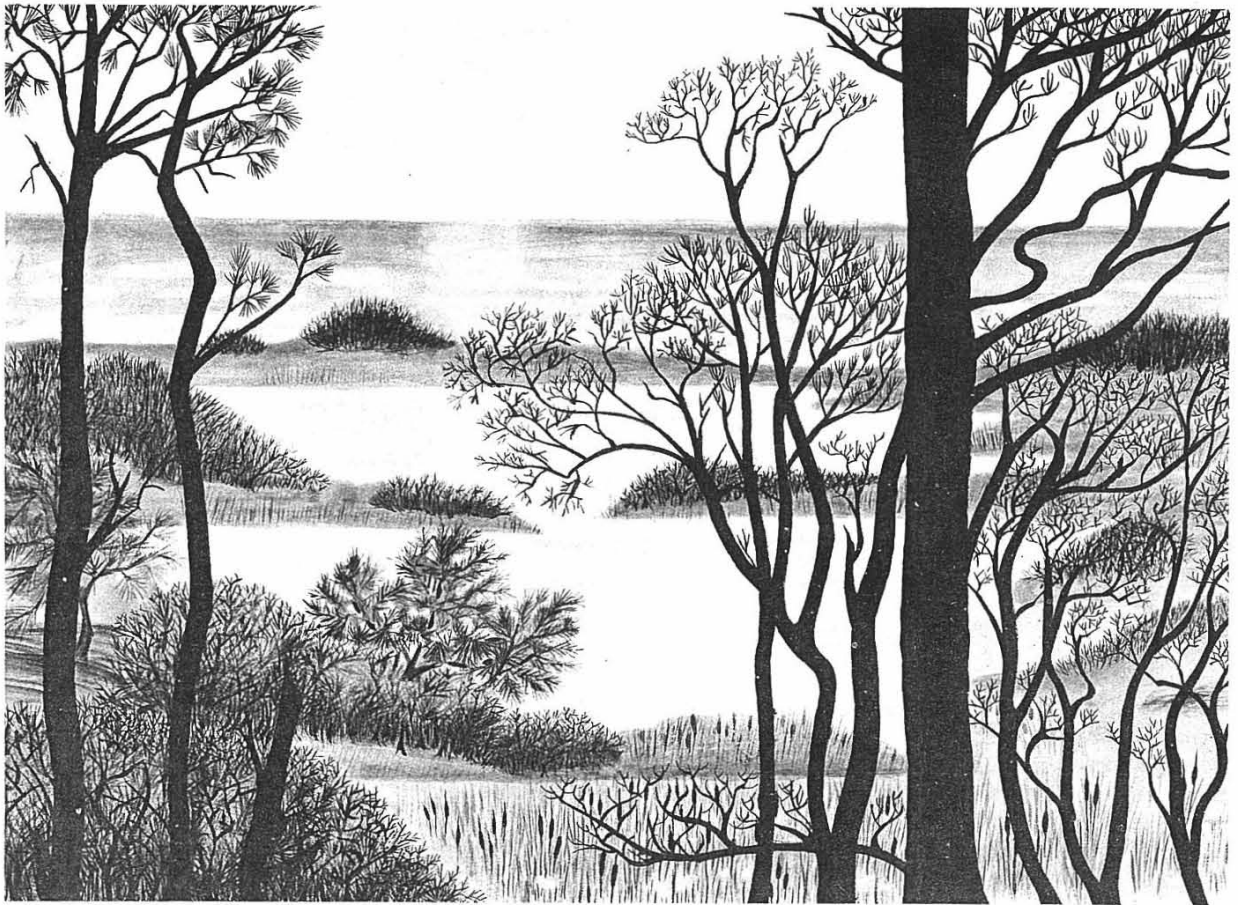
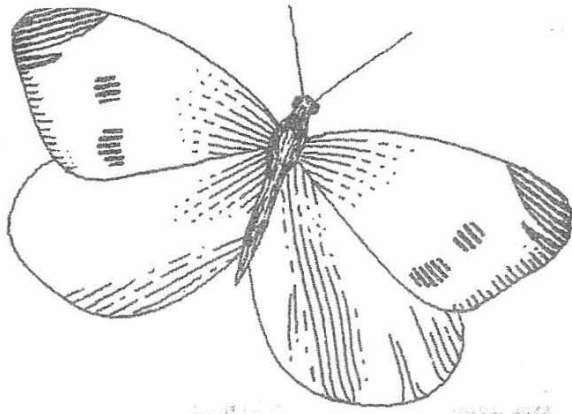


