

2011 Northwest Regional Permaculture Convergence

An Update



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Welcome to this brief newsletter to update you about the 2011 Northwest Regional Permaculture Convergence. The 2010 Gathering was in Seattle and was organized by Washington State permaculture folks. Attendance was 380 from 5 different states and even beyond the USA. For 2011, its Oregon's turn and we are looking at up to 500 people.

This newsletter will give you an update describing what planning has happened so far for the 2011 Convergence. We are also inviting people to be involved with the planning. Further below is a look at what needs to be done for a great Northwest Permaculture Convergence in 2011.

First, the date is looking like mid September and most likely the location will be in Portland.

Volunteers Invited!

Volunteers are invited. Because its Oregon's turn, we are looking for people, primarily, from Oregon to help out. There is a lot to do starting now, and there will be a lot to do the weekend of the Convergence.

At the end of the newsletter, you will find a list of the many tasks for both the event itself but also planning.

We see three basic tiers of organizing.

1. The steering committee will coordinate basic decisions and frame the Convergence. Scoping is already underway, but there are many more important decisions to be made.
2. There will be working groups for all kinds of responsibilities for planning and the event itself and
3. members of the working groups.

The working groups will have direction but also a great deal of room for creativity and taking initiative. Members of the working groups will also be encouraged to be creative and take initiatives related to their working group. We would like to see the entire effort, from now to completion as fun, creative and well organized.

We welcome people all over the region to help us reach out. If you would like to

be a local "correspondent", please let us know. You can help by sharing info we send out to people and groups in your area. Networks we create now will serve us even more by and by. Please contact us!

Further below, you will find a list of positions and tasks to make this a great occasion.

Convergence Overview

The 2011 PC Convergence is being planned for mid-September and will most likely be held in the Portland area. We would love to see participants coming from all over the Northwest - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, California and beyond. A steering committee has been reviewing several sites and is close to making a choice. We are anticipating about 500 people.

The ideal site will have both indoor accommodation and camping along with indoor break out spaces, plenary space and kitchen. Meals will be provided as part of admission. Public transit and being in town are also high value. The admission cost will be modest and we anticipate work trades as well.

The Convergence will include workshops, plenary sessions, displays, hands-on, plenty of informal networking, open space and play time. The likely site is a small private college and even has dorm rooms. Imagine going to Perma U for a weekend!

Topic areas will include social permaculture, sacred permaculture and how permaculture relates to suburbia, urban and rural areas. Permaculture is action oriented; the great majority of topics and discussions will have practical application in every day life. The Convergence recognizes global trends such as climate change, economic decline, resource depletion, the environment and the state of our culture. Much of the Convergence is about actions people can take with these deepening concerns in mind. There will be a kids program as well.

The Convergence will be of great interest to urban gardeners, those wanting to live more planet friendly, Transition Towns enthusiasts, natural builders, neighborhood activists, communities of faith, people displaced by economic decline and people looking for alternatives to conventional lifestyles.

Outreach Important

We also will be reaching out to people and organizations not usually thought of in terms of permaculture but by the work they are doing, are allies. The Convergence is a great opportunity for making common cause. There are many people, projects and programs in any town that would be far more effective if they were working together. We will address that issue at the Convergence. If you know of good works at schools, churches, businesses, governments that are in line with permaculture ideals and values, please let us know.

The steering committee has been meeting by way of conference calls and has begun to shape the event. The steering committee at this point is made up of Susan Novrotsky, Portland; Amber Peoples, Eugene, Charlotte Anthony, Eugene; Michael "Skeeter" Pilarski, liaison to Washington State; and Jan Spencer, Eugene. Those involved so far invite and welcome others to be a part of this timely project.

If you would like to join one of these teams, please contact Susan. She will be our volunteer coordinator and will refer you to the newly forming group you are interested in. If you have other ideas about how you can help, please let us know. This is a great way to make new friends all over the region!

There has never been a better time and more reason to live more people and planet friendly. Permaculture has much to offer. Many people from diverse points on the community spectrum will benefit greatly by attending the Regional Gathering. We are eager to welcome others to be a part of planning!

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