

*Phax return  
To Shewey*

*depression P 32*

# MAIZE

A LESBIAN COUNTRY MAGAZINE

FALL 96



Tamarack

MAIZE NUMBER 51 FALL 96

*MAIZE IS BY AND FOR LESBIANS*

MAIZE invites Lesbians to contribute articles, interviews, letters, comments, news of Lesbians on the land. Cassette taped interviews, discussions, articles, are accepted for transcription. (Please limit to 30 minutes tape-time; this is more than 5 Maize pages.) Editing on any piece will be done only in cooperation with the author.

MAIZE invites Lesbians to contribute photos and illustrations. Photos may be black and white or color. Photos with good contrast print best. Illustrations need to be black pen on white paper. If you wish to have your work returned, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please note if the work you send has been submitted or printed elsewhere. Please include a biographical note.

Regular features include: "On The Land" (news from Lesbian lands), "Lez Try This..." (handy tips for country life), "Dyke Well-Being" (stories of self-healing; what works?), "Land LESY" (Lesbian Economic System listing of offerings and requests), "Country Connections" (listing of Dyke lands). Letters to the editor may be published in full or in part, unless specified "not for publication". Names will be used unless you request your name withheld, as well as state of residence.

The contents of MAIZE do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the editor. Discussion is encouraged. Editor: Lee

MAIZE will run free announcements of particular interest to country Lesbians and free classified ads by Lesbians especially for country Lesbians. Display ads: \$10 (4½h x 3½w)

This issue typed and laid out by Lee at Outland.

Thanks to Jae Haggard and Suewillow for taping and for mailing help!

Printed by Presto Print, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
on recycled paper with soybean ink

All material copyright by author.

Cover art: Tamarack, The Web, Minnesota

Back cover: Jennifer Weston, Gathering Root, Missouri

Send material for #52 by November 1, 96

#53 by February 1, 97

Subscription rate: \$12 for 4 issues, published quarterly

Available on tape, \$12 for 4 issues

# MAIZE

P.O. BOX 130

SERAFINA, NM 87569

# CONTENTS

|                           |                                   |    |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|
| AN EVENING MEAL           | Mary Frances                      | 4  |
| TROPICAL GARDENING        | F. Louise                         | 5  |
| ROOM TO GROW              | Tamarack                          | 8  |
| ON THE LAND               |                                   |    |
| WOMAN'S WORLD             | Shewolf                           | 9  |
| UMUA                      | Raewyn and Cilbey                 | 10 |
| SBAMUH                    | Mary                              | 11 |
| WOMEN'S PEACELAND         |                                   | 11 |
| TRAVEL TRAILER...         | Debby Earthdaughter               | 13 |
| INVITE THE BIRDS TO TEA   | Jeanine A. Normand                | 17 |
| ONE THING I'VE LEARNED... | Susan Wiseheart                   | 18 |
| OTTERS                    | Dawn Susun                        | 20 |
| BAROMETRIC                | Hawk Madrone                      | 21 |
| DOING SEVENTY             | Jean Mountaingrove                | 22 |
| WOMOON OF MY DREAMS       | Maria Christina Moroles DeColores | 23 |
| LAND ACQUISITION GIGS     | Sacha Marini and Carol Igoe       | 24 |
| COMMUNITY HEALING         | Elizabeth Skyhawk                 | 28 |
| RAW FOOD CHANGING THINGS? | Katharine Alder                   | 30 |
| DYKE WELL-BEING           |                                   | 32 |
| LETTERS                   |                                   | 34 |
| LESBIAN CELEBRATION       | Barbara Ester                     | 35 |
| LESBIAN NATURAL RESOURCES |                                   | 36 |
| LEZ TRY THIS...           |                                   | 38 |
| LAND LESY                 |                                   | 39 |
| COUNTRY CONNECTIONS       |                                   | 43 |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS             |                                   | 46 |

# ILLUSTRATIONS

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Tamarack             | cover         |
| zana                 | 3             |
| Aviva Schmuckler     | 4             |
| maryanne             | 6,7           |
| Jae Haggard          | 9,10,12       |
| Debbie Earthdaughter | 15,16         |
| Kitt Redwing         | 18,19,35      |
| Dawn Susun           | 20            |
| Kiwani               | 26            |
| Becky Bee            | 29            |
| Jean Mountaingrove   | 31            |
| Birch Land           | 33,47         |
| Jennifer Weston      | 37,back cover |
| Barbara Lavenda      | 42            |
| Madelaine Zadik      | 44            |



zana  
etz t'enah; arizona

## LEZZIE LAND CRIP

# AN EVENING MEAL

Mary Frances  
Camp Mary  
New Hampshire

It's 9 p.m., way past the proper time for an evening meal. But then, I'm way past being a proper cripple. I've been sick since last night and without a personal assistant today to help take the edge off of living with disease and disability. My assistance dog, as well as the pets that I live with are gathered round my bed, anxious at my level of illness and hungry for their own evening meal. It is their trusting need that moves me to rise with promises of supper after I nourish myself. This itself enough to alarm sensitive four leggeds as they are most often fed before the humans in residence.

I am too tired to put Lucy!'s working harness and collar on, but wonderous beast puts herself into working mode anyways. Out we go to the early summer garden to thin out the seedlings for use as sprouts in my omelet. I take one last look at the overabundance of corn, cabbage, lettuce and the like, and thin out enough for healing additions for a couple of meals. The meal once prepared makes me happy. Bread made by my bread machine, eggs from a P.A.'s chicken, strawberries from the store in town, and mint tea from the outside pots. I still feel sick, but my spirit feels some peace, and I am awed at this garden I can actually work from my chair. This garden which every seed fat disabled me planted. A joy that has eluded me for ten years now...

The big spring project at Camp Mary this year was the raised bed gardens. And I do mean raised. I had set aside an outrageous sum of money to build traditional type raised bed gardens. It all seemed a bit ridiculous to me when I was reminded by my friend Claudia to look around the land and see just what I got. What I had was a rescued hadn't been lake worthy for years boat, lots of milk crates, a winter downed tree, a banged up car door, two not working rescued wringer washers and numerous refrigerators in various states of not functioning apartness. This along

with 10 yards of medium screen loam were occupying a good portion of my offically one quarter but probably one half acre of land.

All of the above now contains greenening growing greatness of various gardens. The first task was moving, painting and filling the boat, first with broken glass from the shattered sliding door, then bagged leaves from the year before, covering that was all the winter compost, and finally a good portion of loam. My beloved dog Sheeba, who had died in January became the base of the 3 sided wooded "precious baby herb garden". From that, garden sides made of milk crates, stacked two high extended to make an L. The top crate was filled with dirt as was the area between the milk crate wall and the car door-tree-screen house wall. Logs of various heights stood on end fill in the remaining holes. The rollway between the two gardens is packed dirt with refrigerator doors on top. Artistically decorated of course. Throughout Camp Mary you will find squash growing out of wringer washers, and cucumbers sprouting out of old washer, stove, and kitchen appliance parts. All at wheelie height and such a fine delight.

...Creating a place for this food to grow, tending to the needs of the plants, watering the greenery with the same water used to wash my clothes, marveling at blossoms turned fruit, eating what one has nurtured...what a wonderful Lezzie land cripple dream come true.



Lucy! & Mary Frances tending the "boat" garden. Photo by Aviva Schmuckler

# TROPICAL GARDENING

F.Louise  
Something Special  
Miami, Florida

*Part two of a tape transcribed by Jae,  
edited by Lee.*

We live on a lot 50' across and 150' deep. We've been making an effort over the last few years to get rid of all our grass and put in more gardens. In the process of doing cosmic and organic gardening, one of the things we've learned over the last 15 years here is that we didn't have to have a lot of space, but space that was willing to yield good and healthy vegetables. By really going gung ho on composting--recreating our own fertilizer through compost--it's really showing off this year.

The front garden is maybe 5'x5'. We have in the front garden right now collard greens, mustard greens, tomatoes, radish, eggplant. When this is all finished, which should be by the end of the month (April), we're going to turn the front garden into a total eggplant patch, since eggplant loves the heat, and see if we can take that through the summer. If that happens we'll be having eggplant in every imaginable way--baba ganoush, steamed eggplant, stewed eggplant, fricasseed eggplant, fried eggplant, sauteed eggplant, eggplant, eggplant! We love it.

The collard greens we're going to transplant to the back garden because it's cooler in the back. We're creating another 5'x5' space and we're transplanting in that all collard greens and we've just planted some okra. I think the okra will probably yield for us before we close for the summer. We'll be closing Something Special and leaving here in July.

Also in the front we have tomatoes. Almost every year that we've gardened one of the biggest expenses we have in the garden is the acquisition of tomato seeds. About 4 years ago there were volunteer tomatoes coming up everywhere. We just watched all the volunteers grow and we had such a humongous yield of tomatoes that year, it was unbelievable. All kinds of tomatoes: plum tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, the big big tomatoes. This year we decided to create a tomato mound out front. We composted the mound to see what tomatoes

would come up. Well, I'll have you know tomatoes came up and do we have tomatoes. In addition to that some women gave us some tomato plants, so we planted those in the mound also. It seems we have a perennial tomato mound out front, not only in the mound, but all over. I'm so glad because we went recently to the stores and tomatoes were going for \$9 for 5#. We're serving tomatoes out of our garden right now at Something Special and are they delicious! I should go buy a commercial tomato?

We're going to leave the tomato mound to see how much yield we get. They grow well with eggplant since they're in the same family. So we're going to disperse some eggplant among the tomatoes to see what happens. Oh, we have some strawberries out front too. This is the second time we made an attempt to grow organically grown strawberries and this time we got berries. We only have 5 plants, we like to have odd numbers. All five have berries. We've eaten approximately 3 berries from each plant, but by the end of this month we'll have a bigger yield cuz they have quite a few berries on them now. We're looking forward to that.

We like to experiment each year with something new and something different, especially along the herb line. We have a plethora of herbs growing in this yard. The women who lived here long before we got here must have been intensely interested in herbs. Many of the herbs that grow in this yard that appear to be just ordinary plants, as I've studied them and watched them, I'm discovering more and more that they are medicinal plants as well as some of them being culinary plants.

In the yard we have growing basil, oregano, rosemary, thyme, sage, purple basil. We have tropical (or Cuban) oregano--the best way I can describe this plant is the leaves are about twice the size of a thumbnail, they're very succulent, and they're green leaves bordered in white. For culinary use, it's excellent, stronger than ordinary oregano, so I use it lightly. We have Mexican cilantro, different from what some folks know as cilantro in the form of Italian parsley.

This cilantro almost feels like she's a cactus on the edge, little spines on the edge of the leaf. It's a broad-leafed plant, grows very well in this part of the country only during the cooler months, not during the summer. We have cayenne pepper, Thai pepper, and lemon grass. We have a plant we call the snake plant here because of the length of the leaf and the striations on the leaf--that grows wild in the yard here. This makes excellent fiber for clothing so one year I'm going to experiment with flapping it off. I was told all I had to do was pull it up and keep flapping it until it becomes fibrous and go from there. I'm going to play with it a bit and see what happens.

We have what the folks from the island call fever grass. Folks from the far east use it for cooking and it's called lemon grass. In the islands you use it to quell a fever. It tastes just like lemon. You use it as a medicinal tea. Also this year we learned how to cook with it, how to make coconut soup with lemon grass in it and it's really very good.

We have palma de cristo(?)--we call it palma de christina--looks like the palm of a hand, a big palm. The berries from it are used to make castor oil. However the leaf itself is used for female trouble like swollen uterus or dropped uterus or any gynecological kinds of things. The leaf is used externally.

We have something called tree of life. It's an interesting plant, used for lots of things. The folks in the Islands use it mainly for feet problems. They gently squeeze the leaf, put it in the sole of the shoe, and then you put your feet in the shoes. This works wonders for feet problems, external or internal. We didn't plant that, she was here when we got here.

We've got some night-blooming jasmine that Maryanne likes. They call it here latrine jasmine because it's usually planted around outhouses to keep the odor down, ya know. The odor just wafts in and out of the house whenever the breeze goes by.

There's a plant considered a weed by a lot of folks that's called Spanish needle and it's also known as little white daisies. The plant can grow as high as maybe a foot or two. The flowers are white with a little yellow head in



maryanne

the middle. They look just like a daisy. They're called Spanish needle because of the seeds which look just like little needles. The leaves taste just like spinach if you get the plant before she flowers. She is delicious.

Periwinkle grows wild here--they are growing like mad right now, white and purple periwinkles all over the yard. Periwinkle is good for gum and tooth ailments. Blue vervain also grows wild.

There's a plant that grows on the fence, everybody's fence, it's a runner called serri-seed(?). We take it in the spring, we make a tea from it, a cleansing tea. It's known by a lot of the indigenous peoples from this part of the world. It's not the most pleasant taste, but it works.

On growing tropical root crops: we grew malinga about 4 years ago. My ignorance and inexperience with malinga almost cost me my life. I didn't find out til later that this is one plant that must be harvested young. When the plant becomes older, the plant is highly poisonous. So on growing malinga I am not an expert. However it is a delicious vegetable. Pick it maybe from someone who knows what they're doing!

Yucca grows well here. It's a delicious root crop, easy to grow, easy to identify, very easy to harvest and you don't have to worry about being poisoned.

Carrots are yummy sweet--not as big and juicy as the ones from California, but good. We have had success with turnip

leaf, but the roots are getting attacked by something-or-others and the roots start to rot. Beets, same thing. I don't know if it's something our soil is lacking or something that we're lacking.

We have fruit trees growing too. We have avocados that are organically grown and they are beautiful. The mango tree is in full bloom and the bees are out there like crazy. We used to have a huge mango tree in the back yard, but the hurricane four years ago cut the tree in half, and it was just perfect because the tree needed to be pruned. Now she's doing wonderful. She's loaded with blooms. Seems it's going to be a bumper crop of mangoes in Miami this year.

One of the things that grows here also is key lime. It's a small lime; when she ripens she turns bright yellow. I just discovered a key lime tree in the yard. We've been here for 15 years and would you believe we just discovered this tree. I've been nurturing this tree into fruiting; now she has little flowers all over her.

Are you familiar with the aki(?) tree? She's a tropical tree, down Jamaica way. We planted this tree when we originally came and she has fruits on her. Fruit is considered very poisonous til they turn bright red on the tree and break open and then the inside of the fruit is edible. The fruit is usually steamed and served over rice.

The fruit from the split-leaf philodendron tree is edible and delicious. We have a split-leaf who's just now bringing fruit forward and she's been in the yard for a good 10 years.

Barbados cherries are just now coming into ripeness(spring). They're something I've always eaten from a child growing up here, something I was used to eating as a wild fruit. And the palmetto berries are coming in. About summer time they'll be good and ripe and ready to eat. There's just so much! We're growing bananas also. This is the first year we've gotten bananas and we've got the nicest little cluster out there.

Remember this lot we live on is 50x 150. We make an effort to use as much of the yard for gardens as we possibly can. We sincerely believe that a garden can appear anywhere on earth whether it's in

a little box in a window or whether it's a small plot outside of a window or whether it's on a large piece of land outside of a window. The joy of growing a garden is watching things grow, keeping one's mind focused on a particular thing or task or space. Gardening has strengthened many of my emotional, spiritual and physical weaknesses and I think it probably happens to every Lesbian who decides to garden. She finds she goes to a place she had never thought of going to in her psyche when she gardens.



maryanne  
*Something Special*

As I become more attuned to cosmic gardening and gardening with the sabbats, the cross-quarter days and the quarter days, and the lunar cosmic days, I've found such an incredible peace of mind that I never expected I would find. I've been doing this for 25 years and it seems that each day is a new day, it's a new joy. Walking out and seeing things in the garden that I didn't plant. I feel very proud sometimes, very arrogant, to say I grew this and I grew that, but in reality, we don't grow anything but maybe a little hair and some nails.

I'm making an effort, every time I talk to a Lesbian I encourage her and so does Maryanne, to grow a garden whether, again, it's a windowsill garden, a garbage can garden, but grow something, whatever, just grow it. In a little pot or a big pot, just the experience of watching something grow, you can exchange yourself with that something and imagine you're the one who's doing the growing. And that's a pretty darned good feeling.

# ROOM TO GROW

Tamarack  
The Web  
Minnesota

It was a long, cold spring and so we seeded the Rootpatch heavily, to make sure there would be full rows. The plants came up, and it was time to thin, if they were to have a chance to grow. It's hard to thin roots--every plant could be a parsnip, beet, carrot, turnip, rutabaga.

*When I came out as a dyke, I found my way to the dyke community, and discovered that there are a whole lot of dykes--I look for the ones who will become true and long lasting friends, the ones who want to do something together, to make change happen. At first it's hard to tell. With everyone I meet, I see potential.*

How to begin. Lots of weeds have sprung up--some of them I figure I should leave where they are. There is room for Lamb's Quarters and Amaranth inbetween the rows. If I take out everything but what we've seeded, wild greens would be lost. And if I leave some milkweed, butterflies and hummingbirds will come. But then, there are a lot of weeds that will only take, give nothing. They crowd the seedlings, dominate the bed, leave no room for the Roots to grow. Maybe with a season as compost they'll be different.

*How to do this. Inbetween the dykes I have grown to cherish, I have come across alot of selfish ones who take for themselves, regardless of the effect on anyone else around. I'm learning that there are surprizes. Goodness can be found where I don't expect it, coming not only in familiar form, sometimes in the wildest companions. But I've also had to learn that there are many in the community who pose as helpful while they take what they can get and do alot of damage.*

And so I weed first. Once the takers are sorted out I have a better idea of what there is. And there are still many growing too close together. If they stay this way, they won't have enough room.

They will be squeezed, they won't be able to stretch, they'll push against each other, they won't be able to spread their roots, they'll become entangled, they won't have room to grow. Or they will grow partly but not well, not fully.

