



# Willits Economic Localization

## The WELL Bucket

Volume 4 – Issue 4

April 11, 2009

### Schedule of Events

April & May 2009

**April 15 – 9:30 am**  
**Coordinating Committee Meeting**  
**WELL Office (at the WAG)**  
**221 D South Lenore in Willits**

**April 16 - Film 7:00 pm**  
**"Flow" and "A Drop of Life"**  
**Little Lake Health Center**  
**45 Hazel Street in Willits**

**May 21 – Film 7:00 pm**  
**Several of Max Meyers' favorite**  
**Permaculture Films**  
**Little Lake Health Center**  
**45 Hazel Street in Willits**

**May 31 – Time to be announced**  
**Willits Walk for Health (WHAT)**  
**10,000 Steps through Willits**

### March WELL Event Recap

By Jason Bradford

WELL held another great event at the Little Lake Grange in March. The Grange is such a warm and comfortable venue and the food was once again healthy, tasty and plentiful.

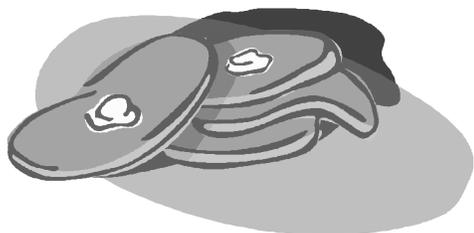
The topic of the afternoon was household and community food security, Mendo Credits, and the local granary. Tom Allman and I led off by talking about food security. During the meal some of us went around to tables and answered questions about storage and preparation of whole grains and beans.

Tom's presentation was about his research into the role of local government during a food security crisis. Interestingly, it was framed in terms of quarantine requirements. For example, a disease such as hoof and mouth can shut down the transport of animals. Or a bioterrorism event could harm the nation's food supply. In his view, it made a lot of sense to have locally grown and stored food because we could be cut off during an emergency.

I explored food security from a variety of angles. Economists and social scientists might think about people with little income who have trouble buying enough food. An agronomist might study the combined effects of population growth, water supplies and climate change and worry that food production will not be sufficient. Students of peak oil will see vulnerabilities in the just-in-time delivery system with grocery stores having only a few days of supply buffers. Farmers might worry about the volatility of the commodities markets, the high costs of their inputs, and tightening of credit that reduces consumer purchases. Nutritionists and health care workers may decry poor quality diets that lead to disease. Environmentalists may question the fossil fuel and toxic chemical inputs to the entire food system.

Mendo Credits were explored as a way to deal simultaneously with all facets of food security. Local storage creates a supply buffer, food is purchased directly from regional organic farmers, prices are reasonable, and quality whole foods are consumed.

The crowd was greatly enthused. On Thursday, Cyndee Logan reported a lot of new people visiting the Mendo Food Futures booth at the Farmers' Market where Mendo Credits are sold and food is distributed. Almost all the initial Mendo Credits have now been purchased. We are now discussing when and how much new food to buy and a new series of Mendo Credits are being formatted for printing.



### Grange Breakfast

Little Lake Grange Pancake  
Breakfast 2009 Calendar:

{NOTE: Price is \$6.00 for  
pancakes, eggs, ham or bacon,  
coffee, tea, & juice. Real maple  
syrup and Thanksgiving Coffee are  
now available!}

4th Sunday of every month:

January 25	February 22
March 22	April 26
May 24	June 28
July 26	August 23
September 27	October 25

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8am - 11 am  
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291 School Street, Willits

### Local Product in Local Stores

By Liam UiCearbhaill

WELL was founded in October of 2004 with the purpose of encouraging a local economy. By that term we meant that, to the greatest degree possible, we want Willits and its immediate neighbors to produce what they consume and consume what they produce. Over those intervening four and a half years we have educated, encouraged, and listened to the residents of our area. We have started projects, helped projects started by other groups, held events, developed this newsletter, and otherwise busied ourselves with localization.

So, how are we doing? From a retail point of view there are many products which can now be purchased in Willits that previously could only be had by going to Ukiah, Ft. Bragg, or Santa Rosa. We have a craft store (Trinity Crafts), a new mercantile (J.D. Redhouse), and other stores selling clothes and shoes that were not previously available in our zip code. Mariposa has grown and now offers more on their shelves. From a retail point of view, obviously, we are buying more locally than we previously did, because those businesses are doing well.