*Now, my co-mates and brothers in exile,  
Hath not old custom made this life more sweet  
Than that of painted pomp? Are not these woods  
More free from peril than the envious court?  
Here feel we but the penalty of Adam,  
The seasons' difference; as, the icy fang  
And churlish chiding of the winter's wind,  
Which, when it bites and blows upon my body,  
Even till I shrink with cold, I smile and say,  
'This is no flattery: these are counsellors  
That feelingly persuade me what I am.'  
Sweet are the uses of adversity  
Which like the toad, ugly and venomous,  
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head;  
And this our life exempt from public haunt,  
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing.  
I would not change it.*

SHAKESPEARE  
*As You Like It*

# New Alchemy





With this first issue of *The Journal of the New Alchemists*, we begin a new publishing format. Our early publications were called "Bulletins", but bulletin had a hard, almost militaristic ring and was a poor description of New Alchemy ideas. Newsletter was better, but what we want to say can hardly be defined as what is commonly understood as news. We cast about again and have, with some labor, given birth to this, *The Journal of the New Alchemists*. Echoing many voices, recording our research, reflecting broader experiences as we travel the world or as the world touches us, we plan with this expanded issue to share with our Associates and readers and friends as much of New Alchemy as can be transmitted onto paper.

To do this we have divided the Journal into five sections:

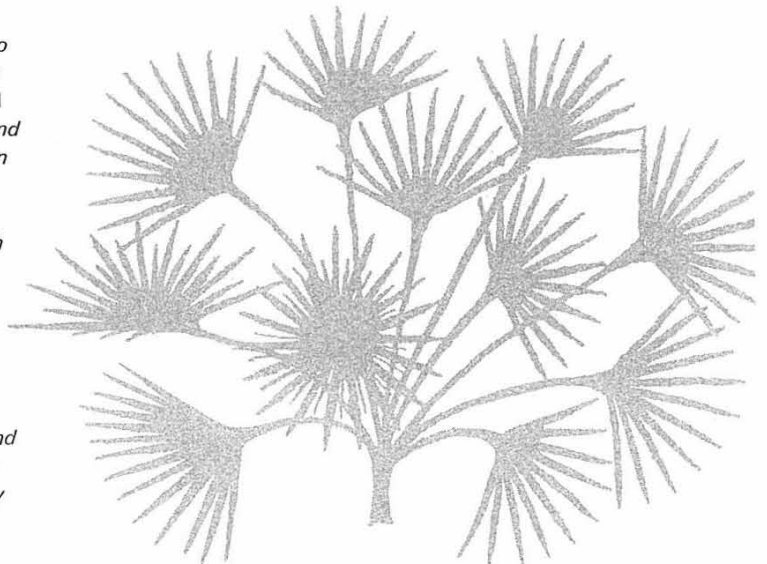
- New Alchemy
- Energy
- Land and Its Use
- Aquaculture
- Explorations

The first four titles are largely self-explanatory. The first section on **New Alchemy** will include news that springs directly from the work in which we are involved. **Energy** obviously will report on our efforts to harness the pure energy sources of the sun and the wind and to integrate captured energy into the aquacultural and agricultural systems. Recognizing that a healthy soil and careful stewardship are basic to all life, **Land and Its Use** will range over agricultural systems and the use and abuse of land. Under **Aquaculture** we shall report not only on the progress in our own fish ponds but also on systems both beginning and established elsewhere. **Explorations** will be exactly what the word suggests - a tentative reaching as much towards wisdom as towards harmonious and ecological ways of living although the one no doubt embraces the other. We hope that the sum of the parts will result in a *Journal* that combines a nuts and bolts approach with scientific and philosophical overtones.

