

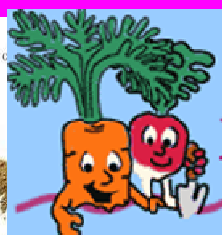


Karen Napier and kids

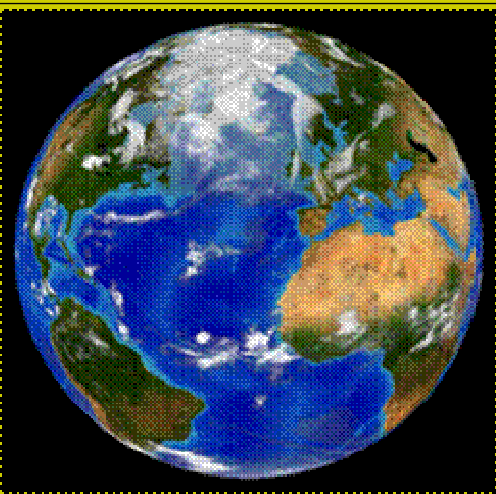


Sustainable Communities Network

*2009 Report: Community
Projects & Relationships*



**Community gardens,
School gardens, Eco-Art
installations, Youth
GreenCorps, Publications,
Conferences, Workshops**



Director's Meditation January 2010

Dearest Friends of Sustainable Communities Network,

Happy New Year...greetings to each and everyone and our warmest wishes for a new year of continued life of **engagement with peace and purpose.**

We use this publication as an opportunity to share our efforts during 2009 to contribute to the much needed human direction of sustainable living....**living with a sense of the sacred connections between ourselves...Mother Earth.... and the entire Earth community.** When we founded Sustainable Communities in 2006 we were inspired by the Earth Charter passage: *"We stand at a critical moment in*

*Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future.To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and **one Earth Community** with a common destiny."*— **The Earth Charter**

Our 2010 meditation: *Our **Mother...**this beautiful planet, **Earth...**the source from which we all have emerged and will return... **Gaia**....our beloved home swimming in the ocean of the universe....our own **Mother Earth** we extend our love and profound sense of sacred connection with you in hopes that we as humans can bring about a cultural shift-a **Great Turning**—in our thinking and lifestyles that honor and sustain these relationships. We seek your guidance as we continue this **Great Work.***

We see the role of SCN as creating a network of relationships that can inspire, educate and provide the practice of transforming our existing community into **ecologically healthy, socially just, economically vibrant and spiritually fulfilling** communities. This publication is our endeavor to **tell the story** of our work in 2009 as we continued to develop our network locally, nationally and internationally. We have been blessed this year to have made many new friends and been part of initiating and participating in many meaningful programs.

In 2010 we will expand all of our existing collaborations but in particular with:

- ◇ **women's groups such as Chrysalis House, Virginia Place, Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program**
- ◇ **adults and youth at risk such as Catholic Action Center, Youth Drug Court, and alternative schools.**

Also we will develop new collaborations, workshops and conferences:

Bluegrass Food Security Summit ◇ Worm composting ◇ Sustainability 101 ◇ Backyard composting

However in these challenging economic times and the current world-wide support for Haiti, we absolutely need your support and involvement. Please consider making a financial contribution so we can continue this important work in 2010. No amount is too small or too large. Your support is critical and absolutely welcomed!

This publication is dedicated to the loving memory of our very dear friend, supporter and avid gardener, Karen Napier, who made her transition fully to the spirit world and is featured on the front cover.

With Love and hugs to all!

Jim Embry, Founder and Director

Lexington, KY, www.sustainlex.org





Community & School Garden Projects: We consider community gardens as one of the most important activities for all of humankind in this century. As a result of Newtonian/Cartesian thinking and our industrial age mindset, we humans think that we are separate from nature or the environment and can thus blindly devastate the Earth's magnificent eco-system. There is a critical need for us to become **eco-literate or Earth literate** and community gardening can serve as the foundation for this sensibility. In working with 2 and 3 year old children who can't read or write, we realize that community gardens can serve as the training ground for **teaching citizenship**-how to work together, how to change your community, how to grow up not fearing nature. Gardens teach us how food grows, provide better nutrition, create community, teach patience and sharing, restore family work ethic, instill local and global citizenship, reduce nature deficit and so much more! We have had a glorious

experience this year sharing our love of gardening with so many beautiful children and adults! Our efforts are meant to transform **lives and landscapes!**

Chrysalis House Kid's Art Garden: As a result of our involvement with Family Court Judge Lucinda Masterton we were invited by Director, Lisa Minton to help restore the Chrysalis



