

planit green

Autumn Issue—2013

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
ISC  AUDUBON



WARREN H. WHITE, NaturalDiscoveriesPhotography.com

Sustainable food starts with a healthy Earth.



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Editors Note: Welcome to the all new Planit Green Magazine

Much like a caterpillar that transitions to a butterfly, *Planit Green* is a publication that has gone through a metamorphic process. Starting out as *SustainAbility News*, then becoming *GLOBAL Sustainability* and now *Planit Green*, this transition was based on input from readers and supporters.

Some readers thought that *SustainAbility News* was good...but too short and simple. On the other hand, many people thought *GOLBAL Sustainability* was very good...but too long and a bit too technical in nature.

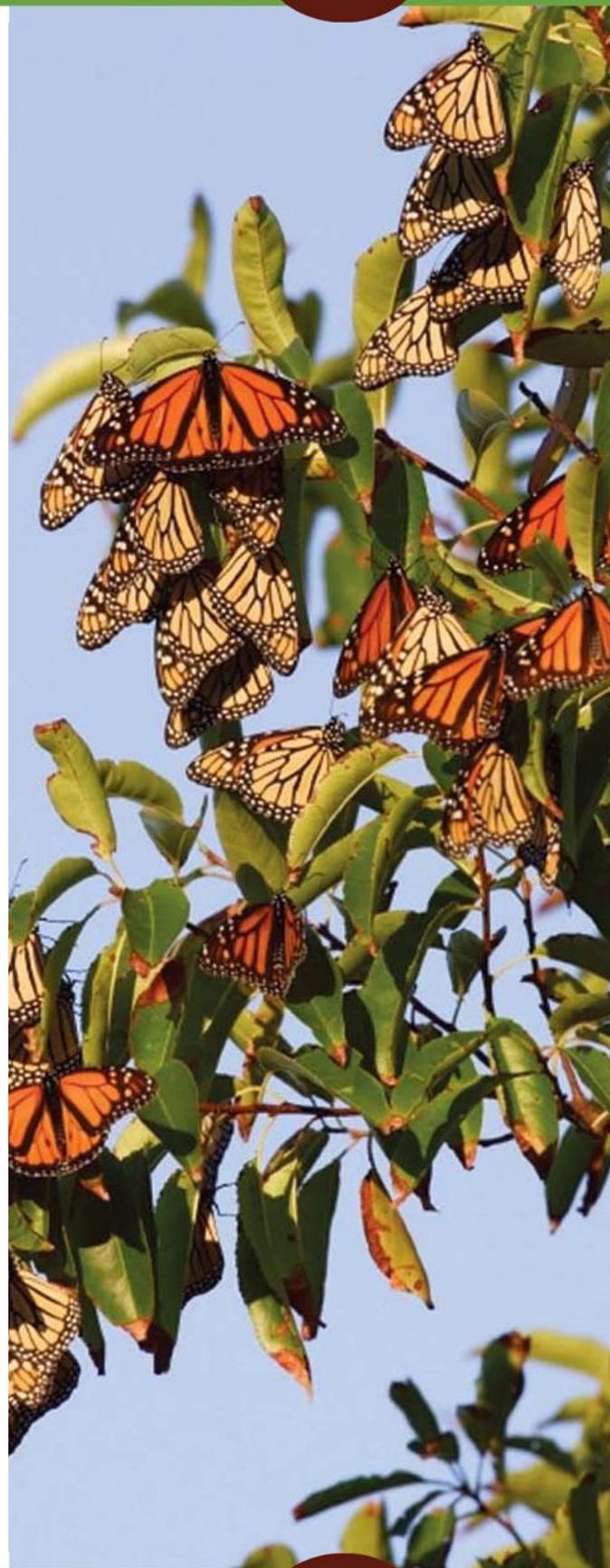
The overwhelming feelings expressed seemed to indicate that our readers, members and supporters desire a publication that is easy to read and that provides easily understood and useful information that they can then use, where they live, work and play. That is what we are attempting to accomplish via the pages of *Planit Green*.

There is an obvious play on words in regard to “Planit”, that being a reference to our Planet Earth, but also in regard to the need to actually Plan projects and then implement them! In other words, if we truly want a Green Planet...we must Plan for it and then implement the Plan!

We want to hear from our readers on an ongoing basis. If you like an article and you use the information to start your own project, let us know about that. If you don't like an article, or you don't understand something that was said in the publication, let us know that too. If you have suggestions for future articles, please pass those along. This is a publication of ISC-Audubon, but in actual fact it is your publication... our members, friends and supporters. Without you, we could not continue our efforts and without you becoming engaged in conservation and sustainability action, we will not reach our goals of a “greener planet.”

Once you have read Planit Green, we hope that you will forward each issue on to friends and family, and encourage them to become involved in conservation and sustainability also.

Thank you for your membership, support and involvement. Thank you for your efforts in working for a greener Planet Earth and don't forget to ***Planit Green!***



planit green

A digital publication to share entertaining and useful information about Conservation in Action, Green Living and Lifestyles, and ways to Discover Nature at home, work and play. Each issue will feature helpful tips that will save money and help the environment. Showcases of new conservation oriented products, technologies and services will keep readers up to date and informed of new and exciting ways to make a difference to the quality of the environment, while saving money at the same time.

“The natural world’s benefits to our condition and health will be irrelevant if we continue to destroy the nature around us. But that destruction is assured without a human reconnection to nature.”

- Richard Louv

PLANIT GREEN SECTIONS

Conservation in Action..... pages 6-9

The term conservation came into use in the late 19th century and referred to the management, mainly for economic reasons, of such natural resources as timber, fish, game, topsoil, pastureland, and minerals. In addition it referred to the preservation of forests (forestry), wildlife (wildlife refuge), parkland, wilderness, and watersheds. Since 2000, however, the concept of landscape scale conservation has risen to prominence, with less emphasis being given to single-species or even single-habitat focused actions. Instead an ecosystem approach is advocated by most mainstream conservationists. Protecting ecosystems and fostering sustainable relationships between humans, habitats and species is vital to protecting global biodiversity for good.

Green Living & Lifestyles pages 10-19

Those who choose green living and lifestyles choices attempt to reduce both their and society's use of the Earth's natural resources and personal resources. Practitioners of green living often attempt to reduce their carbon footprint by altering methods of transportation, energy consumption, and diet. Proponents of this type of lifestyle aim to conduct their lives in ways that are consistent with sustainability, in natural balance and respectful of humanity's symbiotic relationship with the Earth's natural ecology and cycles. The practice and general philosophy of green living is highly interrelated with the overall principles of sustainability.

Discovering Nature pages 22-27

Throughout human history, we have lived with a close connection to the land. It has only in the recent centuries that we've barricaded ourselves in high rises and giant track homes doing our best to keep nature out as if it wasn't an inherent part of who we really are. We lose something when we do this—a piece of ourselves that needs to connect with the natural world.

We must make sure the next generation has the opportunity and motivation to have meaningful encounters with nature, because they cannot grow to love nature if they do not experience it. If children lose their love of nature, who will be the environmental stewards of the future?



This Issue of Planit Green

Conservation Landscapes For America

Conservation Landscapes for America is aimed at fostering residential, business and municipal landscapes that are resource efficient, economically efficient, science-based, and that provide ways for people to connect with nature right outside of their front doors.

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Lend A Hand to Wildlife: Providing Food, Shelter and Water.....

The basic requirements that all living creatures need in order to survive include food, shelter and water. These basic requirements are really simple enough that nearly everyone can lend a hand to wildlife by providing all three of these components in your own personal landscape.

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Valuing the Simple Life

The sustainable lifestyle came on slowly for Shelia Finney, but step by step she was able to work changes into her lifestyle that made a difference. One of her big motivators was that she wanted to be out of debt. In her mind no debt is freedom. Freedom to make choices and decisions instead of "having" to live a certain way.

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A Sustainable Village in the North

Tucked into a spruce forest underlaid by permafrost, invisible from the rest of the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, is a different type of science experiment. It includes four 4-bedroom homes, each with a unique blend of foundation, wall type, building form, and heating system. It is a testbed for cold climate building science and energy research.