*I choose more and more carefully what to do with my time, who to be near, how near, how closely to mingle my roots, how much air I need to breathe, how to take enough time to myself. Physical space to move about. Enough room to stretch, move, run, dance, reach for the sky, take time to look around. Enough time to know how I am. Enough time to untangle my thoughts, let them grow. Enough time for room to spread out my roots, to reach my potential.*

There is enough room to spread out most of the little plants. It's time. The roots have already grown. I move as many as I can, carefully untangling their roots. I spread them out, filling inbetween the rows. I leave as many as I can, undisturbed. I imagine what size they could be, to give each one enough room. It seems at first to be more room than they need. I envision the future to prepare for what is possible. This all takes a long time. I make alot of decisions--I relax into it. I take time to bring them water.

*I relax into my time to myself. I try not to limit myself by taking too little time. I give myself longer than I thought I'd need. I envision the future. I remember everything I want to do. I know that if I take this time on my own to grow, I will be able to do what I want to do, within this community of others who have found themselves room to grow.*

Since then, the Roots have spread out. It has rained, time has passed and they have grown. They are happy with the change.

*Since then I have spread my roots even deeper into this land. Everyday that I take the time, I learn more from the earth. I'm surrounded by strong landykes doing the same, some real close by, some further away. It sure makes for a great harvest.*



# ON THE LAND

## WOMAN'S WORLD

### LOUISIANA

#### The Traveling Crew Plan

Woman's World is forming a training program for women crews to travel to lands doing construction projects on small shelters. The idea is to train a crew *to work together in harmony* and to learn basic construction-skill *teaching techniques* for working with land groups. Local lands, in each state, often have the woman power and some expertise but need additional guidance and construction training, to do a complete project. We would furnish supervision and get the project underway and train the local group to duplicate the tasks for additional shelters in the future. The traveling crew will be all volunteer, with some cash to the crew leaders IF the land can do so, and we are working on that! Pennies, on the dollar amounts, they would make if out in the world doing this work. Their rewards will be mostly in helping other women learn to *build structures and community!*

I may be putting together a training group in May '97. I am seeking instructors and we should know the details sometime in September. If you have time to travel in Oct., we may be able to meet with you briefly for some previews at Woman's World; that is tentative now! Let me know if you are interested, that could be a weekend affair. I am interested in four levels of skills for this project. 1) Beginners and intermediates with any basic woodworking and tool handling knowledge, and a willingness to listen and learn. 2) Competent carpenters, electricians, and plumbers with any skill or knowledge in solar electricity construction, basic wiring, stick framing or tool experience. 3) Experienced builders who can lead crews, but do not want to instruct, and 4) Skilled carpenters, electricians and solar and composting experts, who can, or are willing to learn how to, instruct other women in small groups.

*To be considered for this project, write to Shewolf at Woman's World, POBox 655, Madisonville LA 70447. SASE, Please.*

Write details about yourself and what



Tamarack

Photo by Jae Haggard

you want to have happen in your life during the coming year. How much time can you devote to this and what do you plan to accomplish with it in the future? We need to know you, in order to fit everyone into carefully designed training crews. If you want to come for the major training program here and travel with the crew, say so. If you can work only on projects on weekends or holidays in your area, let us know that; both are feasible. We will be training a crew here, probably in May '97 to work together, and then work with women at other lands on their projects, so we are seeking women for both situations.

We need to know if you have any personal tools, construction skills, tent or camper, transportation, outdoor living skills, experience, animals, travel companions, special food needs, special health problems, health insurance, interests in socializing with lesbians, smoke, drink, do drugs, like to go to bars, play pool, like to cook, want major or minor leadership roles of any kind, and anything else you can offer about yourself that would help me to know who you are and how to give you what you are looking for in the confines of the training program. After your information arrives, I will let you know how things are going. I think it will happen and we will have a wonderful productive time; however, we will have to see how things go for now.

Blessed Be,  
Shewolf



Sorren

Photo by Jae Haggard

## UMUA

AOTEAROA  
COLONISATION

Kia ora koutou, ko uha mouha anake.

Yeah it's us again. Going on again, about that again. But we figure we will write about this because if no dyke does then every other dyke might just think everything is okay, that no dyke is complaining and carrying on. We write because of the article in the last MAIZE about Safia. We have seen nothing in any local lesbian newsletters about what is happening on that land, so it must not be for the local lesbian community. This country is not Europe's retirement or holiday home and it is a pity that it's treated that way. In this case it's like some lesbians are treating the world like their own personal supermarket, like it's all on sale, all available for the right price and is not connected to any other lesbian, has no past/no future apart from their own wants. We are not willing to support this happening here, or anywhere.

In these islands in the pacific lesbians have been trying to get stolen land returned for over 150 years, other places

it's much longer. Ignoring that these struggles are happening does not make them non-existent, it means ignoring the lives of the lesbians it's happening to. We want to know why lesbians are being like this and why they think it's okay. A lot of the land stolen in the past few hundred years from lesbians of colour has been stolen by Europeans. They come across another land and take whatever they want, that's how it was and is here. Why are lesbians carrying on the tradition? Yeah, we do complain, we expect a little more from lesbians, a bit of consideration maybe. We don't expect European lesbians to continue setting up colonies in colonised lands, here, or anywhere. And this is just to let everydyke know that...that some lesbians are going to continue to say no. No more taking, no more ignoring, it's got to stop sometime, why not now? We all share this world, we all have our homes here, our special places, our special moments, our different ways. It should be easy to respect other lesbians' homes when we go there, like the list of suggestions in MAIZE for visitors to other lesbians' lands. Maybe this sort of thing can be applied when we are in a land we are not indigenous to. The whole concept of ownership of land has got out of control and has totally separated the lesbian from the land. We don't have to go along with that.

We here enjoyed the last MAIZE, reading about the cosmic garden at Something Special over our winter months gave us ideas for the coming spring. Now winter solstice is over, and we have begun a new year, it won't be long before we are busy in the garden again. There's witch hazel flowering, a few jasmine flowers out, more warmth in the sun already. The mountain to the east of us is erupting again and we've had ash falls here this time, very light ones. The earth is moving around here. We've had a quiet winter, but had a lesbian visitor for an afternoon, so that was a nice surprise. There's been a dry spell of a few weeks and everything's dried out, so we've been wandering around collecting wood, dead branches that are good and dry, and admiring the views of the forests that surround us, all looking bright and green after all the rain. Our forests are evergreen here.

Hope you lesbians are all okay.  
na Raewyn maua ko Cilbey

# SBAMUH

OHIO

The Susan B. Anthony Memorial Unrest Home Board of Directors (required for Ohio Land Trusts, but who are also our greatest support and work force) has decided to borrow a considerable sum of money to complete the house shell and the stacked wood cabin that are no longer being attended to by any resident members. A number of friends and feminists have agreed to loan money on very generous terms and the house is beginning to look not only livable but quite lovely even though it has some major design problems. A swale and French drain will help with the necessary drainage problems, of which we have had an abundance this rainy, rainy spring. We are attempting to find feminist/lesbian renters who might also be interested in joining the community but we must have income to begin repayment of the loans.

The stacked wood cabin will be improved with electric heat and running water and it, too, will be available for rent. The 2 bedroom house is available for \$450 per month and the cabin at \$200. If any Maize readers know of anyone coming to Athens, probably to attend Ohio University, please let them know of these dwellings on wimmin's land. We will gladly give more information if you call 614-448-6424.

Our spring has been especially beautiful with Redbud, Dogwood, and fruit tree blossoms that were spectacular. But the mite plague that has destroyed nearly all our honeybees has us wondering if there will be any fruit at all. We've always taken bees for granted and never before really appreciated their monumental, necessary work. Everything is connected.

Mary, for SBAMUH

POBox 5853, Athens, OH 45701

## WOMEN'S PEACELAND

NEW YORK

Women's Peace Camp Becomes Land Trust!

For the past few years, the Women's Encampment For a Future of Peace and Justice (the Peace Camp) has been going through a major transformation. Despite rumor that we have disappeared or disbanded, we are continuing as a land trust, open to wimmin of peace, called Women's

PeaceLand. We are building an intentional community with political action and retreat at its center, a change which we believe is necessary to create a sustainable and meaningful future for this much-loved place.

The Peace Camp was started in 1983 as the location for a summer-long series of actions protesting nuclear proliferation and militarism in solidarity with the Greenham Common Women's Encampment. The property itself is a 52 acre farm of fields and woods in Romulus, NY (between Seneca and Cayuga lakes). Many thousands of women gathered that summer, with much creativity and righteous indignation, and with as much celebration, harmony and discord as is characteristic of a group of strong and political women. At the end of the summer's series of actions, guerilla theatre, and civil disobedience, some women decided to stay and become a permanent peace presence alongside the Army Depot.

The Peace Camp was open wimmin's land for several years, sustained by the donations of time, materials and money of its many supporters, and by the work of the ever-changing group of women who lived there. It has served as a networking spot for feminists and peace activists, a rare women-only space, a place to go to "re-charge" one's political and psychic batteries, and as a location for ongoing demonstrations. It has been a vital part of local activists' efforts to monitor what goes on in the Army Depot, militarily and ecologically, and to assess the impact on the community. And perhaps most importantly, it has been a grand experiment in trying to learn to live our politics, together in a feminist, non-violent, land-based community.

By 1990, those of us involved with the Peace Camp were seeing a need for change, to "transform or die". As we were nearing the completion of the mortgage payments, we were also seeing the responsibility for maintaining the place falling to an ever-shrinking circle of wimmin. Changing economic conditions resulted in fewer wimmin having the time and resources to live at the Camp, and there were fewer wimmin with the ability to support those who did. Shifting political priorities meant that pacifism and anti-nuke activities were no longer the hot topics. And with the impending closure of the Seneca Army Depot, we realized that

our reason for being there, our identity and purpose, needed to be reassessed and re-visioned.

During 1990 and 1991, meetings were held involving many of the women who'd been involved with the Camp over the years to determine the future of the land. After long debate weighing many options, the decision was made to transform the anarchic and transitory Peace Camp into a women's land trust and intentional participatory community. We hope to take the Women's PeaceLand into the future as a place to continue the experiment, build community, and carry on the teaching and learning of women's wisdom and peace. We are committed to preserving the spirit of the past decade of wimmin's energy and passion. We are also striving to use the lessons of our past years to create a more stable and sustainable community.

The Women's PeaceLand is guided by a core collective of women, many of whom have been involved since 1983 including the current residents. We have completed and filed our new articles of incorporation and bylaws, and are in the process of our application for non-profit status. We are working on the details of how to expand our community, and what the policies will be regarding building new structures on the land. We hope to create a way for wimmin to build and live long-term on the land. As always, we struggle to keep up with the cost of taxes, utilities, and

repairs to existing structures. There are many possibilities for what could happen here. Some of the dreams we have include a pond, a retreat center with accessible and environmentally gentle buildings, a consignment shop for wimmin's crafts, etc.

It seems that many women believe that the Peace Camp simply closed its doors and went away. We would like to spread the word of the transformation of the Peace Camp into its new form, and to invite women to become a part of this new project. Contributions of money, time, resources and/or skills are always needed. Currently, we are particularly seeking help with grantwriting, tax accounting and repair work on-land, as well as keeping up with payment of the land taxes. We are also trying to establish a current membership base of wimmin interested in supporting the Women's PeaceLand. There are three categories of membership: supporting members, lease holders (women who live on the land), and collective members (women who are part of the decision-making body).

Visitors are also welcome to come to Women's PeaceLand. Women and children are welcome to come and camp on the land or sleep in the house (depending on availability of space), and enjoy the beautiful countryside of central New York. There is a modest overnight fee (sliding scale based on income), and women are expected to make arrangements in advance with the current residents. (Please note that accessibility is limited and constantly changing due to weather and ongoing structural work on-land...making it especially important to call ahead of time to find out what things will be like when you plan to visit.) Visitors are encouraged to become supporting members, which involves paying an annual membership fee (also based on income). Exchange of services instead of money is also possible upon arrangement. If you are interested in learning more about this intentional community and the possibility of visiting, living there, or becoming involved in a planning capacity, please contact the current residents at the Women's PeaceLand, 5440 Rte. 96, Box 34, Romulus, NY 14541. 607-869-3801

In Peace and Sisterhood,  
Phoebe, Estelle, Merry, Mary, Grace, Otter, Elliot, Twilight, Maria, Nat, Lynn, Marchelle  
The "Executive" Collective, Women's PeaceLand  
(Press Release)



Cindy & Patsy, Hawk Hill

Jae Haggard

# TRAVEL TRAILER AS ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFER LIVING SPACE

Debby Earthdaughter  
Etz T'enah  
Arizona

## Part 1: Buying and Repairing a Trailer

I live in a 25-year-old travel trailer. It's one of the more affordable ways to live environmentally safer. Housing is such a problem for everyone with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), especially those of us with low income. Travel trailers are relatively inexpensive, compared to other housing options. I purchased my trailer for \$1500 and it was in pretty good shape. If a person has more money, there are better options such as ceramic trailers. Or there are people who gut old trailers and make them all environmentally safer on the inside. But these are beyond the finances of most of us.

Newer trailers and mobile homes are real nightmares for chemically sensitive people because the materials contain so much formaldehyde. With an old trailer, especially one that's been in a hot, dry climate, these materials will have out-gassed. I bought a travel trailer because it was what I could afford. Most of what I am talking about will also apply to mobile homes. A travel trailer is not only cheaper to buy, but also to move and maintain. While a travel trailer can be towed with a full-size pickup truck, a mobile home requires someone with a more powerful truck.

Small space also has advantages because it's cheaper to heat and easier to clean. With fatigue, you want things really simple. Sometimes the small space can be a problem--needing to move something to get to something else. It's difficult to have it be wheelchair accessible. It's hard for me to have people in my space unless they have the same sensitivities. Anything that someone brings in really fills the whole space. Someone with a mobile home has more options because they can keep their sleeping space less affected.

Having a mobile living space has really helped me. I moved several times and it was great to take my living space with me. When I lived in a trailer park, environmental access was not something going on. But being in a trailer still gave me much more ability to influence my environment than being in an apartment with shared walls.

When you consider buying a trailer, be aware that areas often have zoning restrictions on travel trailers and mobile homes. They may not be allowed at all, or there may be restrictions on size and type. This is such a thing about class. Here in the Southwest there's more places they are legal. I know someone trying to get a zoning variance because of disability, claiming it's the only thing she can live in. I don't know the outcome yet.

When I bought my trailer, I didn't know much and lucked into the good and bad of it. When zana looked to buy a mobile home we made a checklist of things to find out. *Set-up:* Mobile homes require tie-downs. These are long stakes that are pounded into the ground and attached to the mobile frame with metal bands. When purchasing a mobile home or arranging for moving it, it is important to find out what services come as part of the fee. Travel trailers don't require tie-downs. But they still need to be blocked properly. When I bought my trailer, it had just been sitting with blocks holding up the tongue (the part that sticks out for towing). I just had someone move it with her pickup truck and set it up that way. Later a friend helped me block it to reduce shaking in the wind. When I moved here, I paid someone who was knowledgeable, and found we had blocked it wrong before. It's important to put the blocks a foot or two away from the trailer edges to reduce stress on the frame. They also put blocks midway on one side for more support. You need a hydraulic jack to block it properly (the built-in jack is fine for temporary blocking under the tongue). While a long level is recommended, I've found

the little torpedo level to work well. If it isn't level, the imbalance may feel annoying. It can also make the doors not open and close properly.

*Skirting:* Mobile homes sometimes require skirting for code. It makes it more energy efficient and helps deter animals. But it can increase mold because of the lack of air circulation. Travel trailers don't come with skirting, but sometimes people make some. My preference has been to let the air circulate. I store some things under the trailer, and that helps keep out neighbors' dogs. Oven racks from an abandoned stove and my ladder also help block remaining spaces.

*Roof:* Old trailers often have roof leaks. I have a flat-roofed trailer. The dome-roofed trailers such as Airstreams have much fewer problems. Anything can leak along a seam, but flat roofs have puddling. If you have the money, I think the more expensive dome-roofed trailers would be better.

I don't know of any really nontoxic ways to patch roofs. With caulk, the silicone is smellier at first, but is less toxic once it dries. DAP isn't as bad initially, but out-gasses more. With patching materials, the black stuff is tar-based. White stuff such as Kool-Seal is less toxic.

When I had money, I paid women to re-roof. I didn't use a professional service for two reasons. I'd rather have money go to dykes. And it can be harder to have someone use different materials when they're very used to one way. In this area, there are places that sell rolled metal roofing for do-it-yourself. You measure your roof and get a huge piece of metal roofing that will come over the edges. The metal does have seams, but they are rolled to be more durable. Typically people put down a layer of styrofoam to even things out under the new roof. This is very toxic. I used Reflectrix instead. This is the foil bubble-pack insulation. We put down a layer over the whole roof, and then stacked some to build up a slight slope to prevent roof puddling. And used Polyken foil tape to hold it in place. Then the new roof goes on, with some sheet metal screws to hold it in place through the top. Then the sides are bent down, and attached to the trailer sides with screws. You also put the drip edging on at the same time. All screws need to be sealed with caulk or Kool patch.

The roof vents need to have holes cut for them in the roofing. So once the roofing is on, they are re-attached, and also need to be sealed around well. I have someone re-seal these places periodically for preventive maintenance.

*Pesticides:* I asked people what they used, but didn't quite trust it. Some people will lie to sell something. But there are many people who don't think about what they use. It's best to be explicit. Some people think pesticides means having an exterminator, and don't think about wasp spray or what they put out for rats or ants. When looking at plumbing or storage places, you can get an idea of what products they are using.

*Mold and mildew:* Some degree of mold and mildew is likely in an old trailer because of leaks. An old trailer is not the ideal environment--it's a matter of doing the best you can with the resources you have. I have the most problem when it's damp. So if it was humid when you looked at the trailer, it might give a better idea. I even wonder about steaming up some water to create humidity.

*Remodeling:* We asked about painting, new carpet, or remodeling. Often people will volunteer this because they think people want it.

*Wiring:* At one point, code allowed aluminum wiring in trailers. It heats up more so there is more fire risk. You could think people have lived in it OK all this time, but most chemically sensitive people use much more electricity because of not being able to use propane. If there is a trailer you want, there is a process called pig-tailing. The real problem is heating at the receptacles and switches, not the whole span of wire. So you replace the aluminum with copper there. It sounded fairly simple when I talked to someone at an electrical supply store. I asked someone at Pima County building codes--apparently this makes it safer, but still not as safe as full copper wiring.