What about local product? Last year 6000 pounds of potatoes were grown and sold in Little Lake Valley. Happy Belly has been providing meat, olive oil, and other non-veggie products that are produced in Mendocino County. Brookside Farm is producing 16 shares (each about 400 to 600 lbs of produce through the year) of locally grown, organic food with mostly solar and human power inputs. The Willits Farmers Market now runs year round offering many food and craft items produced in Mendocino County and some from further away. That is good, but it needs to get better if we are to accomplish what we set out to do.

Continued Page 4 – Local Product



**Jason Bradford, Ralph Pisciotta, and Bill Wilson digging a hole**



**The system installed**

## **Solar Electric System Installed at Brookside Farm**

**By Liam UiCearbhaill**

On one of those sunny days in March a stand-alone solar PV system was installed at Brookside Farm. Ralph Pisciotta from REDI, Bill Wilson of the City of Willits, and Dr. Jason Bradford (manager of the Farm) put in a ½ Kilowatt PV array made from panels older than any student currently enrolled in Willits Unified School District. REDI donated the panels and the solar tracker, WELL (in a seed grant a few years ago) paid for the 2 Kilowatt inverter, Ralph (owner of Ralph Pisciotta Electric) donated the remaining pieces, and Bill provided tools from the City and additional manpower. The 12 volt batteries, attached to the system through a 30 Amp charge controller, can hold 220 Amp hours, which should be plenty for the tasks at hand.

The primary task is charging electric tools for use on the farm. The size of the inverter allows enough amperage to run a skill saw directly, and there is plenty of power to charge battery packs for smaller tools as well. Jason is looking forward to having an electric lawn mower, a compost tea brewer and fans to speed the drying of produce all charged by this new PV system. A light for the occasional after hours visit, and a little talk radio or music would be nice at the farm now and then.

The secondary task is education. The system has all of the same parts required for any off-grid solar system and is convenient for teaching. Ralph and REDI have also developed a number of other gadgets for teaching students from kindergarten through college age about electricity from light. Handheld panels with a simple rotor attached can illustrate the principals of aiming the panels for better power. Various panels with LEDs and switches can demonstrate more complex principals. Ralph is looking forward to developing curriculum and is in the planning stages now. If you are interested in helping with this project, call Ralph at 459-4524.

## **Walk to School Day Planning Meeting**

The next planning meeting for the October 2009 Walk to School Day is scheduled for April 27th at 11:30 in the City Hall Conference Room across from the restrooms (behind the city council chambers). Any volunteers are welcome, as we need help! Please let me know [kbsparks2004@yahoo.com](mailto:kbsparks2004@yahoo.com) IF you are interested in being part of the planning committee, or if you would like to help with the event.

## **Gardening Tips for Willits**

**By Jason Bradford**

Local nurseries are reporting vigorous sales of food-producing plants. As people have less income and more time, growing some food just makes sense. If you are new to gardening it can be daunting. What should you grow and how should you do it? Since I only learned to garden within the past few years I still recall the process. I'll offer some tips I have for what crops do best in Willits.

Before I give you that list, here's some food for thought.

People eat different parts of plants, and there are patterns in how we grow plants that are related to the parts we eat. So it might be easiest to think about the kinds of plants you will grow by classifying them into what parts are eaten.

When a seed germinates, it sends roots into the soil. A carrot is a root. The seed sends shoots into the air. Celery is a shoot. Leaves spread out from the shoots. Lettuce is a leaf. As the plant matures it will make flowers. We may eat immature or mature flowers, such as broccoli or nasturtium. A part of the flower called the ovary develops into fruit. Tomatoes are fruits. Fruits contain seeds. We may eat the seeds of plants, such as sunflowers. Sometimes plants have large organs that store energy for re-growing the next year. These may be tubers, as in potatoes, or bulbs, as in garlic.

Okay, the list. To have a healthy, balanced diet of fruits and vegetables, I suggest growing plants in the following categories, with specific species that do well in Willits:

1. Leafy greens: kale, tree collards, chard, and lettuce.
2. Roots and tubers: potatoes, beets, carrots, and radishes.
3. Fruiting veggies: beans, winter squash, zucchini, tomatoes, and peas.
4. Bulb-forming Alliums: garlic, potato onion, walking onion, and common storage onion.
5. Sweet fruits: grapes, apples, raspberries, and strawberries.
6. Cover crops: fava beans, Austrian field pea, triticale, cereal rye and buckwheat.

