

# PERMACULTURE COURSE AND WORK WEEK

MAY 1 TO 7, 2011 @

## **PUNARVASU**

(15km SOUTH OF UDUPI, SOUTHERN KARNATAKA COAST)  
AT & PO: ADMAR-574119, TQ & DIST: UDUPI, KARNATAKA

**THIS IS A VERY HANDS-ON, WORK FOCUSED INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE. WE WILL WORK IN THE EARLY MORNING AND LATTER AFTERNOON WITH CLASS MID-MORNING UNTIL LUNCH. AFTER LUNCH IS FREE TIME. EVENINGS WILL BE OPEN, WITH THE OPTION TO SEE A WIDE SELECTION OF VIDEOS ABOUT ALL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY, OR SLIDES OF THE MANY SUBJECTS COVERED DURING THE WEEK. THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABILTIY WHILE STAYING ON A TRADITIONAL FAMILY FARM.**

### *WORK WILL INCLUDE*

BUILDING A CHECK DAM, INSTALLATION OF A GREYWATER SYSTEM, CONTINUING WORK ON THE JUNGLE GARDEN, BANANA ORCHARD, SILT POND HARVESTING MICRO-ORGANISMS, BUILDING A SOLAR DRYER, NURSERY, SEED BALLS, POLY HOUSE, DESIGN LANDSCAPE AROUND NEW HOUSE AND MORE

### *SUBJECTS COVERED WILL INCLUDE*

[IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS LEARN FROM THE HANDS-ON]

PERMACULTURE BASICS (ETHICS, PRINCIPLES, FLOWS, PATTERNS, ZONES), WATER, SOIL & SOIL BUILDING, PLANTS & CROPPING, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES, INVISIBLE STRUCTURES (SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS), MAPS & MAPPING, DESIGN AND DESIGN PROCESS, WITH OPEN TIME TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO CLASS. BRING DATA STORAGE DEVICE OR DISK AS 5GB+ OF DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE

**Punarvasu is an emerging permaculture site and traditional family farm. People will stay in the traditional family home with the family and eat Amma's delicious tradition vegetarian Udupi food. Sleeping arrangements are dormitory style.**

**COST: rupees 6,500**

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO 6**

WRITE TO [richard@lamafoundation.org](mailto:richard@lamafoundation.org) OR [vasuadamaru@gmail.com](mailto:vasuadamaru@gmail.com)

**Instructor: Mr. Richard Rico Zook**

**Permaculture designer, teacher, consultant, and land restoration expert, he works with private individuals, farmers, and local organizations to create cultural and environmentally**

**appropriate life systems in northern New Mexico, India, and places in between. Mr. Zook's work focuses on assisting local and indigenous cultures to preserve traditional knowledge and technologies while becoming active members of our rapidly globalizing world.**

**[www.ricoclimate.com](http://www.ricoclimate.com)**

## **What is Permaculture?**

*Permaculture* (permanent agriculture) is a design system to create regenerative & sustainable systems. The concept is envisioned 25 years ago by Bill Mollison and Dan Holmgren, from Australia, it has now spread to over 120 countries.

Permaculture is a design approach to create sustainable, regenerative human habitation. Permaculture creates three dimensional designs that are site specific and resilient. By bringing together elements (orchard, water system, farmer, cow, etc.), techniques (organic framing, natural building, etc.) and strategies (microclimate, relative placement, etc.) a system is designed or altered based on regenerative relationships. It is these regenerative, beneficial relationships that give a system complexity, three dimensionality, and thus, resiliency.

This involves study of different flows (natural, human & invisible resources), patterns (literacy & application), sector analysis (site specific flow mapping), zonation (a tool for structuring time) and other techniques and tools to create regenerative relationships that are the key to resilient, sustainable systems.

The farmer with this deeper understanding of how their farm is functioning, and with the specific tools and approaches Permaculture teaches, will be able to develop a long term design that includes strategies of implementation. At the beginning of the implementation process there can be an increase in necessary inputs and resources from time and money to labor, materials, and experimentation. However, as the farmer builds on their successes, as beneficial and regenerative relationships are established between all aspects of the farm, as diversity and complexity become a foundation for the farm, the necessity for external inputs decreases and resources become internalized with less energy needed to maintain the farm.

To summarize, Permaculture's offerings can be seen as multilevel. First, it teaches the farmer how to come to a deeper understanding of the flows internal and external that move through their farm. Second, it assembles a wide range of techniques and strategies (from cropping methods, to waste management, to energy alternatives) that a farmer can utilize as is appropriate to their specific site and culture. Thirdly, Permaculture gives the farmer the skills and understandings to assemble these flows, techniques and strategies into a design (including the process and schedule for implementation) that is site specific, maximizes a wider variety of yields, and creates a diversity and complexity that is the hallmark of a resilient system. Included in this outcome is the decrease in the external inputs so that even if there is a drop in yields due to environmental or market factors the overall outcome is still well within the parameters of sustainability.