House Kid's Art Garden. What a glorious experience it has been!! Beginning in March we met with staff members Mendy Daniels and Nettie Appleby to create what seemed at times like a magical experience for the children and the women of CH. Over the next 7 months we met every week on Tuesdays with the children and staff to restore the garden and create a space of discovery, art, food and fun. The garden activities included constructing and painting



ing raised beds, planting flowers, herbs, lots of vegetables to eat and a few fruit trees, creating various art pieces such as flower pots for their moms as a Mother's Day present, garden signs, bird houses and tomato sticks. For the Lexington Community Garden Tour CH kids were dressed down in their hand-painted t-shirts, created a song with music and brought tears to a few eyes. The week before school started in August we harvested corn, tomatoes, squash, green beans, cabbage, peppers, cucumbers, lemon mint, sautéed the veggies, boiled the corn, made a big salad, made mint tea and had a delicious lunch... all from food that CH kids had grown! Belinda one of the women in the CH program who worked in the garden each week said **"the garden saved my life"** as a testimony to the healing benefits of gardening and building community.



Nelson Ave(Drug Court) Community Art Garden: developed from an empty lot in 2007 by the Youth GreenCorps this garden was adopted this year by the youth involved in the Drug Court program. Beginning in June we met every Thursday with the youth, counselors-Stacy and Rick, a few parents and Judge Masterton to work in the garden that provided **food for**



Judge Masterton in the garden

the neighbors. For more than a year SCN had provided at our various garden sites community service projects for youth in Drug Court with lots of good results. Judge Masterton with her **out-of-the-box and into-the-garden**-thinking wanted a single garden site for the youth to work in with hopes that the effectiveness of this experience would be enhanced. This Drug Court garden experience has been a true blessing for everyone involved. The garden provided an opportunity for the Judge to take off her **black robe and put on jeans** while also allowing her to lay down the **gavel and take up the garden trowel.** But the primary beneficiaries were the youth engaged each week in a new discovery, an opportunity to work together on a project that benefits the community. These youth saw

snakes and rabbits, planted all types of veggies, sweltered in the summer heat, interacted with neighborhood residents and observed the magic of plants growing from seeds. **One parent commented that “I do not recall when I was last with my teenage son for an entire 2 hour time frame, but thanks to this garden we now get to work together each week”.** One young girl in the Drug Court program lived with her mother in the house right across the street from the garden. This mother who was in the garden most every week picking greens, tomatoes, beans and squash for her family to eat expressed how proud she was of her daughter for being part of this project that brought food to the community. The Nelson Ave garden is just a stones-throw from the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden and on April 23 these young folks in the Drug Court program volunteered at the **IM-MAG Event in the Tent** demonstrating the need for restorative justice that provides young offenders service projects that helps restore them to their community.



Winburn Community Art Garden: SCN has collaborated with Community Action Council, the Winburn Neighborhood Association, Russell Cave Elementary School and Northeast Lexington Initiative since 2007 on this once empty lot that now contains a productive vegetable garden with various fruit trees, berry bushes, grape vines, beautiful art installations, a gazebo, native perennials, compost bins and a rain garden. Our beautiful murals that hang from the fence are part of the **UNESCO Art Miles Project**. All art work and structures were completed using found objects as we stress the need to recycle and reuse. .



This year the Winburn Community Art Garden has served as an outdoor learning space for many youth groups wanting a varied garden experience: 1) On May 4 the Leadership Lexington Youth Division that included 45 youth leaders chose to spend their day of service at the WCA Garden. Their service work projects included creating mosaic tile board, planting a rain garden, fruit trees and vegetables, painting rain barrels and yes... **even painting their own hair!** 2) Following our 2007 model for the Youth Green Corps we were assigned 6 young men from the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program who became the back bone of our **Back 2 Nature** summer project, 3) the UK Ag Depart



filmed a short documentary that aired on KET about the WCArt Garden, 4) the 20 children with **Knowledge is Power(KIP)**, the summer enrichment program founded by Bettye Simpson, worked in the garden every week and had a fun summer experience that included: constructing and painting raised beds, planting vegetable and flower seeds, grape vines, trees; painted on murals, painting tomato sticks and other art projects; and were able to harvest and eat directly out of the garden many vegetables that they had actually planted. One day we made flower jewelry from many of the flowers growing in the garden. These flowers... some that they had actually planted several weeks before...became necklaces, ear rings and bracelets that gave the youth a new understanding of how to connect and go **Back 2 Nature**.

Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program: is another garden project that was inspired by our association with Judge Lucinda Masterton. Since May we have worked very closely with Diane Fleet to establish the first garden for BDVP on their 40 acre property. After building, painting and planting raised beds in June, the women, children and staff enjoyed a bounty of fresh vegetables, flowers and herbs. This experience was so rewarding that BDVP is now working with SCN and other partners to create a residential farm with animals, edible orchard, tree nursery, bee hives, hoop houses and much more on their 40 acres and a mule...**well maybe not a mule yet!!**



Green Acres Park Community Garden: is one of the four gardens located in a city park that SCN has supported. To establish this garden SCN worked closely with Green Acres neighborhood resident, Eudocia Jones and the neighborhood association. Eudocia and her daughter attended our March 14 Community Garden Workshop and left inspired and determined to begin a garden in their neighborhood. The garden was bountiful with tomatoes, squash, peppers and lots of kids just enjoying the experience of using a shovel.



