

GEM Permaculture Design Certificate Course Evaluation-Fall 2006

1. What did you like most about the course?
 - The slideshows of Darren's applied work
 - It was structured well; and very interactive
 - Hands-on exercises; the films and applications
 - The size and dynamics of a small group in a personal setting
 - The informal setting; not reliant on the text; learning from Darren's experience as a private consultant
 - Group and instructor interaction was constant and helpful; evening activities; compost and beer making
 - Instructor and diverse teaching methods, e.g. Lectures, films, slideshows, design exercises, field trips; socializing

2. What did you like least about the course?
 - Not enough participants. A larger course would have been more interesting
 - It was very intense. I'm perma-pooped.
 - The 2-week intensive period
 - Lack of natural light in the classroom area
 - Design exercises coming late in the day, coinciding w/mental fatigue
 - Running overtime and jumbling up course outline-but this was minimal!
 - Catered food (good that it was local and organic) but quality was not up to culinary snuff.

3. Do you have any suggestions for improvement?
 - Space out classes - 1 per month? Or, over school breaks to attract more teachers/students
 - Perhaps a weekend day per month over 9 months
 - No
 - Make time for exercises earlier in the day
 - Make a topo map
 - Relate to this geo. area
 - Design an aquaculture system
 - The 2-week intensive course format does not allow for much "percolation" of material learned - suggest spreading it out over 6 or 7 months and meet on one weekend/month.

4. Did the course instructor make a positive contribution to your learning experience? If so, how, if not, why not?
 - Absolutely. Made everything very informal and interesting w/ style and personal experiences
 - Yes, he's very good with adult learners who are too squirmy to sit still.
 - Yes, the instructor is skilled in his delivery of the concepts; can explain concepts clearly
 - Yes; being so down-to-earth and straight forward
 - Hell yes, Darren has been a great teacher and friend, he has a great sense of humor and treats everyone as peers
 - Yes, he helped me pull knowledge together into an integrated process
 - Absolutely, excellent teaching rapport and wealth of experience based on years of Permaculture consulting and teaching PDC courses

5. How do you plan to apply what you have learned?
 - Directly with community group field work, personally in my home gardens and family farm, teach others by inviting them to join
 - Retrofitting my new home
 - Working with others in the community to apply some of this knowledge
 - Will use the knowledge to apply in out own personal lives and teach the community here and elsewhere
 - At home and professionally
 - I will be serving in Americorps ay a BD/organic CSA farm as garden manager; there I hope to apply what I've learned incrementally.
 - Offer my planning and design assistance and recommendations to interested landowners
 - Transform suburban residence according to PDC design principals; use techniques and methods learned in teaching PDC courses

6. Was the venue of 544 Maple Bluff Rd. comfortable and appropriate for the course?

- Bob's your uncle. Each year the venue should improve by 10-15%
- Very nice
- Yes
- Very comfortable as an intimate venue (residence), but lacking natural light in the basement, as well as a bit chilly
- Great venue, the home setting was very conducive to a good learning atmosphere
- Yes - very accommodating. Thanks.
- Price was right. Mai's meals were great.

7. Were the meals and snacks sufficient?

- Excellent. Happy to see a local farmer catering
- Yes, thanks.
- Yes
- Very much so!
- Quite sufficient.
- Yes, but portions from CO-OP were small
- Sufficient (yes); but not culinarily up to par

8. Additional comments?

- The class could do more of an applied project at the venue - build a pond or garden?
- Wonderful session
- The class ought to have regular contact subsequently for follow-up and continued development of concepts and skills
- Any and all opportunities for practical learning experiences should be made (e.g. tractor work). I understand that the PDC is not intended for this, but it would be a good addition
- Very excellent course and I will share my notes with my peers and co-workers
- Field trips added a lot, as did sand pit, composting, compost tea, and other hands-on practical learning activities.