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Turtle Research on Golf Courses.....

In the urban environment, golf courses often are the predominant green space—protected green islands surrounded by busy streets, residential housing, and traffic-congested businesses. However, is the habitat value that golf courses provide good enough to help conserve turtles, which are increasingly threatened for their very existence in this modern world?

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Costa Rica: The Ultimate Nature Discovery Journey

Costa Rica has a long tradition of receiving tourists with open arms. It doesn't matter what you are looking for: adventure or rest; beaches, mountains, rivers or volcanoes. Costa Rica allows you to share in all the richness that nature has to offer.

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Winterize Your Bird Houses

After the breeding season ends and birds have migrated, it is time to winterize your bird houses so they will stay safe and suitable for the next spring's families. Many birders remove their bird houses in the fall to preserve them, while others convert them to roosting boxes for shelter all winter long.

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Bird Watching Tourism

Bird watching and birding is a booming international business opportunity that attracts low volume, low impact and high return visitors that boost rural tourism economies and support jobs in rural areas. Bird watching and birding remains one of world's leading recreational activities.

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Member Showcase: Antioch University

Antioch University New England (AUNE) and ISC-Audubon (ISCA) have agreed to work together to develop sustainability and conservation-oriented programs and workshops for ISCA members, supporters, partners, and contributors. We are proud and excited to be partnering with Antioch University.

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Member Showcase: Los Angeles Dodgers & The Dodgers Stadium.....

Over the past year since the Los Angeles Dodgers first joined ISC-Audubon as a Platinum Member and Chaz Perea enrolled Dodgers Stadium into the Sustainable Landscapes Program they have been closing in on becoming the first Major League baseball stadium to earn Certification as a Sustainable Landscape.

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Conservation Landscapes for America

Private landowners are responsible for the use and management of over two-thirds of our nation's land, including some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat in the United States. Farmers, homeowners and business owners of many types can voluntarily participate in conservation programs

that will save natural resources, as well as their own financial resources. *Conservation Landscapes for America* is a grassroots project of the International Sustainability Council & Audubon Lifestyles (ISC-Audubon) that is aimed at working with people where they live, work and play to maximize personal landowner

benefits as well as to benefit wildlife and the environment through their landscapes.

ISC-Audubon believes that helping people to become more connected with nature and natural resources is critical to environmental improvement. Communities, homeowners and successful businesses are realizing that proper landscape management is not only good for business, but can also dramatically add value to the overall property. Entire communities are now publically recognizing conservation landscape management as a critical piece regarding their efforts to promote their communities as special places to live, work and play.

It is in that regard that ISC-Audubon has created the *Conservation Landscapes for America* project. As a not-for-profit organization, we want to do our part to advocate sustainability and sustainable resource management and to publically recognize those individuals, businesses and institutions that take positive and constructive action regarding the practice of conservation landscape management.



Conservation Landscapes for America is aimed at fostering residential, business and municipal landscapes that are resource efficient, economically efficient, science-based, and that provide ways for people to connect with nature right outside of their front doors.

In addition to the efforts being made by ISC-Audubon to create the largest network of privately owned and managed conservation landscapes in America, we are also raising funds and giving grants to create and manage conservation landscapes called *Nature Discovery Gardens*, which are located at schools, libraries and other not-for-profit locations as our way of providing spaces for people to get "re-connected" with nature.

The efforts of ISC-Audubon is only possible with the financial support of members and contributors. With that support, we are able to keep all of our educational information concerning the practices associated with conservation landscape management available, free of charge via our web site.

Please consider joining us in this effort by registering your landscape into the Conservation Landscapes for America Project. To learn more, visit us online at: www.isc-audubon.org





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Everyone knows a fireplace makes a home more cozy and inviting. But did you know that gas fireplaces are the choice for green builders? Propane fireplaces burn cleaner than wood-burning fireplaces, and can be very efficient. And with a wide range of styles—from traditional to ultra-contemporary—you can always find the right propane fireplace to create the perfect ambience.

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Lend A Hand to Wildlife: Providing Food, Shelter and Water

Fall is in the air, at least in some places and at least part of the time. As I write this in mid-September, it was 93 degrees 2 days ago here in the Albany, New York area! None the less, the seasons are changing and the birds are beginning to move their way toward the south.

The basic requirements that all living creatures need in order to survive include food, shelter and water. These basic requirements are really simple enough that nearly everyone can lend a hand to wildlife by providing all three of these components in your own personal landscape. I have seen even apartment dwellers who put up window box flower planters for butterflies!

The point is that everyone, everywhere can take conservation oriented actions that will help wildlife. If you have enough room in your landscape, building and monitoring a simple nesting box for critters that nest in such structures not only helps provide nesting habitat for cavity nesting wildlife, but it is actually a fun and educational enterprise to keep track of what actually uses the box and how many young birds (for example) actually are fledged from the nest.

In addition to nest boxes, other forms of shelter including wood piles, and multiple “layers” of vegetation also provide needed shelter. In other words, instead of just having all, uniform, cut short turfgrass...include some shrubs, ground covers and other types of vegetation that not only will benefit more wildlife because of the diversity, but also provide some shelter for wildlife to hide from predators.

Water is another very important component of the basic requirements for life. This doesn't have to be in the form of a huge lake or pond either. It can be a simple bird bath, or even a milk jug, with a hole punched in it so that a steady droplet of water fall from it when the jug is hung over a garbage can lid placed on the ground. Water is important and you will be surprised what critters are attracted to even the simplest water feature.

Food for wildlife can come in all forms. While some people immediately think of bird feeders, which can be very helpful in the long, cold winter months, it can also be supplied via appropriate plantings of vegetation that is native to the area where you live. Native plants need less maintenance once established and they also benefit local wildlife much more than plants that are from distant location. Some living establishments actually do not allow the use of bird feeders for a variety of reasons. So... in those cases, providing food might be relegated to proper plant use. While this might be a limiting factor to the diversity of wildlife seen in a landscape, there are still ways to provide this basic life requirement.

Many people only think about providing nesting opportunities for wildlife during the summer months, or providing bird feeders during the winter months. But, the fact of the matter is that during migration season, the birds are under considerable stress and pressure from predators. So...think about your landscape also as a “rest stop” on a huge international migratory “highway.” Don't forget that many forms of wildlife are going to be traveling very long distances in the fall and again in the spring. They might only stop off in your “rest stop” for a day, or part of a day, but we can all do our part to lend a hand to wildlife where we live, work and play.