Malboro Park Community Garden: located in a city park and was organized by



Sherrie Muhammand who attended the April 12 School Garden Workshop. With the support of Julia Martin, the neighborhood association, Council member Tom Blues and SCN, Sherrie organized a fantastic **work party** on May 20 that include **50+ people**. Children, teenagers and adults—many who had never used hammers or saws and had never planted a garden—worked together like a hive of bees to build and paint



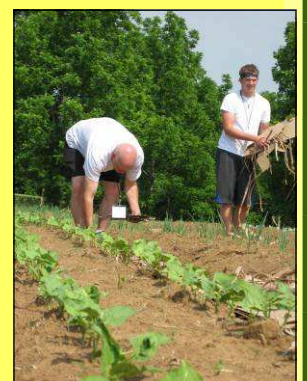
raised beds, covered the ground with cardboard and mulch, filled the beds with compost and planted vegetable seeds and plants. The children especially had a glorious time using wheelbarrows and shovels, climbing on the mulch mountain and working past sundown with 4 hours of non-stop work and play! A very beautiful community space was created that provided food—food that nourished the body of those who ate from the garden, but food that also nurtured the community spirit of the neighborhood!!

Gainesway Community Garden: Carol Riker and Hartley Feld from UK College of Nursing who attended the Community Garden Workshop on March 14 have served as the primary organizers of this garden. SCN was invited to provide a spiritual blessing for the Community Garden Kick on May 4. With our Tibetan singing bowl in hand and a few words of sacred Earth connections we, along with 40 community members, followed behind drummer Lawrence Bowie who led the way to this community space. This spiritual blessing should become a model for other garden sites as we re-affirm that every garden is a sacred spot on this sacred planet.



William Wells Brown Community Center Garden: Lindsay Feazell who attended the School Garden Workshop on April 12 and received a Garden Start-up Kit was the primary organizer. This Garden Kit provided tools, a garden cart, compost and books to jump start the garden efforts. The youth at the school had a grand time planting and harvesting delicious vegetables. In the fall, these children also helped paint one of the **HOBY murals**.

Peace Meal/God's Garden: is located at the BCTC campus and provides garden plots for a variety of community groups including the Catholic Action Center. SCN worked very closely with Ginny Ramsey and Carrie Berend on the CAC God's Garden plot that put **1500+ vegetable plants in the ground**, and produced 4,000+ pounds of fresh food for citizens who are in low-income or homeless condition. We collaborated with CAC to host 3,000+ volunteers from all over the USA who came to Lexington this summer to work in God's Garden and other



CAC projects. The Lexington Community Garden Tour made a stop at this site. In addition to collaborating on God's Garden this CAC/SCN partnership also included weekly meetings to coordinate volunteers and to create ventures such as God's Worms, hoop houses, eco-art murals and apartment painting projects.

The Rock La Roca Community Garden located on North Lime is such a grand model of how the faith community can integrate community health, good food and spiritual practice. Pastor Aaron and Jessica Mansfield are very dear friends of SCN serve as the host site for the annual Lexington Community Garden Tour and dinner.

Eastside Technical School: SCN Compton Mentorship Fellow, Miranda Hileman, has been working directly with Ag Science teacher, Carrie Davis, every week since August. With the additional support from Miranda the class curriculum has now included a school garden, cooking and eating of vegetables from the school and community gardens, making pies, and watching food related movies.

The Learning Center: is the new alternative school in Fayette County located at the Old Linlee School on Spurr Rd. and has a large campus with the potential for a beautiful outdoor classroom. Cindy Zellar the art teacher at TLC who SCN had worked with previously at Tates Creek Middle School and the Principal Ron Chi invited us to work with this new school to **create gardens and outdoor classrooms**. On the first day of school in August we presented a vision to the students of a school grounds that would be a model for the entire school district. SCN has visited the school often to support these efforts at creating a learning landscape for the students. So far the students have planted flowers, bushes and have built worm composting bins.

School Garden Workshops SCN collaborated with KY Green and Healthy Schools, and the UK Tracy Farmer Center to offer these workshops held on April 18 and June 12. **200+ teachers, parents, volunteers** and community members attended coming from every regiona of our state.

