

# Biography:

**Craig Holdrege** is the director of The Nature Institute in rural upstate New York. A biologist and educator, he gives seminars and lectures nationally and internationally on a holistic approach to science. He is the author of the book *Beyond Biotechnology* and has written studies of plants and animals.



## Schooling Observation & Thinking: A Goethean Approach to Studying Plants and Animals

Can we learn to perceive and understand nature in more vital and truly ecological ways? When we enliven our perceptions and enhance our ability to form more dynamic and holistic pictures of nature's creatures and processes, the life of nature can become ever more embodied in what we perceive, think, and do. In this workshop we will engage in phenomenological explorations of the qualities of plants and animals, the beings that lie at the heart of all agricultural endeavors. At the same time we will practice what Goethe called "exact sensorial imagination" - a way of coming alive to nature, or we might say, bringing nature to life in us.

A helpful article to read before the Gathering can be found at:

<http://www.janushead.org/8-1/holdrege.pdf>

## Visit [nontarget.org](http://nontarget.org)

This Nature Institute project documents over 80 cases of unintended and unpredictable effects of genetic engineering on organisms and the environment. Our [nontarget.org](http://nontarget.org) website makes important scientific research about unintended effects accessible to the broader public. It provides crucial information needed for an informed debate concerning genetic engineering in agriculture and genetically modified food.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION  
BIODYNAMIC GROUP  
(NCRBDG)

# Winter Gathering

## January 27-28-29 2012

PLEASANT RIDGE  
WALDORF SCHOOL  
VIROQUA, WISCONSIN



**Biodynamics is a cultural movement, as well as a farming practice and we want to build the social connections between people around Biodynamics. This year we are again focusing on getting to know each other on a social level. How do we continue to support one another in our Biodynamic work is a question we carry into this gathering. Large farmers to home gardeners and consumers are all encouraged to attend.**

# Schedule

## Friday Night - Social Event & Talk

- 5:00 pm Registration at PRWS  
6:00 pm Potluck - Please bring a dish to pass - Local Viroqua group will supply a main dish and beverages.  
7:00-9:00 pm Evening Talk by Craig Holdrege. Craig will give three talks during the weekend. The theme of his talks is "Schooling Observation & Thinking: A Goethean Approach to Studying Plants and Animals".  
Location OMB 321 E Decker St.

## Saturday

- 8:00 am Registration & Coffee Social  
OMB 321 E Decker St.  
9:00 am Introductions  
10:00 am Break  
10:30 am Farmer Series:  
Farmer Biography  
12:00 pm Lunch at PRWS  
1:30 pm After Lunch Movement  
2:00 pm Craig Holdrege: Schooling  
Observation & Thinking, cont.  
3:30 pm Break  
4:00 pm Farmer Series:  
Farmer Biography  
5:30 pm Dinner  
7:00-9:00 pm Evening Talk by Craig Holdrege:  
Schooling  
Observation & Thinking, cont.  
Location OMB 321 E Decker St.

## Sunday - PRWS

- 8:00 am Coffee & Social time  
9:00 am "Mentoring the Next Generation of Biodynamic Farmers" by Thea Marie Carlson, Apprenticeship Coordinator for the BDA. She will explain the Mentoring Program for North American Biodynamic Apprenticeship Program.  
10:30 am Break  
11:00 am Review, closing  
12:30 pm Lunch. Soup Sandwich, Leftovers

"The question is not what you look at - but how you look and whether you see." - Thoreau

# Gathering Fee

Full conference \$50.00

*This includes lunch and dinner on Saturday, Sunday lunch of Soup and Bread, snacks at breaks. Friday evening and Saturday talks are open to public \$8.00/Talk. Meal cost \$10.00*

We will make special arrangements for a lesser fee for anyone who can not afford \$50.00.

# Registration

For advance registration or special arrangement contact: Beth Schaldach

P.O. Box 3481

La Crosse, WI 54602

Phone (608) 386-3904

e-mail: [treegreenefarm@hotmail.com](mailto:treegreenefarm@hotmail.com)

# Accommodations

Homestay arrangements will be handled by:  
Brian Wickert  
email: [bwickert@frontiernet.net](mailto:bwickert@frontiernet.net)

We will work to provide homestays for everyone who requests one. Some homes will be free and others will cost \$20.00 per night. Please contact Brian with your requests. Homestays will be reserved on a first come first served basis.

## Local accommodations are also listed below:

Heritage Inn B&B 608-637-3306

(One block away from school, discount rate.)

Vernon Inn and Suites, 608-637-3100

(Formerly Super 8 Motel)

Midway Motel 608-637-2929

Hickory Hill Hotel 608-637-3104

Logan Mill Lodge, [www.loganmilllodge.com](http://www.loganmilllodge.com)



Dandelion Field

# Meals

## Friday Potluck:

Potluck Friday night is hosted by the local Viroqua BD Group. The Viroqua BD group will provide a main dish (vegetarian lasagna, sloppy Joes or Bar-BQ beef in the past) for the evening meal. We ask other attendees, if able, to bring a side dish, a soup, bread or dessert to pass for the evening meal.

## Saturday Lunch & Dinner:

Lunch and dinner are included in conference fee. Chef Jim Hallburg will prepare meals using locally and regionally grown food. Jim has been running the 100% Organic lunch program at PRWS for seven years. Jim's meals have always been one of the highlights of the gatherings and we are extremely grateful for his service to us. This past year Jim has been instrumental in starting the community radio station WDRT 91.9 FM. Be sure to ask Jim about the new radio station.

For dessert we ask anyone so inspired to bring their **best apple crisp** to share with everyone. This continues our tradition to bring apple crisp to the Gathering.

# Gathering Location & Directions

## Friday Night Gathering:

Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School (PRWS)

431 E. Court Street, Viroqua, WI 54665

(608) 637-7828

Enter Viroqua on Hwy. 14/61, turn east on Court St.

(State Bank is on the corner.) PRWS is 3 blocks from Main St. on Court St.

## Saturday we will meet at:

PRWS "Old Main Building" (OMB)

321 E. Decker Street

Enter Viroqua on Hwy. 14/16, turn east on Decker Street (First set of lights if coming from the north, second set if coming from the south.) "The Old Main" (white church) is three blocks from Main St. at the corner of Decker St. and Washington Ave.

# Sharing Table

The Sharing Table is an annual event at our Gatherings. We ask each attendee, if they choose to bring a gift from their home farms, or work that they would like to share with people at the Gathering.

We place the gifts on a table. The gift could be something you make, (soap, painting, pottery, clothing, etc) or something from your farm or garden (vegetables, seeds, sauerkraut, bread, wine, meat) or something educational (book, DVD, magazine)

Then at the Saturday evening meal we will put everyone's name in a hat and begin to draw out names. When a person's name is drawn out they will be asked to go to the sharing table and choose a gift to take home with them from the gathering.

## Questions and Information

Contact Brian Wickert

608-637-8890

[bwickert@frontiernet.net](mailto:bwickert@frontiernet.net)

*"Seek the real practical life, but seek it in a way that does not blind you for the Spirit working in it.*

*Seek the Spirit, but do not seek it out of Spiritual greed or from Spiritual egoism, but rather because you want to apply it selflessly in practical life, in the material world.*

*Make use of the ancient principle: Spirit is never without matter, matter never without Spirit.*

*In other words, say to yourselves: We will work with all material matters in the light of the Spirit and we will seek the light of the Spirit in such a way that it ignites in us a warmth for our practical deeds."*

-Rudolf Steiner