We are beginning to build bibliographies in several areas and these will appear from time to time. In this issue, in the **New Alchemy** section we have included an annotated bibliography of writings by New Alchemists as well as bibliographies on hedgerows, companion planting, and land use in the tropics. In future *Journals* we plan to review books that we feel would be relevant for our readers, such as Peter Van Dresser's *A Landscape for Humans*.

Bill McLarney's paper in the **Aquaculture** section is the first, we hope, of many that although in the province of pure science could be applicable to the restorative type of knowledge we pursue. We should like readers who would like to contribute either scientific papers or articles on subjects that might be of interest to like-minded people to send them to us for possible publication. We hope to tie in themes that are as various as the possibility of drawing on the enormous potential energy of the women's movement and the application of ecological principles to urban as well as rural settings. We have many friends who have suggested exciting contributions and are eager for more.

Even more important than the divisions that we have created is the underlying unity of the work and the ideas. The view we wish to share is holistic rather than fragmented. The threat that western technology poses to peoples in very different climates and countries is traceable through Will Wroth's essay on *Traditional Ways in New Mexican Villages*, which is in **Explorations**, and John Todd's observations on *Costa Rica* discussed under **Land and Its Use**. The destruction of traditional ways by the infiltration of our own plastic-fantastic system is a pattern of which we are all despairingly aware and yet there is still relevance in noting its course if we are either to learn anything from the last vestiges of simpler ways or to stem the tidal wave of western technocracy. One of our most recent visitors is excited by the possibilities of using in rural Canada the windmills Earle Barnhart discusses under **Energy**. In the same section Marcus Sherman reports on the building of the sister windmill to the one on the Cape Cod farm in Southern India. Bill McLarney's aquaculture was born in the orient. He would transplant the concepts to Costa Rica and to any other country where there is a need for an economical protein source. This is at once **Aquaculture** and **Exploration**.



With words, diagrams and dreams, the first *Journal* of the New Alchemists.

# Financial Status of the Institute

The past year has seen slow but important changes in the Institute's financial position. Our Associates, through their memberships, have helped underwrite the costs of the *Newsletters* and a portion of the expenses for the *Journal of The New Alchemists*. This help is very much appreciated and we hope the new *Journal* will gain more friends and Associates for the Institute.

Special thanks go to two foundations who have had confidence in our early attempts to shape a microcosmic science within a human framework. The Stern Family Fund supported our proposal "A Biotechnic Science for Ecologically-Derived Communities". The grant allowed us to pay a few salaries and purchase the equipment needed to conduct research at the Cape Cod center.

Stewart Brand and the Point Foundation came to our aid recently at a very critical time. The foundation provided us with the seed money to begin developing and researching the energetics and productivity of a model, prototype year-round aquaculture and vegetable food growing system suited to northern climates. The system which we have dubbed "The Earth Ship" will use no conventional sources of energy. A windmill will provide the necessary power, and the climate inside the growing structure will be maintained by polyculture fish ponds heated by a solar device. The Point Foundation grant will enable us to build and study a scale model.

The financial picture was dampened by the loss of support for our countrywide "People as Scientists Program". The money paid the rental on our present center and the salaries of the program coordinator and the head of the Institute's agricultural-ecology research. Apparently the loss of support was not a criticism of the fledgling program in which several hundred people were involved in researching Backyard Fish Farms, Insect Resistance in Vegetable Crops, and the efficacy of Ecological Design in Food Gardens. The sponsor, Rodale Press, was undergoing a fiscal belt-tightening necessitated by rising costs. The program will continue on a reduced, volunteer scale and a part-time salary for the program coordinator will come from the Point Foundation grant. We don't want to give the program up until it has borne fruit.