A little circuit tester from a hardware store is handy for testing the outlets. I asked about the wiring, and also removed an outlet cover to see it. Copper is a goldish color, while aluminum is whitish. This is also a chance to see the insulation material. Usually this is fiberglass. The urea foam is more toxic.

Most trailers are either 30 amps like

mine or are 50A. It's a question of whether it's enough power for you. I can't use my heater and toaster oven at the same time. I couldn't tolerate propane so removed that stove and got a hot plate and toaster oven. Munsey makes a large toaster oven that is unpainted on the inside (discount stores).

I find my one space heater is not really enough. I have a ceramic radiant heater. It doesn't have any painted parts. Someone suggested having an oil-filled heater sand-blasted, but I found it leaked then. I also tried the Aztec radiant heater, but had continuing problems with its paint smell. The quartz space heaters can be good once out-gassed.

*Plumbing:* Trailers are not really built for long-term convenience. Much of the plumbing is really hard to get to for repairs. I had to cut out a small section of wall to fix the shower plumbing.

Water inlet pipes are all copper. But now code allows white "drinking water safe" hose. I don't tolerate this. When my wrists were stronger, I found I was able to bend copper pipe just fine and use compression fittings with an ordinary wrench. I got simple instructions from someone at the hardware store.

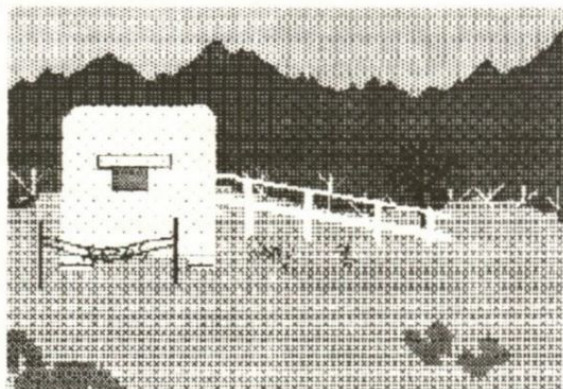
*Floor:* Old linoleum is probably really out-gassed. But it's also more nicked and can start to peel up at the edges, especially where it's gotten wet. When I wanted to use a rolling chair, I put down some sheet metal. This sheet metal is available at large hardware stores. It's great for lots of patching repairs. But it can come up on the edges when used on the floor. For something more permanent, look in the phone book under sheet metal. There are places that will cut metal to your specifications. Sheet metal often has a slight oil coating from cutting that needs washing off. The floor can get really cold in winter. I find machine-washable cotton area rugs handy, but they can be a mobility access problem.

*Wheelchair access/built-ins:* My trailer is called 8 foot wide, but this really means 7 feet on the inside. So even if the door is widened, it's hard to get anything to maneuver in a small space with built-in things. You can remove built-ins, but some cover exposed plumbing and wiring. Some also cover the tops of the wheel wells, which also limit maneuvering space. If you want to remove built-ins, you may need an

unusual screwdriver bit. It's called a clutch-head and is shaped like an hourglass. It is available from trailer supply places and may be difficult to find elsewhere.

Before removing built-in stuff, I'd really think about what you'll replace it with. I find the built-in stuff useful. Almost all of my cupboards are well out-gassed and usable. It would take a lot of money to replace them with environmentally safer cupboards and chairs. Metal screw-in hooks are handy for increasing storage efficiency.

I'd also think about how you are living now versus how you expect to live. When I bought my trailer, I hadn't had a home for a while and it seemed like a lot of space. But I soon found I really needed that storage space. If you do remove built-in stuff, think about saving the out-gassed



Debby Earthdaughter

building materials.

*Locks:* When I got my trailer the locks didn't work. I found I could chain the door when I left, but it was a lot of work. I eventually replaced the locks--they were \$45 each. I got the Bargman L-200. It has a lever on the inside instead of a knob, so it's easier on the wrists. When replacing locks, you have to get ones that fit the existing holws unless you want to cut new ones.

*Underside:* Almost all the bottom of my trailer is covered with sheet metal. I think this helps as a partial barrier to mold and rodents. Some trailers don't have this metal layer--the underside may just be composition board.

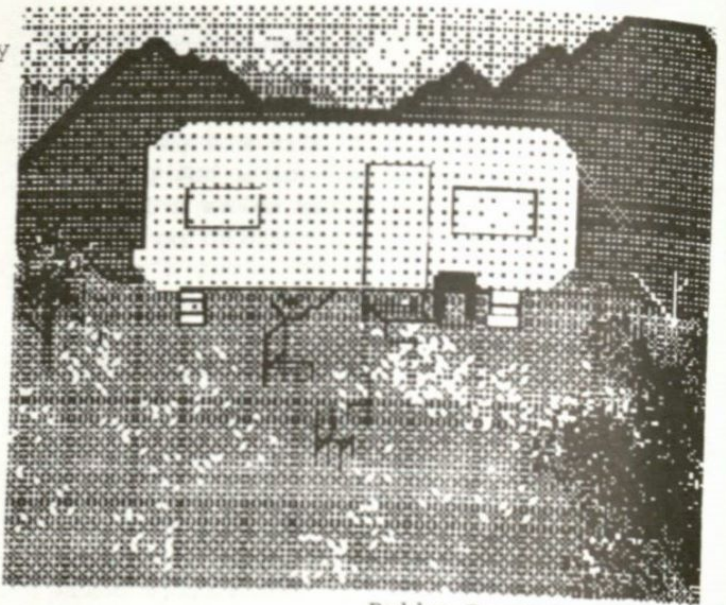
*Tire condition:* Tires might be deflated from sitting a long time, even if this isn't visible. Then you need someone with

an air compressor to pump them up.  
*Solar:* In this area, trailers can get really hot. So it's best to position them with the small sides(front and back) to the east and west to minimize solar gain.

*Ventilation/windows:* Most travel trailers have lots of windows. But notice if a mobile home has enough in good placement for cross-ventilation. Any kind of cooling device can be hard for chemically sensitive people. The roof air conditioner that came with my trailer didn't work. I chose not to get it fixed because it was also not draining properly and caused leaks and mold. So I covered it over. When I reroofed, I had it taken out and the hole covered with sheet metal. My pop-up vents were also broken, so I did the same with them. They are good for letting hot air out, but are often leak sources. My bathroom exhaust fan was broken. I replaced it inexpensively with a small fan clipped to the soapdish.

I got a window air conditioner through voc. rehab. and out-gassed it outside. Trailer windows aren't set up for air conditioners. So I completely removed one window. Then I built a frame with old wood, sturdy enough to hold the AC. Once the AC was in place, I nailed a piece of wood across, to hold it in place like the window sash in a regular window. I used pieces of sheet metal to cover the exposed areas on the outside. And put Reflectrix to give some insulation. I can't tolerate the AC at this point, so I have it covered over. It's still good to have in an emergency--if there was something really toxic outside and windows had to be closed.

My windows don't fit as tight as I would like. I get sick from woodsmoke, so I seal them with Polyken tape for the winter. If the windows don't open and close properly, you probably have to replace the operator. This is the little gear box that turns the rod. They can be quite difficult to get out. Try removing the screws that attach it to the frame, and then work it out by alternately turning the handle to open and close the window. When you buy a replacement, you need to not only check the size, but also the turning radius. If it isn't big enough, windows may open OK, but only close part way. So with the window closed, look at the notch where the operator attaches to the rod. You need a new operator that will turn to this angle.



Debby Earthdaughter

*Property:* Someone in this area made a list of common native and introduced vegetation and rated how allergenic they were. We all have individual sensitivities, but I found this useful. If the land has been farmed, there may be soil contamination. Someone who knows local history may be helpful. You can also learn what the indicators are. In the desert it's more obvious because the vegetation is slow to regrow. Lots of cholla cactus in this area indicates grazing history. This is because the cattle can't eat it so it will replace other edible vegetation. Commercial farming will be a problem if you are downwind.

*Scheduling:* If I plan to make a purchase or an improvement/major repair, I do this in the spring or early summer. My health is better then, but it is also easier to tolerate something newer with the windows open. By fall, it will have out-gassed more and be less toxic. Of course there are emergencies. If I have to get a new hot-plate, I run it outside as long as I can to out-gas it.

*Sources of materials:*

Reflectrix: Real Goods 1-800-762-7325  
(solar/energy efficient cat.)  
many larger hardware stores  
Polyken foil tape: Foust 1-800-225-9549  
(environ-safer products)  
many other foil tapes--  
haven't found less toxic  
Radiant Heater Corp: 1-800-331-6408

Next Time: Part II: Money, Assistance,  
and Land Culture



# INVITE THE BIRDS TO TEA

Jeanine A. Normand  
Decatur, Georgia

The birdbath is a wonderful invention. So why should the birds be the only ones to enjoy a birdbath? Take a birdbath, and put a piece of glass or safety glass as a cover over it, and voila. A birdbath table is not only a unique gift idea, it makes a great table, indoors or out!

I recommend glass or safety glass rather than plastic products for several reasons, including the weight. Safety glass is a composite of two layers of glass with an intermediate layer of clear protective material sandwiched in between to fortify against shattering (shatterproof), and to avoid (but not entirely prevent) breaking. Glass is heavier and will stay in place better.

You may also find the explanation of glass interesting from a metaphysical point of view. Glass is defined as anything from a large class of materials that solidify from the molten state in a very peculiar fashion, that is, without forming crystals. It may be transparent or translucent. *Glass materials are regarded physically as supercooled liquids rather than true solids.* To me, that makes it more aesthetically charming and inspirational.

The symbolism from both the shape and functions of birdbaths resonates deep within our psyches no matter what our cultural influences are. The ancient poet Sappho said that "birds are holes in heaven...we may soar there on their wings." And the birdbaths themselves can represent all kinds of magic and mythical symbolism. For example, to scry is to practice crystal gazing; and in lieu of a crystal ball, water in a shallow bowl serves well. We are reminded of the womb, the baptismal font, the witch's cauldron, the Egyptian Cauldron of Regeneration, the alchemist's kettle, a crucible, a cistern, and a chalice. You can probably think of many other attractive correlations.

It's really fun to put decorative items in the birdbath before you set the glass on it. The items can be seen through the glass top, and you can change the arrange-

ment whenever you want. Here you can let your creative juices flow. For example, you can place charms, assorted feathers, souvenir pieces, or seasonal emblems in it. Offer a tribute to a friend or a relative by putting their pictures and/or mementos in it. This is especially powerful when that loved one has passed on.

For a relatively obvious display, simply add water to it. Then, to elaborate on the theme, place items in the water. Gather sand and shells from the beach; floating miniature birds and ducks; or your personal concoction of treats. Let your imagination be your delightful guide. You'll be surprised at the spectacular results.

For additional flair if you put water in your birdbath table: color it (with food coloring and other coloring agents). You can change the water color with the seasons or on special occasions. Be aware that various coloring can possibly stain the birdbath, which may be desired to give an antique look. However, if you want colored water, but you don't want the stain, you can line the birdbath with a continuous piece of plastic wrap or foil first. The quirky wrinkles in the lining will act to give an extra dimension to the glistening water when light or sunlight hits it. When set up indoors, arrange the table to be near a lamp or under track lighting for an even more dramatic effect.

If you put your birdbath table outdoors, you can assemble a cozy seating area around it, on a terrace or in a secret corner of your garden. You would do well to arrange nearby another birdbath with water--and without a cover--for the birds to gather and enjoy. And by all means, invite them to tea.

*Jeanine: I'm a Southern Lesbian writer, born in New Orleans, hence my VouDou roots. I grew up along the Gulf Coast of Alabama/Florida, on the beach, but nonetheless in a spacious, rural farming and horseback riding county (I hated cities). I'm way differently abled, and very ill. I'm currently translating (from French) and writing a book on the matriarchal roots of the Tarot. I live in a peaceful, rural county within the suburbs of Atlanta.*

# ONE THING I'VE LEARNED SINCE MOVING TO THE COUNTRY



Susan Wiseheart  
Hawk Hill  
Missouri

There are zillions of species of insects and other bugs in the world and a large number of them live in the Ozarks. In warm weather, I must spend a fair amount of time each week dealing with them in one way or another. Sometimes their hum in the air sounds like the motor of a large truck idling. I have driven through clouds of them on a hot summer night, cleaning my windshield with my wipers and spray every few miles. I feel bad that I am killing them but have no option if I want to get home.

I keep bug jars in every room in the house so I can catch and remove whoever comes visiting that day. There are certain times of year when I can not use the computer at night because so many tiny green bugs come through the screen and flock to the monitor that I can not see what I am writing. I worry about them getting into the works of the computer. Beside, they bite.

Just now a wasp glided by my head, not as panicked at being in the house as she was this morning, when she first came in. I've tried to urge her to the door, where I can easily let her out, but so far no luck. Eventually, when she's tired and lights somewhere, I'll get the bug jar, catch her and turn her loose.

I am quite adept at using bug jars from much experience when I was a kid. It was a sport in my neighborhood to catch bees that hovered in swarms in flowering bushes. The small danger (none of us were allergic) of getting stung was part of the thrill. First we begged a clean old mayonnaise or peanut butter jar from whoever was in charge of our kitchen, then we carefully pounded holes in the lid with a nail so the critters would not die while in our captivity.

We were true experts if we were able to catch several at once, both honey and bumble. That meant opening the jar lid with insects already in the jar and not letting them loose. If they did get out, we ran the most risk of a sting. They didn't take well to being contained and were often ready to go after us when they managed to escape. At least, we thought so.

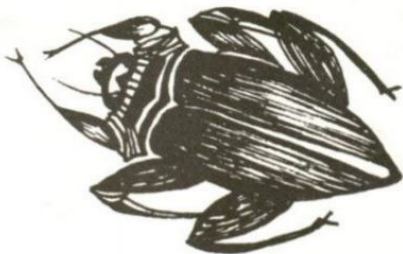
We knew what to do if we were stung and the stinger was left in our skin. We were to go home and let one of the women there tweeze it out. If no stinger, we usually ignored the bite and continued our catching and releasing game.

Yes, we did release them very soon after catching them. The idea was to capture and study, not capture and kill. After we had a few in our jars, we would spend half an hour watching them, admiring the yellow and black fur on the bumblebees, looking closely at how each bee was formed, how they walked around in the jar.

Soon, the excitement would build as the time of release grew immanent and, with caution, we would open the lid. With a quick toss of our wrist, we would throw out the bees. The more fearful of us placed our jars on the ground, unscrewed the lid, lifted it off and sped away breathless with suspense in case the bees chased us. Most often, the bees crawled, a bit bewildered, to the rim and took off, heading back to the flowery bush.

Before I moved here, I was already working on my relationships with the biting and stinging insects: ants, bees, wasps, hornets, mosquitoes, flies, a few beetles. One summer I took a workshop from Amylee at Michigan. During it she gave us a talk about being related to all beings and how the poor mosquito mama was simply trying to get food for her children. After that, I mostly brush them off instead of killing them, even when, on those summer evenings on Beaver

Island, I get into big groups of them. Mostly, when the air is full of them like it gets in Michigan, I spend the mosquito hours inside rather than subjecting myself to bites. At Hawk Hill, a mosquito is rare, so it is not a problem.



Flies and I had been at war for years when I read a book called *Kinship With All Life*, in which the author befriends a house fly. I remember spending an hour a night swatting a hoard that had invaded my friend Barb's one time and I was house and baby-twin-girl sitting. I grew quite good at it, rivaling the Little Tailor who frightened the giant in the fairy tale with her bragging about "Seven at one blow." The whole fly family and I were not on very good terms.

The house flies seem to love me more than others, perhaps because of my chemical makeup, and they buzz me, dart at me, hit against me, bite me, and crawl on me unmercifully. Or maybe it is because they know me as an enemy who more than once has swatted their kind with glee. I work hard to befriend them, to not kill them, but when their population reaches a certain density, I grab for the swatter. I am no longer gleeful, but I feel as if I am defending myself. Hopefully, one day they will leave when I ask them to.

Horseflies on the Island attack me as soon as I arrive and bite the tender parts of my neck below my ears until I bleed. When their population is up, I've taken to wearing a bandana under the elastic of my bill cap, curtaining off that portion of my anatomy for the first few days I am there. It seems to me that with all the insects and maybe even the arachnids (spiders and ticks) with whom I'm acquainted, if there is venom of their species in my system, they are not as interested in me as they were when I was clean of it. That goes for hornets, wasps, bees, and some flies. It doesn't seem to matter to mosquitos and houseflies.

One time in Grand Rapids I disturbed a nest of ground wasps. I knew they can get quite riled and, sure enough, a swarm of them came for me buzzing loudly. I backed away and kept reassuring them out loud I had not meant their nest any danger and would leave them alone. They circled me and darted at me for several minutes but no one stung and, eventually, they flew back to their nest and left me alone. I felt quite pleased with my technique and grew over confident. The next time I (purposefully, this time) disturbed a nest (I was trying to get them to move elsewhere), they came for me with a vengeance and I was stung at least 20 times before I got away.

I think I am one of those people who, over the years, has built up enough venom in my system that it scarcely bothers me anymore, though. It tingles, it hurts, but it goes away fairly soon and often does not even leave a welt. That's with hornets, wasps and bees. I know as a child I once sat on a field of clover in a pair of underpants with holes in them and raced home to Mom with eight stings in my soft little butt. When I was about twelve, I awoke one morning to a pain in my big toe I could not identify until I saw a huge bumblebee fly groggily away from my bed. That time my foot swelled up twice as big as normal and I had to wear only a sock to school because my shoe would not fit.

I have the usual methods of dealing with bites and stings. I clean them, I pull out stingers if any. I smear on green clay if it hurts and is welting. I try not to scratch. My favorite method, though, as with health care, is prevention. I try not to upset the insects. I work to be friends, to admire and respect them. I send them safety messages. I watch where I touch and step during the fall when wasps invade the house. I don't want to frighten one inadvertently, because that is the only time I've been stung in the past. And, I keep trying to love house flies. Maybe someday I will succeed.



