pacific Yurt, which will be a community space for the Ecological Living Project next summer.



### Become a Member!

The IEA/Earthlands is a member driven organization and now is the perfect time to join during our annual fall fundraiser. Call or visit our website for details.

**Earthlands** is a center for sustainable living based on 150 acres of rural woodland and meadow in central Massachusetts. We operate a program center which hosts a variety of environmental, educational, and self-development workshops and events. For a complete calendar of our events, please visit our website at: [www.earthlands.org](http://www.earthlands.org). For Earthlands bookings and rentals, please email or call our office.

**Earthlands**  
 39 Glasheen Road  
 Petersham, MA 01366  
 (978) 724-3428  
[earthlands@earthlands.org](mailto:earthlands@earthlands.org)