



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

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In order to promote global biodiversity and sustainable land use, Community Conservation catalyzes, facilitates and empowers local people to manage and conserve natural resources within the social, cultural and economic context of their communities.

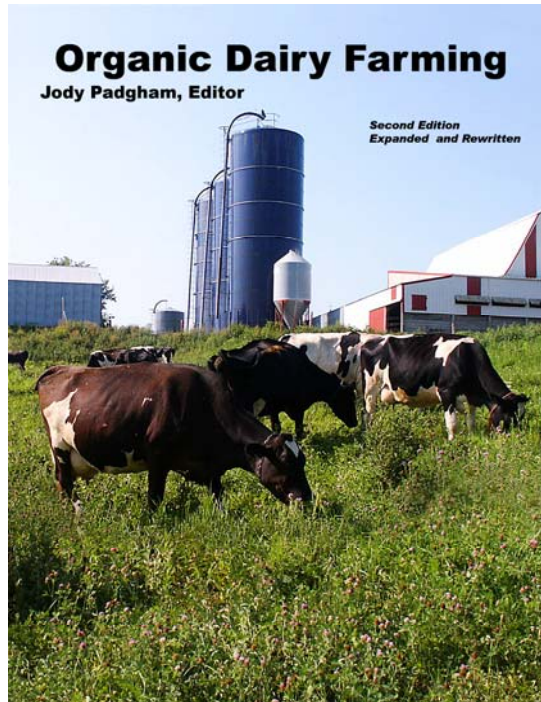
CC Update
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New Organic Dairy Farming Book Published

Community Conservation is proud to announce the publication of the newly revised *Organic Dairy Farming* book in February 2006. This publication helps serve our mission of empowering local people to manage and conserve natural resources within their communities. CC hopes this book will help educate and inspire a new generation of organic dairy farmers in Wisconsin, across the United States and the world.

In 1995 Community Conservation helped establish the Kickapoo Organic Resource Network to stimulate organic farming and published a book, *Organic Dairy Farming*, under its publishing name, Orang-utan Press. Realizing the importance of organic farming, Community Conservation kept this book alive through three printings. *Organic Dairy Farming* was the first publication to address the many issues of organic dairy farming. It has been praised as being a "monumental book" and is still widely used. However, with all the changes in the organic field since 1995 the book has been in need of revision. There has been no up to date, comprehensive resource available on this topic.

In 2002 Community Conservation began working with Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Services (MOSES), CROPP/Organic Valley and the U.S. Humane Society to rewrite the book to reflect the most authoritative and up to date information on organic dairy farming.



Twenty-one experts in a number of organic fields wrote chapters in their areas of expertise. MOSES has compiled this information into an excellent and readable resource for new and existing organic dairy farmers. The new book covers dairy nutrition, cow and calf management, organic health care, animal handling, milk quality, biosecurity, breeding for organic production, biological approaches to soil health, organic cropping systems, pasture management, organic certification and marketing.

Community Conservation is publishing the revised book of 192 pages which will be completed in February and will debut at the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference in La Crosse, WI at the end of the

month.

This is a crucial time in the growth of the organic dairy industry as 2005 showed consumer demand for organic milk outpacing the ability of cooperative producers like Organic Valley Family of Farms to supply it. There is active recruitment of new dairy farmers happening to meet this increasing demand from consumers, and the *Organic Dairy Farming* book will aid in this recruitment and education effort.

Financial support for this project was provided by Blooming Prairie Foundation, Organic Valley Family of Farms/CROPP and Organic Farming Research Foundation.

BOOK RESERVATIONS:

If you're interested in receiving a copy of the book, it will be available from Community Conservation for \$19 postpaid in late February or early March. To be placed on a list to reserve a copy, please contact Community Conservation at:

Phone (608) 735-4717;

Email:

communityconservation@mwt.net;

or via regular mail at:

Community Conservation

50542 One Quiet Lane

Gays Mills, WI 54631

ACT LOCALLY: You, too, can become a community conservationist in your area!