“Gardening with Class—Creating and Sustaining your School Garden”, facilitated by SCN was an exciting and inspiring experience for all. One highlight was watching a short video of 15 year old Sam Levin’s presentation at

Terra Madre 2008 in Torino, Italy about his school garden in Massachusetts. Sam was in Louisville this November speaking at the Local Farms Healthy Foods Conference. The School Garden workshops included an



informative tour of the Arboretum led by Roberta Burns. At the June 12 workshop, Josh Radner, a teacher at Yates Elementary School in Lexington, spoke about his use



of a garden in his work at Yates and the Day Treatment Center. The **California School Garden Manual** was given to each participant and served as the primary resource material for the workshops. Fifteen schools that participated in the workshops received a **School Garden Startup Kit** that

included such things as a garden cart, tools, books, plants, seeds and soil to jump start their school garden efforts. Each participating school also received a copy of *The Edible School Yard* by Alice Waters for their libraries. Teachers and staff from 40 schools in Fayette County attended these workshops and returned to their schools determined to begin a school garden. We encourage everyone join the newly formed **Bluegrass School and Community Garden Network** and the **Kentucky School Garden Network**.

Community Garden Workshop was held at the Winburn Community Art Garden and 45 adults & children attended on March 14. Each participant received a copy of the Lexington Community Garden Resource Manual prepared by SCN for the local community. This workshop provided information and inspiration for the gardens at Gainesway Community Center, Central Baptist Church, Green Acres, Malboro, Wesley and La Roca United Methodist Churches, Mentelle neighborhood, Florence Crittenton Home, Vineyard Community Church and Nelson Ave. After lunch we toured the Garden and everyone left very inspired to GROW LEXINGTON!



Our School visits in 2009 included Woodford County High School, Providence School in Versailles, Bryan Station, Dunbar, ML King Academy, Day Treatment Center, Eastside, The Ridge, Booker T Washington, and many others!

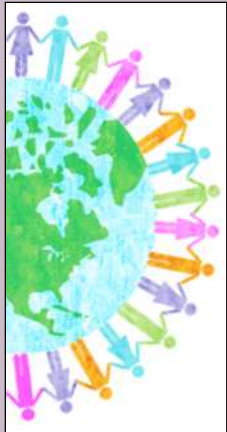
Miranda Hileman, 2009 Compton Fellow



a recent graduate of Berea College chose Jim Embry of SCN as her mentor for her year-long fellowship. Since June Miranda and Jim have worked very closely on most every SCN project, have attended conferences together and have harvested lots of vegetables! All of the many projects she has touched have been enhanced, for example: 1) she worked each week at Eastside Technical School with Ag Science teacher, Carrie Davis and all of the students. With Miranda's involvement the class developed a **school garden, incorporated cooking projects and watched movies** related to issues and directions within our food system such as Food Inc, 2) She has worked very closely with the **Dunbar Memorial Garden** and collaborated with the youth on supporting the small farm, Berries on Bryan Station. During the 2009-2010 year in Lexington Miranda will be working in and supporting continued growth of community and school gardens all over Lexington, especially focusing on support and assistance in garden creation, planning and establishment in public and private schools in Fayette Co. with the hope of having a garden at EVERY school!

Sustainable Communities Network participation and presentations at conferences

During 2009 SCN was involved in state and national conferences as participants, organizers, panel and workshop presenters, keynote speakers and program designers. We believe that for our network to be effective we need to develop relationships with kindred spirits and organizations on local, regional, national and international levels.



TERRA MADRE-International Slow Food Movement Jim Embry was one of 20 Kentuckians that attended the fabulous Terra Madre/International SlowFood gathering in Torino, Italy October 23-30 2008. With over 8000 delegates from 150 different countries and 800 from the USA, Terra Madre was a grand experience and an inspiration for enhancing our work in Kentucky to build local food systems. During 2009 KY delegates with Slow Food Bluegrass conducted several speaking engagements about their Terra Madre experience: 1) panel presentation and discussion held November 20, 2008 at UK Singletary Center, 2) film showing and panel presentation held January 25 at Main Library "Bringing Terra Madre Home to the Bluegrass", 3) April 1-25 the Third Street Stuff gallery featured *Images from Terra Madre*, Jim Embry's photo exhibit of Terra Madre and Italy with a reception and slide presentation, 4) the Terra Madre experience was shared at SSAWG, ACGA and many other meetings, 5) young Sam Levin's talk at Terra Madre was shown at the School Garden workshops and is posted on the network site www.bgschoolgardennetwork.ning.com. The Kentucky Slow Food efforts are coordinated by www.slowfoodbluegrass.org



Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group(SSAWG) Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference January 21-24, 2009 Chattanooga, TN

With 1,200 participants, this event draws the most forward-thinking people in the field year after year! SCN members presented a workshop, **Faith and Food** that described the various programs initiated by the faith community in Kentucky to support local farmers, community gardens and other food related issues. We also presented a seminar on our Terra Madre experience and how it connects to the work in the south. Each morning we had breakfast with Will Allen of Growing Power and other urban gardening activists. Our friend **Bryant Terry**, author of *Vegan Soul Food* was a keynote speaker. www.ssawg.org.