The coming months are going to be critical for the Institute and its centers on Cape Cod and at Santa Barbara. Both need to be put on a more solid monetary base. Towards these ends several new proposals have been prepared, or are in preparation, and we are now seeking sponsors.

1. New Alchemy West: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SMALL SCALE, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY: A PILOT MODEL USING SOLAR ENERGY DEVICES AND ORGANIC DIGESTERS.

Principal: Richard Merrill - Budget - \$27,495.

2. New Alchemy-East: A SOLAR AND WIND POWERED AQUACULTURE AND GREENHOUSE COMPLEX FOR NORTHERN CLIMATES.

Principals: R. Angevine, E. Barnhart and J. Todd - In preparation

3. New Alchemy-International: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AQUACULTURE SYSTEM FOR THE AMERICAN TROPICS.

Principal: William O. McLarney - Budget for four years at an annual cost of \$32,600.

4. The New Alchemy Institute: THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ALCHEMISTS: A NON PROFIT PUBLICATION FOR NEW WORLD PLANNING ON A HUMAN SCALE.

Principal: Nancy Todd - In preparation. An additional support of \$19,000 annually is needed to produce the JOURNAL on a quarterly basis. It will be made available for wide distribution.

Stewart Brand in one of the first editions of the *Whole Earth Catalog* quoted a saying of Dick Alpert "It's love money that underwrites this sort of venture every time".

He was referring, of course, to the *Catalog*, but we feel it applies in our own case. Without money and organization in front, the best intentions of a small group like ourselves, no matter how dedicated, will not flourish and reach outward into the community at large. We thank those of you who have helped us.

## VISITORS

Many people write to us asking about the possibilities of visiting, spending time at the farm, even of working with us. It took us a bit of time to get over feeling rather surprised and pleased that anyone was taking an interest in us or finding our work relevant. We do basically still feel that way but have been forced to find some framework from which we can both relate to people and yet continue the work that drew them to us. In spite of our libertarian instincts, we have had to evolve a means of coping with much larger numbers of people physically as well as theoretically.



Our first idea dates back to last summer and must be credited to Rich Merrill. He suggested that we have something similar to an old-fashioned barn-raising. People were invited to join us working in the fields and in doing so to learn something about gardening organically. For a year, farm Saturdays, as they have come to be known, have become a tradition - working together, a great deal of talk and a feast at noon.

This is the day we prefer people to visit. We have abandoned for the day any projects that can't be interrupted. We'll be working but whatever it is, hauling seaweed from the beach, weeding, planting or building domes, we can always use more hands and heads. Please come then. Bring some food for the feast. If you want to visit New Alchemy, Saturdays are best.

This applies from May until November. For the rest of the year many of us are away and we are officially closed. That is, until we have marvelous eco-houses full of lettuces and ripening oranges as blizzards rage outside.

Frequently people planning to visit the farm are anxious about accommodation and here we have little help to offer. We have no space available at all in the house. The Falmouth City Fathers frown on unlicensed camping and we aren't allowed to let people put up tents. There is a camp ground nearby which may have some room. This is probably the best possibility for those who would like to spend several days in the area without paying astronomical rates for motels.

#### EMPLOYMENT OR APPRENTICING

We receive many requests from people to work, study or apprentice with us. Some are highly trained scientists and others are without skills but with a deep interest in learning how to care for the planet. Our answer to everyone has had to be the same. We are a relatively small group and at New Alchemy East, for example, where a lot of the overall administration of the Institute is carried on, we have developed a limited growth policy. There are two basic reasons why this is so: first, we haven't the financial resources to expand, and secondly, we want to limit our ultimate size to about thirty; a number that will allow us to work together and to know each other. In order for the Institute to grow, new centers will have to be established by New Alchemists who are drawn to other environments and climates.