Training Future Community Conservationists

The recent strategic planning session of the CC Board of Directors, held in October 2005, set the direction for a future course for training practitioners who want to work with communities to help them in protecting their natural resources.

CC Director, Dr. Rob Horwich with the help of the CC Board of Directors has developed a short course on "How to Catalyze and Carry Out Successful Community Conservation Projects". A first presentation was made to Board members and selected teachers for their critique. The course includes six topics. An introduction discusses projects developed by CC in Belize, India, Wisconsin, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Trinidad, Russia and Papua New Guinea

over the past 21 years and lessons learned from them. The second topic on catalyzing successful community conservation projects lays out ten phases in catalyzing a community project from initiation to termination of the NGO or other catalyzing agent.

The third topic discusses 27 benchmarks that are important objectives and products contributing to successful community conservation projects.

A fourth topic deals with the differences of small community pro-



Robert Horwich training CC board members in Wisconsin, January 2006.

jects and larger integrated conservation development projects. This topic is important because in recent years many conservationists have been criticizing community-based conservation projects. Most of the criticisms have been toward larger projects and the smaller projects like those CC has carried out have been painted with the same broad brush despite their continued successes. The fifth topic broadens the preceding concept by showing how CC's projects in Belize, Wisconsin and India have been able to show regional change by building from small community projects from the ground up. A final topic, based on the thesis of CC Board President, Scott Bernstein discusses the types of training that are needed for community groups to be able to manage or co-manage their own conservation projects.

The course is geared toward an audience that either has had practi-

cal experience in working with community people or wishes to do so. While including literature on studies of community projects it focuses on the practice of working with and motivating community groups to become local, rural conservationists. It is for those who want to make a difference as active conservationists. The course

is based on 21 years of experience in initiating over 20 community-based conservation projects in 9 countries involving 18 cultures and over 150 villages. It provides the rudiments for how to initiate, carry-out, monitor and terminate one's role in a successful community conservation project. It accentuates the importance of helping community groups become involved at the highest level of participation where eventually a fully-empowered commu-

nity group takes over the project and the catalyzing agent terminates its involvement, while still monitoring the project from a distance. While it stresses on-the-ground work at a community scale, it indicates how a small, community approach can have a regional effect and can act as a model to stimulate other projects. The course includes ideas and recommendations on objectives and activities that may be problematic and others that will lead to success.

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CC Books available for sale:

A Belizean Rain Forest \$21
Organic Dairy Farming \$19 (Feb 06)
Primates of Northeast India \$25
Natural Resources of Orinoco, Nicaragua \$10
Sea Turtle coloring book \$7
CBS Howlers (poster) \$12
Golden Langur (poster) \$12
Community Conservation video \$22
All prices postpaid

Training Communities in Belize

The thesis that CC Board President, Scott Bernstein developed on community capacity building in Belize, noted 13 areas of study that were necessary to help community groups develop the capacity to co-manage protected areas or to manage their own conservation projects. In an effort to put Bernstein's research to a practical conservation effort, CC is developing a curriculum and a textbook for community co-management. CC Director Robert Horwich took some of the same ideas on-the-ground to Belize in January. A biology student and orchid expert from Michigan State University, Jacob Phelps who lives in Costa Rica and has international experience with communities has volunteered as an intern to work with the community members from La Democracia in Belize to begin to train them for co-managing Monkey Bay National Park.

Horwich and Phelps with the help of Matt Miller and some community members from La Democracia organized a few meetings to begin the training process during early January. The first meetings were with some of the interested members from the newly registered community group called Guardians of the Jewel including Eugene Brandon, Irma Ramos and Frank Clarke. The group hopes to co-manage nearby Monkey Bay National Park. These preliminary meetings culminated in a larger meeting of about 18 members of Guardians of the Jewel. The group created a tentative mission statement and a vision statement for the organization and began writing their first report to meet the Belize Forest Department's request for all Co-managers of Protected Areas. Although the Guardians have not yet signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Department, they have begun the process by

strengthening their organization with that task in mind. What was a surprising and important part of the meeting was the expansion of the vision statement to include a discussion of a visioning for the whole region around La Democracia which already has other protected areas and environmental groups including Monkey Bay Private Sanctuary, the Belize Zoo,



Jacob Phelps & Matt Miller meeting with community members from La Democracia.

the Wild Care Center and Runaway Creek that is owned by Milwaukee County Zoological Society of Wisconsin.

