

Being surrounded by agriculture has its pros and after reading the article titled, "Is Sustainable Agriculture an Oxymoron", has more cons than I thought. Yes, there is more land, crops, animals, wildlife. But most of my neighbors are producers of grass-fed beef, seedstock, nursery stock and they are all monocultures conforming to not so ideal ways of doing things. Biodiversity is being lost by the season. There is greed, land hoarders, and a false sense of pride that the largest local farm producing meats and cheeses is feeding the whole town, and people who do not know better are falling for the nonsense. Real pride lies when you grow and harvest your own food for you and your family to survive. Touching upon the article where it mentions how farming now uses fuel to be more efficient, but even before oil, farms depended on animal labor...which means those animals needed even more land to graze pasture. I agree that farming is draining energy, diversity from the land and its wildlife. Just like raising yaks are a lifestyle, horticulture/permaculture is a lifestyle that in the end leads to freedom, health and a fair society. It just all stems from the decision a human makes in order for it to come to fruition.

Building a base foundation and understanding of permaculture is a tool everyone needs under their belt. Wrestling with how to get everyone on board without being overwhelming is the issue. I think most people are fearful of failing and unwanted pests to put it simply. I am not saying farms are bad. They can play a vital role in this preservation. Permaculture farms can provide habitat and restore ecosystems, protect groundwater and fix carbon by building soil. Let me state this in other words...Permaculture farms can provide bird watching, fishing, hunting and shelter for more animals to come, protect our drinking water, give us cleaner air to breathe and improve the soil where our food we eat grows in. But do I have to explain it like this so that humans will listen? To make it about how nature is benefiting us? Advocating for permaculture should be constant, but the thing that should be at the forefront is action. People say all the time in relationships and marriage, "Oh they are all words and no action", well let's apply this to all aspects of our lives, please.

As I work through designing a 5 acre lot, I am hoping to run into challenges, roadblocks and obstructions. Permaculture being seen as a permanent culture, I would like to challenge that. Nature is ever evolving, so putting into place something "permanent", nature will surely laugh in our face and not obey - and I love that. Just like how water is going to go wherever it wants to go no matter what we put in its path. I want to think beyond the constraints of this property, because really in the grand scheme of things this is just one *patch*, that's in connection with *corridors*, which is part of a larger *matrix*. I believe that the landscape of any farm is the owner's portrait of themselves. Orderly frames can be used to construct a widely recognizable cultural framework for ecological quality. They are not a means of dominating ecological phenomena for the sake of human pleasure.