Illustrations by Kitt Redwing

# OTTERS

Dawn Susun  
Taigh A'Gharaidh  
Scotland

I stand as still as I can, my breath deliberately slow. Even my feline companion Thistle looks transfixed, perching on the fence post beside me, only the nose twitching. The otter pauses in her feast and looks up, but her fish meal is much too tempting to bother with us.

I had seen her diving in the loch below our cottage. That agile smoothness curving into the water. Taking up my binoculars I quickly traverse the barbed wire fence and hurry down to the edge of the small cliff face that leads to the stony shore, Thistle following. As always I worry that she will slip away before I see her again. But this time she is still there--head bobbing up--then diving down--and not too far away. I can see the details of her face--her whiskers and bold eyes. Next time she surfaces to my amazement she is swimming straight toward me with a pretty big fish held fast in her jaws. I remember reading that if the catch is too big otters will bring it to the shore to eat. I have myself seen otters eating eels out in the water. She clambers out onto the seaweed covered rocks, the water glistening on the deep brown fur. She drops the fish, has a good check around and shakes herself--droplets flying. Her coat divides into a distinct pattern as it starts to dry in the warm sunshine. She is tucking in with relish as I admire her curving form and long tail. The meal over she has a wash, scrupulously cleaning those whiskers and then has a very enjoyable looking roll on her back in the seaweed. Something catches her attention and she starts snuffling in the seaweed and overturning small rocks. Maybe she is hunting for sea urchins which is apparently a favourite food.

Even though her presence so near me has seemed to last eons of time, her decision to leave feels so sudden and quick. She swims off horizontal on the water to start fishing again.



Dawn Susun

Otters have come into this part of the loch a few times in the six years I have lived here. Singly and usually fishing they have come at all times of day and evening. I remember one in the dusk of a late summer evening when all was warm and still, and the loch glowing in the reflection of the sunset pinkish tone. I haven't seen one in here for a couple of years now which may be due to the increase in activity of the salmon fish farm which operates from the harbor here.

Every now and again I walk round to the other side of the village to what I call Otter Point. Usually on my own, sometimes with my partner Fiona and sometimes with a visiting friend. Here no one lives nearby. Sheep are the only large mammals on the land to be seen. I sit and watch--sometimes seeing an otter but more often it is the gulls, oystercatchers, shags and often a passing seal. I do know they are there. Their shit is called 'spraint' and is a soft grey colour, full of bits of shell and bone. It is kind of cigar shaped. If old the shape will have broken down but you can still tell it is spraint. They have dry homes underground called holts and there is a tell tale collection of spraint in front of the entrance.

A friend in the next village also watches otters and takes photos. So we exchange stories--ooing and aahing at particularly close or multiple encounters. She had one sighting of an adult with two young otters, swimming and playing together.

I am always concerned for their safety. As the number of fish farms increases there is the danger of mens' guns even though otters are a protected species.

Seeing these beautiful wild creatures, going about their daily activities, is a joy I never tire of.

# BAROMETRIC

Hawk Madrone  
Fly Away Home  
Oregon

This early morning I squatted to pee beside the woodshed--my first trip outside, made as soon as I dressed and went downstairs. The sky was blue, sparsely dappled with white, the colors of the day cheerful. As I squatted I smelled rain in the air. I had to smile at myself--the sky did not signal rain. There were no grey clouds hovering, no heavy wet messengers of rain. But my nose smelled rain coming, a precursory odor that touched my nostrils and some sense of knowing in me that lay deeper than my eyes' report. Some home-grown epistemology I knew to trust. I have lived here long enough, mixed my bloods (before menopause stopped those cycles), sweat, and pee, and poop (composted) with this soil long enough, been cradled by this fold of the Mother's lap long enough to have learned a few things, and while I peed my water on the Earth this morning I knew before the day was out my urine would be washed by rain.

Sure enough, by late morning the sky had darkened, the day greyed, and a light rain came to kiss away the long dry summer at last. Rain fell in a gentle staccato on the roof all day as I knitted and mended, the house warmed by the woodstove. In the mere passing of a morning the seasons changed: just a few days ago a tired visitor lay naked in the hot sun beside the spent and dried cornstalks in the garden, while others of us sweated as we spread tarploads of leaves for mulch among the young plants in the winter garden beds. Our work testified to our belief in winter, belief in change, our faith that the rains would come, would surely come soon, despite the sun's continued brightness. Two days passed, and I smelled the promise of rain as I squatted near the full woodbin.



Tee Corinne  
Oregon

The weather falls and brings with it the golden leaves of the lilacs and dogwoods; the clouds release the long-awaited drink that will revive the grasses gone brown on the knoll. Yesterday's dusty paths become heavy slick clay again. The wetness darkens the greens of the firs and cedars, polishes the bronze bark of the sinewy madrones, and urges a cautious step on the now-slippery deck. The rain changes the seasons of the land, the body of the goddess, and the rain steals into my body and brings on the jointy ache of Autumn. I will not squat easily when I smell the harbinger of snow.

## DOING SEVENTY

# OUR TRADITIONALLY EXCEPTIONALLY AGREEABLE WRITERS GROUP

Jean Mountaingrove  
Rootworks  
Oregon

When the Southern Oregon Women Writers Group, Gourmet Eating Society and Chorus meets, we observe these traditions:

We start promptly at eleven a.m., except when we're expecting someone who is going to be late.

We end promptly at four, except when we run over.

At the end of our meeting we set the place of our next meeting, except when we set it at our previous meeting.

We meet every three weeks except when no one can make it or the Fall Gathering is that weekend.

We meet on Sunday, except when it is on Christmas Day.

Our potluck is vegetarian except when a newcomer brings a dish with tuna or shrimp.

We begin by introducing ourselves and stating how much time we want to have to read, or sing, or talk, or make announcements.

Someone keeps track of our requests and reminds us if we ask her.

The order in which we read or sing depends on our nervousness, eagerness, timidity, need to leave early, or intuition.

We have lunch at 12:30 except when we go longer or stop earlier.

We have an hour for lunch except when we are short of time to read and therefore stop earlier and eat fast, or talk about our lives so long that we start later.

We make announcements unrelated to writing when we gather after lunch except when we can't wait till then.

We don't have dogs at our meetings except Muphin, or if it is your dog and we are at your house, or if it is your special elderly dog.

We state our wishes for response to our material before we read unless we prefer to ask afterwards.

We do not discuss content except when we can't help it.

We may come late if we have another appointment, lose the directions or if the time changed to Daylight Savings the night before.

We may leave early if we have to go to our job or have another meeting.

We may leave on an errand and return later.

We may lie down in the meeting to rest or take a short nap.

We may listen and respond from the kitchen when we are preparing our potluck dish.

We may knit, sketch, or do our mending during meeting.

We will read recent writings before choosing prior work except when we haven't written anything recently, or have rediscovered a long overlooked gem.

We do not read the work of someone else not present except when we all know and like her.

We share information and suggestions for where our works may be published.

We may bring books, magazines, eggs, garlic, raffle tickets and hand knit socks to sell at lunch or after meeting.

We can stand around the table after meeting is over and eat potluck leftovers except when there is nothing left.

I never miss Writer's Group except when Dyke Art Camp is at Rootworks or I must meet a dear friend at the airport that Sunday, so I missed two consecutive meetings and did not run this by my friendly critics. Therefore, this is all our traditions, agreements, and exceptions except those I forgot.

# WOMOON OF MY DREAMS

Maria Christina Moroles DeColores  
(Sun Hawk)  
Arco Iris  
Ponca, Arkansas

Womoon of my Dreams  
At last  
I have found you

All knowing and beauty  
You turned and  
Glanced at me

Filling me with  
Awe and wonder

I looked into  
Your dark eyes and  
I knew I had found the  
Womoon of my Dreams

Dark hair streaming  
Banner of strength

In your face  
I see

You know  
Who you are

You know  
What you want

You know  
You will have me  
Tonight

So long  
I have searched  
down long  
and winding roads

So many  
Empty faces  
Hollow words

Can it be the  
Journey is over

I see wisdom in Tender eyes  
You looking at me  
Smiling gently  
Happiness showing that  
I have found you

You know my heart  
You know my dreams  
They are mine for you  
And yours for me

So many times  
I ran seeking you out  
Needing your strength  
Your love  
Your tender embrace  
To comfort me

So many times  
Filled with the fear  
I would never  
Find you

Thank this day  
I have found you  
Such joy,  
Heaven only holds

My heart filled with  
Your compassionate beauty  
And enduring patience  
Spilling over with  
All the love of you

Oh, Womoon of my Dreams  
You too, wanted me  
To reach out to you  
To hold you  
In that special way

I know now  
You will walk with me  
All my days  
Patiently awaiting  
My returns

Lamp light lit  
Candle burning  
Anxious to share  
Other parts of  
Yourself with me

You have kindled  
Strength and joy  
Within me  
I have never  
Felt before

I will cherish  
Honor and protect  
You always

Oh, Womoon of my Dreams  
I will never lose  
Sight of you

You hold all  
Truth and Wonder  
I will need  
Or want

For Womoon of my Dreams  
It was only when  
I Truly,  
Faithfully,  
Courageously searched  
That I finally  
Found you there

WITHIN ME

Always awaiting  
My arrival

# LAND ACQUISITION GIGS

## FOR RURAL AUTONOMOUS LAND COLLECTIVES

Sacha Marini and Carol Igoe  
On The Road

OK, so here's the gig. We're in the process of wanting to start up a rural land collective. There are lots of communities already established and reading materials that have information on the different aspects of that kind of living (sustainable technology, subsistence farming, rural living skills, alternative building techniques, infrastructure and rural collective living, legalities, etc.) but we have been finding a serious lack of info on how to *acquire* land, cheap or free, or how to even get started in the first place. So, we went on a trip, visiting about 10 dyke land communities and further investigating cheap land acquisition gigs; state-by-state, county-to-county. We spent most of our time in the southeast (MS, TN), the midwest (WI, MN, IL, MI), and the northwest (WA, OR, CA). And we want to share some of what we have found out to disperse the information to others who are on a similar track. This info can also be useful to folks in urban setting wanting to acquire real estate--housing, commercial buildings, vacant lots, etc.

### Basics to Figure Out

We figure the basics are to decide what region you are drawn to live in (where is the most viable for what you want to do and where you're based), then start focusing in on the different legal/scheme aspects of those states and counties in that region.

First, we spent 4 months travelling around and getting a feel for different parts of the country. We also took a map of the U.S. and crossed off the states that were just right out NOs (for whatever reasons climate, crazy cultural myths of certain regions, etc.). This helped clarify regions that we actually wanted to focus in on, and made it all feel more manageable.

You might want to brainstorm as many questions around land that you want answers to: what are the property, school, road taxes in that region? what are the long-range development plans of each county?

building codes? living costs? local economy? growing season? larger network of radical rural activity in the area? in the closest urban center? etc.... Then find out answers to these questions: ask around, visit or communicate with other collectives in the area, utilize yer library by looking at atlases, phone books of the region (to get an idea of services, employment, goods available), also in the library is a Gales Directory to find local newspapers, look into books that'll talk about different aspects of living in various regions. Order free catalogs and brochures on real estate prices to get an idea of the comparable market. In the back of some magazines (Mother Earth News) there is a real estate section that offers free brochures and info on different regions and states. Another thing you can do is contact local Chamber of Commerce Departments for info on amenities available. We utilized law libraries (usually housed in gov't/county buildings or university libraries) to look up laws in each state. This is helpful to learn about adverse possession, accession, building and zoning codes, taxes, etc. *Martindale-Hubbell* law digests or *Witkin's* are possible sources. Also, using a *Black's Law Dictionary* can help to clarify all the obscure legalese.

### Shit to Think About

So, now you have a sense of where you want to be. Our philosophy is: for every scheme we do know about, there's 4 more we don't know of. The key is to keep asking around. You'll find out more than you ever expected. We'll mainly talk about the various ways to acquire government (and other) auction properties and a little about squatter rights and grants/donations. But first...

*Tips:* These are some hints for if you're going to deal with any of these departments directly. We found face-to-face contact really useful, because we got at least as much info from random workers in random offices as from the "right" folks. The trick here was finding someone who wanted to talk and encouraging them to, that meant showing



interest in what they were saying and gently steering them towards what we wanted to know. We started wearing disguises to look more mainstream that we do in our regular wears. And the help and responses we received were much more forthcoming. Another thing to be aware of is, if you're an outsider in a small county they may just be flat out wary of you. We think in some areas they have their processes for land disposal but they don't utilize it. Mid-Tennessee had that vibe. Schmoozing helped bring the interaction to a level which allowed us to obtain real information. It works to not just be a "client", but to get to a more personal level of exchange. A couple of important things we learned were knowing the right questions and language to use to access the info you want from people. And that finding the right person, as opposed to going to the right offices or as many departments as you can, can be infinitely more useful. Mainly, you want to ask "does your department have a process for the sale of land (real property), or do you know of any other depts. that have a division or process for land sales?" Also ask if they have a mailing or bidder's list you can get on. You won't necessarily be talking with offices that have land sales as their main business.

*Ethics:* Really unless you can get land for free from other rad folks there's no kosher way to go about it. 'Cause all the land has been long since seized by the man and having to pay for it at all sucks. The main option we're talking about here is buying it from an agent or a government office.

If you buy it from a real estate office you're likely giving tons of your resources to some rich guy via a real estate agent who is someone who makes their living off the buying and selling of land, a process which keeps the land in the hands of someone who can afford it (e.g. not ours). Buying a lot of land outright requires a lot of cash and it takes giving it to someone who was probably never entitled to it in the first place. Personally we like this option least especially since there is no way in hell we could ever amass the cash needed and even if we could we still wouldn't want to fork it over to some rich jerk who is holding the land hostage for profit. So, getting the land at government auction. At first we went around

about this one alot. Basically, it's shitty that the government takes people's land but they do and they're not gonna give it back. The question here is: is it shittier to give a rich thief all your resources in order to claim land and further line their pockets which only leads to your own detriment, or to re-seize the land that the government has taken? If

we don't claim this government land then it will inevitably go back to the rich for an enormous profit. What we can do is remove this land from the cycle, thus taking it out of the hands of the system, the more that happens the better. Also, you can find out whose land it is, if it was just another asset in their portfolio or if the owner is dead or something. You can find out whose it was by going to the Registrar of Deeds. If it was someone's who needed it, it would probably be a good idea to talk to them. If they lost it for taxes, maybe you can cut a deal with them (which we can go into more later).

*Auction Process:* Most of these leads are auction sales, so we wanted to address this process. Before an auction, you'll want to go to the registrar of deeds to see if there are any liens, easements, access or other rights on the property. Also, they or the tax assessor will have a county map (plat map) that will actually locate where the property is. Check out the property, talk to the neighbors about it, and talk to the owners, see what their situation is. Try to cut a deal with them before it goes to auction (if that's possible). As part of clearing the title to any auctioned land, you might have to have a quiet title action (a simple suit against all persons, known and unknown, who might have an interest in or claim to the property). Often no one shows up, and you're granted clear title. It seems like it'd be a good idea to go to several auctions, just to get familiar with the process before you actually ever want to bid.

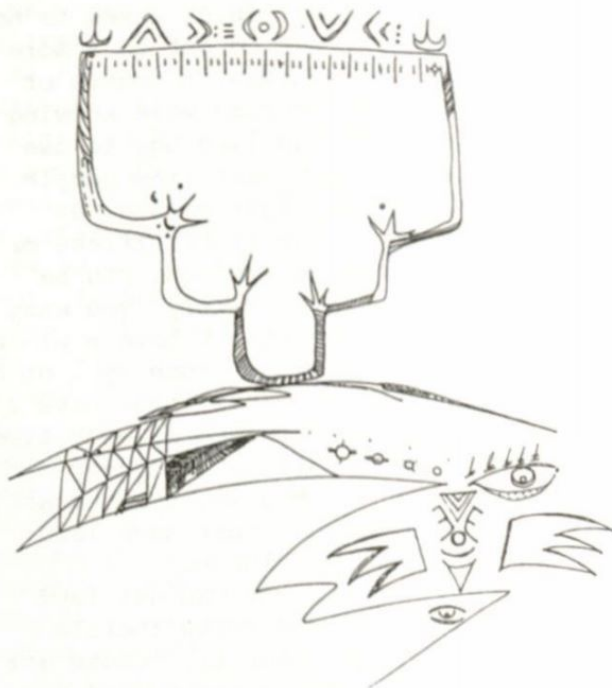
#### Getting Down To It

*County level:* So go to your counties of interest. You can locate the county seats by maps/atlasses--it'll be a small dot within a circle or a small black square next to the town. Or they will just be listed in an atlas, state-by-state. Go there. Or you can try to do some of this investigating through the mail.

Find out about delinquent tax sales, foreclosures, bankruptcy, estate sales, trustee sales, escheated land (owner died and left no will or heirs), divorce action and death notice asset sales. You can find out about these opportunities through the local legal newspaper, on the hallway bulletin boards in the county courthouse/building, local newspaper--in the legal/public/auction notices section, auction companies, finance companies, creditors (bankruptcy), banks (mortgage foreclosures), sheriff dept. (mortgage foreclosures), and just asking around. Find out about lost or unclaimed land through the local assessor. *!for delinquent tax sales:* The county courthouse is where you want to go. Key people that might deal with this are the clerk & master, county clerk, tax assessor, treasurer, or other. If you can't go there, you can write to: County Treasurer of \_\_\_\_\_ County, c/o County Courthouse, City, State, Zip. These sales happen anywhere between every couple months to every few years, it just depends on the county. But often a county will hold an auction at least once a year. They usually advertise it in their local newspaper at least 2 weeks beforehand. Also, ask if you can get on their bidder's list (that'll notify you of the next upcoming auction). This land is always sold at auction, and there's no law that says you can't go directly to the owners and make a deal with them before it goes through that process. The owner usually has a redemption period of 6 mos.-3 years. You actually get a tax certificate which is then turned in for the deed at the end of the redemption period. If the owner does pay up their taxes within that period, you get your money back plus 10% interest. So there's a bit of a risk if you go ahead and make "improvements" on the land before you actually have cleared the title. Any land that wasn't bid on goes onto a list (sometimes called quit claim deed land), and is usually available for just the back taxes (lowest bid). Often the redemption period has completely expired on the property.