Rain Garden Installation at Lucia's World Friendly Boutique: our dearest friends Teresa and Eduardo invited us to organize the community effort to build a rain garden behind their store at 523 E. High St. We also invited customers and children to help us paint 3 rain barrels also in use. On October 2 students from Maxwell Elementary School joined in the Dedication with LFUCG Cheryl Taylor and helped with the fall planting of additional flowers. It seems that finding WORMS! was the big hit of the day for the children.

Breaking the Silence Conference January 16-18 SCN members travelled to Kansas City KS to attend Breaking the



Silence Conference presented by Building A Sustainable Earth Community. SCN delivered an evening key-note address: *Food and Sacred Earth Connections* that described the quantum relationships with Mother Earth and how gardening and food can provide this needed sense of sacred relationship. We were honored to be with our dear friend, David Korten of YES! Magazine who was the featured speaker. David who we have known since the 1990's was present at the founding of SCN in 2006 when he spoke in Lexington at SCN's first public event. While in Kansas we also visited with our friend June Holte with the Pachamama Alliance which was an inspiration for the Sustainable World Sourcebook.



American Community Garden Association Conference brings together hundreds of individuals from across the United States who are engaged in all aspects of gardening and greening. The conference included hands-on workshops, keynote speakers, a film festival, and visits to parks, school gardens, and community gardens. SCN members presented a workshop, *Art Gardens to Create Sacred Earth Connections* that described the various SCN art gardens and eco-art installations in Lexington. This workshop which emphasized our need to nurture children to love themselves and the Earth was so powerful that it moved one participant to tears. The ACGA conference was held at Franklin Park Conservatory that featured the beautiful Chihuly glass art is now the national office for ACGA.



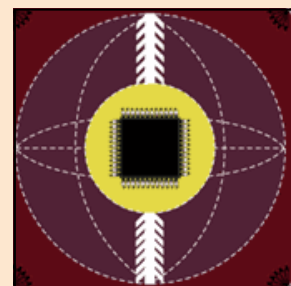
Food and Spirit: Building Cross Cultural Understanding for Systems Change Oct.27-Nov.1 Milwaukee, WI. GFJI is a national initiative aimed at dismantling racism and empowering low-income and communities of color through sustainable and local agriculture (www.growingfoodandjustice.org). Along with 300+ participants, four SCN members attended this conference, presented two workshops, *Art Gardens to Create Sacred Earth Connections* and *Dismantle Racism & Culture, Food and Spirituality*, served on the steering committee, worked on the program design, presented spiritual rituals each day, walked to the Native American Mound each morning and cared for the Sacred Fire each evening. We participated in dismantling racism training that was based upon **The Theatre of the Oppressed created by Augusto Boal**. The highlight of the time in Milwaukee was touring Growing Power and spending time with our friend Will Allen. After leaving Milwaukee we drove to Chicago and toured the Growing Power garden in Grant Park. We then spent two glorious days in Detroit: 1) visited the Catherine Ferguson Academy school for teen moms with a working farm that received a grant from the Nobel Peace Committee. We got hugs from our dear friends, principal Asenath Andrews and teacher Paul Wertz, 2) hung out at Avalon Bakery, visited gardens at Earth Works, the Greening of Detroit, the community art of Tyree Guyton and the Heidelberg Project, spent time with Rick Feldman of the Boggs Center and toured Detroit. A Lovely trip!



Will Allen & Growing Power workshop in Louisville Sept 25-26 Three SCN members participated in the Hoop House workshop hosted by Breaking New Grounds, a regional training center for the Growing Power. 50+ people were part of the workshop to build a 20x48-ft hoop house on the BNG site (22nd and Woodland in Louisville). There were also breakout sessions on composting, vermi-composting and aquaculture. With this training we were able to build our 1st hoop house in Lexington on November 21. While in Louisville we visited Tonda Montgomery of Brandeis Elementary School who attended the June School Garden Workshop and was inspired

to begin their school garden.

Healthy Foods, Local Farms Conference hosted by Sierra Club and held November 6-7 in Louisville. Three SCN members attended this annual gathering that featured Wendell Berry and Sam Levin (see Terra Madre) as speakers. Miranda Hileman served on a panel with Sam discussing the role of youth in the local foods movement. The highlight was eating lunch with members of the **13 Indigenous Grandmothers Council**.



Other Conferences SCN attended and Community Projects:

Imago's Earth Spirit Rising, A Conference on Ecology, Spirituality and Living Economies June 12-14 Cincinnati

SCN served on a panel that discussed *Building our Local Living Economy*. Featured speakers; David Korten (Great Turning), David Orr (Living Economy), Sister Paula Gonzalez (Planetary Future), Miriam MacGillis (New Cosmology) challenged us to think and act creatively and bravely.



The 33rd Governor's Conference on the Environment Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Lexington featured Governor Steve Beshear, and many more state and national speakers connecting energy policies and resources with ecological health. www.dep.ky.gov/govconference.

