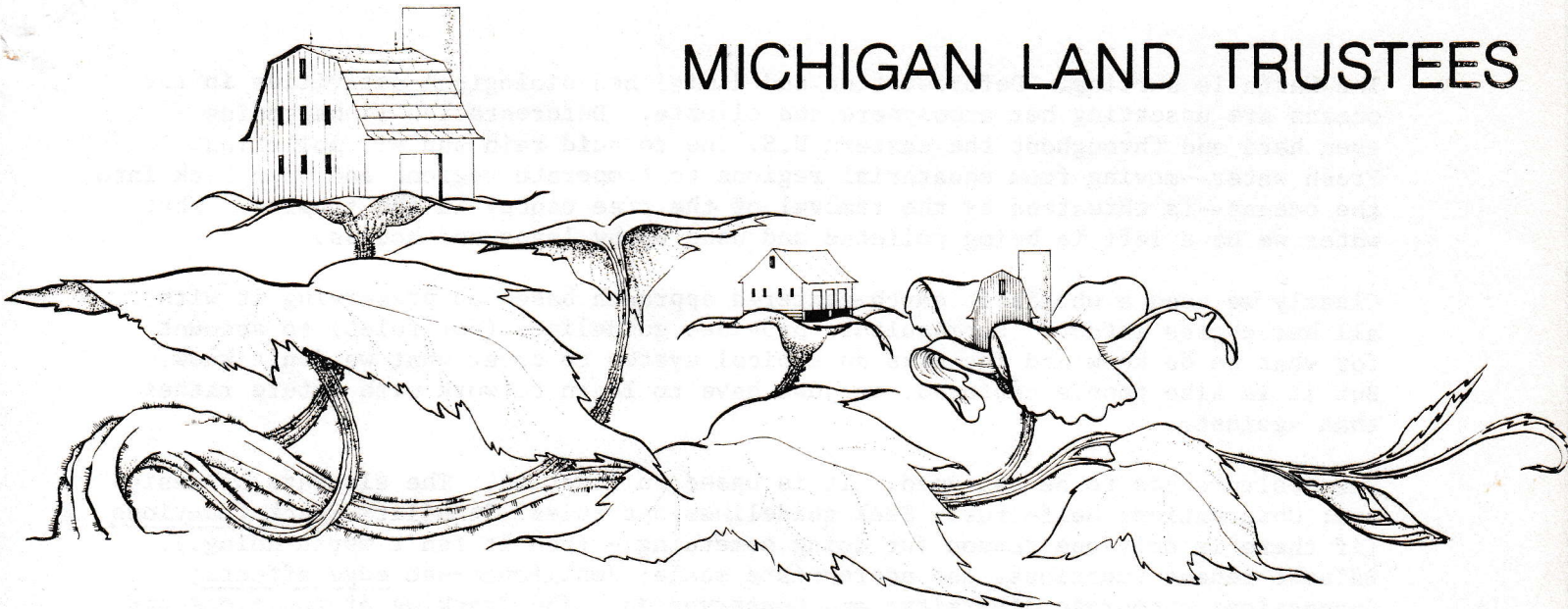


MICHIGAN LAND TRUSTEES



26041 CR 681 Bangor, MI 49013

October 1985

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Land Trustees would like to use this annual membership renewal letter to announce the annual fall potluck and membership meeting, which will take place Sunday, November 3, 1985. The details are contained in the attached form.

To carry on the work of the MLT, we ask for your continued support for the upcoming year. Certainly, the work we are doing to try to develop a range of alternatives to currently consumptive, ecologically damaging, and economically shaky modes of agriculture is more needed than ever. So please renew your membership now and plan to join us at the annual meeting. We welcome your support and input.

There have been a number of important changes and developments the past year. Jonathan Towne and Bobbi Martindale became the managers of the MLT Homesteading Farm, taking over from Thom Phillips and Jan Filonowcz, who continue to live nearby and remain active on the Board. We spent quite a bit of time reworking our basic lease agreement. There were a number of improvements made on the farm--ranging from painting the farmstead to a number of new tree plantings. The most memorable of these was the tree planted to commemorate Jonathan's and Bobbi's marriage! Also, there was a general committment made that MLT pursue the explorations in Permaculture begun this previous year. The efforts made in this direction are described in the following short piece by Jonathan Towne, which he entitled, "Permaculturally Speaking:"

"This spring saw \$200 spent by MLT for planting stock. This included many nut and fruit trees and shrubs such as several varieties of chestnuts, filberts, plums, cherries, service berries, grapes, and others.