*State level:* You can either write or go to these depts. at the state capitol. Two main sources are the State Land Commissioner and State Highway Commissioner: ask them if they have any surplus land for sale, such as tax foreclosed land, unused gov't properties, abandoned estates, leftover highway land, unused school properties, unclaimed

lands, etc. and can you get on the bidder's list? Other departments to contact are Agriculture, Natural Resources, Parks, Recreation, Game and Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, Transportation, Water resources, Sewage, Public Land Division, Board of Education (city level), Bridges, State Highway, State universities, utility companies--phone, gas, electric, and any other agency you can imagine. Sometimes I just go through the gov't pages of the phone book and write down possible numbers. Most depts. either



Kiwani  
British Columbia

have a land division or will have a lead.

*Federal level:* You can contact a lot of these places within the federal building, or the gov't pages of the phone book. Also look for sale listings in the Federal Register (available in many libraries). Some depts are Bureau of Land Management, Veteran's Affairs, Farmer's Home Administration, Small Business Administration, US Marshals Service, IRS, FBI, DEA.

*!General Services Administration (GSA):* They have a bi-monthly listing of all their property sales, called U.S. Real Property Sales List/Consumer Information Center/Pueblo, CO 81009 (free). They also have regional offices that deal with those states in their area. Also ask them to send you a form for How To Obtain Notices of Individual Sales.

*Savings & Loan Crisis:* The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) deals with this property (it's all pretty expensive though). Attn: Real Estate Owned Department/FDIC/ POBox 7549/Newport Beach CA 92658-7549. 800-234-0867

*Squatter Rights:* Like we said earlier, there's law digests and dictionaries in which to gather info. Also, talk to the people in the library, they have free information that you can tap into. The things we found some info on were adverse possession, accession, and a bit of other shit--but I think there's a lot more to be found out here.

*Adverse Possession:* This is legalese for gaining title to land by squatting it. Basically, you can just start occupying a land parcel "in an open, hostile, and continuous" way for so many years (depending on each state), and then acquire title to the deed through a court action, the burden of proof is upon you. You would want to consult a lawyer about the possibility of a judge upholding this law in your favor. These laws were used more back at the turn of the century, but they still exist. The duration of periods of occupancy vary between 3-20 years, and some states have more detailed requirements for acquisition.

*Accession:* This is the right to own property that you annex to land that you already own. So if you owned some land and wanted to acquire adjacent property (that might be absentee owned) then you have a legal means to do so.

*Grants/Donations:* OK, this category is pretty straight up. Become a non-profit corporation or a sponsored project and you are then able to give granters and donors tax write-offs on what they give. A good book is "How to Form a Nonprofit Corporation" by Attorney Anthony Mancuso, published by Nolo Press.

*Research granting organizations* and individual grants that would be interested in your project. Apply for their grants. I only have a couple leads here, so you'll want to explore this process more. Lesbian Natural Resources, POBox 8742/Mpls MN 55408 gives donations to lesbians for land acquisition and rural community development. Mikeco Rehtle, 1127 Fuller Ave #9/ Big Rapids MI 49307-2151 is establishing a foundation to offer grants and no-interest loans to develop community lands. The

Grassroots Economic Organizing Newsletter (GEO), POBox 5065/New Haven CT 06575/ 203-389-6194 includes a "finding funding" column for community lands.

*Ask the donating branch of corporations* to donate land/tools/equipment/money. Target companies that are connected to land/rural living/alternative tech. *Find out absentee land owners in the area:* They could get tax deductions for the value of the land donated. They might be especially interested if they're in a high tax bracket and the land value has increased a lot so that they would have to pay large capital gains taxes if the land were sold.

*Donors might be non-profit organizations* owning land but not using it. I think that it is often in their bylaws that they can only pass on land to another non-profit.

#### Resources

These are some of the contacts that help with the financing/development of community land trusts.

*Fellowship for Intentional Community*, POBox 814-D, Langley WA 98260, 360-221-3064 (developing revolving community loans, other resources).

*School of Living*, R 1, Box 185-A, Cochranville PA 19330 (financing for community land trusts).

*Ozark Regional Land Trust*, 427 S. Main St. Carthage MO 64836, 417-358-4484 (assists and designs comm. land trusts).

*Ozarks Resource Center*, POBox 3, Brixey MO 65618, 417-679-4773 (technical assistance, info on appropriate technology, comm. economic development, self-reliance).

*EF Schumacher Society*, Rt 3, Box 76-A, Great Barrington MA 01230, 413-528-1737 (info on land trusts, self-reliance economics, SHARE program).

*Land Trust Alliance*, 202-638-4725 (computerized data base of resources).

*Institute for Community Economics*, 57 School St, Springfield MA 01105-1331, 413-746-8660 (resource materials, technical assistance for comm. land trusts).

*Trusts for Public Land*, 116 New Montgomery St, SF, CA 94105, 415-495-4014 (shares knowledge of nonprofit land acquisition process).

*Sacha & Carol: Feisty anarchist dyke wimmin in the process of creating a land-based sustainable life. Does anyone have any land to donate? or good grant leads?*

# COMMUNITY HEALING

Elizabeth SkyHawk  
Hawaii

I was just introduced to MAIZE and after reading all your stories I feel so connected, encouraged and inspired. I want to add a story that is happening now to me currently in Molokai. I call it "Community Healing".

I live in the middle of a mountain grassland cow pasture in Molokai, Hawaii, in a woven-limb-fence enclosed grass thatched hut. I grow and forage for most of my food, use rainwater to bathe and water my garden. My home is built of earth materials I find around me: trees, grass, rocks, mud, palm... I live with the wind, rain, sun, moon, stars, trees, centipedes, rats, birds, mosquitos, cattle, horses, deer, pigs, rocks, ants, flies...very little separates me from my neighbors--a tarp roof, woven palm frond walls, no doors, an open east side. It's wild up here and in the presence of all this earthy-ness my body is opening, relaxing, thriving. And I stay very centered on me and the Earth, collecting materials to live every day.

A new kind of communication is happening--one I can't "know" consciously, or predict or even understand until it's well underway. Soul to soul communication, I think I'd call it. The other beings do it so well--I'm still a novice, not because my soul doesn't know how, but because my ego-self still feels anxious if she doesn't know-it-all, do-it-all, be-it-all!

For the last year I've had a cyst on my lower back that began, I "think", as a way to drain toxins from my back. I've stored alot of toxic messages back there, a place I held rigid and erect in my determination to appear that I had-it-all-together, not let anyone know I was hurting or "lacking" in any way. As I've released both my need of this rigid posture emotionally and physically--through massage, pick axing, shoveling, accepting food, help, advice from human friends, carrying loads up the cow path to my home, sitting and investigating my motives and habits--my back muscles and my heart have softened.

A large red area covering about 1/3 of my left side on my back showed up last summer. Slowly it shrank into a small hot place and began to swell and drain, swell and drain. I was determined to let my body handle it--felt like my immune system was so much stronger from all the green I was ingesting and oxygen-rich place I was living.

I wanted to use medicines of the land around me--ginger packs, mud and charcoal compresses, bird pepper and garlic hot sauce in my food. Nori for vitamin C, comfrey to keep my calm and patient. It has been a slow process. My patience wears thin. I give up a lot. I feel embarrassed at the "yucky" looking hole in my back. Face into more fears while continuing to build my new home, outer and inner.

Somewhere along the way I picked up a bacteria, I think, easy to do in this temperate, wet climate. I felt like the physical healing was going on longer than it needed to. I am determined not to use antibiotics as I had a year earlier for a staph infection on my skin. The consequences to my immune system and body's own balance had been too harsh. Gentle, patient, intuition-felt healing is my process of choice.

I took baths in the ocean hoping the salt water would help. The cyst would heal shut, then open...again and again. I continued to ask for help to heal this. Just recently a woman, newly arrived to Molokai, loaned me the two most recent copies of MAIZE. I read each twice, cover to cover, encouraged by so many stories of womyn going back to the Earth, as I was, to discover new ways to live. One article, written by a woman who had visited Hawaii, was about her experience with bacteria infected wounds. She suggested hot compresses and a bee-made medicine called propolis. I was attracted to her article and read it several times. A new idea to try.

A few days later I visited some friends who have an outdoor bathtub that they build a fire under for hot baths. It faces a jungle of trees and is fed by river water.

I hardly ever take hot baths, but that day I was complaining of sore muscles from garden work and Peter suggested I take a hot bath. I did. As I lay in the water, under blue sky and green trees, I said, "I am ready to be done with this healing. I am open to help." I felt my back. The swelling in the cyst had gone down. I continued to put hot compresses on the area. It went down, stopped draining, closed over. I thanked Peter for his "advice" and told him what was happening in my back. And something else had been happening all along the way, that reading the article brought to my consciousness and made me weep with gratitude.

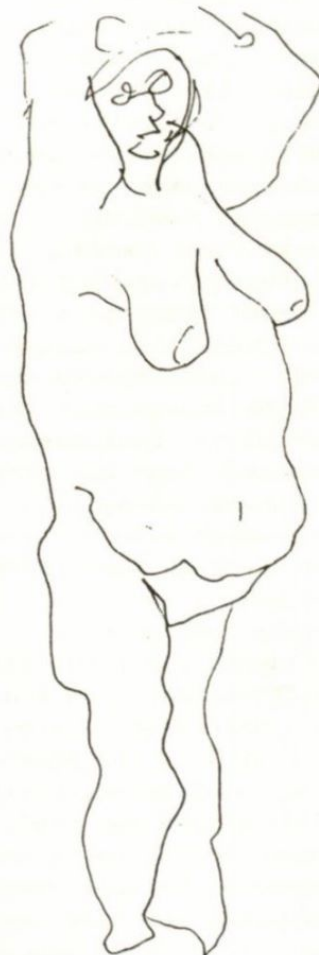
In the past few months I had gotten several bee stings. I almost never get bee stings. I said to a friend, because I believe there is purpose in all happenings and because I know from watching all my animal friends, they never waste energy, that the bee medicine was coming into my body for some reason; "I wonder why I'm attracting all this bee-medicine to me?" Then, this morning I remembered the MAIZE article and the sentence about propolis, a bee-made medicine that kills bacteria. I think my bee friends were giving me shots of bee medicine to help with this healing. They had heard my "call"--when I didn't even know I'd "called"!

Gratitude sweeps over me during this healing experience--both for my willingness to stay open and accept help in all the "packages" it comes to me and for others' willingness to give help. I feel cared for, loved and safe. I see I attract everything I need through my heart calls, my Soul calls, and there is no need to "orchestrate" life in the forceful, willful ways I have.

I'm a beginner at living this Soul-led life, at trusting communication that comes from heart impulses. I still hoard, I still harbor suspicion about people and things that are new to me. My mind gets anxious when it doesn't know what's going on--my ego-self gets impatient with slow results, sitting, waiting and with not being in charge. But in this community of Molokai, with still enough wild earth places left that her rhythm is the dominant rhythm, I can experience this slow, rhythmical, gentle, patient, self-caring, earth-dependent life. I'm getting comfortable with the feminine, coming inside me, taking more and more space as I reluctantly, fear-

fully release my old ways. I'm also seeing that it is the process of life I'm living--not just getting to a goal any old way, but in ways that are kind, fun and growthful for me...maybe not for another Soul on earth, but for me. The question I must keep in the forefront of my mind is, "Is this action/method/thought in line with my values?" Staying in my truth is a moment to moment investigation. My life is a meditation, whether I'm digging a ditch, playing my ukelele, cooking a meal, cutting grass. The more I pay attention to my life, the more essential it becomes for me--and I think, the more my essence shows up... and the deeper I fall in love--with me! I'm becoming my own best friend.

*Elizabeth: I'm including my address with this article because I'd enjoy hearing from earthsisters with stories of transformation. Your stories are my stories and I am encouraged by you being "out there". Elizabeth SkyHawk, POB 870, Kaunakakai HI 96748*



*Becky Bee  
Oregon*

# RAW FOOD CHANGING THINGS?

Katharine Alder  
Gravir  
Scotland

I am very excited about a thing I have been trying, that seems to be turning everything around and upside down, well, the right way up. Perhaps. I don't want to get too excited in case I then get too disappointed. But it's been a few months now. I'm eating mostly raw food. I was heading this way three years ago but then things intervened, including a recurrence of the M.E. (CFIDS) I had. The severity of my illness is not as much as some people with M.E. When I'm really ill I can just about look after myself, though there have been times when I feared I might have to go into care. When I have had the energy I have tried various dietary things: cutting out yeast--no effect for me; cutting out wheat then wheat and other grains--a wonderful three week remission, but then ill again. Last October I got the book *Raw Energy*, by Leslie and Susannah Kenton. It is very het, and includes for instance some references to weight and skin tone etc that I found offensive, but a very enthusiastic book packed with loads of useful and thought provoking information.

This time I tried changing to raw food with a passion. I was quite well so was able to cope with the complete change in habits. I found the change over hard and had to read bits of the book every day to keep myself inspired. And oh it was so exciting. For me it was making lots of connections, well lots of different random ideas that feel to me as though they will fit together to make a whole that I haven't quite grasped yet: less doing of things to the food, altering of the food; less packaging; getting right away from the whole processed food industry (which I see as very damaging to the Earth, quite apart from what it might be doing to our health); in the west we tend to rush our food, but it's difficult to rush the eating of raw food; less fuel used (use of Earth's resources, and in a lot of countries time spent by women gathering fuel); fewer byproducts of

burning fuel (carbon monoxide poisoning a problem in the west, worldwide a massive health problem for women and children from the smoke and gases from the burning of fuel for cooking in confined spaces); good things in the food not destroyed or lessened by the cooking process (perhaps I should have put that one first, though I don't think there is an order, they are all important parts of the puzzle); fewer utensils used--I would like to use as little metal as possible (the mining of rocks for metal feels to me to be a violation of the Earth); the possibility of stopping having periods if in the menstruation part of your life, or of them being much lighter and less painful; the chaotic moodswings particularly associated with my M.E. became much more manageable.

I had an imagining which amused me, that cooking was a male plot enforced thousands of years ago to make women subject--that before that women would have controlled their baby-making potential--if they wanted a child they would eat certain cooked foods for a while (and I fondly believe, then conceive parthenogenetically). And also that the cooking plot was part of a whole greater change enforced by men as part of their domination of nature and femaleness, including the killing of animals and the eating of meat.

For me as I became used to eating raw food I felt there was a spiritual change--a certain quietness, and a being closer to that that was giving me life, a more direct connection with it. Also less urgency about it, less of that feeling of need or lack. I started to eat when I was hungry. It was as though food became at the same time more sacred and less intruding (in the way that the wish for chocolate bars etc can be intrusive). Truly satisfying, rather than the temporary damping down of a craving. I think that we are practically enforced into an addictive way of being, in western consumer society, we are taught to crave, to rush to satisfy that craving, to be living in a state of continual over-stimulation. Eating raw food seems to go right against all of this, it seems to



Jean Mountaingrove  
Rootworks  
Oregon

encourage a satisfaction in just being.

But then in December my Gran died, and other traumatic events followed, and after a few weeks I was back to cooked foods. (For me it is a big issue, what we fall back on in traumatic times, and how we can start to learn not to fall back on things that take us away from the ways we dream of living...) Over the months I pulled myself back together and am now living much more closely to how I want to live, and back to eating mostly raw foods. It's not been long enough yet for me to really tell how it is affecting my health and my spirit. It does seem though from a health point of view, from what I've read in *Raw Energy*, that there are many exciting possibilities of it helping particularly with degenerative diseases, immune system illnesses and with cancers.

In their letter in the Summer MAIZE (no. 50), Mare Wilde and Kittles talk about "Living Foods" as a powerful healing tool, and say that "one of the fundamental causes of our current epidemic of degenerative diseases is malnourishment from

too much processed/cooked food", and talked about an ancient knowledge. I have only read my one het book, and had my first few months of trying a new way. I feel excited at all there may be to learn, and at the possibility that there may be another way here in which we can move away from malestream culture, and towards the nurturing, life sustaining and life honouring lesbian communities of our dreams. I'm off to eat a carrot! (Actually, I'm not too partial to carrots, but they go well with a butter made of peanuts and tigernuts and a little oil and a little water.)

*Katharine: I am a vegan lesbian separatist (39, middle class, white, English, ex-het) and solitary witch, living on my own, but in my ways and in my spirit am a part of the web of intentional lesbian community. Moving to the land 4½ years ago has transformed my life, learning the ways of Earth, Wind, Sea and Heavens, feeling intensely cared for, loved, by She who is all around us.*

# DYKE WELL-BEING

## HERBS AND MORE

Sunlight  
Deep Dish  
California

PLANTAIN is my favorite wild herb. It stops pain, stops bleeding and helps wounds heal. Years ago, I was cutting back a powerful growth of coyote bush. In trying to cut through a particularly thick stem, I caught my hand in the hinge of the hedge shears as I forced them shut. The cut went through my leather gloves and much of my hand. I grabbed some plantain leaves, chewed them up and wrapped them around the wound. It stopped the bleeding and stopped the pain of a gash that might have required several stitches. Plantain is usually right there when you need it too--just chew it and apply as a poultice.

Another time, I had an agonizing toothache, stumbled into a tipi frame in the garden, sat down and cried with the pain. Then, in my head, I heard "plantain." I picked some, chewed it into the tooth, and the pain stopped. Months later, when I went to a dentist, I learned that the tooth was split--the dentist was amazed that I'd been able to live with it so long. In addition to plantain, I'd been meditating and visualizing it well, and although that didn't mend the tooth, apparently it did keep it from hurting.

Visualizing and affirmations have helped my teeth since, and I prefer that to the dentist. When the dental hygienist told me my incisors were wearing down, I said I'd meditate on the enamel regenerating. She said enamel doesn't regenerate. I started an affirmation anyway, telling myself as I brush, "I'm cleaning my teeth, massaging my gums, stimulating the repair of anything that needs it." The next time I had my teeth cleaned--two or three years later--I asked her if she noticed that my incisors were mending. Amazed, she said yes. Later, while she scrubbed away, she asked if I meditate in a group or by myself.

