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2010-2011 ONE-YEAR / PART-TIME
Practical Training in
BIODYNAMICS
A Scientific & Spiritual Approach
to Farming and Gardening



The Pfeiffer Center



The Pfeiffer Center
260 HUNGRY HOLLOW ROAD
CHESTNUT RIDGE, NY 10977

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
845.352.5020, EXT. 20
FAX: 845.352.5071
E-MAIL: info@pfeiffercenter.org
www.pfeiffercenter.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

In the course of this materialistic age of ours, we've lost the knowledge of what it takes to continue to care for the natural world. ... People fertilize scientifically now; and the grains and potatoes and everything else become ever worse. People know this, they confirm it statistically, yet today there is only resistance to practical measures that derive from what can be gained in spiritual vision.

RUDOLF STEINER, Agriculture (1924)



North American Biodynamic
Apprenticeship Program

Participants in this course are eligible for classroom study credit in the North American Apprenticeship Program of the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association. To learn more, visit www.bdtraining.org.

**COURSE
INSTRUCTORS**

As our knowledge of the physical world has become ever more detailed, we have sought to master nature with a science based only on the material and quantifiable aspects of life. However, many advances arising from this thinking have brought destructive and unforeseen consequences. Once we acknowledge the limitations of the purely materialistic view of nature, where can we turn for a more complete understanding of the living Earth?

Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) was dedicated to developing a new science that accounts for all aspects of life – the material and the supersensible. The biodynamic method, which Steiner outlined in his Agriculture Lectures of 1924, brings to bear a spiritual understanding of nature and humanity's relationship to the natural world. Responding to farmers concerned about the declining vigor of their crops and animals, he described an approach to plant and land care that combines building up healthy soil with a renewed awareness of all the forces at work in the farm organism: among and between the soil, plants, animals, and humans, as well as the cosmos itself. The result: a modern, organic way of farming that raises the vitality of both soil and produce, going beyond sustainability to create a thriving agriculture...and a future for our fragile planet.

Now entering its 14th year, the Pfeiffer Center's One-Year, Part-Time Practical Training in Biodynamics consists of thirteen full-day workshops beginning in September 2010 and ending in June 2011. Workshop days run from 9 am to 5 pm, and feature an engaging mix of classroom talks and field activities covering • making and applying the biodynamic preparations • working with compost • the rhythms of nature and planetary influences on life and growth • agricultural handwork and pruning • weed and pest control • the honeybee • and much more.

ON THE COVER: *Equisetum arvense* (horsetail), used in biodynamic preparation 508.

The Director of the Pfeiffer Center, Mac Mead, will be the principal instructor. Mac grew up in the Connecticut River Valley and graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania with a degree in psychology. In 1975 he began working at the Fellowship Community in Spring Valley, where he had "the privilege and



good fortune" to learn biodynamic methods from former colleagues of Ehrenfried Pfeiffer.

He helped to start the

Third Grade Farming Block at Green Meadow Waldorf School and the Public School Outreach Program at the Duryea Farm, where he was the resident farmer from 1997-2005.



Hugh Williams is the owner of Threshold Farm and has been growing fruit using biodynamic methods on a commercial scale for 30 years.

Steffen Schneider manages 65 head of Holstein and Brown Swiss cows as the principal herdsman at Hawthorne Valley



Farm in Ghent, New York, where he is an active participant in the farm's educational and outreach programs. He studied agriculture in Germany.

Craig Holdrege is a biologist, an educator, and Director of The Nature Institute, a research and education organization



that pioneers a unique qualitative approach to science. The author of *Genetics and the Manipulation of Life: The Forgotten Factor of Context* and the editor of *The Dynamic Heart and Circulation*, Craig has written many articles on genetic engineering, genetics, and a holistic, Goethean approach to science.

Jennifer Greene Executive Director of the Water Research Institute of Blue Hill, Maine, holds degrees in biology, sculpture and education, and trained at the Institute for Flow Sciences in Germany. Since the 1980's she has been a pioneer of flow forms in the United States, and continues the pioneering work of Theodor Schwenk in documenting water quality through the "drop picture" method.

The Pfeiffer Center is sponsored jointly by Sunbridge Institute & Threefold Educational Center.

Be sure to see additional offerings at www.pfeiffercenter.org.

• SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 Evolution, Environment & Ecology

A brief sketch of the evolution of the earth from a spiritual scientific standpoint. What are our tasks at this time in relation to the environment and why do farming and gardening play such a vital role in ecological, economic and social issues? We will do some hands-on work with the horn manure preparation, raised beds, and season-appropriate planting. Presented by Mac Mead.

• SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010 Biodynamic Preparations

At the heart of the biodynamic method are the preparations used to treat the soil, compost and crops. Mac Mead and Steffen Schneider will lead us in making most of these preparations, as we discuss their healing effects on the earth and its produce.

• SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010 Soil Building & Composting

Healthy soils bring forth healthy plants. We will explore basic concepts concerning soil building and composting methods. In a hands-on session at our compost site, we will not only discover composts of different materials and stages of maturity, we will also get our hands good and dirty doing so.

• SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2010 Farm Animal Husbandry

Steffen Schneider will share the gleanings of his 30 years of farm animal husbandry. This full-day session will touch on all domestic farm animals, with emphasis on the role of animals in the farm organism.

• SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2011 Pruning Fruit Trees / Seed Saving & Rejuvenation

Pruning fruit trees is both a science and an art. The seed question is of vital importance for the future of our food supply. Hugh Williams, one of the best orchardists in the East and a biodynamic farmer (Threshold Farm) with a large CSA, will be the main presenter. A few hours of hands-on pruning will be included.

• SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011 Cosmic Forces in Relation to Nutritional Qualities/Seeing Nature Whole

We all know how the moon pulls the tides. What influences does it — or do the other planets — have on plant life? By learning how to strengthen and harmonize these influences, we can enhance the nutritional value of our food. Presented by Mac Mead. In the afternoon, Craig Holdrege will explore how we can better understand the world, and our place in it, by working with the living dynamic qualities of plants and animals, and will discuss the implications of this understanding for sustainability.

• FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011 Barrel Compost / Weed and Pest Control Preparations

Half the day will be devoted to making the barrel compost preparation and weed and pest control preparations. The other half will be spent on an artistic activity and the progress reports on research projects.

• SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011 Bees / Life Rhythms, Farm & Garden Tasks

Given the drastic reduction of honeybee colonies in the last 20 years, we have to dig deep for the causes, and deeper still to discover the necessary means for reversing this trend. In the second half of the workshop, we will look at the rhythms of sun and moon, and learn to work with nature, not against it. This enables us to compensate for extreme weather, making our task easier and improving the quality of our crops. Presented by Mac Mead.

• FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011 Preparation #501 / Compost Teas / BD Tree Paste

Making the horn-silica preparation involves grinding quartz crystals down to .2 microns. The day's other focus will be the making and applying of herbal and compost teas and the biodynamic tree paste. Artistic activity and research project presentations follow.

• SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011 Water: H₂O or Much More?

Water quality is fast becoming one of the world's most pressing environmental issues. Do we really know what water is, what tasks it has in life processes, or how it carries them out? Jennifer Greene, director of the Water Research Institute in Maine, will take us far beyond what we commonly know, or suppose we know, of this element.

• FRIDAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 10 - 12, 2011 The Final Weekend

Making nettle and yarrow preparations; taking out old preps; storing preps; various compost activities; presentation of research projects. We will bring together the year's work into a comprehensive picture of the theoretical and practical aspects of biodynamics.

Dates and presenters are subject to change.

THE CAMPUS

The grounds of Threefold Educational Center in Chestnut Ridge, New York (formerly Spring Valley), include the site of Ehrenfried Pfeiffer's original research garden and laboratory.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are often rooms available on campus in Holder House, the student residence – book online at www.threefold.org/housing or contact the Student Housing Manager at 845-352-9660. Nearby hotels include the Courtyard by Marriott Montvale (201-391-7700 ext. 7104) and the Park Ridge Marriott (201-307-0800), both of which offer a Sunbridge Institute discount.

TUITION

of \$1,200 includes all materials. Limited tuition assistance is available. Any missed classes can be made up without charge in the following year. Participants in the full course will receive a certificate of completion.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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APPLICATION FORM • 2010-2011

Send this form, with a non-refundable \$25 application fee (checks made payable to **The Pfeiffer Center**), to the address above. Upon acceptance, you will be sent a tuition agreement. The Pfeiffer Center cooperates with colleges and universities offering credit for internship programs or work on special projects. It is the responsibility of the student to secure credit from the college.

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	
STATE _____	ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____	WORK PHONE _____
FAX _____	E-MAIL _____