Most importantly we are more concerned with the spread of the ideas of stewardship and the power of the biological and social microcosm for aiding men everywhere than we are with the growth of New Alchemy the organization.

People who are genuinely interested in working with us are welcome. However, we can provide no salaries or accommodation even for visitors who come for a brief stay. It is necessary for most newcomers to establish themselves in surrounding communities and work with us in their spare time. Most of us, including the original

people, worked for years at other jobs before we were able to secure even partial support within NAI. If we were better endowed, new people could be incorporated faster, but our growth would still be slow.

Those who do come share with some of the administration and work with us building, taking measurements and caring for the gardens. The door is open to students for advanced studies or research at NAI if the above conditions are met.

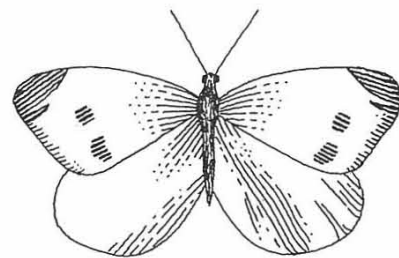
#### A NOTE TO ASSOCIATES

In a Journal in the near future we should like to publish a list of the names and addresses of our Associates. It might be useful for people to be able to contact others in their geographical area or to correspond on subjects of mutual interest. As this was being discussed a few cautious voices were raised saying that perhaps there might be Associates who would not want their names published. So we have compromised. If you are an Associate who would prefer to remain anonymous please let us know, and we shall, of course, respect your wish. For the rest, we expect to include the list in the second Journal. Perhaps, unknown to all of us there now are one or two embryonic communities waiting to be born.

#### CHANGING SEASONS

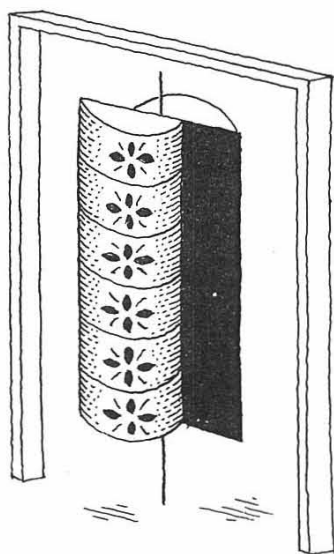
With the coming of winter the intensity of the activity on the New Alchemy farm, bound as it is to the song of the seasons, began to lessen. We continued planting trees, collecting leaves for compost, tuning the windmill, and feeding the tilapia, but cold rains and gusting winds made outside work much more rugged and even farm Saturday became more of a day when we met to do administrative work and correspondence, visit and have a good lunch. Christmas came and went. We mailed the Newsletters, and then leaving a small core with the Herculean task of keeping everything running, many of us set off in search of both warmer sun and other settings that might be in need of the ecological and restorative ideas of New Alchemy. Marc Sherman left for India. He tells of his work there in *Energy*. Some of the rest of us spent the winter in Costa Rica and discuss the results of that trip at some length in the section *Land and Its Use*.

The three left on the farm carried on intrepidly and still found the time to spin some lovely dreams. The crocus were in blossom when we came home.



## WINTER

The winter on the Cape was a period of preparation rather than hibernation. The 1973 summer garden received much planning and forethought, resulting in a design that incorporates techniques of crop rotation, crop succession, inter-planting, and companion planting. Vegetables, crops and planting dates were chosen that would supply ample food over the whole summer and would also yield crops suitable for preservation. A garden map was prepared showing the various food production and experimental plots. Locations were also chosen for other garden facilities, such as terraces, a root cellar, cold frames, a compost area and a well. Most of these structures are connected by a large path, appropriately called Main Street. Main Street connects with the other major pathways in the garden and results in easy movement of people and materials in the garden area.