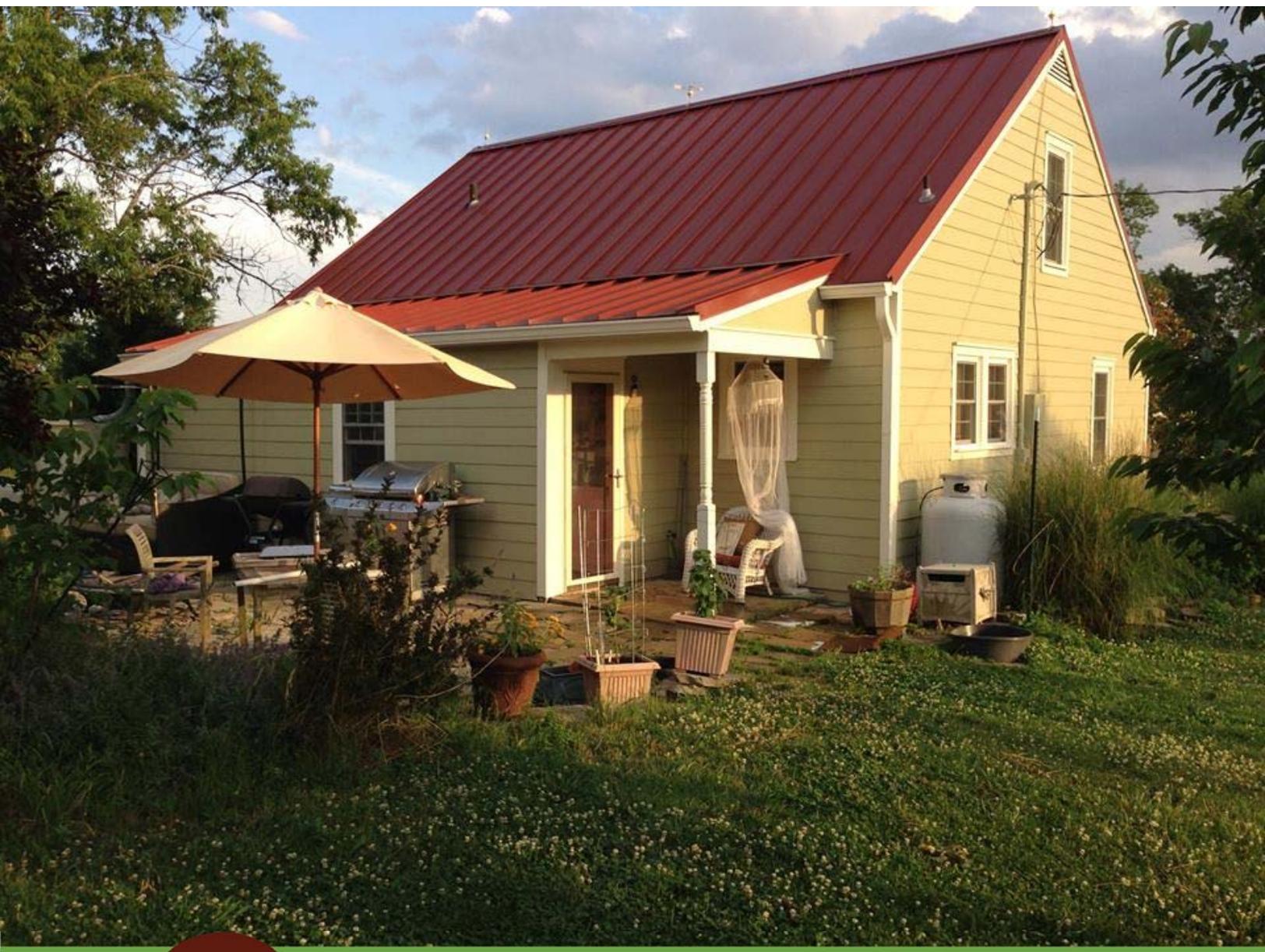


Valuing the Simple Life

I live in the country on a beautiful piece of land. I garden, can my own food, have honeybees and chickens. I live as frugally as I can and in the process my "footprint" on the earth is very light. So how did I start living a more sustainable life? I have to admit that it was by accident. I certainly didn't grow up this way. I grew up in the suburbs. Shopping is an Olympic sport in my family. Black Friday is a tradition. Food came from the store, not a garden. I don't fit the mold of my family.

The sustainable lifestyle came on slowly, step by step I've worked changes into my lifestyle that have made a difference. One of my big motivators was that I wanted to be out of debt. In my mind no debt is freedom. Freedom to make choices and decisions instead of "having" to live a certain way. My solutions to sustainability may not be sexy, but they are frugal. I've also learned that if there is a book on it or directions on the internet I can learn to do it. It's been an interesting amazing journey that was one step that led to the next.

One of the first things I did was define my goals in life.



My goals, what gives my soul satisfaction and makes me happy. How I articulate my goal is that I want to be a happy, healthy, active, and independent person. Everything I do, how I live needs to work towards that goal.

My biggest expense was my house. I hated that I had a house that had rooms I rarely visited. It was a great 1901 Victorian that I had renovated in a "depressed" part of town. But I always had this dream of living in the country. The day I got up and found an armored SWAT vehicle in my front yard I knew it was time to go. The officer was very nice when he asked me to go back inside while they handled a "situation". So I downsized. I moved to a smaller house in the country. In the move I got rid of a bunch of "stuff" that I just didn't need anymore. I had heard it so many times that a lack of clutter is a freeing thing. It's really true! My new home is a very comfortable 1,300 square foot house built in the 1920's on a beautiful piece of land that is 8 acres.

It's a beautiful old farmhouse. My family didn't see the charm that I did when I first moved. It was a bit rundown but I fell in love the first time I saw it. The toilet sat in the bathtub because the bathroom floor was rotted. It had no heat other than a small propane stove in the living room. And the pipes had burst one winter when it was empty. But to me it was full of possibilities. The real issue was when my other house sold faster than it was supposed to and I moved into the new house anyway. I hauled water home in a 5 gallon cooler every day. Cooked on a camp stove. And you never really know how many times you get up at night to go to the bathroom until you have to go outside to a porta john! Why would I do that you ask. It was just too far a drive to make every day back and forth to work, my old house and the new house. I was



determined to do the work myself and as quickly as possible.

Because my house is older it wasn't the most energy efficient. I had moved into the house at the start of winter. I did purchase a new heat pump that was energy efficient. A programmable thermostat ensures that if I forget to lower the heat when I leave in the morning that heat pump won't be running all day with no one home. A few years later I bought a vent free fireplace and put it in the living room. It's where I spend most of my time. The thought was that I would keep that room warmer and let the other areas of the house be a bit cooler. It works wonderfully. During the shoulder seasons in spring and fall when it's only cool in the mornings I use the fireplace to take the chill off and just put on a sweater until the day warms up.

The windows were beautiful old windows that let the rain and the cold air pour right through. Just a month after I had moved in I was sitting in the living room enjoying watching a storm come in. The second that the rain started to hit the window water was just flowing in. It was comical when it was over. It did explain why the floor under that window wasn't in great shape. I bought new windows the next week. I caulked the new windows inside and out. Caulk is a wonderful thing. I also added insulation in the crawlspace under the house, there wasn't any. Down under the house if there was any daylight between the foundations I squirted that expandable foam into it. And in the attic I put a second layer. The impact was unreal. The house was immediately warmer.

Cooling in the summer was the next challenge. I read all about passive cooling, but didn't want to spend a bunch of money on it. It struck me one day when I was talking to my neighbor. His grandparents had owned

my house. We were talking about the heat in the summer and he said that he remembered that his grandmother would open all the windows at night and close the windows and the curtains during the day. He also remembered her planting ornamental beans on strings on the west side of the front porch to shade it. It was so elegantly simple. I opened all the windows at night and put box fans in the windows upstairs blowing outward. I drew in the cooler air at night and closed the windows and the curtains during the day. I put trellis in front of the west facing windows and planted beans. They shaded the windows and provided flowers for hummingbirds and beans to eat later. I cook inside as little as possible during the summer. Grilling outside means no extra heat source making the house warmer. Making up cold salads and sandwiches helps with that too. I can count the number of days that I ran the air conditioner for the last 2 summers on both hands.

Water heating and clothes drying are the next biggest users. I bought an energy efficient water heater with energy miser settings. It's really neat; you can change the setting very easily on a box on the top. During the summer I have the water temperature a little lower than in the winter.