The 62nd Assembly of the Kentucky Council of Churches

held October 15-16, Natural Bridge State Park Slade KY. The keynote speaker, Larry Rasmussen, author of *Earth Community Earth Ethics* described why we needed to be "United for the Care of God's Earth". SCN served on a panel and encouraged greater diversity. Bryan Station High School student, Lucy Arthur Paratley was the winner of '09 KCC Earth Day Every Day essay contest. Her essay **outlined a strategic plan** for the greening of her high school.

She says that part of her inspiration came from SCN's talk to her and the Youth Division of Leadership Lexington in 2008 about sustainability.



Regional Climate Change Forum was held on Dec 8 in Lexington and presented information on the Climate Change Models for Kentucky Region, Regional Implications and Issues for the State of Kentucky. We especially enjoyed our conversations with students from Henry Clay and Scott County High Schools who expressed concern that sustainability was not being taught well enough in the schools.

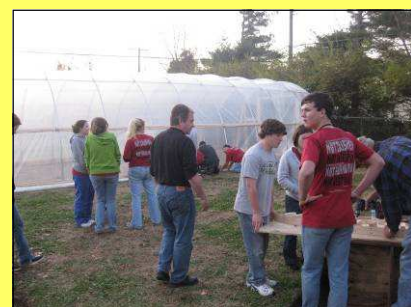


Lexington Community Garden Tour ..More than 150+ adults and children

attended the 3rd Annual Community Garden Tour on July 30 organized by SCN and other community partners. The 6 gardens sites on the tour included The Rock La Roca United Methodist Church Community Garden, Winburn Community Art Garden, Peace Meal/ God's Garden, Day Treatment Center Garden, Virginia Place Kid's Garden and Croft Garden at Beaumont Presbyterian Church. Jim Deleo of Beaumont P. Church attended the garden tour in 2008 and was so inspired that he organized church members to begin a garden in 2009. A **potluck dinner following the Tour** and was a time for sharing information and tasting the local harvest. Many people left very inspired by the bountiful fruit and vegetables growing vowed to begin their own garden that will help us GROW Lexington!



God's Worms, Fresh Hoop House and Compost These new collaborative projects that involve the Catholic Action Center, SCN and Fresh Approach enable us to create a worm farm business, reduce the **500 lbs/wk of food waste** going to our landfill from Fresh Approach, **grow food year round** and serve as an educational resource. Our 30 worm bins have been set up with 1 lb of worms (1,000 worms) each and are fed weekly with vegetable scraps from Fresh Approach. **Our Fresh Hoop House and Compost bins** were built on November 21 with 60 volunteers from Lexington and Mt. Sterling. This hoop house will allow us the opportunity to grow vegetables year round, grow seedlings for Lexington community gardens and supply veggies/herbs to area restaurants.



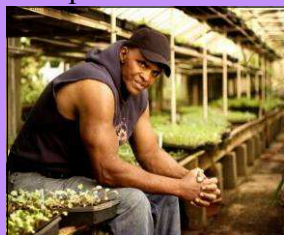
CAC folks have been a wonderful partner in 2009 allowing us to embark with them on many journeys into making life in Lexington more sustainable for everyone, especially citizens in a homeless condition. We began meeting together every Monday morning in May (what a way to begin the week!) and have worked together on God's Garden, God's Worms, painting projects, sites for HOBY murals, organizing 3000+ volunteers, The Fresh Hoop House and Compost, attending Growing Food And Justice Gathering, planting and harvesting veggies, organizing and caring for folks who are living in a homeless condition, and so much more. No doubt the Divine spirit brought us together...**She has a way of connecting the dots.**



Speaking engagements, class presentations and tours

- January 7 Transylvania University class, *Community Engagement through the Arts*
- January 16-18 *Breaking the Silence* conference Kansas City
- January 21-25 SSAWG Faith Fed Chattanooga, TN
- January 21-25 SSAWG Terra Madre Chattanooga, TN
- January 25 Terra Madre Main Library Good Foods Co-op & Slow Food Bluegrass
- February 1 Faith Lutheran Church, *Food and Sacred Earth Connections*, Terra Madre
- February 8 Terra Madre Bahai' Community service

- February 8 Community Gardens Unitarian Church
- February 11 English Class University of Kentucky *Food & Sacred Earth Connections Local Food*
- March 7 Central KY Council for Peace and Justice Dinner,
- March 11 University of Kentucky Philosophy Class *Food Systems, Ethics and Sacred Earth Connections*,
- March 16 Community Garden Workshop
- March 21 Tour of Lexington Community Gardens with Berea College class
- March 16 *Basics of Rain Gardens...* Mentelle Park Neighborhood Association
- March 23 UK Sustainability Class *..Creating Community Food Systems*
- April 8 Youth Resource Fair... *Youth and Sustainability Movement*
- April 11 Third Street Stuff, *Bringing Terra Madre Home to the Bluegrass*



