



November, 2009

Dear Friends,

Fall is prep-making season, a time to look inward and become receptive to the influences of the distant planets. It is a time of reflection and of new beginnings. In that vein, we're taking a few minutes to look back on 2009; happily, we see significant growth and development for the Pfeiffer Center and its programs.

We began the year with *The Agriculture Course: An Intensive Study of the Origins and Future of Biodynamics*, a four-day seminar featuring our own Mac Mead, Steffen Schneider of Hawthorne Valley Farm, and Malcolm Gardner, translator of the Agriculture Lectures. The course was expressly intended for people already familiar with the Ag Course, and we were gratified to draw some 60 biodynamic farmers from as far away as Oregon, North Carolina, and Quebec. Much like the original, our course was a rare opportunity for study and fellowship – a true midwinter festival, and the only BD seminar or workshop we know of that's not for beginners.

The seminar was so successful that we're aiming to make it an annual event. The 2010 edition features the theme of nutrition, which is perhaps the least understood part of the Ag Course. For more details, see the flier enclosed with this letter. We hope to see you here in January; if you can't make it, please pass the flier to someone you know who may be interested.

The future of biodynamics depends on new farmers joining the ranks. In 2009 the Biodynamic Association launched the North American Biodynamic Apprenticeship Program, a formal two-year training. We are pleased that the Pfeiffer Center's Year-Long Course is recognized classroom content for the Apprenticeship Program, and our January intensive is being considered as a training resource by mentor farmers.

Balance is everything in life, and this year we balanced our advanced offerings with new workshops for aspiring and beginning gardeners: Beginning a Vegetable Garden, the Raised Beds workshop, and Continuing the Vegetable Garden. Each of these workshops stands on its own, but taken together they make a course in themselves. Based on popular demand, we're delighted to be offering these workshops again in 2010; dates and registration information can be found at [www.pfeiffercenter.org](http://www.pfeiffercenter.org).

If you've come to a Pfeiffer Center workshop or event this year, you've probably enjoyed a delicious and wholesome meal at the all-new Threefold Cafe. Chef Anthony LoPinto, who happens to be an alum of the Year-Long Course, is a great cook with a serious personal commitment to using biodynamically grown ingredients – including produce from the Pfeiffer Center – whenever possible. Pfeiffer Center production is now being planned according to the Cafe's needs. During this past summer, Mac and his interns began working Duryea Farm's Crown Field, expanding their production capacity with the able assistance of Mac's Haflinger draft horses, Captain and Eva.



Working with Anthony has definitely stimulated our interest in nutrition. This is reflected in all our educational efforts, from the Agriculture seminar to the Outdoor Lesson, our program for local public-school students, now in its seventh year. Each class in the Outdoor Lesson includes tasting a food – cider in the fall, fresh milk in the winter, maple sap in early spring, honey in late spring – after having a direct experience of that food's source: pressing apples, tending cows, tapping maple trees, observing the honeybees. Pfeiffer Center environmental educator Carol Avery is working with Anthony to develop cooking classes for children that will give them a direct experience of closing the loop from field to table.

We never would have made it this far without the consistent support from small and large donors who fortunately never tire of supporting us by writing checks and attending our workshops. Many not-for-profits complain about “donor fatigue.” Our support is consistent, but there are always more new ideas to develop, more people who need scholarships, and more work needed to get the word out. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will be able to help us again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Day". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and the last name "Day" clearly distinguishable.

Bill Day  
Development Coordinator

PS: One last thing that's new in 2009: the Pfeiffer Center's website, [www.pfeiffercenter.org](http://www.pfeiffercenter.org). Visit regularly for current information about courses and workshops, pictures of life in the garden, and useful practical information, like driving directions and lodging information. While you're there, don't forget to join our email list!