Is there anyone who hasn't yet discovered the magic of ARNICA for bruises? I don't know why it took me so long, but

I first used it a couple of years ago and have many times since with remarkable healing. A hammer fell off the top of a ladder onto my head. (Of course, NEVER leave a hammer on a ladder.) I was afraid it had broken my skull. I sloshed on cold water and ran for arnica gel which I'd just heard highly praised by a dyke on the next land over. Right after I put it on, the pain stopped and the bump began to recede. I've heard that it works well taken orally too. (homeopathically)

I'll add another testimony for ROSEMARY. Soaking old or infected wounds in a strong tea has worked well for me too. Rosemary is Juliette de Bairacli Levy's favorite herb and she is the author of my favorite herb book, *Herbal Handbook for Everyone*. "I use it more than any other plant and I love it most of all. As Johnny Appleseed planted apples, so I plant rosemary wherever I travel." I think that's a great idea; it starts easily from cutting stuck in the ground.

## HYPERICUM !

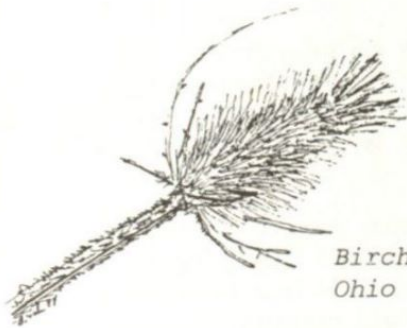
Suewillow  
Outland  
New Mexico

*Hypericum*: St. Joanswort, St. Johnswort  
During a bout with depression I started taking hypericum tincture and infusions alternating with oatstraw infusions. I did this for a few months to nourish my nervous system, then stopped because I had been feeling pretty good.

Then with this last menstrual cycle and my emotional state, I felt the depression coming on again. and I wasn't able to alleviate it til I remembered to drink my hypericum and oatstraw. I made a quart of each infusion and drank them over a day and a half, and talked with friends (which was equally important) and began to feel the darkness lifting and my emotions leveling. Continuing to drink a quart of oatstraw and hypericum alternate days is maintaining my emotional well-being.

Hypericum oil is also good for aching backs, necks, joints, muscles and nerves.





Birch Land  
Ohio

## TOOTHACHE

Suewillow  
Outland  
New Mexico

I found the leaves and flowers of *Spilanthes* to be potent little painkillers for a toothache that was shooting into my ear and cheek. I bit into one of the compact flowers to get the juices flowing and placed it between my cheek and gum by the tooth where the ache originated. Within a minute the *spilanthes* began to numb the area and by 10 minutes the pain was gone. In addition to using the flowers for immediate pain relief, I made a leaf infusion and used it as a mouthwash/gum rinse to help heal the area. I also took echinacea tincture during this time since *spilanthes* is an echinacea synergist.

I have also started using pascalite clay to brush my teeth and strengthen my gums. I don't know if it was an infection or an abscess or what, but I have had gum disease that flares up every now and then and this particular tooth that flares up occasionally and these herbs and clay definitely help the healing. A dental hygienist once recommended brushing problem areas with some bloodroot tincture and that has also helped heal my teeth and gums.

We are growing *spilanthes acmella* here at Outland and after a slow adjustment to this heat she has just taken off. Seeds are available from Seeds of Change (POB 15700 Santa Fe NM 87506-5700) or Horizon Herbs (POB 69, Williams OR 97544-0069) or maybe from Outland in the fall--we'll see!

*Echinacea purpurea* and *augustifolia*:  
immune system boosters.

Bloodroot: *sanguinaria canadensis*:  
poppy family, used as plaque-inhibiting agent in toothpaste, mouthwash and rinses.

Pascalite is a calcium-bentonite clay available from Pascalite Inc. POB 104, 329 Lawson, Worland WY 82401

## MULLEIN FOR HEMMERROIDS

Suewillow  
Outland  
New Mexico

After a very bad case of swollen hems 3 moon cycles ago, I was desperate for some relief. The only thing that helped for days was sitting or lying in the tub. Then I received some mullein oil and salve from Nett and it is actually shrinking these hems which I've had for 25 years! I'm putting on the salve after each bm and whenever else I think of it and the tissue is not engorged or painful and they are shrinking.

Mullein: *verbascum thapsus*: the leaves and flowers are used to make the oil. Mullein oil is available at herb shops.

## HICCUPS

Penny Wilson  
Chicago, Illinois

Reading Suewillow's health column reminded me of one of my uses for masturbating to orgasm--for me it stops hiccups. The key is to breathe slowly and deliberately and to not move for a few minutes right after the orgasm. Perhaps hiccups don't count as a health problem, but they sure can be frustrating when one can't get rid of them!

Lesbians know a lot about our physical and emotional wellness, as well as dis-ease. The Dykes at Outland are gathering stories on any kind of self-healing practice that Dykes do ourselves or with other Dykes, (writing in the "I": "I do..." or "for me..."). Stories will be printed in the Dyke Well-Being section of MAIZE. And, when there are enough stories on any practice or dis-ease, we'll put them together into homemade booklets that'll be given away through Land Lesy in MAIZE. We want our experiences to inspire each other to believe we each can make a difference in our own well-being, even if we are not "cured". Our stories, like our lives, are important.

# LETTERS

Dear MAIZE Readers: July 14, 1996

Rachel Rosen's letter a few issues back really touched me. I too am a Lesbian with environmental illness. For the last few years I've lived in compromised situations: cars, trailers, garages, moving around, struggling to breathe. Most existing housing is toxic to me.

I, like Rachel, want and need to live on land. I'd like to interest other Lesbians in Northern California with E.I. to pool our ideas, resources, and energy and try to get what we need. I'll be writing an LNR grant this year, for a home/retreat for Lesbians with E.I.: a healing place of no smoke, no scents, no chemicals. I realize many of us are way too sick to get deeply involved. It's ok--let's talk, let's share ideas, let's plan. Write to me and I'll call you back.

Terry Kendall

Box 310, Eureka, CA 95502

Dear MAIZE, 20 July 1996

Summer '96--my first issue of MAIZE-- is frayed as it has repeatedly drawn me into a large community of *alive* wimin. As you speak, I see what you're doing and feel your interdependence, integrity and wholeness because you seem so honest about the relationships between your activities, feelings and struggles for community. You seem very REAL to me, like I've begun to meet other wimin with healing gifts, other organic gardeners, herbal wimin, wimin practicing sustainable living and learning from our mistakes, successes and each other.

I'm living through a period of prolonged losses: relationship, farm/home, gardens, animals, lifestyle, father. I've written to some of you as part of my *outreach* search for community and connections, as I move through my internal healing and journey to my self.

Although I don't know who will reply or what your reply will be, I already experience deep, child-like joy as I allow endless visions and create entertaining fantasies, and through them begin to catch glimpses--unlock and release--aspects of *my* real self. Participating in Land Lesy is helping me separate from my

attachment to scarcity.

Thank you all.

Lib(aka Carol Springer)

452 Storrs Rd, Mansfield CT 06250

Visions into Reality: Lesbian Land Reflections and Clothing Project 6/19/96

Lesbian land has stirred my soul and fired my imagination. I started writing, singing, making clothes and thinking about community. I haven't lived on lesbian land since 1979 but it's my first love and that's where my heart is. My daughter is in college and I live communally nearby. When I leave I may live with family, do a dance program, or get an inner city teaching job. I'm not sure when I'll live on land again. I'm not a builder in the literal sense, with cars, buildings and rural skills. My role is to believe in us and hold the focus. A psychic healer says I'm energetically carrying the dream. When one of us hits bottom and can't go on I can offer perspective, encouragement. I can face the worst and hold fast to our values and include people in the circle. My faith in us remains unshaken. That lives in me and we can call on it at will. I don't need to proselytize but I can be available, as needed.

I have an impulse toward community that is about space, sanctuary and exclusively lesbian. I have other impulses to be there for people in a program for the general public to support adults and young people to discover and develop their dreams, potential and purpose in life. Having raised a child into adulthood I understand the kind of personal development that nurtures potential and that many of us didn't get in families. This is as exciting to me as lesbian land. It's my way of creating community.

I don't want my own pet project or personal organization. I want to be part of a team. Lesbian land fails to inspire me as it shows constricting tendencies. I support individual choice. Sometimes it seems we have more infrastructure than cooperation. If we have people going off and doing separate projects it's our responsibility to demonstrate that collaboration is better for everyone. The way we are lowers my morale when we identify as victims, sink into passive resignation and create narrow spaces of control and judgement. What excites me about lesbian

land is the potential for full expression and creating a happy, healthy world of thriving people and projects. The daily grind of criticism, burdens, emotional drain doesn't sustain me. We can have community as a canvas to paint a new reality on and community as a place where whatever we say, do or are, it's never enough.

I've been celibate most of my 43 years, with a few couple relationships. Recently I've had male friends, neighbors and allies. I've been attracted to men. I haven't had a male lover but when I identified as lesbian exclusively that wasn't about sex either. It was where I put my energy and dedication. I find I can be just as attached to male friends, children, colleagues. I could drop sexual preference as an identity or call myself bi-sexual. I'm still celibate and attracted to both genders.

I am not abandoning my lesbian land visions. I think we may be bigger than we thought and our reality can incorporate men and friends outside the community, without losing our integrity. I want to go out into the world now and I take a little part of our culture with me. I'm making clothes so I can always contribute my visions no matter where I am--goddess gowns, ceremonial robes, vibrant colors, sensual textures. I need people to caretake the clothes, like a curator for a museum. Partly this work is about seeing ourselves as creative possibilities in the present. The clothes are free and on long term loan to each land that can manage them. I want this project to help express the aspects of our lives and culture that are about sex, desire, sensual pleasure and erotic play as well as our desire for a better world, creating visions into reality. To caretake clothing for your land, write:

Juana Maria Gonzalez Paz  
138 Twin Oaks Rd, Louisa VA 23093  
540-894-5126

## LESBIAN CELEBRATION

Lesbians of North Utah  
and Barbara Ester

*Barbara: I invited each Lesbian in the workshops to write on a card something they celebrated about being Lesbian. Then I sang their words back to them in call and response. Music! What a great way of sharing and making connections.*

The music...lyrics that described my feelings...time with friends...accepted for who I am...

We all have such diversities, yet are similar in beliefs and values...that flow to a common core...like concentric circles...

My first experience was listening...as gay... a Lesbian finally coming out...breathing with...melting into another strong sensitive loving spirit...her hand on my thigh... luscious tongue all over me...her patience and understanding...skin, soft...power... orgasm...paradigm shift...infinity... intensity...intensity of connection... truthteller...sensuality...spiritual... powerful...emotional...intimacy and connectedness...I am equal to...I am happy...she sings to my soul...

I love wimmin...strength of wimmin... individually and united...community... being with wimmin who share similar feelings... I love how I feel and think when I'm around wimmin...depth of heart and soul...to love a woman...it reaches into the depth of my being...very deep...love...power...wholeness... Lesbians, vulnerable in sensitivity...an honesty...a bond...between wimmin... celebrating Lesbianism...amazing amazon... proud dyke...Lesbian lover...I...am...



Kitt Redwing



# Lesbian Natural Resources

POBox 8742 · Minneapolis MN 55408 -0742

## ***Lesbian Natural Resources***

is a non-profit organization established in 1991 to support Lesbian community land projects. Our purpose is to assist Lesbians in obtaining and maintaining community land, in developing rural skills and self-sufficiency, and in community development for Lesbians of many different abilities, ages, races, classes, and economic backgrounds. Our intention is to support the growth of Lesbian communities which are actively creating Lesbian culture, preserving land-based life skills and rural ecosystems, and discovering non-oppressive ways to live and work together.

## ***Community Programs for Lesbian Land***

Lesbian Natural Resources provides resources for Lesbians on land in a number of ways. We believe that in building community we make it more possible for all of us to live our Lesbian centered lives, sharing what we know and have. We are creating the following resources and invite you to share your resources in these areas:

**Advocacy** This committee will help communities seeking to become non-profits or land trusts to find source material and share documents created by other communities as we invent ourselves.

**Lesbian Land and Community Development Grant Program** We hope to foster resource sharing among Lesbians on land, support the value of community among diverse Lesbians, and nurture the dreams and possibilities for Lesbian Land. Lesbian Natural Resources funds projects on non-profit community-owned land for development, housing and purchase and on both privately and community owned land for accessibility, cottage industry development and community building events. Applications are sent in November and are due in February.

**Rural Roots** This program seeks to connect Dykes who have a rural background but have not lived on land as a Lesbian. Especially focussed on Lesbians in our community who are underrepresented in the land dyke community because of the effects of racism, ageism, classism, and ableism, this program offers a directory, festival workshops, and land visits.

**Apprenticeship** This program will pay the expenses to have an experienced land Lesbian take a Lesbian apprentice for a minimum of three months, teach her rural self-sufficiency and/or rural trade skills, provide for her food and housing, and help her enjoy rural life.

**Skillbank** This committee networks skills that Lesbians have and can teach or support another doing.

**Resource Replay** We recognize the value of materials and the importance to Lesbians on land of reuse. Materials, tools or equipment can be donated for another Lesbian land community to use.

**Dykes Exploring Land** Program to help welcome exploration of existing land communities by lesbians who are interested in land but not yet landed. The programs offers resource materials and general support in making the transition.

**Resource list and Lending library** will compile valued print resources to help land dykes with Lesbian cultural resources, energy efficient and low cost building, farming, land restoration, preservation and management, food and energy systems, composting and appropriate technology. Eventually we will be receiving and circulating book donations.

**Lesbian land archives** to save and document the herstory and culture of Lesbians on land we ask Land dykes to save their flyers, photos, journals and any other materials of interest for an eventual building open to Lesbian research.

**Dyke Summer Camp** for Young Lesbians to have an opportunity to live and work together for a period of time and experience rural living and intensive Lesbian culture.

**Outreach** This program seeks to maintain an awareness of Lesbian land culture in the larger lesbian community through radio announcements and programs, flyers and brochures in Feminist bookstores, and workshops.

**Fundraising** This program encourages dykes to support the community program which reflects and respects their life choices to be land dykes. Donations are accepted in any amount at any time, but especially encouraged is a seasonal pledge program wherein each season change a donation is sent to LNR. Although LNR has a tax-deductible entity, funds are needed for which no tax deduction is made so we can support the work of unincorporated land communities and grassroots organizing.

We are continuously developing new programs to strengthen the community of Lesbians on land and link existing lands and communities. Lesbian land is Lesbian home is Lesbian culture is Lesbian future.

***Lesbian Natural Resources... changing the world an acre at a time.***



*Jennifer Weston  
Gathering Root, Missouri*

# LEZ TRY THIS . . .

## WASHING LIQUID

Take as many cold ashes as will fit into a square piece of cloth (tightly woven). Tie into a bundle with string. Put this package into a bucket and pour boiling hot water over it (two good sized pots full). Cover with a lid or whatever's handy and let stand for at least an hour, better even over night. You will almost immediately smell a slight odor of grandma's washkitchen.

Take out the ashpack and use the clear yellow, now odorfree liquid, only a little diluted to wash your clothes. Works just perfect. We don't have a washing machine so I use the whole bucket of washing liquid on/in one big container of laundry.

The used water can then be poured around fruit trees--it contains a lot of potash. Since ashes are alkaline (and so is the liquid), use the used laundry water and/or ashes around your trees only if your soil is not already alkaline, but either neutral or sour (acid).

Doris  
Terra  
France

## EVERGREEN OILS

Take some pine, fir, juniper, and/or needles from your favorite fragrant evergreen trees. Mash them with a wooden, glass, or ceramic pestle in a wooden, glass, or ceramic bowl. Put the macerated greens into a jar. Pour to cover with olive oil, or other oil like avocado, walnut, apricot, almond, even canola. Use grapeseed oil, the lightest oil, for a nearly no-oil effect (no grease ring, and it's great for massages, too.) Seal and store for a couple or three weeks.

This makes a fragrant, natural bath oil.

Also, apply it directly to your skin for a luxurious and strong healing and protection agent in place of skin cream.

You can even carefully melt some bee's wax (over low heat in a double boiler or *bain marie*) to add to the oil. (In fact, you can make the whole thing from bee's wax and skip the vegetable oil.) This will form a balm when cooled to use for lip protection; and to help heal insect bites, rashes, and minor cuts and scratches.

These evergreen oils prevent loss of moisture through the skin and help heal skin ravaged by exposure to wind, salt water, cold, and sun. They also guard against further chafing from those same conditions. They make a thoughtful gift, as well.

Jeanine A. Normand  
Georgia

## INSECTS

My partner Julie and I are on our third year on our own land and still learning self-sufficiency and what grows best in our rather quirky climate. We both enjoy so much the advice and learning experiences we read in *MAIZE* and put it to good use. I'd like to pass along a good solution for killing soft bodied insects (flies, ants, gnats, etc.). We use Suave shampoo and water solution (about 1 part suave to 4 parts water; stronger for serious pests) in a spritzer or plant sprayer (which can be adjusted to shoot a stream 10 feet if necessary). Not only do we avoid getting pesticide in our environment, but it smells good too! (and cheap).

Teri  
Washington

## MORE INSECTS

To help cut down on the number of *squash bugs* in the garden we gathered leaves and small gourds from the wild vine called *buffalo gourd* that grows profusely alongside dirt roads and railroad tracks here. We have an old blender (just used for this and paper-making), with which we chopped up the leaves and gourds. We added water to make a wash to pour on the squash plants and on the ground around the plants. It seems to have lowered the number of these critters.

This is an old Native American use of this weed we read about in a book on plants of the Southwest Pueblos. Buffalo gourds were used for repelling other insects as well.

Buffalo Gourd: *cucurbita foetidissima*

Suewillow  
Outland; New Mexico

*Handwritten mark*

# LAND LESY

Land LESY (Lesbian Economic System) is a regular MAIZE listing for Dykes on the land or reading MAIZE. LESY includes anything we want to give, offer or pass along to each other, as well as specific things that we need. Everything is Dyke to Dyke, for our personal use (not to sell or give to someone else). (See Maize #41)

LESY is not money-based: no buy/sell, no barter/exchange. No Dyke needs to offer something in order to accept something and visa versa. LESY works when we give what we have to offer (no sacrifice) and when we accept as much as we need or want. We each find our own balance in giving and receiving.