Another role that Horwich played was to introduce Phelps and members of Guardian of the Jewel to resources within Belize that might be of help to them in the future. Visits were made to Protected Area Conservation Trust (PACT) and the United Nations Development Program offices to find out about potential grants available to the Guardians. Other visits included meetings with Dr. Gil Boese, President of the Milwaukee County Zoological Society, Dr. Colin Young of Galen University and members of the Belize Forest Department.

Dr. Boese was in Belize to do some strategic planning for the Society's over 6000 acre Runaway Creek Private Protected Area. Boese was interested in the group from La Democracia since both protected areas front on the Sibun River and are close to each other. Boese noted some of

their goals for the property and invited Phelps and members of the Guardians to attend the strategic planning session for Runaway Creek.

Horwich gave a lecture for a class on Ecotourism taught by Dr. Colin Young of Galen University. Young began his interest in conservation while a youth growing up at the Community Baboon Sanctuary where his parents were managers and that CC was instrumental in founding. Dr. Young recently completed his Ph.D. thesis on ethnobotany in Belize. Horwich and Phelps discussed with Dr. Young the idea of creating a curriculum for training community co-managers and having university students help to mentor them similar to the work Phelps will be doing with La Democracia. Since Galen University has in its plans helping communities develop, they also discussed the idea with Dr. Nancy Adamson the Vice-President and Provost of the University.

At the end of the trip Horwich, Phelps and members of Guardians of the Jewel were invited to attend a presentation of the newly completed National Protected Areas Plan. This plan, developed by a number of Belizean conservationists and researchers, will begin to unify all of the different innovative protected areas under one system including those co-managed by Belize communities. The presentation was attended by members of the Belize conservation community from government, non-governmental organizations and representatives of communities that are co-managing protected areas. It was interesting to note that the process of developing the unified system was initiated in response to a review of work on a co-management grant that CC helped the Protected Areas Conservation Trust to begin and secure funding from the United Nation Development Program.

Indian Primate Update

CC Director Rob Horwich began his September, 2005 trip to India with an invitation to the Primate Research Centre in Jodhpur, Rajasthan where a number of Indian and international primatologists conferred on the status of Indian primates and made recommendations to the Indian Central Government about them. Horwich then flew to Guwahati to host a visit of Barbara Geary of the Rolex Foundation to the Golden Langur Conservation Project (GLCP). Horwich, Geary and members of Natures Foster made site visits to Jiaguri and Bhati Ravapara, two villages near Kakoijana Reserve Forest. The following day they went on to Lalkura



Captive Golden Langur in Ripu Reserve Forest

near Nadangiri Reserve Forest with members of Green Heart Nature Club. There members of the Bodo-land Territorial Council dedicated a new Community Center built by the GLCP.

On September 23, Horwich with other members of the Manas

Forum attended a ceremony carried out by the villagers of Ultapani and Luban in Chirrang Reserve Forest. They were met by a Nepali band whose music accompanied them to the dais where they watched a program of speeches, dances and a comic presentation to thank them for the Manas Celebration that was held in April at Ultapani. On the following trip in Chirrang Reserve Forest to Saralpara village on the Bhutan Border, they saw a number of troops of golden langurs.

Finally, Horwich attended a Science Fair at a women's College in Bongaigaon, addressed 1000 students at Boitamani High School, addressed villagers and students at Kaknabari High School, and addressed villagers at Mothambil High School in Ripu Reserve Forest.

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