

WELL NEWSLETTER – January 19, 2007

Calendar of WELL Events

January 29 – WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting will be held on January 29 at 6PM at 121 West Commercial Street. The agenda will be posted on the WELL website by January 26: <http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/node/69>.

February 5 – WELL Plenary Meeting

6:00PM, Willits City Council Chambers - 111 E. Commercial St

On February 5 WELL will have a plenary meeting devoted to what you, the working members are doing and how you would like the Coordinating Committee to assist you in doing it. We invite each of the sixteen teams to tell us all what you have been doing, who any of us in WELL should contact if we have questions or want to get involved, a list of the goals you are planning to tackle this year (hopefully including the ones set for your team in the Strategic Plan), and any requests for assistance you may desire from either the Coordinating Committee or another team. Please come to tell us what's going on, and to hear what other people are doing to localize our town.

At this meeting we will also conduct a straw vote regarding WELL's change in structure. Please come and express your opinion.

Other Events

The Now and Then Film Series – Winter 2007 schedule:

All films start at 7PM at the Little Lake Health Center, 45 Hazel, Willits
Suggested Donation: \$5.

January 18th – “Ripe for Change” – This fascinating documentary explores the intersection of food & politics in California over the last thirty years. Today while organic food is the fastest growing sector in agriculture, most large-scaling farming is still addicted to the use of fossil fuels. 55 minutes

February 15th – “Taken for a Ride” – PBS award winning documentary about the intentional takeover & dismantling of America's interurban short line rail systems by General Motors, Firestone Tires, etc. 60 minutes

March 15th – “Global Gardener” – Permaculture with Bill Mollison. Learn how permaculture weaves together microclimate, annual & perennial plants, animals, soil, water management and human needs into intricately connected productive communities. 120 minutes

April 19th - “Fed Up” - Overview of our food production system from the Green Revolution to the Biotech Revolution and what we can do about it including historical footage of Monsanto's development of GMOs and interviews with farmers, scientists, government officials and activists. 58 minutes

January 17 – John Jeavons' Talk on Biointensive Gardening – Willits

John Jeavons will be giving a public talk, "GROW BIOINTENSIVE Gardening Projects: What makes for Success?" which will cover the topic of successful GROW BIOINTENSIVE garden projects around the World. The Biointensive project in Kabul, Afghanistan which is supported primarily by Willits residents will be included in the discussion. There will be time for questions and answers. This event will be Wednesday, January 17th, 7 PM to 8:30PM at the Willits Methodist Church. The event is free but donations are appreciated. This event is a benefit for the GROW BIOINTENSIVE Afghanistan Project.

January 17 – Willits Transportation Workshop – Willits

The Mendocino Transit Authority, Odyssey, & IBI Group invite you to join them at a community workshop to look at ways to improve local transit in Willits. The event is at 6:30PM on January 17 at the Integrated Services Center on 221 South Lenore Avenue, Willits. Please RSVP by calling the MTA at (800) 696-4682 or e-mailing lauren@odyssey.org.

January 18 – Interview with "Ripe for Change" Filmmakers

Joanna Wildoak will interview the makers of "Ripe for Change" on KZYX&Z at 9AM on January 18. You can hear this interview and then see the movie later on the same day. See above for movie showing information.

January 20 – Pruning Class – Willits

On Saturday, January 20 at 10AM Sanhedrin Nursery will hold a free pruning class. The class will go until 2PM and then there will be a field trip to an orchard to demonstrate pruning techniques. For more information please call 459-9009.

January 21 – Farm Bill Forum – Ukiah

The Anderson Valley Foodshed group and the Community Alliance with Family Farmers are co-sponsoring the Farm Bill Forum to discuss what the 2007 federal Farm Bill means for local farms. The event is on Sunday, January 21 from 3PM until 5PM at the Saturday Afternoon Club located at Church and Oak St. in Ukiah. Panelists include Tom Buis, National Farmers Union president, Dan Imhoff, author of "Food Fight, The Citizen's Guide to a Food and Farm Bill," Roland Wentzel, Ph.D., local agroeconomist, and Heidi Dickerson, staff member to Congressman Mike Thompson.

February 3 – Permaculture Workshop – Boonville

Mendocino Permaculture is hosting its 2007 Winter Abundance Workshop: Hands-on Fruit Tree Grafting, Seed and Scion Exchange Learn Grafting, Budding, Topworking, Pruning, Garden Seed Saving. Admission is free and the workshop runs from 10AM until 4PM rain or shine. The workshop is located at the Anderson Valley High School Domes, just south of Hwy 128 on Mountain View Road, at the west end of Boonville. Please bring a bag lunch & labeled scions of your favorite varieties - scions of old local gems are also needed. For more information please call Barbara Goodell 895-3897, Mark Albert 462-7843, or Richard Jeske 459-5926.

February 10 – WELL at Sip Some Soup

On February 10 Willits Daily Bread will hold its annual Sip Some Soup fundraiser at the Willits Community Center at 5:30PM. A group of WELL members will enter a soup made from local

food. If you want to help us create an amazing pot of soup, please contact Suzie at the WELL office. For more information on the event itself, please call Kathy at 459-9547.

Of Interest

WELL Gets A Grant!

WELL will receive a grant of \$50,000 from the Wallace Global Fund. This grant is part of new fund for Wallace called "Connecting People & Places." This money will be used to support WELL projects and to increase WELL staff to better support WELL's efforts. You can learn more about the Wallace Global Fund at <http://www.wgf.org>.

Medicine Chest Garden Seeks Garden Locations

In addition to the Medicine Chest Garden located at Diane Smalley's office additional Medicine Chest Gardens will be planted around town. The Garden team is looking for low income families with a small plot of ground that are interested in have a Medicine Chest Garden planted in their yard. The families must be located within the Willits City limits. The team will plant the garden, teach the family how to care for the plants and then train the families how to use the herbs. Please call Donna D'Terra at 459-5030 if you are interested.

Brookside Farm Seeks Support

Brookside Farm is seeking support from the Willits community in a number of ways. Local businesses can donate goods and services. People can volunteer labor. Financial support in any amount is greatly appreciated. The farm is also seeking Founding Members to give \$1000 or \$100 per month in return for a share of the 2007 harvest and to help build the farm infrastructure. If you would like to contribute to the development of a local food system in any of these ways, please call Jason at 456-0760.

Recently, gates and a weather station have been installed at Brookside Farm. Check out the Brookside Farm website at:

<http://www.energyfarms.net/willits> and its blog at <http://www.energyfarms.net/blog>.

Office Notes

WELL Sponsorship Policy

In December the WELL Coordinating Committee adopted the following sponsorship policy. The purpose of this policy is to define how the WELL name is used. You can review the policy here:

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/files/well/WELLSponsorshipPolicyDec2006.pdf>.

If you would like to be taken off this mailing list, please let me know and I will gladly oblige.

Cheers,
Suzie

Suzie Gruber, Office Manager
Willits Economic Localization - WELL
Renewable Energy Development Institute - REDI
75 N. Main St. PMB 234
Willits, CA 95490
707.459.1256

well@redinet.org