- April 13 Introduction of Will Allen of Growing Power, UK Gaines Center
- April 15 Kentucky Tomato Project with Latitude and Lex Pros
- April 19 Homily Unitarian Universalist Church..... *Our Great Work to Restore Sacred Earth Connections*
- April 22 Bluegrass Community and Technical College *Sacred Earth, Sacred Community: A Celebration of Earth Day 2009*



- May 4 Gainesway Community Center.. *Garden opening*
- May 6 Leadership Lexington Day of Service at *Winburn Community Art Garden*
- May 16 *Peace and Global Citizenship Fair BCTC*
- May 22 *Lexington Community Garden Tour*,
- June 6 HOBY Day of service *Art, Activism and Sustainability*
- June 12-14 Earth Spirit Rising Cincinnati, *Building our Local Economy*
- June 19 *Community Garden Tour World Hunger Year*
- July 8 *Community Gardens for Better Health* Wm Wells Brown Community Center
- July 30 Community Garden Tour, Berea College
- July 31 Kentucky Social Forum, Berea College
- August 1 Transylvania University Freshman orientation class, *Community Service and Community Gardens*
- Sept 21 UK Big Blue Goes Green...Community garden workshop
- August 6-9 American Community Garden Association, *Art Gardens*
- October 2 Rain Garden Dedication Lucia's World Friendly Boutique
- October 16-18 Kentucky Council of Churches Conference, Natural Bridge
- October 23 Green Breakfast Environmental Commission Awards
- October 27-Nov1 Growing Food and Justice Gathering, Milwaukee
- November 24 Social Problem class, Transylvania University

Awards

October 23 Green Breakfast Environmental Commission ***Community Environmental Initiatives Award***

October 23 Chrysalis House ***Outstanding Service to Women and Children***



Film Documentaries of SCN activities & projects... *Kentucky Tomato Project with Latitude and Lex-Pros, KET Grown In Kentucky feature on Winburn Community Art Garden..KY School Garden Network Tour interview*

News coverage: ACE Weekly, Lexington Herald-Leader, Natural Awakening, KY Educational Television, Key News Journal, Key Conversations Radio Program 1580AM, YES! Magazine, Sustainable World Sourcebook, CKCPJ Newsletter, Urban Farm Magazine, La Voz, Stu's Newsletter, Slow Food Newsletter, Eco-share Blog, Eco-Share,

Quantum Relationships and friends ..It is the inter-connectedness ..the formation of community that ultimately allows for renewal and forward motion..the quantum world is seen as a web of interrelatedness..relationships are the foundation of everything!



Our trip to Italy for **Terra Madre in October 2008** was very much like a huge surfing wave that propelled us into 2009, a year that was so full of purposeful experiences and relationships. We feel very blessed to have met new kindred spirits with which we formed new relationships and grateful for the sparks that further ignited the love with our existing relationships. **All of these relationships** are dear to us and we attempt each day to express our love and commitment **to the much-needed quantum change that our divine voice calls for from deep within. We call our work spinning spider webs! Here we give particular mention to a few of our dear and quantum relationships that enhanced our work!**

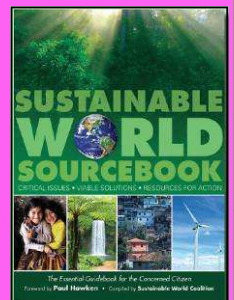
Third Street Stuff(3SS) owned by Pat Gerhard is like our second home or office where we hold most of our meetings.



So many of the projects that we have worked on were born as an idea at 3SS. This place is very much like Avalon Bakery in Detroit or White Dog Café in Philly where art-activism-creativity-food-music-life are mixed in a cauldron of love, coffee and good peeps. Lexington and all communities need more spaces like these where we can dream a **new story for the Earth**. This is where you will find the latest and greatest books and conversation on sustainability. **Thanks Pat** for this gift that you give to our community...everyone is invited to come and get stuffed!

Lucinda Masterton/Family Court Judge.. in 2008 she began sending us young folks who were in Drug Court to do community service in our garden projects. Her interest in our work opened doors to various groups such Chrysalis House, Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, The Ridge, Virginia Place and the Drug Court garden project. **BIG hugs to her!**

Sustainable World Sourcebook just published in December was an effort of love, a desire and commitment to a paradigm shift and delicious hardwork. More than 20 writers...great editors...and wonderful funders made this all possible. SCN feels so **very blessed** to have been invited to contribute **articles, photographs, quotes** to this utterly attractive and nectar-like piece of stardust! A photo of the Winburn Art Garden was one of our 4 photographs included in this book. A pdf version is available at www.swcoalition.org. This book can be purchased from SCN or local bookstores.\$12



ACE Weekly-Rhonda Reeves..has opened up the pages of this Lexington cultural zine and allowed SCN the privilege of editing 3 issues per year of ACE. Our April, July and November issues covered such topics as local food system, Terra Madre, community gardening, HOBY, eco-art projects and many other community initiatives. Thanks to **Rhonda, Rob, Kim, all the ACE family, advertisers and readers!** ACE rocks...and rolls!

