

InFARMed Classifieds

Gotta a spare camera?

Does anyone have a digital camera they would like to donate to the Ed Heads? Maybe one you've retired from active duty or replaced with this year's model? With a USB cable so pictures can be downloaded for sharing (with InFARMed, for instance!!) Call Linda Wellings at 985-0309



ages.

Since Education for Sustainable Development is about developing interdependent systems, efforts will be made to get representation from diverse fields including those whose interests are in the environment, health, water and sanitation, human rights, gender, peace, citizenship, social justice and others. Participants will represent civil societies and non-governmental organizations, corporations, academics and the media.

Shelburne Farms will be presenting a case study of sustainable schools. "This will be a chance to strengthen our international partnerships," Megan said.

One stop on their Indian journey will be a visit with Stanley and Jos in Karelia, and following the conference, Jen is participating in a five day organized trip to Northern India to observe environmental education programs there.

Excitement was in the air

The three-day Farm-Based Education Association Symposium was a great success. From the moment the 200 educators from 20 states checked in early Thursday morning, till the last workshop was finished on Saturday afternoon, there was an air of excitement, enthusiasm, sharing and commitment to a common goal.

Dana Hudson, who had led the team that had spent a year and a half planning for the symposium, said, "The Shelburne Farms family really

came through! I really want to give kudos to the Shelburne Farms program planning team. Keely Deutsch, Sarah Kadden, Susie Marchand, and Linda Wellings. Whether it was van rentals, or making table decorations, or hiring entertainment, or contacting all the presenters, this group truly followed through with every detail! Holly Brough was also a key contributor to making the look of this event fabulous. From a beautiful brochure, to weekly online changes, to day before layout additions, Holly was incredibly patient and helpful. I have never had the pleasure to spend as much time with Nia Spongberg either, until she and I focused on the registration for

this event. It was the first time that Shelburne Farms did online registration and Nia was there to work out every detail and glitch. Also, a big thanks to Hilary Sunderland, Andrea VanHoven, and Marissa Wilkens for all their incredible special events coordination. We truly do work with masters!"

Megan Camp, who is Chair of the Farm-Based Education Association which Shelburne Farms helped to found in 2005, said, "Thanks to everyone for pulling off such a spectacularly successful conference! It

Mark Your Calendar

Hear Andrew Gill

If you missed Andrew Gill playing at the Old Shed last month, he has booked another show there for this evening, Friday, Nov. 16 starting around 8. And if you don't know where the Old Shed is, it's in the Shelburne Shopping Park, tucked in the corner. Hope to see some farm faces down there.

Magnet schools a hot topic

At the beginning of November, Jen Cirillo of the Sustainable Schools Project was a guest on the Burlington School Commissioners' Corner program on Channel 17, Public Access Television.

Now we have some dates for the rebroadcast of that program and you can tune in to learn more about the proposal to have sustainability as a magnet school focus in Burlington:

Sat, Nov 17, at 10:50 pm

Sun, Nov 18, at 3:50 am

Sun, Nov 18, at 9:50 am

Sun, Nov 18, at 3:50 pm

would not have been possible without the strong teamwork of the staff of Shelburne Farms. From check writing to field trips, from registration to delicious meals, from workshops to washing wooden floors. I heard so many comments from people who were so impressed with the spirit and talent of the staff of Shelburne Farms who make this place so special. It was an event that strengthened the Farm's partnerships and goodwill all across the country and around the world...thank you all so much!

The objective of the symposium, according to Brooke Redmond, Executive Director of the FBEA, was to give farm-based educators a professional education experience, finding new ways to be inspiring and innovative in their farm-based education practice, as well as to make connections and network. "This was a chance for individuals to meet members of their community, people to reach out to when they aren't together, to find resources when they are back to their work lives," Brooke said. It was also a chance to introduce the FBEA to the public and to educators who might not have heard of it, but would like to join.

Generous sharing

Mark Klonick – Farm Machinery: selection, use and care of on-farm machinery in an education setting

Marshall Webb – Forest to Furniture – a hike and visit to Beeken Parsons to explore the journey of trees and sustainably managed forests – Marshall also led a workshop on Woodlands Management at Shelburne Farms

Sam Dixon – the Dairy to cheese story – meeting the main players in the working farm

Tom Nold – The Art of Listening, Setting Expectations, and Initiating Difficult Conversations – the foundation of all good communication

Sue Dixon – Keep the FUN in Fundraising – an interactive workshop on raising money – from the standard to the wacky

Erica Curry, Kim Norris – Farm to School: Bringing Our Local Foods into the School Cafeterias

Sam Smith – Working with Plants and Animals for Production and Education –

Linda Wellings – The Farm: A Perfect Classroom – how farm-based education is an opportunity to learn using multiple intelligences

Alec Webb – Making Educational Farms Economically Sustainable – discussing strategies to pay for farm education programming, from participant fees to memberships, to value-added products

Holly Brough – Exhibits from the Roots Up – using the Forest to Furniture tree as an example, talking about developing, constructing and maintaining hands-on exhibits.

Dana Hudson – Resource Share Fest – journals and curriculum to share

Sam Smith, Jaime Yturriondobeitia – Cheesemaking and Children's Farmyard mini tours

Some great quotes

Keynote speaker Peter Forbes, founder with his wife Helen Whybrow, of the Center for Whole Communities, touched some very real chords in his talk on Friday morning at the Symposium. One of the most visceral was to ask the audience members to visualize a place that had had a strong influence on them as they grew up, a place they

loved, a place that made them who they are. With those images in his listeners' minds, he then dropped his bomb: "How many of you could go to that place today?" Probably for more than half the audience, those significant places are gone forever, victims of urbanization, commercialization and sprawl.

Forbes described the audience as "his tribe," and challenged them to "create a roadmap out of the mess we're in." He said, "This thing called Farm Based Education is the antidote" to the loss of connection to place that is the basis of many of the problems in our culture.

Another speaker Maurilio Cipparone, Director of Eco Idea in Italy, and a moving

force behind the establishment of educational farms in Italian national parks, told a story that illustrates the disconnect between today's children and nature. A child picked up a turtle, turned it over and over in his hands and inquired where the batteries went in.

Italy, he said, has the greatest biodiversity of any country in Europe with 57,000 animal species and 5,600 plants, 15% of which exist only in Italy.

The educational programs they have set up on farms in their relatively new national park system, are designed to conserve and enhance traditional practices and products, create a brand image and encourage job opportunities.



Maurilio Cipparone, Director of Eco Idea in Italy, used an apple to illustrate the ever-decreasing segment of the world left for us to study and protect.

Nat -- the deputy

Nat Bacon, Assistant Farm Manager, takes on a new role as he plays File, the Deputy Sheriff in the Shelburne Players current production of *The Rainmaker*. Nat has won praise for his portrayal of the lonely lawman with a secret. He has a chance to make the audience laugh, as he resists the efforts of his sheriff boss to give him a dog to be his friend, and also to sympathize as he attempts to break through you self-consciousness to have a real conversation with the unmarried Lizzie, after everyone has made ill-concealed attempts to get them together. Here File demonstrates his independence by attempting to mend the tear in the sleeve of his shirt.

***The Rainmaker* will be on stage at Shelburne Town Center tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and \$10. Call 985-0780 to make reservations.**