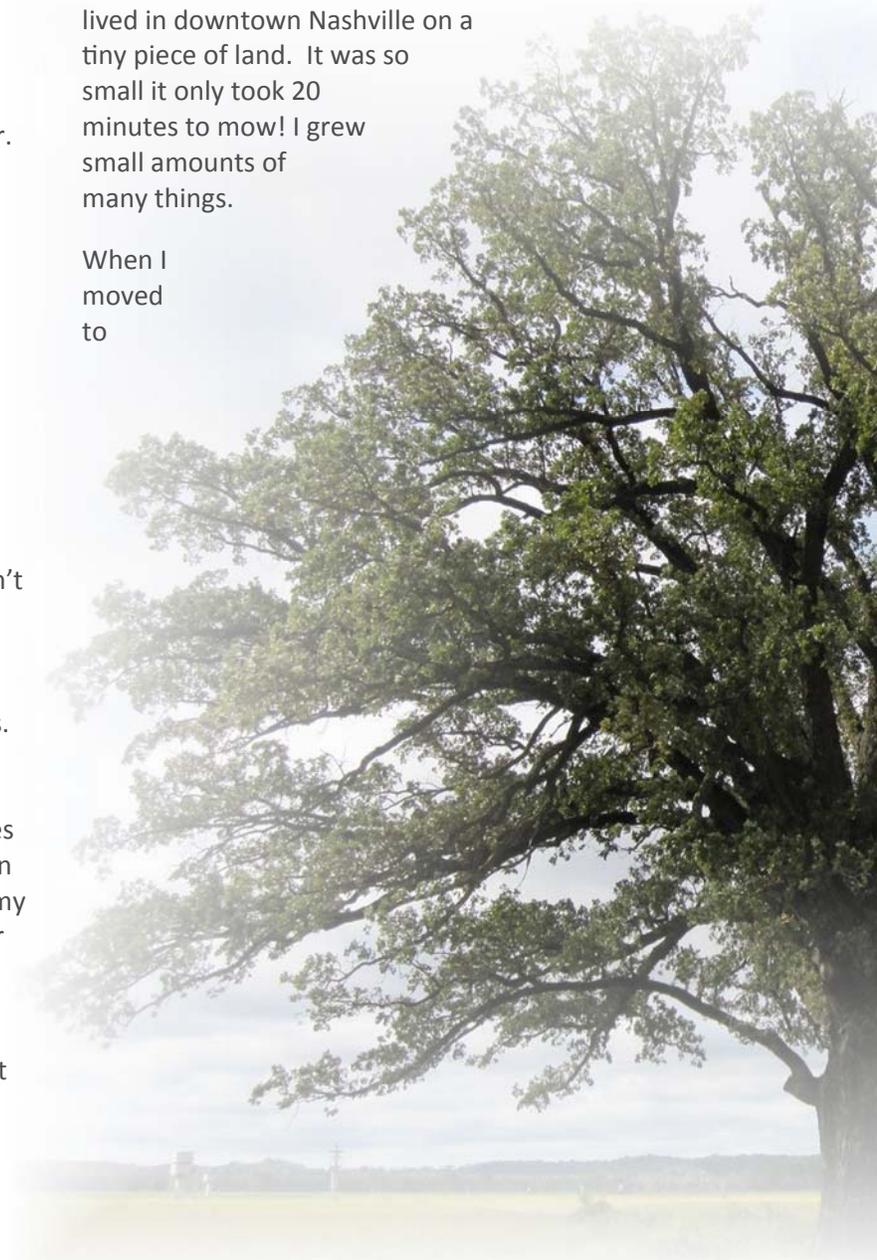
I'll never forget when I told my Mom I was line drying my clothes. She made a face and told me that she didn't like how stiff it made towels. Well I don't like drying myself with a raspy hard towel either. This is how I resolved it. I use fabric softener, vinegar actually, and then toss everything in the dryer for about 10 minutes. No, my clothes don't smell like vinegar. 10 minutes in the dryer is long enough to get the wrinkles out of everything and "fluff" the towels. Then everything goes outside. On a breezy day it's all dry in about an hour. In the winter it takes a couple of hours. One time when my Mom came to visit she made it a point to thank me for drying the towels in the dryer just for her. The look on her face when I told her I hadn't was priceless.

I made all these changes and all the small changes that you hear about. Turning lights off, unplugging phone

chargers and so on. I cut my energy bill in half.

I have a love affair with food. I am not a beans and rice every night kind of girl. I love good fresh creatively cooked food. I love variety and new recipes. Exotic ingredients and organic food are expensive. And sometimes you just can't find some of the things listed in the recipe. I had started learning about gardening at my old house in raised beds and pots. I grew an amazing amount of food in a very small space. I had also started canning the extra food at that point. I lived in downtown Nashville on a tiny piece of land. It was so small it only took 20 minutes to mow! I grew small amounts of many things.

When I moved to



the country I had more land than I knew what to do with. I asked my neighbor who grew up in my house where the original garden had been. I was making an assumption that the land would be better. I planted a big garden, and I mean big. 8,000 square feet. I also started all kinds of fruit. Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, figs, kiwi, apples, plums and pears. I grew more vegetables than I knew what to do with. My eyes were definitely bigger than my stomach and my available time. I work 50 to 60 hours a week so

there isn't much available time. I

learned that the deer, rabbits and ground hogs liked my garden as much as I did. They ate the apple trees down to the ground. I can't say that I was a great gardener that year, but I did have more

than enough to eat.

I'm an organic gardener by default. I'm too lazy to spray. One really rainy weekend I had taken some cardboard up the garden to kneel on while I weeded. Weeds will ruin your desire to garden in a heartbeat. Well I left it up there a couple of weeks. When I went to move it there were no weeds under it. I had a "duh" moment. And gathered all the cardboard boxes and newspapers I could. I had tried the landscape fabric before and was never thrilled with it The weeds just move it like a monster with a mission. Plus you had to buy it. The cardboard was free and it broke down by the end of the season. I just worked it into the soil. The earthworms love it, which can only be a good thing. It isn't a perfect solution but it absolutely helps cut down on weeding.

As I was sitting in my wicker chair one day pondering the emotions of earthworms I was watching my dogs play. I love my dogs, I don't love stepping in my dogs stuff. I collect it and toss it away from where I like to walk, way far away. Sitting there I glanced over to that spot. There were little patches of grass that was extremely happy looking. Lush and incredibly green. And I thought eureka! Manure. I went to the internet and researched it. For many reasons you can't use dog manure. So I bought bagged cow manure. I did a little test research. You know, these 3 tomato plants got some in the bottom of the hole, these 3 had it placed on top of the ground around the base of the plant and these 3 little piggy's had none. Night and Day! The plants that had the composted cow manure were bigger, healthier, didn't wilt and had more tomatoes. I couldn't stand the thought of buying all those bags. There is an organic dairy farmer down the road who filled up my truck several times. Yes, it was messy. Yes, it smelled. But it washes off you and out of your clothes. And within a couple of days it had worked itself into the soil. I got several truckloads of it and it made a huge difference in the garden and the earthworms were happy too.

This was the point that chickens entered my life.



Hauling the cow manure was really hard work. I thought that chicken manure had to be easier. I could have the chickens and move the copious amounts of manure that they would create for me a little at a time. I bought baby chicks and built them a little house. Looking back I must have thought mountain lions were going to try to eat them. Their house and run are like Fort Knox. Nothing could ever get in there. I started with 4 hens. Being a city girl I naturally thought there would be so much manure I couldn't possibly use it all. There isn't. Maybe with 100 chickens, not with 4. They don't even smell. But they do lay eggs! Each chicken will average an egg every other day. I never ate that many eggs before. They are not store bought eggs, they taste so much better. I have 9 hens now, I give away eggs as gifts. My friends love the eggs. The chickens are entertaining to watch as well. It gives you the true definition of "pecking order" and "hen pecked".

Shortly after the chickens I became interested in honey bees. There is a place I go to in the spring in Kentucky that sells bees. I have to admit that I'm not that good with the bees yet. I've lost several hives to the winter.

But I have high hopes and always start over.

When you pick the bees up its early spring and cool. Well I'm not about to make my

girls, the bees, ride all the way home in the back of the truck. They ride in the cab with me. Did it make me nervous the first time? Absolutely! Not anymore. They are such interesting little creatures. Having so many pollinators right beside the garden made it produce so much more. When the apple trees bloom they just cover it. They, like the chickens, have taught me the true meaning of old sayings. Busy as a bee? Honey that you get from the bees is amazing! It's a work in progress and I learn every year.

My love affair with food and growing it turned to preserving it. Pickles, lots of jams and jellies, apple butter, tomatoes, tomato sauces, tomato soup, green beans, and peppers. The canned jams make wonderful gifts. For a while there I felt like a mid-wife. I would come home from work and start boiling water to can with. I had a turkey fryer that I had right out the back door that I boiled water on so I wouldn't heat up the house. At Thanksgiving I talked friends into saving me the leftover turkey carcass from their celebration. I made the most amazing turkey broth and turkey soup. I pressure canned it and used it all year. I've also started learning about drying foods. I made some wonderful venison jerky and "sun-dried" tomatoes. With all the fresh

vegies, eggs, and canned foods I don't spend much on food and I eat like a queen. Oh and the venison? No, I don't hunt, yet. But I trade canned homemade chili for venison every year.