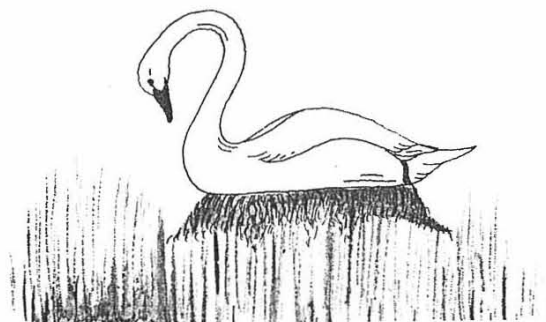


In the house, meanwhile, other preparations were underway. The young Tilapia destined to be the 1973 fish crop wintered in heated aquaria. Bob Angevine maintained official correspondence concerning business and legal matters. He also undertook the purchasing of the tools necessary to operate a basic shop for construction and building. Hilde Atema coordinated the Reader's Research program, and also designed a circular home, synthesizing people, animals, vegetable gardens, and pure energy with a sunken courtyard, swimming pool and a three-bedroom living area. Her design will be presented in a later volume of the Journal. We expanded the working area of the main kitchen by building a table along one wall, suitable for canning and freezing activities or for eating space on rainy days.

## SPRING

The coming of spring initiated a flurry of activity as new projects were started. Last year's fish dome was replaced by a more permanent dome planned and pre-

pared by Dave Engstrom, who also supervised its assembly. Bob put a fiberglass roof on the potting shed, as it soon became apparent that our seedlings would need more space than our cold frames could offer. Our garden



seeds, sunflowers, wheat, grapes, blueberries, and nut trees were planted in the ground as the season and the weather became more suitable. Main Street was leveled, a well was dug and several terraces were constructed. Permanent crops on the terraces thus far are strawberries and Jerusalem artichokes; rhubarb and asparagus are planned for the remaining terraces.

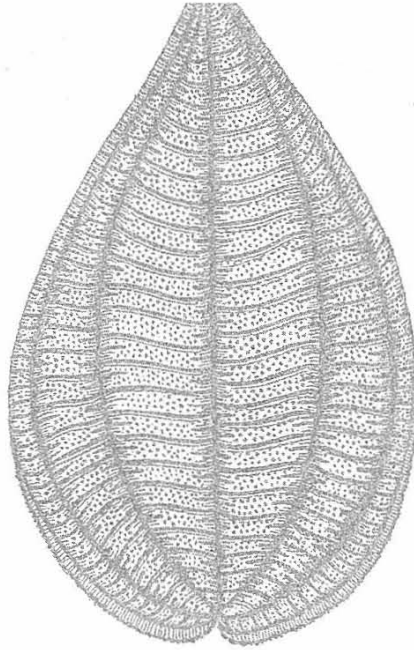
We have begun to integrate rabbit culture into the food chains of the farm, beginning with a buck and three does this spring. The rabbits can utilize food scraps and garden weeds to produce high quality protein. A fringe benefit is their manure which is an excellent worm-culture medium or compost ingredient. Marc Sherman is setting up a rabbit/worm culture system and is tying it into the existing tilapia cycle by using the worms as fish food. The wide variety of organic material that is acceptable as food for both the rabbits and the worms makes them valuable additions to the food production systems already operating.

## SOLAR ENERGY DIGEST

Solar Energy Digest is a new monthly newsletter reporting the many direct and indirect ways in which solar energy is being put to work around the world. Its first issue came out in July 1973 and briefly covered such topics as large-scale solar power plants, power from ocean thermal gradients, a new solar house by Harold Hay, and a report on solar energy plans and projects by the National Science Foundation.

