A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

Co-Founders Emigdio Ballon, and Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray are working together to increase the capacity of Four Bridges

Dear Four Bridges Members & Supporters,

This summer has been a very prosperous one for our organization. We completed the construction of our greenhouse funded in part by the USDA, NRCS in May. Our Sacred Gardens flourished with beautiful medicinal, food, and seed crops. We are especially blessed by the beautiful Hopi Blue Corn that we harvested. As a result of our successful gardens, we have participated in several farmers’ markets this summer, selling various crops and value added products. This is one more step in our quest to become a sustainable organization.

Our Educational Farm was selected by filmmaker Taggart Seigel, producer of “Queen of the Sun,” for his new project “Seed.” The crew spent a day at our farm filming various aspects of harvesting and seed saving. The film will be complete in about a year.

We were also blessed to have a visit with Oscar Olivera of Cochabamba, Bolivia. His work with water rights in Bolivia is legendary. We brought him to New Mexico for a week to be a keynote speaker at our Traditional Agriculture & Sustainable Living Conference, and to tour various schools and organizations in Northern New Mexico.

We will be working hard during the winter months to plan more infrastructure, and secure more funding to continue to build a successful organization. We thank everyone who has supported our efforts.

Emigdio Ballon
Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray

Our Executive Director can be heard on Native America Calling in an interview with Oscar Olivera. Check it out on their website; www.nv1.org, or on their Facebook page.

Four Bridges Traveling Permaculture Institute, P.O. Box 787, Santa Cruz, NM 87567, www.4bridges.org, email fourbridges@live.com, cell 518-332-3156

In this issue...

- News From the Farm
- Sacred Garden Project
- Fundraising Efforts
- Visit with Oscar Olivera
- Eco-Tourism/Service Learning
- Traditional Agriculture & Sustainable Living Conference
What’s Happening Now

Projects in Progress
What We Plan for This Quarter

NEWS FROM THE FARM

We experienced an amazing growing season this year. We produced over 500 lbs., 10 different varieties of heirloom tomatoes, 500 lbs. of apricots, 300 lbs. of pears, 20 lbs. of plums, 30 lbs. of Hopi blue corn, 50 lbs. of pumpkins, 30 lbs. of chile and peppers, 20 lbs. of cilantro, 30 lbs. of beets, 30 lbs. of cucumbers, 20 lbs. of melons, 30 lbs. of Oneida tobacco and 60 lbs. of basil. We sold these products in three farmers’ markets throughout the season. We also created value added products such as jam, and canned tomatoes.

A VISIT FROM OSCAR OLIVERA

In conjunction with our annual conference, Four Bridges was honored to host Oscar Olivera leader of the struggle for water rights in Cochabamba, Bolivia, known as “The Water Wars.” For a week prior to the conference he shared his message with the people of New Mexico. We arranged presentations at Camino de Paz Montessori School & Farm, Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute, Santa Fe School of Art & Design, Earth Care, United World College, University of New Mexico, and members of the New Mexico Acequia Association in the South Valley and in Santa Cruz. He also appeared on the Native America Calling radio show “Native in the Spotlight.” We were honored to have him tour our educational farm in Santa Cruz where he observed our Acequia irrigation system, Sacred Gardens, goat herd, chicken & turkey flocks, greenhouse, and all of our beautiful crops.

GOAT RAFFLE!

Support our fundraiser to continue our programs in South America. Tickets are $2.00 each, or 3 for $5.00. The two goats are brothers, one buckling, and one wether, and will be awarded as one prize in order to keep these companions together.

Many Thanks to our funders & supporters:

Coonridge Organic Goat Cheese
Earth Care
Galeria Santa Cruz y el Espresso
Honor the Earth
Kalliopeia Foundation
Tides Foundation
USDA, NRCS
…and many anonymous donors!
Our 7th Annual Traditional Agriculture & Sustainable Living Conference was held on October 12th and 13th on the campus of Northern New Mexico College, in Espanola, New Mexico. We organize this annual event with partners, Pueblo of Tesuque, and Northern New Mexico College Sostenga Program.

Our speakers included Oscar Olivera, mycologist Paul Stamets, seed saver Rowen White, and native actor/producer Gary Farmer. The event also included panel discussions on water, women in agriculture, innovations in sustainable living, the importance of cultural preservation, and a youth panel run by Santa Fe Indian School, and Camino de Paz Montessori School and Farm.


We offered several workshops including a discussion of “Sacred Gardens,” by our President and Program Manager, Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray, a workshop in Goat Management by our friend and mentor Nancy Coonridge of Coonridge Organic Goat Farm, and Building Solar Ovens with the Earthwise Learning Center. Clayton Brascoupe of the Traditional Native American Farmers’ Association also demonstrated seed cleaning techniques, Elke Duerr of the Web of Life Foundation shared information about endangered animals in New Mexico, and Kamala Easton, PhD offered Spiritual Intuitive Readings.

This year’s event focused on activism and empowering people to take action regarding GMO’s the integrity of their food supply, and the health of our environment. At the close of the conference organizers and participants vowed to meet quarterly in the coming year to put into action all of the ideas shared this two day fellowship. We are already developing plans to support the Chile Summit, an event with La Montanita Coop and University of New Mexico, and the Chile Cook-off in Espanola.

We urge everyone to get involved. Share your ideas for other events, and their focus. We are willing to collaborate with existing events, as well as organizing community meetings to discuss important issues regarding the health and nutrition of our communities in the State of New Mexico. Email us your suggestions and ideas at fourbridges@live.com. We will also add a community Forum page to our website check it out later this month at www.4bridges.org.
TOUR THE ANCIENT LAND OF THE INCAS
Sponsored by Four Bridges Traveling Permaculture Institute, GAIA Permacultura, Allyus Ecologicos, & Buda Traslasierra

Tour begins January 15th – 22nd 2012 in Lima, Peru with a bus ride to Cusco, ancient capital of the Incas. Participants will take part in permaculture projects, Eco-yoga, traditional foods & medicines in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Second leg of the trip is a bus ride through Bolivia to GAIA Permacultura, and Buda Traslasierra in central Argentina for additional training in permaculture & natural healing January 23rd to 30th. Cost of the trip is $1,200 and includes ground travel, accommodations, guide, course materials and training certificate. Cost of travel to and from South America not included (passports and visas required.)

Join us for 10 Magical Days in the mystical land of the Incas, and beyond!

Experience the breathtaking beauty of the Andes Mountains, Lake Titicaca, and much more. Tour Peru, Bolivia & Argentina with experts in the culture and life of the traditional inhabitants of these lands. Daily eco-yoga, massage therapy, and traditional healing methods. Hands on permaculture experiences.

English, Spanish, & Quechua speaking tour guides.

Four Bridges Traveling Permaculture Institute
P.O. Box 787
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

DONATE!
Funding for international programs is difficult to find. We are doing some grassroots campaigning to raise funds for our international programs in South America, and Africa. To donate please visit our website at www.4bridges.org and select the program you wish to support.