All that canning made a lot of waste. All the cutting and



chopping, it was just so much. Not that you would know it, but I'm basically a lazy person. I wasn't about to pay to have my trash hauled off, not when there was a free center just down the road. But you had to load up the truck and drive there. Enter the compost bin. I got one of those cute little black composters from the city. Again I had visions of compost for the garden. It hasn't turned out that way. But it has cut way down on what I hauled out of the house. I average around 2 of the 13 gallon trash bags a month.

I have to admit this is an obsession with me. I brag about how little trash I haul away. I work very hard to not bring trash into my house in the form of packaging. I reduce, reuse and recycle everything. I don't buy different cleaners for every room in the house. I use organic cleaners, or mix them myself. Vinegar is a great multi-purpose product. You can, can pickles with it, clean your windows and soften your laundry. Anything I buy I think about, I try very hard to not buy anything on impulse.



With a garden that big watering it is an issue. My first water bill made me put the garden on water restrictions. The compost and the cardboard definitely helped, but it still needed to water when it didn't rain. Overhead watering with a sprinkler just isn't efficient; it evaporates as you are watching it. Standing there with a hose is just too time consuming. So I bought drip irrigation and put timers on it. That worked much better but I was still paying for water. I knew that when it rained hard, that it poured off my tin roof. I got creative and acquired a 500 gallon plastic tank. I put it where I could at least water all the landscaping around my house and save that way. The first time it rained just 3/10ths of an inch of rain it filled the tank. It saves a huge amount of city water.

All of these steps have been eye opening and so empowering. My biggest ideas came when I was sitting quietly watching what was going on around me. Being silent, present in the moment and just paying attention. I've learned that many of the things that the "old timers" did just made sense. They made use of

everything they had because they had to. There is something wonderfully intoxicating about picking blackberries and eating them on a sultry warm day.

How am I doing on my goals? What's next? I'm playing with making wine and hard cider. I've just opened bottles of hard apple cider that I made 2 years ago. It's wonderful! My neighbor has land that has a persimmon tree on it. I gathered 20 pounds of fruit and it tastes quite promising. On my back porch there is a 5 gallon container with pear wine fermenting. It smells full of promise and now that it's cold it reminds me of the tree ripened fruit. Goats for milk, cheese and soap? Foraging for wild foods? Whatever sparks my imagination and makes me feel alive. Living closer to the land makes me content. I'm out of debt and yes, I'm happy.





Planit Green is Bringing the “Centerfold” Back!

Photo taken by Don Holland at Shiloh Military Park

Shiloh National Military Park preserves the American Civil War Shiloh and Corinth battlefields. The Battle of Shiloh began a six-month struggle for the key railroad junction at Corinth. Afterward, Union forces marched from Pittsburg Landing to take Corinth in a May siege, then withstood an October Confederate counter-attack.

Don Holland is a freelance photographer living in middle Tennessee. To check out more of Don's photography, or to get in contact with him visit his Pixoto portfolio website at: <https://www.pixoto.com/don.holland3>





The Bald Eagle is both the national bird and national animal of the United States of America. In the late 20th century it was on the brink of extirpation in the continental United States. Populations recovered and the species was removed from the U.S. federal government's list of endangered species on July 12, 1995 and transferred to the list of threatened species. It was removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in the Lower 48 States on June 28, 2007.



A Sustainable Village in the North

Tucked into a spruce forest underlaid by permafrost, invisible from the rest of the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, is a different type of science experiment. It includes four 4-bedroom homes, each with a unique blend of foundation, wall type, building form, and heating system. It is a testbed for cold climate building science and energy research.

“This is a very unique project. We’re trying to do a minimal impact housing development here that can be an example for the people of Alaska of affordable, extremely energy efficient homes,” said Jack Hébert, president and CEO of the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The UAF Sustainable Village is a partnership between the University of Alaska Fairbanks and CCHRC to build a model that can be repeated at the university and in communities across the state.

The super low-energy homes use experimental technologies adapted to a cold climate—such as super-insulated floating foundations, heat storage, solar hydronic, and integrated heating and ventilation.

UAF students from across disciplines helped design and build the homes, and are now working with CCHRC to monitor energy use, water use, indoor air quality, and more.

“The thing that’s unique about this project is that for the first time we’re engaging students in the development of sustainable housing,” said Michele Hébert, who heads the UAF Office of Sustainability. “Our hope is that this will lead to more young people learning how to live sustainably and be future leaders in sustainability.”

The project began in the fall of 2011 with a design seminar and contest at UAF. Student teams learned about sustainable design and infrastructure, renewable energy, community food production, and more. They submitted design renderings and narratives with their visions for the Village to a committee of design and planning professionals, and the winning team worked with CCHRC designers to bring their ideas into reality.

The Village broke ground in the spring of 2012. Ten students, including a couple from the design team, joined a seasoned construction crew to build the four homes. Through a separate UAF class, students installed solar PV panels next to the Village that help offset electricity use.

Each house is about 1,400 square feet with four bedrooms, one bathroom, a kitchen, and dining and living areas. They each have large south-facing decks on the second floor that optimize solar gain and minimize bugs.

The homes are super-insulated, with R-60 walls, foundations, and roof, and are modeled to use the equivalent of less than 250 gallons of heating oil a year, or 80 percent less than the average comparable house in Fairbanks.

Research Questions

The homes seek to answer a number of questions about the cost and performance of various building and mechanical systems in cold climates. For example, what are the material and labor costs of using rigid foam versus cellulose for wall insulation? How much does it save to build a super-insulated on-grade foundation instead of a piling foundation, and what are the effects on permafrost? Each house is wired with monitoring equipment to track energy, power, and water use as well as ground temperature and indoor air quality.

All of the homes have 2x6 walls with 5.5 inches of batt insulation in the cavity, though they differ by type of exterior insulation. Three are wrapped in 8 inches of rigid foam, while the other has a steel stud standoff wall filled with 12 inches of recycled cellulose insulation. “It’s like a nice, thick parka, and it’s zipped all the way up and all the baffles are filled,” Jack Hébert said. An economic analysis of the project showed the two systems cost roughly the same and achieved the same insulation value.

“The idea is that this be a dynamic community, that it begin today but go on literally for decades.”

The homes also use a variety of heating and ventilation strategies. The two east homes have three solar collectors tied to a radiant slab heating system with either an oil heater or propane boiler as a booster. The two west homes use the BrHEAThe system, an innovative heating and ventilation system developed by CCHRC specifically for super low-energy homes. A small diesel heater injects heat into ventilation supply air, which is distributed to each room through a forced air system. With the tight, super-insulated homes found in Interior Alaska, inadequate ventilation can create poor indoor air quality and excess humidity, which poses health and structural problems. Mechanical ventilation is required in these homes to exhaust stale, moist air and bring in fresh outside air. This system links together heat with ventilation, making it impossible to heat the home without proper air movement.

The solar hydronic heating system cost about three times more (approximately \$30,000) than the diesel heating system, but the energy savings will offset the extra cost over time. Studying the output of the solar collectors and the fuel use of the conventional appliances will tell us the exact payback time of the system.

Another question is how an experimental raft-like foundation will perform on marginal permafrost. Two units are built on soils at an average temperature of 31 degrees, and keeping that ground frozen is a primary goal. Typically homes on permafrost are elevated off the ground either on pilings or post and pad foundations. CCHRC researchers worked with UAF permafrost scientists to design a foundation that could rest directly on the ground (which is less expensive to build and much warmer) without causing permafrost to thaw or shift.