With each response to an offering or request, the Lesbians decide between themselves the details of the transfer-- how, when, how many or how long, who pays for gas and shipping or materials, etc. We will create our Land LESY as we use it. Yes, use it, that's what it's for!

CAROL SPRINGER (Lib), 452 Storrs Rd,  
Mansfield CT 06250 860-423-8699

Offers: \*50/50 blend of washed white mohair and colored (corriedale) wool carded into roving for spinning in 1/2 lb parcels.  
Postage appreciated.

Requests: \*Communication with wimin whose community includes health, healing and personal care for wimin and sustainable agriculture in a rural setting.

TERESA DETERDING, 716 N. Davis, Kirksville  
MO 63501 816-627-2923

Offers: \*Building, gardening, general labor to women within a 2-3 hour drive of NE Missouri (I'm a beginner, but I'm willing to learn)

Requests: \*Dyke penpals, visits from land lesbians.

SUNLIGHT, Deep Dish Ranch, POBox 368,  
Albion CA 95410

Offers: \*4x6 postcards of drawings with short quotes from *BEING*

Requests: \*Suggestions from your experience on ways to channel and use gray water in an area with too low a slope to collect and store the water. Wet winters, dry summers, cool climate. (For plantings I'm trying raspberries)

LORRY BOND (aka Desert Rain), 746 Jenifer St  
Madison WI 53703

Offers: \*My book of poetry/very short stories: *Moongazer's Log: A Disabled Woman's Journey of Discovery*

Requests: \*Suggestions of books about real or imagined wimmin's separatist communities

\*A ride to/from any of your lands.

I'm currently in the city but would love to be in the country. Can't drive or fly due to my disability but want to at least visit you!

\*Suggestions from other disabled dykes on how they made the move/transition to land.

SUSAN D. SMITH, RD 3, Box 880, Port Matilda  
PA 16870

Offers: \*Organically grown catnip, packaged in recycled plastic from bags my dialysis supplies come in (small bags)  
\*Plastic tubing from my dialysis supplies, this tubing would have had only sterile solution in it, no body fluids.

ANNIE THE WEBSTER, (aka Browning), 343 Soquel,  
Ave #312, Santa Cruz CA 95062

Offers: \*600dpi 8 1/2 x 11 laser output from Mac (ASCII or text only) diskettes (send self-addressed 9x12 envelopes w/postage to cover your output)  
\*Excellent editing skills (English grammar, punctuation, etc.)

JJ, c/o EE, POBox 381457, Cambridge MA  
02238-1457

Offers: \*6 XXL, 64 XL, 18 L "Hanes" white cotton t-shirts for a lesbian who will pay for the mailing and won't use toxic dyes or sell the shirts.

LA ESTRILLITA (Little Star), POBox 45384,  
Rio Rancho NM 87184

Offers: \*Tenting *inside* house; listening to the wind; housebuilding (ideas, labor)  
Requests: \*Good company; knowledge of the stars; organizational, carpentry, tile skills

FULL CIRCLE FARM, 604 Silk Hope/Liberty Rd  
Siler City NC 27344

Offers: \*Information/instruction in organic gardening/farming/greenhouse, carpentry, renovation

Requests: \*Work: carpentry, gardening, orchard, general work on the land (experience not necessary)

JUDITH SARA, POBox 278, Montague MA 01351

Offers:\*Dried peppermint, organically grown

\*Instruction/information on firing pottery with sawdust; basic info on handbuilding clay pots and sculpture

Requests:\*Pottery books, tools, supplies, and equipment. I can pay postage.

Please write first if it's heavy.

\*Suggestions for ways to repell mice and ticks from in and around living spaces.

NANCY EVECHILD, 3608 14th Ave So, Minneapolis MN 55407 612-729-5984

Offers:\*A well-respected professional psychic with a practice in Minneapolis since 1988, I offer insightful, useful, in-depth readings by mail on tape for the cost of the tape and postage. Call or write for brochure. Please indicate LESY.

NISSA, W4213 CoRd 360, Daggett MI 49821 906-753-2315

OffersL\*Free advice on homeschooling/hometeaching kids(I'm an ex-teacher)  
\*Information on Menominee Co. MI and Marinette Co. WI, for anyone looking for a place to buy a reasonably priced homestead

\*Possible "apprenticeship": chance to work with sheep & goats, possible formal instruction in creative writing and German language

\*Small flock of chickens, good free-range foragers

Requests:\*Information on raising llamas, alpacas, guanacos or vicunas

\*Fully functioning cream separator

\*Exchange of ideas with other lesbians who want to or have had a baby while living in the country

SOMETHING SPECIAL, 7762 NW 14 Ct, Miami FL 33147

Offers:\*Over 50 1-2 oz. amber glass tincture/oil containers with eye-dropper lids. Clean! \$ for postage appreciated but not necessary

Requests:\*Heat tolerant veg/flower seeds

LIERRE KEITH, 200 King St. Northampton MA 01060

Offers:\*Copies of my novel, *Conditions of War*,

\*My novel *Skyler Gabriel*, a mystery.

Postage is \$1.25 for one, \$1.75 for both

OUTLAND, POBox 130, Serafina NM 87569

We'll pay postage on anything we offer or request.

Offers:\*Any size or style of Red River Menstrual pads(for your own personal use). Write for brochure.

\*Any back issues of MAIZE that we still have copies of

\*Information on building: adobe, round, non-toxic(send specific questions)

\*Organic open-pollinated seeds from our garden(write for list)

\*IMPORTANT PURSUITS, Questions of Value for Radical Dykes(by Lee). A set of 170 cards to stimulate thought and discussion. For Lesbian use only.

\*THE WIMMIN OF OUR DREAMS, by Jae Haggard. Homespun fiction about a Lesbian world. A LandMade Book(150p.)

Requests:\*Organic seeds(not hybrid)

\*Ideas for discouraging gophers in the garden without destroying them

\*Anyone know anything about washing machines? We have questions...

\*Looking for out-of-print books:

*Lesbian Peoples* by Monique Wittig

*Past Present and Future Passions*

by Barbara Ruth

ZANA, MSC 044, HCO 2, Box 6872, Tucson AZ 85735

Offers:\*Book of my poetry and art, *herb woman*, (send 6x9" self-addressed envelope with \$1.24 postage)

\**Journey to Another Life*(past life meditation tape)

Requests:\*hickory nuts

\*butternuts

\*organic dried hibiscus flowers, sassafras roots

SINE ANAHITA, POBox 93, Beaver IA 50031 515-275-4763

Offers:\*Will mentor lesbians interested in keeping goats

\*Information about recycling school bus as living space

\*40 recycled windows and doors

Requests:\*e-mail correspondence with landykes (jjensine@aol.com)



Kitt Redwing



KATHARINE ALDER, 43 Gravir, Isle of Lewis,  
Scotland HS2 9QX

Offers: \*A certain amount of knowledge  
about the Tides, and about the Stars  
and Planets, and the Moon and her phases,  
why they rise and set where they do, and  
how their paths across the sky are how  
they are, and how it's different at diff-  
erent seasons, from different parts of  
Earth, and at different Ages (a 25,000  
year cycle).

\*A diagram showing just what part of  
what constellation is in each thirty  
degree section of the ecliptic band,  
corresponding to each sign of the Zodiac  
(they have all moved round rather since  
being named about two thousand years ago  
so the Zodiac sign does not correspond  
to the constellation with the same name.)

Requests: \*Warm communication with radical  
dykes.

\*Sharing of information and support with  
other dykes who are trying eating mainly  
raw food.

DAWN SUSUN, Taigh A'Gharaidh, 26 Leumrab-  
hagh, Isle of Lewid, HS2 9RD, Scotland

Offers: \*Aromatherapy oils made up per-  
sonally for you. Physical and emotional  
difficulties. How about a lavender,  
juniper, rosemary mix to ease those  
tired aching muscles? Postage negotiable.

\*I have lots of open pollinated lupin  
seeds which are likely to be pink or  
cream or a mix of the two. Also corn  
marigold and what we think is red  
campion--very easy growing and not  
bothered by slugs. Postage paid.

Requests: \*Seeds of osteospermums, red  
basil and lemon basil, woad, vipers  
bugloss, geranium renardii, skullcap--  
either self collected or unused bought  
seeds

\*a drum (no animal skin) I'll pay post.

LESEPS, c/o Barbara & Michi Lavenda, Pf 45,  
A-7400 Oberwart, Austria

Offers: \*13 cards and envelopes of unique  
Lesbian images and Lesbian signs, hand-  
colored with colors from natural pigments.  
Two sizes available: 10,5 x 15 cm, or  
15 x 21 cm. For Lesbians only.

\*Natural wool of sheep for knitting and  
weaving, without any chemicals

\*Organic seeds: Black mallow (beautiful  
black/purple blossoms, used as a tea  
against cough) and french marigold.

BREN YAU, (BacaII), c/o Victoria Studios,  
Nottingham Trent University, Shakespeare  
St, Nottingham, England

Offers: \*Holiday accomodation sharing with  
myself and my young daughter

\*British native and nonnative herb,  
ornamental, tree and veg. seeds.

\*Natural child rearing support

\*taped music

\*mutually supportive and creative  
correspondence with like-minded penpals

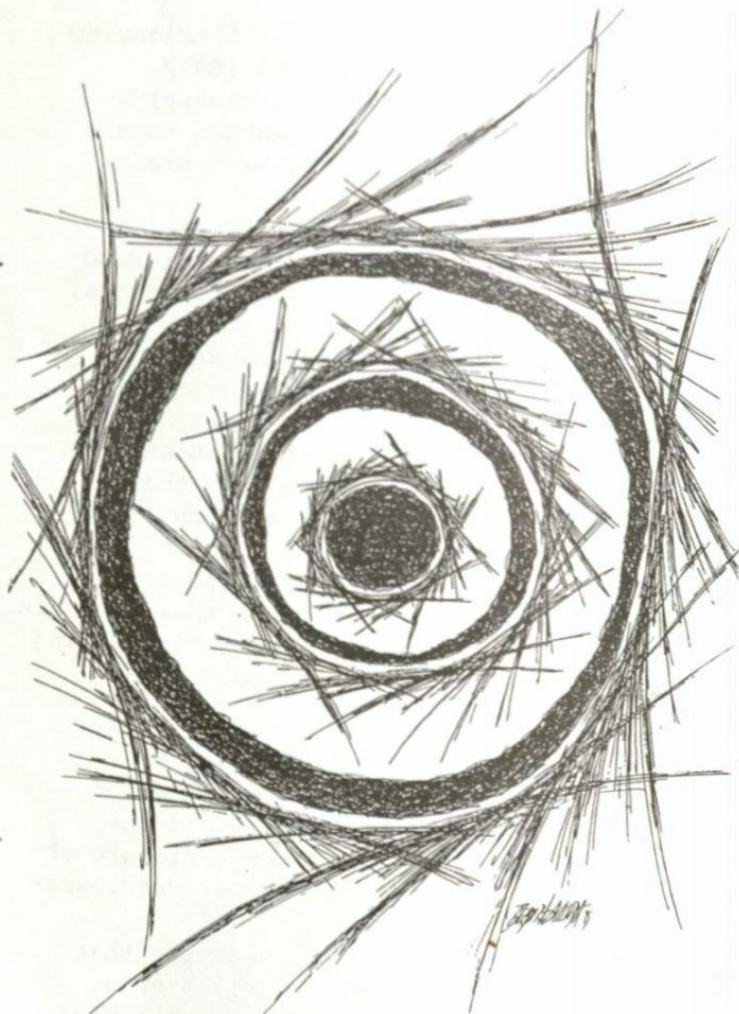
Requests: \*Exchange of ideas, inspiration,  
comtemporary art, and feminist politics  
by letter or e-mail

\*Looking for a child-friendly dyke  
community for a 3 month summer working  
holiday in '96--need help

\*Feminist/Goddess/nature identified  
stories, songs or chants, esp. for  
children, on tape or music sheet with  
lyrics

\*herbal remedies

\*recommendations of children's books (5+)



Lesbian Signs/Signs of Life

Offered by LESEPS

Barbara Lavenda

# COUNTRY CONNECTIONS

AMAZON ACRES, HC66, Box 64A, Witter  
Arkansas 72776

Visitors, primitive camping, 240 acres  
ARCO IRIS, HC70, Box 17, Ponca, Arkansas  
72670-9620

ARF/New Mexico Women's Land Trust,  
POBox 707, Tesuque New Mexico 87574

BOLD MOON, 5780 Plowfield Rd, McLeansville  
North Carolina 27301 910-375-8876  
e-mail: jjensine@aol.com

21 acres near Greensboro NC. Camping  
for dykes who write or call in advance.  
Also womyn's concerts and gatherings,  
write to be on mailing list. Info  
about NC dykelands and local newsletter,  
"Womyn on the Land"; please send SASE.

CABBAGE LANE, POBox 2145, Roseburg, Oregon  
97470

CAMP MARY, POBox 374, Pelham, New Hampshire  
03076. 603-635-3046

A small, integrated access, E.I. safer  
Women's Community that strives to pro-  
vide a rural, waterfront, outdoor ex-  
perience for severely disabled women  
and their friends. We provide anti-  
ableist education and integrative access  
consultation. Visitors are welcome with  
advance confirmed reservations. Cabin,  
tenting, R.V. and gathering space are  
available for a pre-arranged donation.

CAMP SISTER SPIRIT, POBox 12, Overt,  
Mississippi 39464

COVENTREE, Chris of Coventree, Troy, Maine  
04987

Camping, visitors, apprentices,  
community members.

DANCING FISH LODGE, 627 Wisteria Lane,  
Waverly, Tennessee 37185

Seeking co-housing communal living  
commitment from women gardeners,  
musicians, writers and artists. Currently  
a 6000 sqft retreat center on Tennessee  
River and Kentucky Lake, 65 mi west of  
Nashville. Campers and visitors welcome.

DOE FARM/Wisconsin Women's Land Cooperative

Rt 2, Box 150, Norwalk Wisconsin 54648  
Camping, lodging, memberships,  
summer work

FULL CIRCLE FARM, 604 Silkhope-Liberty Rd  
Siler City, North Carolina 27344

919-742-5959  
Visitors, camping, community members,  
work exchange

FULL MOON ENTERPRISES, POBox 416, Hopland  
California 95449 707-744-1648 or 1190  
Cattle ranch, camping  
Womyn's festival in June

GARVESK, An Damhshraith (Dowra), Carrick-  
on-Shannon, Co Leitrim, Republic of  
Ireland

Visitors, campers, any help--  
all very welcome!

HARMONY HILL FARM/Northern Minnesota  
Women's Land Trust, c/o Audrey Freesol,  
POBox 124, Cotton, Minnesota 55724

HIGH DESERT WOMEN'S LAND COMMUNITY,  
POBox 304, Ribera, New Mexico 87560  
Seeking community members and women  
interested in helping build. Camping  
available. Please send SASE.

WEST  
WIND

HOWL/Huntington Open Women's Land,  
POBox 53, Huntington, Vermont 05462  
802-434-DYKE

INTOUCH, Rt 2, Box 1096, Kent's Store,  
Virginia 23084

Camping and events center

KIMBILIO, 6047 TR501, Big Prairie, Ohio  
44611 330-378-2481

Artist residencies

LAUGHING R.O.C.S., POBox 2125, Snowflake  
Arizona 85937

Looking for residents (wimmin & children),  
land partner

LESEPS, Community of Separtist Country-  
Dykes, Pf 45, A-7400, Oberwart, Austria

We offer a room for lesbian visitors  
who are looking for support or want to  
share experiences about self-healing.  
Write for more info.

LUNA CIRCLE FARM, Rtl, Box 126, Gays Mills,  
Wisconsin 54631

Visitors, apprentices

MARSHLAND BASIN, Box 61 Site 1 RR 1,  
Strathmore Alberta T1P 1J6 Canada  
403-934-2043

155 acres, 45 acre lake/wetland con-  
servation project, greenhouse, 30x70  
shop, restored 100 year old house.  
Exploring agricultural business potential.  
Looking for partners, landsitters,  
women visitors, ideas.

MOONSHADOWS, 34901 Tiller Trail Hwy,  
Tiller, Oregon 97484 503-825-3603  
Seeking residents



FRINGED GENTIAN

Madelaine Zadik  
Massachusetts

OUTLAND, POBox 130, Serafina, New Mexico  
87569

Remote Lesbian Spirit Community seeking  
residents committed to self-sufficient  
living based in Lesbian culture and spirit.  
Write for info on becoming a part of  
our intentional community.

OWL FARM/Oregon Women's Land Trust,  
Box 1692, Roseburg, Oregon 97470  
Open land.

OWL HOLLOW, c/o 25650 Vanderburg Lane,  
Arlee, Montana 59821 406-716-3662

PUMPKIN ECOLOGICAL FARM, 605 Morse Rd,  
RR 5, Bridgetown, Nova Scotia B0S 1C0  
Canada

Camping available, apprentice wanted.

RAINBOW'S END, 886 Raven Lane, Roseburg,  
Oregon 97470 673-7649

RAVEN'S HOLLOW, POBox 41, Cazenovia,  
Wisconsin 53924

612-822-4758 or 608-983-2715

Visitors welcome.

RIVERLAND, POBox 156, Beaver, Oregon 97108

Lesbian art retreat, community members,  
write for more info on either.

ROOTWORKS, 2000 King Mountain Trail,  
Sunny Valley, Oregon 97497

Women and girl children, No dogs.

Cabins and camping, \$5/day includes meals.

SILVER CIRCLE SANCTUARY, Rt 5, Box 100,  
Holly Springs, Mississippi 38635

601-564-2715 (6-8pm cst)

One hour from Memphis TN

Camping, visitors, apprentices

SISTER HOMELANDS ON EARTH(SHE),

Box 5285, Tucson, Arizona 85703

Saguaro Sisterland, 12101 W. Calle

Madero, Tucson, Arizona 85743

SKY RANCH, C4, Site 20, RR 2, Burns Lake,

British Columbia V0J 1E0 Canada

Seeking residents. Write for info,

send SASE(Canada) or IRC(USA)

SONORAN DESERT, POBox 544, Tucson, Arizona  
85702 520-682-7557

Visitors welcome.