Dunbar Memorial Garden...3 years ago we met **Hannah Landers and Rebecca**

Woloch at Third Street Stuff to discuss how we could support this sacred space that would hold the spirit of students Josh and Jesse (and now Hannah). Since then we



have had the blessing each year to collaborate with them on many fronts from planting, moving pavers, creating art from tiles, strawbale & benches, hauling manure, website stuff, harvesting veggies and so much more! Many other parents and youth have found this art



garden to be a place of reflection, healing and community. The nationally acclaimed movie ***Straightlaced*** features Hannah and the Dunbar Memorial Garden.

YES! Magazine is like a **member of our family** and during 2009 we gave away more than 500 copies at gatherings. The Summer issue featured SCN's Jim Embry as a dedicated friend. Each quarterly issue provides inspiring stories of the path to a sustainable future! We encourage everyone to subscribe and make YES! a member of your family! We say many **thanks with lots of love** to the Yesmagazine.org family, staff, readers and supporters!



Kentucky Tomato Project launched in the spring by Latitude and Lex Pros, KYTP was designed to encourage members of the disability community to begin gardening and eating healthier. SCN loves to work with Bruce Burris and felt quite blessed to be invited to help kick-off this **incr-edible idea** that included a rather animated presentation, planting veggies in painted recycled containers and creating a demonstration video. What a grand experience for all! Our beautiful garden signs at the Chrysalis House were a donation by our dear friends at Latitude.



Eco-Art Installations and Art Gardens..HOBY...IMMAG Before return-

ing to Lexington in 2005 to found SCN, Jim Embry lived in Detroit for 5 years and served as Boggs Center director. He helped establish the community mural program, **AC3T-Artists and Children Create Community Together** and the Detroit Summer **Community Art Garden**. These interactive tools for community transformation have been featured in an exhibit at the **Detroit Institute of Art**. An art garden, **a new concept for Lexington**, is not the same as a park or a typical garden, but **the beautiful integration of art with edible and native landscape**. This Detroit connection with art gardens was the primary influence on the **name and concept** for the **Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden**. In addition SCN worked in 2009 to create and expand the Winburn Community Art Garden, the Nel-

son Ave Art Garden and the Chrysalis House Kid's Art Garden.. SCN collaborated with the Hugh O'brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY) in 2008 and 2009 to establish the Lexington version of this Detroit-inspired community mural project, **Artists and Youth Create Community Together(AYC2T)** that involved each year 180+ youth from all over KY & local artists who have now created 33 murals that reflect a spirit of ecological literacy, sacred Earth connection and community legacy. Other SCN eco-art installations include a strawbale turtle at WECEP, murals at Winburn Art Garden, painted raised beds and garden signs at Chrysalis House, peace sign totems and strawbale bench at Third Street Stuff, painted trash cans along MLKing Blvd. and recycled containers at Nelson Ave Art Garden.

Network Connections and Partners: SCN is a member of the **Central KY Council for Peace and Justice** where we work to understand that sustainability and social justice are intricately linked. The **UK Tracy Farmer Center** guided by Carol Hanley is a partner in most every SCN program. SCN serves on various other boards and is a member of other groups such as: **Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community, Environmental Commission, Climate Action Team, Inter-faith Alliance, American Community Gardening Association, Slow Food Bluegrass/USA, Growing Food and Justice Initiative, KY Green Schools Initiative, Sustainable World Coalition and Model Court/Drug Court Team.**

HELP US continue our work in 2010...Make a contribution!!

Your contributions to Sustainable Communities Network will allow us to remain responsive to the growing needs **..and open to the opportunities...**that gardens, local and healthy food, eco-art and sustainable living bring to our communities. Please consider making a financial contribution this year that will support our programs to **empower, inspire and educate** our communities about social justice, local and healthy food systems, sustainable living and sacred Earth connections....**especially the youth!!**

Consider these ways to contribute:

- ◇ Please consider making a tax deductible **financial donation** and become a friend
- ◇ Please consider holding a **House Party For Sustainable Communities Network**
- ◇ Purchase a copy of Sustainable World Sourcebook
- ◇ **Volunteer** with our community initiatives, join our network and bring your ideas
- ◇ **Invite us to speak** at your school, university, faith community, or conference
- ◇ **Be creative:** suggest other ways that you can contribute to our humble efforts

You can donate with a credit card at:
www.sustainlex.org,

(859)312-7024, sustainlex@gmail.com

Please send your contribution to:

Sustainable Communities Network
573 Stratford Dr.
Lexington, KY 40503