The steel floor frame was placed on a gravel surface and the cavities were filled with about 12 inches of polyurethane spray foam, providing a thermal break to slow heat loss into the ground. Temperature sensors were strung in the ground to monitor temperature at various depths (from 2-10 feet down) and catch any potential warming. A small fan can be used with cooling tubes to vent heat from underneath the house.

Researchers are also measuring humidity inside the homes to ensure a healthy range for both occupants and the building envelope.

Life at the Village

Students moved into the homes in August 2012 in time for the fall semester. All residents signed a social contract pledging to conserve energy, recycle, participate in community meetings and committees, and be conscious of their carbon footprint by walking, biking, or using public transportation.



“We’re going to have to use less energy, to consume less, so living here gives me a better idea of that,” said Lex Treinen, a northern studies student who lives in the Village. “It’s a cool idea to be part of something new, of a new experiment.”

Students are also assigned tasks such as reading meters each month for water use, propane use, and flow rates through the solar thermal collectors.

Clayton Auld, an electrical engineering student living at the Village, is developing a program that tracks and displays real-time electricity use. “The idea is that it would monitor all the electricity that would be used in each house, and each house could see graphically and be more aware of the electricity that they’re using,” he said.

At less than \$180 per square foot, the Sustainable Village was the cheapest cost-per-bed the UAF has seen in a long time, according to the university. The university self-financed the \$1 million project and will pay off construction costs with student rents. Rent is \$700 per room, on par with campus rates for other single rooms, and approximates the cost of a mortgage on a similar single-family home in Fairbanks.

The next phase is to develop a master plan for the Sustainable Village, which may include a community center, greenhouse, and more clusters of super-efficient homes that demonstrate the latest technologies of the day.

“The idea is that this be a dynamic community, that it begin today but go on literally for decades,” said Jack Hébert. “So it’s really just the beginning.”





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Turtle Research on Golf Courses

Although this ancient group of reptiles has existed for over 220 million years, today nearly half of the approximate 300 turtle species are threatened or endangered. The situation is even worse when just freshwater species are considered, where 56% of those species are at risk. In the face of an ever-expanding urban population that eliminates much of their habitat and fragments the rest, wildlife biologists are searching for ways to slow or reverse this trend.

In the urban environment, golf courses often are the

predominant green space—protected green islands surrounded by busy streets, residential housing, and traffic-congested businesses. However, is the habitat value of golf course wetlands good enough that golf courses can help conserve turtles, which are increasingly threatened for their very existence in this modern world?

Scientists from Columbia University and the State University of New York wanted to find the answer to that question, and thanks to USGA funding through the Wildlife Links Program, they got their chance. During 2009 and 2010, researchers conducted detailed habitat analyses and surveyed wetlands from golf courses, urban areas, and wildlife refuges for turtle

populations near Syracuse, New York. The intent was to determine how well golf course wetlands compared to urban and wildlife refuge habitats, whether turtle populations in the golf course wetlands differed in specific population parameters, and determine which, if any, habitat characteristics could be the target of active management to improve turtle habitat on golf courses.

During the survey period a total of 413 turtles were captured including 164 painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) and 249 common snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) from wetlands in urban zones, golf courses, and wildlife refuges near Syracuse. Was the fact that only two turtle species were caught during the two-year capture period a cause for concern?

“Not really. These are the most common turtles of freshwater wetlands in the region. The other possible species either favor entirely different habitats or just don’t like to enter traps”, says Dr. James Gibbs, Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Environmental Biology at the State University of New York, Syracuse, and project leader. “Painted and snapping turtles, despite being common, are still very much worthy of our efforts to help them,” says Dr. Gibbs. “These turtles actually get abundant enough to play a role in the ecosystems they live in as consumers of others animals and plants. After fish come turtles in terms of overall amount of biomass in these wetlands.”

As the study compared turtle populations and habitat characteristics among golf course, wildlife refuge, and urban wetlands, some interesting findings emerged. Although the abundance for both turtle species was lowest in golf course wetlands, the sex and age structure of turtle populations were primarily influenced by the density and proximity of roads.

“Most people don't realize that freshwater turtles rely on the surrounding land for nesting and other purposes. When turtles have to leave a golf course and travel across roads to find appropriate habitat for these activities, that exposure can kill them. Fortunately, the restricted access and sparse traffic of golf courses is a very good thing for turtles”, says Dr. Gibbs.

Kristin Winchell, Columbia University, New York, who received her Master’s Degree working on this project, adds the following, “While the roads result was encouraging to us because it suggests that golf courses may provide safety from

the major threat of road mortality, other habitat measures (e.g., size, shape, and vegetation abundance of the wetland) fell short of the quality provided by wildlife refuges. Despite this, we did not note any major turtle population anomalies in the golf course wetlands, and we believe that some modest habitat enhancements can lead to big improvements in habitat for freshwater turtles on golf courses.”

The presence of roads is a determinant factor affecting turtle populations because turtles roam much farther from their resident ponds than most people understand. “Females make annual nesting migrations, and both sexes will move between wetlands to find mates or higher quality habitat”, explains Dr. Gibbs. “Painted turtles have been recorded to move more than 500 meters from their wetland. As long as there are no roads with heavy traffic in this zone, the turtles will manage.”

Does the lack of busy roads mean that turtles living on golf course wetlands typically live longer than turtles in urban environments? “Turtles can attain long life spans. Painted turtles, for example, live upwards of 40 years in the wild, says Dr. Gibbs. “Since turtles on golf courses have a lower risk of being captured or killed on roads, they almost certainly have a better chance of living out their full lives in golf course wetlands.”

In addition to its direct effect to reduce turtle populations, road mortality can also affect the sex ratio of the remaining population, which can affect the long-term survival of the population. “Road mortality most commonly happens to adult females when they are killed on roads during nesting migrations,” explains Ms. Winchell. “This has implications for population persistence since the adult population must remain abundant and fewer adult females mean fewer offspring next year.”

However, besides higher road mortality of migrating females, sex ratios of turtle populations can be affected by other factors. Ms. Winchell explains, “The sex ratio of a turtle population is determined by nest temperature. In some species, such as the painted turtle, warmer parts of the nest will produce females and colder parts of the nest will produce males”.

This astonishing fact leads to the first suggestion from Dr. Gibbs for superintendents wanting to help bolster their resident turtle populations. “Golf course superintendents might consider providing artificial nesting areas (piles of loam-



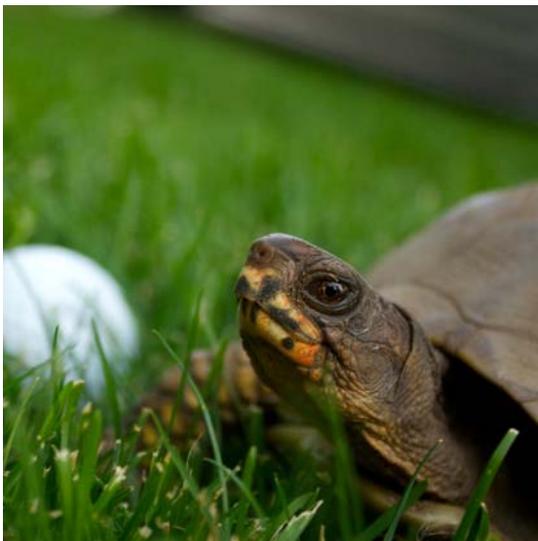
sand mix) with some partly overhanging tree limbs and leaves. This mix lets a female turtle lay her eggs in shade or full sun and thereby choose the sex of her offspring,” explains Dr. Gibbs. “Painted turtles actually do this – if there are lots of one sex in the population they will lay their eggs in warmer or cooler situations to produce more of the other sex. It’s pretty remarkable really.”

Like other wildlife, turtles need the capacity to roam, so habitat corridors are important. Wildlife biologists often talk about “connectivity” between habitat zones as a crucial factor in supporting wildlife populations. Ms. Winchell explains that connectivity between wetlands is an important factor for turtle populations, as well.