SPINSTERHAVEN, POBox 718, Fayetteville,  
Arkansas 72702

Our mission is to create and maintain  
nurturing community homes for aging  
women and women with disabilities. Have  
43 acres with one trailer now, goal of  
6-8 residents. Seeking tax-deductible  
donations for environmentally friendly  
development.

SPINSTERVALE, c/o Sunshine Goldstream,  
Box 429, Coomb, British Columbia,  
V0R 1M0 Canada 604-248-8809

Any travelling woman is welcome to stop  
by Spinstervale on Vancouver Island, BC  
We have a few small cabins (\$5/nite/  
person) and camping is always available.  
Work exchange, too, by arrangement.  
Herbs, goats, gardening.

SPIRALAND/Spiral Women's Land Trust,  
HC 72, Box 94A, Monticello, Kentucky  
42633  
Visitors, work exchange

SUSAN B. ANTHONY MEMORIAL UNREST HOME  
WOMEN'S LAND TRUST, POBox 5853, Athens,  
Ohio 45701 614-448-6424  
Seeking community members, visitors,  
campers. Work exchange available.  
House rental.

SWIFTWATERS, Rt 3, Dahlonga, Georgia 30533  
Riverfront campground or bed & breakfast

TERRA, Chateau Gres, Poiseul La Grange,  
21440 St. Seine L'Abbaye, France

TOAD HOLLOW FARM, 605 Ferris Creek Rd,  
Dubre, Kentucky 42731  
Seek Lesbians to share land.

TURTLE ROCK, 1755 Highview Lane, Upper  
Black Eddy, Pennsylvania 18972  
610-982-9012 (10a-9p only please)  
Camping and guest room for womyn travel-  
ing through. Companion animals welcome  
outside only. We love company.

WE'MOON, 37010 SE Snuffin Rd, Estacada,  
Oregon 97023 630-3628  
Wimmin-only rural intentional community  
35 miles SE of Portland OR. Seeking new  
members who are very interested in living  
and participating in the work and play  
of community life. Beautiful land, 52  
acres, large organic garden.

WILD BROWSE FARM, 87 Bullard Pasture,  
Wendell, Massachusetts 01379

WISEHEART FARMS, Box 237, Williamsport,  
Ohio 43164

Seeking community members

WOMANSHARE, POBox 681, Grant's Pass,  
Oregon 97526

Seeking collective members

WOMAN'S WORLD, Shewolf, POBox 655,  
Madisonville, Louisiana 70447

Work exchange for landswomen, builders  
and gardeners to improve rural living  
and construction skills, about 1 hour  
from New Orleans. Developing community  
with land ownership as well as community  
land ownership of women-only space.  
Please try to write for invitation to  
visit and for rural living experiences  
at least two months in advance.

WOMEN FIRST FOUNDATION, POBox 372,  
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01302  
10 acres in New York

WOMEN'S ART COLONY FARM, c/o Kate Millet,  
295 Bowery, NYC, NY 10003  
Summer: writers and artists work exchange  
Spring and fall: Landswomen and builders  
work exchange

WOMEN'S PEACELAND, 5440 Rt 96, Box 34,  
Romulus, New York 14541

Land trust, intentional community.  
Visitors (advance notice), residents,  
members.

WOMLAND, POBox 466, Searsport, Maine 04974

## TIPS FOR VISITORS TO LESBIAN LAND

The visitor calls or writes in advance.  
She includes a SASE if writing she doesn't  
put "lesbian" or "dyke" on a postcard or  
envelope to the land.

She arrives somewhere near when she  
said she would. If she can't find the  
land, she doesn't talk to neighbors about  
the wimmin's land.

She comes prepared to care for herself  
totally, or makes specific arrangements  
with the land.

She doesn't presume anything; she asks  
what is appropriate in the way of food,  
money, pets, phone use, scents, smoking,  
chemical use and anything else that affects  
the wimmin on the land.

She respects the land, leaving every-

thing the way she found it. She takes her  
garbage with her.

She comes willing and ready to enter  
into the life of the land, to pitch in  
on work projects as well as cooking and  
dishes, unless other arrangements have  
been made.

She communicates what she is seeking  
from the wimmin on the land and what she  
has to offer.

She knows that Lesbians on the land  
are not likely to have more resources  
than she--no more time, energy, love,  
strength, money.

She respects the life the land Dykes  
are creating, living as they do during  
the visit.

MAIZE

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHEWOLF'S DIRECTORY OF WIMMIN'S LANDS* is available from Royal T Pub. 2013 Royal St, New Orleans, LA 70116 for \$12 postpaid. 64 pages with 75 lands! 1997-98 edition.

*I WOULD WELCOME CORRESPONDENCE* with other dykes living on the land/who love the earth. Alix, Garvesk, Dowra, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim, Eire (Ireland).

*SINGLE MOM, 14 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER*, looking for someone to share the work, finances and enjoyment found on our 5 acre homestead in west-central Wisconsin. ASAP. Send replies to Homesteader, E7054 240th Ave, Menomonie, WI 54751

*LOOKING FOR* unscented, non-smoking woman to drive my wheelie adapted van and stuff from New England to Southwest mid to end November. Gas, oil and traveling stipend provided. Contact Mary Frances, POBox 374, Pelham NH 03076, 603-635-3046.

*WOMAN WITH DISABILITIES* seeks unscented, non-smoking, reliable, sober woman for chore and task work mid November through December on women's land in Arizona Desert. \$6 per hour plus transportation stipend. 30-40 hours/week. Free camping and use of main house facilities. Jane of all trades type a plus. Contact Mary Frances, POBox 374, Pelham NH 03076, 603-635-3046.

*FORTHCOMING ANTHOLOGY* of works by Lesbian-feminist survivors of ritual cult abuse. For more info write Fern, POBox 381447, Cambridge MA 02238

*THE WOMYN'S GRAPEVINE*, POBox 2233, Roseburg OR 97470. Newsletter for southern Oregon Lesbian Community. Monthly focus on "what's happening". \$15/year or \$8/6 issues.

*WOMYN ON THE LAND NETWORK*, POBox 412, Mcleansville NC 27301. Regional monthly newsletter for country lesbians and wannabes. Articles and events. Focus on southeast US. \$15/year.

*FOR RENT:* In beautiful Missouri Ozarks--very nice furnished upstairs apartment in large old farmhouse, with its own kitchen, living room, bedroom, bathtub, etc. Lots of windows and light, views of woods and garden, peace and quiet. Friendly dyke neighbor downstairs and wonderful local lesbian community. Sharing of large garden, barn, horse pastures, studio, could be arranged. \$200/month includes utilities. Write or call: Jenna Weston, Rt 5, Box 934, Ava, Missouri 65608. 417-683-3610

*SOUTHERN OREGON, HOUSE FOR RENT:* If you are looking for a comfortable 2 bedroom country house on 11 acres, with fruit trees, close to lesbian communities, my house is available. It is located in Sunny Valley 18 miles north of Grants Pass. The rent is \$325/mo. If interested, please call the current tenant 503-479-5306 in Oregon or Marianne in Los Angeles, 310-836-2411. It is a wonderful place!

*FOR SALE:* Half interest in 10 acre homestead in Searsmont, Maine in the beautiful mid-coast area. This land has been Lesbian land for 15 years. There is a 16'x24' home and 2 other livable buildings. There is also a large perennial garden with over 100 varieties of flowers which bloom from May to October. This garden also is a small business which could easily be expanded with time and attention. It's important to me that whoever purchases half interest with me be interested in working the perennials. The house and land are valued at over \$40,000. I'm interested in selling half interest for only \$15,000. Please call for details: 207-342-5069

*RAGING DYKES* is an international newsletter and network for Radical Feminist and Separatist Lesbians. For more information please write to POBox 468, Norwich, Norfolk, NR58ES England.

I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT LESBIAN-OWNED/WOMYN-OWNED BUSINESSES. I'm seeking names and addresses of printers who can do small print runs of post-and-note cards from B/W or color photos. Please write Misty at POBox 127, Ponderosa, NM 87044

**JOB OPENINGS WITH MOTHER TONGUE INK AVAILABLE.** Are you interested in Womyn's Publishing? Living and working on lesbian land? In spiritual community? We'Moon is looking for a few good womyn! Help produce We'Moon: Gaia Rhythms for Womyn, a lunar, astrological datebook and collection of international womyn's art and writing. We are seeking an apprentice we'moonager who's interested in a long term, developing position. MacIntosh Computer (database-FMP and Pagemaker 5.0), organizational, administrative, and creative/publishing experience sought. Be part of the ongoing We'Moon Matrix as well as a member of a spirited intergenerational We'Moon land community. Call Beth or Musawa at 503-630-7848 or write us at Mother Tongue Ink, POBox 1395, Estacada, OR 97023



Birch Land  
Ohio

## FALL GATHERING

**FALL GATHERING OF LAND LESBIANS** at INTOUCH in Virginia is happening October 18-20. Registration was by Sept 15, but if you want to go, contact InTouch, Rt.2, Box 1096, Kent's Store VA 23084, 804-589-6542.

### RIDE SHARE TO THE FALL GATHERING:

\*I will be driving a VW camper van from the Waterville, Maine area for the Fall Gathering in Virginia. I can take one extra womoon. I'd like to leave on Oct.15. Call Rainbow, 207-696-8241 or write, Rainbow, General Delivery, Anson, Maine 04911 ONE WAY ONLY.

\*I may be looking for a ride from Vermont to the Gathering and back or if it doesn't seem like it will happen I'll take my van and can bring a womoon or 2 down and back. Glo, POBox 305, Richmond, Vermont 05477 802-434-3953

\*I'm hoping to come to the gathering from Nova Scotia. I envision taking a bus or ferry to Maine, New Hampshire (Portland, Boston) area & hoping I could hook up with someone near there for the rest of the trip. If anyone has ideas, rides, or info for me please write. I'm a bit hesitant about travelling through the states myself when I don't have any connections! M.Summer Fike, RR5, Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, BOS 1C0 Canada 902-665-5041

\*Dyke living in Massachusetts needs a ride to the gathering or a ride to and from the train or bus station or airport closest to the gathering. If you might be able to do this please write Md c/o E.E. POBox 381457, Cambridge MA 02238. Thanks! I could help pay for gas.

\*I'm interested in carpooling to Virginia from Belfast, Maine or points along the way. Am somewhat flexible on arrival and departure times for the gathering. Best to write Susan, 3840 Town Farm Rd, Frankfort, ME 04438, or can call at neighbor's and leave message (207-223-8871).

PENNY WILSON, POBox 59267, Chicago IL  
60659-0267

I'll pay postage on anything I offer.  
Offers: \*34 peacock feathers; most are in great shape, but a few are damaged.  
\*8 rolls of blue 1/4" wide rayon curling ribbon. Each roll holds 55 feet. Curls up if you pull it taut and run it between your thumb and a knife edge.  
\*Small plastic 6 ounce clean yogurt containers with lids. I must eat a minimum of 2 portions of yogurt a day to be able to digest my other food, so I have lots. Great for freezing single portions of foods.

Requests: \*Pre-1940's light fixtures-- they don't have to work (I can do re-wiring). Write first & I'll pay postage.  
\*Detailed instructions on how to make "wainscotting"--a wooden waist-high inside wall covering. Our dogs keep getting mud ground into the paint.

DEBI SLATKIN, Turtle Rock, 1755 Highview Lane, Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972  
610-982-9012 (10a-9p only, please)

Offers: \*Her 60 minute relaxation tape  
\*Ideas (I enjoy helping others brainstorm and problem solve)  
\*Distance Reiki healing

Requests: \*Suggestions for rituals (tried or not) for particular Sabbats, moons, or purposes  
\*Correspondence with womyn. Email (debis@nwfs.gse.upenn.edu) or regular mail  
\*Astrology lessons/interpretation of my chart--I could send a copy that a woman did for me that I have no interpretation of.  
\*Help with building a deck and some other home modifications. Other projects include moving my front door, installing wood floor, adding a window.

TC, POBOX 659, Shutesbury MA 01072

Offers: \*Colorful childlike drawings of affirmations--your choice--send the affirmation you would like a picture of (suitable for putting on your refrigerator with magnets).

Requests: \*Electric Quartz heater/s that have not been in toxic environments. Write first with description of heater.  
\*Knitting needles: double pointed metal needles

DEBORAH-MARIE, 41 St. Paul St. #2, Belleville Ontario K8N 1A7 Canada

Requests: \*Pen-pal. I'm 39, non-smoker, gemini. I enjoy outdoor activities, seek wimmin with good sense of humor, correspondence with wimmin not afraid of the "L" word. Maybe correspondence could go to friendship.

M. SUMMER FIKE, Pumpkin Ecological Farm, 605 Morse Rd, RR5, Bridgetown NS, B0S 1C0 Canada

Offers: \*Homemade tapes of women's music  
\*Used blank cassettes, great condition  
\*Handmade recycled cards & stationery  
\*Seeds: Blue Colorado Spruce, Teatree, Sugar Maple, forget-me-not, a few miscellaneous squash and bean seeds  
\*If you send pattern & supplies (or kit) I'll gladly do any cross-stitch project for you!

Requests: \*Gardening supplies (seedling trays, pots, small tools, etc. and seeds  
\*Feminist/lesbian utopia, fiction or non-fiction books. Temporary loans are fine!  
\*Any spare spatulas or wooden spoons?

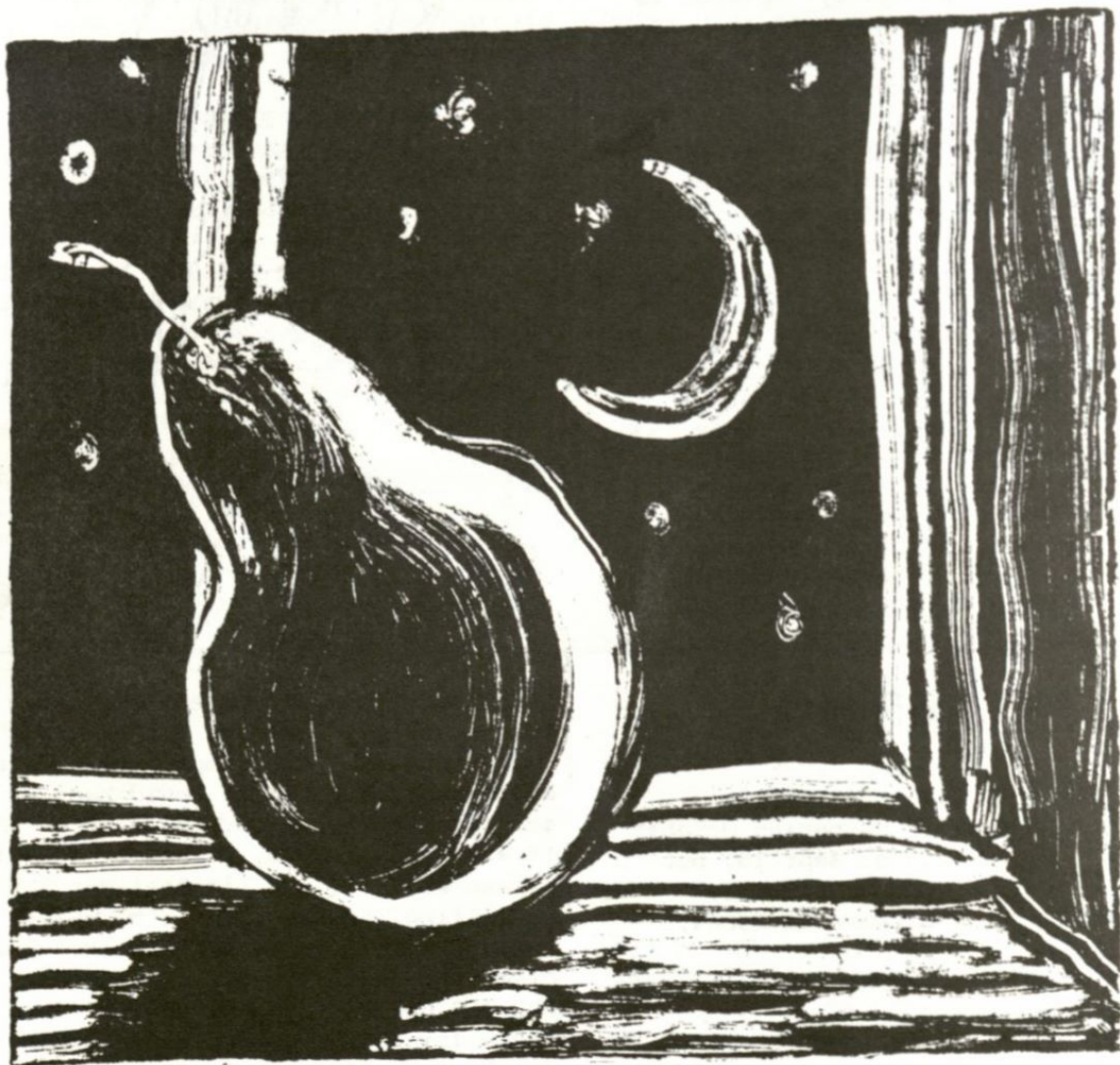
HEATHER, POBox 809, Lumsden, Sask S0G 3C0 Canada

Offers: \*Handbound soft-covered journals, postage paid  
\*Long distance reiki (healing energy: let me know if you want this focussed on a specific part of your body or generally physically or emotionally; a description/drawing/picture of your physical self will help me focus on you while I send energy but it is not necessary)

Requests: \*Wild wimmin stories/poems  
\*Wimmin's/lesbian's songs/chant on tape or paper with music  
\*Handmade rattle  
\*Handmade paper for books

TERRA, Chateau Gres, 21440 Poiseul La Grange, St. Seine L'Abbaye, France  
Offers: \*A true fairy tale on cassette, "The Curious Princess" by Viviane and Doris

\*Doris: I've got lots of flower seeds to offer, various kinds. I'll make a surprise package of flower seeds for every woman writing.



*Jennifer Weston*

\$4.00

NUMBER 51