The Solar Energy Digest is edited and published by William B. Edmondson, who also plans to establish a solar energy research center in California. For subscription information, write

*Solar Energy Digest*  
7401 Salerno Street  
San Diego, California 92111



## Reference

### A SELECTED AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEW ALCHEMY INFORMATION

*The references below provide an introduction to The New Alchemy Institute, its work and goals.*

#### NAI PERIODICALS

##### *The New Alchemy Institute Bulletin 1970-71*

Bulletin No. 2 has been reprinted and available from NAI at \$1.00 each. Includes the widely reprinted and translated "A Modest Proposal" which is a unique view of the maladaptiveness of modern industrial society. Proposes an alternative for the future that is restorative and within reach of men everywhere. Also includes "Design for a Tropical Center" which explores ecologically wise possibilities for land use and research in the tropics.

##### *The New Alchemy Institute Newsletters 1972-73*

The newsletters Nos. 1 and 2 describe New Alchemy activities and research. The first two newsletters contain information on aquaculture, waste systems, dome design, the countrywide research program involving lay collaborators, etc. Available from NAI at \$1.00 each.

Newsletter No. 3 is an extensive treatment of methane systems and research. Includes a bibliography and designs for practical use. Available from NAI-West, 15 West Anapamu, Santa Barbara, California 93101 for \$3.00 each. Reprinted: Still available.

##### *The Journal of the New Alchemists 1973-*

The Journal starting the summer of 1973 will reflect the increased commitment of the New Alchemists in creating a significant publication dealing with many aspects of new world planning. It will include specific "how-to-build" and design information, research and scholarly papers, and writings on untried ideas and systems on various subjects including: 1 Energy and its use; 2 Biological farming and land tenureship; 3 Waters and aquatic farming and husbandry; 4 Integrated systems linking the above—

will include living shelters and "space ship" approaches to food growing adapted to northern climates; 5 Explorations, a section that will focus on learning and the pursuit of knowledge.

Available without charge to Associate Members of the Institute. Copies of Journal 1 can be purchased for \$4.00 apiece.

##### *Aquaculture Bibliography*

If you are interested in fish farming, NAI has an Aquaculture Bibliography prepared by Dr. William O. McLarney. Includes references on polyculture and pond construction. Available from Readers' Service, Organic Gardening Magazine, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049. Price \$1.00.

##### *The Backyard Fish Farm Working Manual for 1973*

This is a how-to-do-it manual for collaborators on our low-cost fish farm research. Edited by Bill McLarney. Gives details on setting up the miniature fish farm and collecting scientific information. Available from Readers' Service, Organic Gardening Magazine, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049. Price \$1.00.

##### *The Agricultural Research Workbook for 1973: Insect Resistance and Companion Planting in Vegetable Crops*

Prepared by Richard Merrill. An ecologist's guide to experimentation in the garden. A critical and fascinating manual for those interested in researching food producing systems. The manual, some 50 pages in length, is being distributed to collaborators in our countrywide research program. If funds become available, we will print it for wider distribution.

INTRODUCTORY HEDGEROW BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Groups of invertebrates more numerous near the hedges of clover and lucern fields.
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This chapter has many references to hedgerow ecology. Some provocative ideas here.
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INTRODUCTORY- COMPANION PLANTING BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2. Bio-Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association, Inc., *Herb Chart*, R. D. 1, Stroudsburg, Pa. 18360.
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 15 W. Anapamu Street  
 Santa Barbara, California 93101



## SELECTED ARTICLES AND BOOKS BY NEW ALCHEMISTS

### AGRICULTURE

#### *Modern Agriculture and the Quality of Life*

—by Richard Merrill

A three-part series: Part 1 "The Chemical Treadmill and Agricultural Pollution" (Vol. 2, No. 2); Part 2 "Agribusiness and the Decaying Rural Environment" (Vol. 2, No. 4); Part 3 "Ecology of the Green Counter Revolution" (Vol. 2, No. 6). Appeared in SURVIVAL Times, published by CEC, 15 West Anapamu, Santa Barbara, California 93101. Probably still available for 50 cents apiece.