“When we talk about connectivity between wetlands, we are referring to the ease at which a turtle can move between two wetlands. Barriers such as roads decrease connectivity and make it less likely for turtles to migrate between wetlands”, notes Ms. Winchell. “This has important implications for long-term survival of turtles on a regional scale. Declining populations can be ‘rescued’ by immigrating turtles, which can bolster the resident population. Exchange of individuals between wetlands also increases genetic variability and reduces potentially harmful repercussions of inbreeding.”

“Finally, when habitats become unsuitable, it is important that individuals can migrate to new wetlands of acceptable quality”, says Ms. Winchell. “Maintaining landscape connectivity is one of the main reasons why creating quality habitat in urban regions is important since an uninhabitable zone could isolate populations in and around urban centers.”

Another factor that favors the long-term survival of turtle populations is the vegetation in and surrounding the wetland. “Vegetation in a wetland seems to be important for several population parameters we sampled. Two vegetation types stood out: emergent and rooted vascular. Emergent vegetation is the fringe vegetation along the shoreline (e.g. cattails) and



rooted vascular vegetation is the submerged vegetation that is rooted to the bottom of the pond but may extend all the way to the surface (e.g. lily pads),” noted Ms. Winchell.

“Our study suggests that allowing the emergent vegetation around a wetland and the rooted vegetation within the wetland to grow may be beneficial to establishing and maintaining abundant turtle populations. Although many golf course managers we spoke with actively remove vegetation in wetlands and mow the shoreline vegetation, we recommend against this, if possible. Other activities aimed at decreasing aquatic vegetation, such as installing fountains and adding growth-inhibiting dyes to the water, may decrease the quality of the habitat by reducing vegetation needed for foraging. In our study, we did not catch any turtles in any of the wetlands we sampled with fountains or dyes.”

The study also identified other important factors in a successful wetland area. Ms. Winchell explains, “When planning development around wetlands, urban planners and golf course architects should keep two things in mind: (1) wetland size and shape and (2) providing a favorable mosaic of terrestrial habitat. Larger wetlands and wetlands that vary from basic circular shapes were associated with higher occurrence and greater numbers of turtles in our study. Varying the shape of a wetland away from basic circular shapes can improve the suitability of a wetland when making it larger is not an option.”

“The surrounding terrestrial habitat is just as important. Reducing turtle encounters with roads should be a high priority and can be achieved by distancing wetlands from roads and providing a mosaic of suitable land types nearby. Providing small patches of these alternate land types near the wetland allows turtles to travel less distance to find the terrestrial habitats they need”, says Ms. Winchell.

Dr. Gibbs sums the importance of this study up very nicely. “You have to think really long-term when you are trying to manage turtle populations”, says Dr. Gibbs. “It only takes one offspring to replace one adult to have a stable population, but even that can be hard to accomplish in today’s environment. That’s why we were interested in the role golf courses play as safe, quality habitat for freshwater turtles.”



Costa Rica: The Ultimate Nature Discovery Journey

"In Costa Rica we have a long tradition of receiving tourists with open arms. It doesn't matter what you are looking for: adventure or rest; beaches, mountains, rivers or volcanoes... I invite you to share all the richness that nature spread in this tropical land full of contrasts." - Carlos Ricardo Benavides, Ministro Turismo

Visiting Costa Rica - The Essentials

Climate: With a climate that is diverse and varied, Costa Rica can be divided into several climatic zones, each of which are distinct and individual. Costa Rica has no real winter period, and the sun shines here throughout the year. With over 12 hours of sunshine a day, the sun rises at about 5 am and sets at about 6 pm consistently throughout the year. The main reason for the diversity in Costa Rica's weather is the various elevations at which different parts of the country are located.

Geography: The highest point in the country is Cerro Chirripó, at 3,820 metres (12,532 ft), and is the fifth highest peak in Central America. The highest volcano in the country is the Irazú Volcano (3,431 m / 11,257 ft). Costa Rica also comprises several islands. Cocos Island stands out because of its distance from continental landmass (480 km from Puntarenas coast), but Calero Island is the largest island of the country (151.6 km² / 58.5 sq mi).

Biodiversity: 23% of Costa Rica's national territory is protected land. Costa Rica is considered to be one of the 20 countries

with greatest biodiversity in the world. Its geographic position, its two coasts and its mountainous system, which provides numerous and varied microclimates, are some of the reasons that explain this natural wealth, both in terms of species and ecosystems.

Population: Unlike many of their Central American neighbors, present-day Costa Ricans, population approx. 4.3 million, are largely of European descent. An estimated 10% to 15% of the population is Nicaraguan, of fairly recent arrival. Few of the Indigenous peoples survived European contact; the Indigenous population today numbers about 29,000 or less than 1% of the population.



Our 10 healthy tips for eco-tourism

- 1) Enjoy without destroying or interfering: just watch!
- 2) Help to preserve nature: eco-tourism is, by definition, an active type of tourism.
- 3) Make an educational experience out of your tourism activities: think and learn.
- 4) Get involved all year long, not just during your vacation.
- 5) Make sure that the company you use to plan your vacation is really "eco driven" and committed to nature preservation, and that they are not just using the eco word.
- 6) Make sure you notify the local authorities whenever you see bad ecological practices.
- 7) Minimize your waste: reuse and recycle every time!
- 8) Minimize the use of your car: use public transportation, your bike or your legs as often as you can.
- 9) Support the local business when you travel: buy their products, try their food, learn their culture!
- 10) Tell this to your friends: if you like it, preach it!

2013-2014 Schedule of Costa Rica Nature Discovery Journeys

Nature, Indigenous Culture	27 Nov -5 Dec
Rainforest and Cloudforest	18-26 January
Bird Watching	22-29 March
Flowers and Orchids	26 April – 3 May
Diving and Snorkeling	5-12 July
Whales and Dolphins	23-30 August





Winterize Your Bird Houses

After the breeding season ends and birds have migrated, it is time to winterize your bird houses so they will stay safe and suitable for the next spring's families. Many birders remove their bird houses in the fall to preserve them, while others convert them to roosting boxes for shelter all winter long.

Bird Houses After the Breeding Season

While birds do not breed during the winter, bird houses can still be useful as roosting boxes. Some backyard birders, however, prefer to put away their bird houses to keep them better preserved for the next spring. Whether you plan to store or convert your bird houses, it is essential to thoroughly clean bird houses after the breeding season to remove any pests, bacteria or mites that could be hazardous to birds. Remove any old nesting material at this time, and sanitize the house well. This is also an ideal time to inspect the house for necessary repairs, such as unclogging drainage holes, removing splinters and strengthening seams.

Storing Bird Houses for Winter

After cleaning and repairs, if you plan to put your bird houses away for the winter...

- Dry each house thoroughly for several days in a cool indoor location so there is no possibility of mold or mildew developing.
- Seal each house separately in a plastic bag to protect it from additional moisture, insects or other pests during the winter.

Store the house in a dry, safe location where it will not be damaged. Avoid stacking houses on top of one another or placing them in a location where they may fall or be crushed by other items.

Converting Bird Houses to Roost Boxes

Converting bird houses to winter bird roost boxes is easy and helps provide safe winter shelters for birds. Some bird houses are designed to convert to roost boxes, and if those are the houses you use, follow the manufacturer's instructions for the conversion. If you have only a basic bird house and wish to convert it to a winter roost box, you can do so after it has been cleaned and repaired.

If possible, remove the front panel of the house with the entrance hole and invert it so the hole is closer to the bottom of the house than the top. Because warm air rises, this

will keep more heat inside the house.

- Block most of the upper and lower ventilation holes in the bird house to help trap heat inside the structure to keep birds warm. Small pieces of foam can be cut to fit under the eaves of the house or to plug holes. Silicone gel can be smoothed along the outside of the house's seams to seal even tiny cracks, and it will prevent moisture from getting into the house.
- Put perches inside the bird house to allow more birds to use the space. Multiple adult birds may crowd inside the same house to stay warm, and without extra perches, birds on the bottom may smother. Even inserting small twigs to lean against the sides of the house from corner to corner can provide better perching space.
- Add a thin layer of grass, wood shavings or sawdust to the bottom of the birdhouse to provide additional insulation and to make it easier to clean the house the following spring.
- Use a dark shingle or similar cover on the roof of the bird house to darken it. Not only will this provide additional insulation, but the darker color will trap more solar heat each day. Allow the cover to overhang the entrance more than a typical roof to provide better protection from snow and rain.

