A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

Co-Founders Emigdio Ballon, and Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray are working together to increase the capacity of Four Bridges and work towards a more sustainable organization.

Dear Four Bridges Members & Supporters,

Spring is here, and although most farm activities were put on hold during the cold months, we did not remain idle. We spent the last three months of “down time” fundraising, networking, and developing our Service Learning Projects. Our first trip to Peru, Bolivia and Argentina was an educational experience for all participants, including us as the organizers. You will hear more about this experience on page 3 of this newsletter.

Besides the trip to South America, we also spent time speaking at various events, and becoming involved in the “Idle No More” movement that is spreading its message of indigenous and non-indigenous sovereignty around the world.

Now we are busy planting seedlings in our newly built greenhouse which was completed last May. We already have close to 5,000 seedlings planted. We are happy to have this structure which enables us to get a head start on the growing season to make us more competitive in the farmers’ markets. We are also working on building relationships with various businesses in the area to sell our crops in order to move towards a more sustainable organization.

We have started this season out strong with several group work parties, and many individuals visiting and volunteering at our educational farm in Santa Cruz. The farm is already looking beautiful with the spring clean up!

Emigdio Ballon
Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray

Help support the construction of important infrastructure on our educational farm in Santa Cruz, New Mexico. We will be building dorms for interns and international students this summer. Please support our many fundraisers listed on the back of this newsletter!
What’s Happening Now
Projects in Progress
What We Plan for This Quarter

NEWS FROM THE FARM

We are off to an amazing start this spring, putting our newly built greenhouse to work for us. We already have over 5,000 seedlings planted including 800 Brandywine tomatoes, 300 cucumbers, 450 cilantro, 450 Swiss chard, 450 spinach, 600 cilantro and many other seedlings. We will also be installing our formal irrigation system this month funded by USDA, NRCS.

STUDENT VISITS THIS SPRING

We have been so fortunate this spring to receive two visits from service learning groups at our educational farm in Santa Cruz, New Mexico. The first group of 12 students from University of California at Santa Cruz, camped overnight in our greenhouse, and worked the following day preparing our sacred gardens for spring planting, mixing potting soil, planting in our greenhouse and sharing a wonderful New Mexican style dinner with our crew and other community members.

The second group was organized by VIA International and brought students from St. Thomas College in Minnesota for a day to continue the work in our greenhouse, clean seeds, install fencing and other very important chores on the farm. We also shared a New Mexican style lunch with this group, our crew and other community members.

These two major visits have sparked interest by other visitors and community members to volunteer on the farm. Things are shaping up, and we are so grateful for the support we have received so far this year.

Welcome to our new Boardmember!
We are pleased to welcome Oscar Olivera of Cochabamba, Bolivia as our new Boardmember, along with David Groenfelt, of the Water Culture Institute, and Lauren Mapp, Youth Boardmember from San Diego State University, this completes our 3 member Board of Directors.

Many Thanks to our funders & supporters;
Coonridge Organic Goat Cheese
VIA International
Lannan Foundation
Honor the Earth
Kalliopeia Foundation
Tides Foundation
USDA, NRCS
…and many anonymous donors!

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!
https://www.facebook.com/fourbridges.travelingpermacultureinstitute?ref=tn_tnmn
Service Learning Trip to South America

Our first ever service learning trip was a 15 day, 3 country trip through Peru, Bolivia and Argentina in January. We had the pleasure to travel the entire trip with Percy and Louise Schmeiser, canola farmers from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan who found themselves fighting against the Monsanto giant after their canola fields were contaminated with GMO terminator seeds from a neighboring farm.

We visited the Sacred Valley of the Inca’s in Peru, participated in the National Day of Indigenous People in La Paz, Bolivia, exchanged information and ideas with Oscar Olivera and organizers of Fundacion Abril in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and presented at a Conference and Workshops at Ecovilla GAIA in Navarro, Argentina. A full account of our trip can be found on our website.

Future trips will be 10 day, 1 country tours to allow for more in depth work and cultural exchange in communities in great need of our support and services.

8th Annual Traditional Agriculture & Sustainable Living Conference

Our 8th Annual Traditional Agriculture & Sustainable Living Conference will be on October 25th and 26th at Northern New Mexico College, in Espanola, NM, once again with Pueblo of Tesuque, and Sostenga.

Speakers are still being confirmed, but we are in contact with Vandana Shiva, Greg Cajete, and other well known presenters. We will also have panel discussions and our annual “Sustainability Showcase” which will include a preview of “Seed,” produced by Taggart Seigel and featuring a segment on our Executive Director, Emigdio Ballon with scenes filmed at our educational farm in Santa Cruz, New Mexico.

Workshops will include “The Art of Activism – Proven Strategies by Indigenous People,” by our President and Program Manager, Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray, and a workshop in Goat Management by our friend and mentor Nancy Coonridge of Coonridge Organic Goat Farm. For developing details please visit our website.

Come join us at our educational farm in Santa Cruz, NM for a moon ceremony during the lunar eclipse from 7 to 9 pm. Bring a dish that is round or white like the moon. RSVP 518-332-3156.
SERVICE LEARNING TRIPS FOR 2013
Sponsored by Four Bridges Traveling Permaculture Institute, Ecovilla GAIA, Allyus Ecologicos, Jathe, & Fundacion Abril

In 2013 we are organizing four different service learning trips each 10 days long. These trips will be to Lima, Peru with a bus ride to Cusco, ancient capital of the Incas, La Paz, Bolivia, with a bus tour to Cochabamba, Hawaii, and Eco-villa GAIA in Navarro, Argentina. Participants will take part in permaculture projects, Eco-yoga, traditional foods & medicines, natural healing and much more. Dates and cost of each trip varies and includes ground travel, accommodations, guide, course materials and training certificate. Cost of travel to and from each location not included (passports and visas may be required.)

Join us for 10 days of service learning that will change your life forever!

Experience the breathtaking beauty, interact with local indigenous communities. Tour 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 where appropriate.

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 work in South America, and Africa. We currently have a goat raffle for a 2 month old buckling, and a 50/50 raffle in which the winner is awarded half the money raised. Tickets are $2.00 each, 12 for $5.00 or an arm’s length for $20. Also check out our Indiegogo campaign at; http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/youth-leadership-development-eagle-to-condor/x/890630. To donate for a specific program, please visit our website at www.4bridges.org and select the program you wish to support.