It would be remiss of me to say that these plants and all other plantings in the past were planted according to a knowlegable, well thought out plan. So, in order to bring a little expertise into the system and to put the farm and MLT on the map, we sponsored a Permaculture Design Course. After much effort in promotion and other matters, the 3 week course taught by Dan Hemenway of Massachusetts, took place at the homestead farm and went rather well. Eight people (including your truly) from Chicago to Maine attended and were certified as "Permaculture Design Trainees". Dan proved to be an able teacher and although he took the course from Bill Mollison, the originator of Permaculture, his own experience, observation, and plain old book-learning were obvious. The wealth of information contained in this course was enormous! To summarize it is difficult, but I'll try it anyway.

The Earth is hurting. Deforestation and diminished biological activities in the oceans are upsetting her atmosphere and climate. Deforestation is happening even here and throughout the eastern U.S. due to acid rain and air pollution. Fresh water--moving from equatorial regions to temperate regions and then back into the oceans--is threatened by the removal of the tree canopy in the tropics. What water we have left is being polluted and used up by leaps and bounds.

Clearly we need a wholistic earth-centered approach based on preserving it with all her cycles intact. Permaculture provides guidelines (not rules) to account for what we do know and includes an ethical system to cover what we don't know. But it is also people-centered, we just have to learn to work with nature rather than against.

Permaculture has to be designed. It is based on function. The elements of design are: Observation; Self-trust; Seek guidelines-not rules; Stability-Stack functions (if there is only one reason for doing something - then it isn't worth doing.); Balance-repeat functions, use appropriate scale; Resilience-use edge effects; Succession; Encourage diversity; and Conservation. The Stacking of functions and the edge effect contribute towards Permaculture's potential productivity.

Permaculture can take place in any climate or landscape. Sector planning, zonation, slope, and orientation allow us to acclimate ourselves spatially on the landscape. Water management consists of keeping it on the land and using it as many times as possible. Keyline cultivation and ponds are tools for this. Fit the crop to the land--not vice versa. Alternative energy systems, building design, and layout are considered (along with urban permaculture and community economies.)

Many excellent slides were shown and the class began a comprehensive design for the homestead farm.

Future newsletters will have more about the course and information about the plan that is being developed. So stay tuned in."

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR MLT!

Recently, local MLT members had T-shirts silkscreened with the MLT logo as it appears in our letter head with the addition of the word Permaculture beneath, all in dark green ink. The silk screening was done by a young Bangor man. We were so pleased with out T-shirts we would like to offer them to you.

The cost is \$5.50, which includes shipping. We have a few remaining size large in white, 50% cotton and 50% polyester. The new shipment will be in all cotton in either white or a light color. That is as specific about color as we can be. The company our shirts are ordered from cannot guarantee color in advance of the order. We were pleased with the quality of the shirts and the beauty of the design--so if you would like a MLT T-shirt, fill out the accompanying form and enclose \$5.50 per shirt. The deadline for receiving the orders is October 31. You should receive your shirts by late November.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN LAND TRUSTEES

SUNDAY, November 3, 1985

2:30--Guided Tour of the Land Trust Homesteading Farm

3:30--Annual Meeting. Items on the agenda will include:

- A review of the past year;
- Election of members to Trustee Committees;
- Discussion of future directions for MLT.

5:30--Potluck supper (bring a dish to pass)

YES! I would like to renew my membership in the MLT

Remember that the minimum membership fee of \$5.00 just covers the cost of the newsletter; \$10.00 and up helps us to develop programs, plant trees, and make improvements. All contributions are tax deductible.

Yes, I would like to order _____ T-shirts @ \$5.50 each.

Size (and number of each):

Small _____; Medium _____; Large _____; Extra Large _____.

MLT membership enclosed \$ _____; T-shirts \$ _____. Total: _____.

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to:

Michigan Land Trustees
26041 CR 681
Bangor, MI 49013

(MISC #6457)