Position the house in an appropriate location to protect roosting birds. Be sure the entrance is facing away from prevailing winds, and place it where it will receive afternoon sunlight to keep warmer later in the evening. Placing the house under a home's eaves or tucked near the trunk of a tree are both great options, but be sure the placement is still safe from predators.

When Winter Ends

No matter whether you plan to store your bird houses or convert them to roost boxes, be ready for spring to arrive and have your bird houses prepared for early nesting birds. While stored bird houses will only need a cursory inspection the following spring before they are ready for birds, roost boxes will need to be changed back into bird houses and thoroughly cleaned again before families take up residence.

Winterizing your bird houses will help protect them for next spring's nesting season, and if you choose to convert them to roost boxes, birds will enjoy the shelter all winter long. By taking the appropriate steps for either storage or conversion, birders can extend the life and usefulness of all their bird houses so they will be able to enjoy generation after generation of healthy bird families in every season.





Bird Watching Tourism

Bird watching and birding is a booming international business opportunity that attracts low volume, low impact and high return visitors that boost rural tourism economies and support jobs in rural areas. Bird watching and birding remains one of world's leading recreational activities. With more accessible birding and bird watching destinations available, there has been a massive increase in the number of internationally itinerant bird watching and birding tourists traveling the world in search of birds to tick off the "life" list.

According to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study, birdwatchers contributed with 36 billion dollars to the US economy 2006, and one fifth (20%) of all Americans are identified as birdwatchers.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006 survey, the number of wildlife watchers has grown by 8% since 2001 and spending on bird food and wildlife-watching equipment such as binoculars, cameras, and bird feeders has risen by 18%.

In the US over 47.7 million birders on average spent part of 115 days in 2006 pursuing their interest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006 survey defines two wildlife-watching categories: around the home and more than a mile from home. Eighty-eight percent of birders (almost 42 million) observe birds around the home, while 42 percent (almost 20 million) take birding trips.



Wildlife watching in the US is most popular in the West-North-Central region (the Dakotas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska) and New England. The West-North-Central region also leads in away-from-home watching.

Females participate more than males in around-the-home wildlife watching (54 vs. 46 percent), while males participate more than females in away-from-home watching (51 vs. 49 percent). Wildlife watching is most popular among people age 35 to 64. Wildlife watchers tend to be urban, college educated, and high-earning.

Antioch University

Antioch University New England (AUNE) and ISC-Audubon (ISCA) have agreed to work together to develop sustainability and conservation-oriented programs and workshops for ISCA members, supporters, partners, and contributors. ISCA is a



coalition of sustainability advocacy organizations created to foster sustainable living and lifestyles.

Through the partnership, AUNE and ISCA are exploring expansion of AUNE's educational offerings in sustainability, sustainable resource management, environmental stewardship, and ecological literacy to include co-branded, customized, and contracted concierge courses, workshops, and programs.

AUNE will name Ron Dodson, ISCA chairman, as a University Fellow in Sustainability Leadership. In his role as ISCA chairman, Dodson oversees the

collective efforts of ISC council members working toward developing partnerships with government agencies, universities, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations striving to promote and foster sustainable living and lifestyles. He is the former president and CEO of the Audubon Society of New York State Inc., also known as Audubon International, which he founded in 1987. He was also regional vice president of the National Audubon Society from 1982 to 1987.

"We expect this exciting partnership to strengthen our core sustainability programming and extend AUNE's reach," said Dr. Stephen Jones, president of AUNE and a councilman of the International Sustainability Council (ISC). "ISCA's global network will open new education vistas for AUNE, enabling us to take another big step in furthering our mission to ensure social and environmental justice in a sustainable world."

Aside from traditional, on-campus degree programs, AUNE and ISCA will investigate online programs, as well as customized certificate programs offered through workshops, seminars, and multi-day institutes to be delivered directly to professional organizations.

"We are proud and excited to be partnering with AUNE," Dodson said. "AUNE is a recognized leader internationally in sustainability education, with graduates in leadership positions globally, and a growing, dedicated faculty with expertise in leadership development, sustainability, and environmental and social performance. We look forward to building strong, long-term relationships with many organizations, businesses, and agencies that have a desire to include and expand their sustainability education and leadership development offerings."

About Antioch University New England (AUNE)

Antioch University New England offers highly respected doctoral, master's, and certificate programs in education, environmental studies, management and psychology. Located in Keene, New Hampshire, this unique institution serves approximately one thousand students each year. Founded in 1964, Antioch University New England is the oldest of Antioch University's graduate campuses. Inspired by the work of pioneering educator Horace Mann, Antioch University, a private, non-profit, 501(c) 3 institution, provides learner-centered education to empower students with the knowledge and skills to lead meaningful lives and to advance social, economic, and environmental justice. Learn more at: www.antiochne.edu.



ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

The Los Angeles Dodgers & Dodgers Stadium

Always the pioneering organization, perhaps it's no surprise that the Dodgers, who famously gave the world Jackie Robinson, and who currently employ baseball's first female head athletic trainer in Sue Falsone, should be the one and only Major League Baseball club to employ a full-time arborist. Chaz Perea, who's been with the team since 2009, is closing in on his Bachelor of Science degree in Turf Science from Penn State University Online, has Associate of Science degrees in Pest Management and Ornamental Horticulture from Mt. San Antonio College, and manages a full-time staff of four.

Perea is proud to point out the wide variety of Agave species, along with other great succulents in the sedum, kalanchoe, sencio, and aloe genus that his team has planted at the stadium. These succulents have been great in terms and

reducing water, fertilizer, and maintenance input.

Over the past year since the Los Angeles Dodgers first joined ISC-Audubon as a Platinum Member and Perea enrolled Dodgers Stadium into the Sustainable Landscapes Program they have been closing in on becoming the first Major League baseball stadium to not only earn Certification as a Sustainable Landscape, but the first Major League baseball stadium to earn any form of recognition or certification for environmental landscape management by any organization.

ISC-Audubon would like to wish a heartfelt "good luck" to the LA Dodgers who made the MLB playoffs this year, and are striving to win the 2013 World Series. It would be a testament to the Dodgers Organization to show that it is possible to not only take positive environmental steps while maintaining the highest level of sporting competitiveness as well.



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Through membership, support and involvement, ISC-Audubon is able to continue expanding our efforts to promote sustainability. We would not be able to continue to grow without membership support and involvement from the extraordinary group of individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, universities and municipalities who have decided that it was imperative to promote and support the tenets of sustainability. Our ability to reach our organization's mission and vision depends upon your participation.

Please join with us today and make a positive contribution toward being socially, environmentally and economically responsible where you live, work and recreate.



To learn more go to:
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Through membership, support and involvement, ISC-Audubon is able to continue expanding our efforts to promote sustainability. We would not be able to continue to grow without membership support and involvement from the extraordinary group of individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, universities and municipalities who have decided that it was imperative to promote and support the tenets of sustainability. Our ability to reach our organization's mission and vision depends upon your participation.

Please join with us today and make a positive contribution toward being socially, environmentally and economically responsible where you live, work and recreate.



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Leave a smaller, **greener** footprint

Your company's efforts to be environmentally responsible are very important to consumers. Donating products allows your business to work towards its zero waste initiatives by providing an eco-friendly alternative to disposing of or destroying your excess inventory.

Let Gifts In Kind International customize a signature product-giving program for your company. Our product-giving programs have helped companies like HP, The Home Depot, and Mattel bolster corporate sustainability efforts, reduce carbon footprints, and eliminate landfill waste in a cost-effective manner.

Interested in donating display items from your booth to benefit the local community? Gifts in Kind will be onsite at the exposition to accept your donations and place with qualified non-profit organizations in the local community.