#### *Radical Agriculture*

—a book by Richard Merrill

Richard Merrill has assembled a comprehensive collection of writings (mainly new material) by activists trying to create wiser uses of the land and help to return people onto the landscape. A must if you are into land restoration, biological farming or rural societies. Available from Harper and Row, Fall 1973.

#### *Shaping an Organic America*

—by John Todd

A four-part series intended to provide a rationale for a land-based science and the reconstruction of rural America.

Part 1 "Shaping an Organic America" (September 1971)

Part 2 "Designing a New Science" (October 1971)

Part 3 "The Organic Gardener and Farmer as Scientist (November 1971)

Part 4 "The 21st Century Homestead" (December 1971)

All appeared in Organic Gardening and Farming Magazine. Available in most libraries.

### AQUACULTURE

#### *Aquaculture Series for Organic Gardening and Farming Magazine*

—by William O. McLarney

The series began in August 1971 and ran intermittently until the summer of 1972. The articles dealt with farm ponds as a food source; pond construction, crayfish culture, rearing of carp, etc. Invaluable introductory series for those interested in the rearing of aquatic foods. Organic Gardening and Farming Magazine, available most libraries.

#### *Aquaculture: The Farming and Husbandry of Freshwater and Marine Organisms*

—by J. Bardach, J. Ryther and W. O. McLarney. John Wiley and Sons, 1972, 868 pages, \$37.50.

This is the definitive English language text in the field. NAI's McLarney was the primary contributor to the book. It's very expensive, but if you are going to commit yourself to aquatic farming you will need to read it. Ask your library to buy it. The cost is largely in the plates and illustrations which add a lot of value to the text.

### ENERGY

#### *New Alchemy Methane*

—by Earle Barnhart

A companion article to the New Alchemy Newsletter No. 3 on Methane Systems. Alternative Sources of Energy, No. 11, July 1973, c/o Dan Marier, Rt. 1, Box 36B, Minong, Wis. 54859.

#### *Sail Windmill*

—by Marcus M. Sherman

A brief description of a simple three-bladed cloth windmill. Alternative Sources of Energy, No. 10, 1973, c/o Don Marier, Rt. 1, Box 36B, Minong, Wis. 54859.

### THE LAY RESEARCH PROGRAM

NAI's people's research program in agriculture and aquatic studies. Designed to seek some of the answers for those interested in ecological farming and restorative land use. Countrywide. Organic Gardening and Farming Magazine is the basic forum for the exchange of information. Articles describing the program:

#### *The Backyard Fish Farm*

—by J. H. Todd & W. O. McLarney (O.G.F., January 1972)

#### *Insect Resistance in Food Crops*

—by J. H. Todd & R. Merrill (O.G.F., March 1972)

#### *Ecological Design in the Organic Garden: Companion Planting and Natural Repellents*

—by Richard Merrill (O.G.F., April 1972)

#### *The Readers' Research Program for 1973*

—by John Todd (O.G.F., April 1973)

### NEW ALCHEMISTS AT WORK — THEIR IDEAS & PHILOSOPHY

#### *Lifestyle Interviews the New Alchemists*

—by Five New Alchemists

who describe what they do and why.

Appeared in Lifestyle: A Magazine of Alternatives No. 2

Available from Lifestyle, P. O. Box 1, Unionville, Ohio 44088.

Cost \$1.35.

#### *The Third Alternative*

—by Robin Clarke and John Todd

Deals with the moral crisis in science and describes how people like the New Alchemists and their European counterparts are searching for knowledge, and ways of living, that are ecologically adept and libertarian in scope. To appear in Harper's Magazine.

#### *New Alchemy on Cape Cod*

—by Nancy Todd and John Todd

It's what the title says it is. In the "Cape Naturalist", June 1973. Available from the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster, Massachusetts 02631. Price 50 cents.