Lastly, I want to note a common mistake people make when gardening in Willits. Frost sensitive plants are frequently planted out much too early. Tomatoes, peppers and squashes shouldn't go into the garden unprotected until the last week in May to first week in June. And check to make sure that a frost free week is forecast when planting even in early June!

**Start Here With:**

- Organic and Open Pollinated Vegetable Seeds
- Certified Organic Potatoes
- Naturally & Locally Grown Vegetable Starts
- Fruit & Nut Trees



**Sanhedrin Nursery**  
1094 Locust St. Willits 459-9009



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459-3094



**Brookside Farm**  
*People-Powered Produce*  
...would like to thank WELL for its support.  
One share for 2009 remains available. The price of \$750 per share is an inexpensive way to receive quality produce for 12 months of the year. Ask about payment plans!  
if you want to learn hands on vegetable gardening call Jason to volunteer  
A share of Brookside Farm not only feeds your family, it...  
▪ Supports a local farmer ▪ Sponsors youth education  
▪ May teach you new skills ▪ Is a lot of fun  
Interested? Contact Jason Bradford at 456-0760

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[liam@well95490.org](mailto:liam@well95490.org)

## WELL Coordinating Committee Briefs

### Co-Com Meeting of Mar. 11

At our Mar. 11 meeting, the Coordinating Committee discussed both administrative and program issues.

On “nuts and bolts”, we’re pleased that Roger has upgraded and helped organize our computer, and will be doing something similar for our new website as time permits. Web-savvy volunteers would be heartily welcomed! Subcommittees will help oversee office tasks (insurance, emails, etc.). We also discussed getting our publicity out in a more timely way.

The CC also approved **new policies regarding memberships**: a) raising annual dues to \$15; b) offering non-voting memberships to non-residents; and c) having all renewals due in the Fall for the 2010 year.

“**Little Red Wagon**” Project: CC members were enthusiastic about this idea, to help people grow edible plants (such as tree collards) in their gardens. It will involve getting wagons, plant starts, info packets, volunteers, shovels. Ann Weller will be point person. We set a first date for Sat. Apr. 4 at 10am, so we can recruit volunteers on Mar. 29.

**Sustainable Films**: RJ reports on some exciting potential for sustainable films promoted through Main Street Video. The CC voted to donate some of our DVDs to be rented by Main Street.

Plans and responsibilities for the **Mar. 29 Event** were discussed.

The CC also reviewed a “**Goals & Roles**” chart and assigned lead people for most of the items. The basic approach is that goals should be based on where we have volunteers taking on the tasks.

Jason, Roger & Madge reported on their meeting with a leader of **Sustainable Berea** ( Kentucky ). Among interesting ideas were that 14-24 year-old women are strongest environmentalists; getting more college & school involvement (they have a college campus); and doing an educational & fundraising calendar.

**Youth Outreach**: Several CC members will continue pursuing ways to connect with our youth, through guest speakers and/or films at the Charter School and WHS Environment Club and farm, and informal contacts at the upcoming “Be the Change Day” (Mar. 21).

At the next CC meeting (to be set after Mar. 29 election of new CC members), topics will include election of officers, finances, and review of Goals & Roles.

### Farmers Market at the Grange

Every Thursday from 3 to 6 you can find soups, pies, eggs, dried fruit, winter greens, clothing, bulk grains & beans, herbal salves, knitted goods and much more. Live music and live neighbors make the experience one you don't want to miss.

**At the Grange all during April 2009!**



### Peak Moment TV

Each Monday at 7:00 P.M. Peak Moment TV is shown on our local access Television, WCTV Channel 3, 64 & 65. This news and interview program is focused on news about transitioning to a post carbon society. The Peak Moment newsletter can be read on line at <http://www.peakmoment.tv/newsletter/090405/index.htm>.

It is also very worthwhile to check out WCTV's website. Even if you can't get cable, you can see some of what they offer because they post many of their shows on the website at <http://www.willitstv.org/>.

### Local Product – Continued from Page 1

Local product is showing up in our local stores. In a recent stroll down the aisles of the new Mariposa Market there were 'local product' signs on every aisle except the produce aisle. There were some local products that were not labeled, such as Boonty Beer and Mendocino Olive Oil. Sarah Schyuler, Mariposa's assistant manager, said that those products are provided by their standard distributors while most of the labeled ones are provided directly by the local producers. She also said that as time allowed they would label more of them. However, the number of products that are not local vastly outnumber the ones that are.

JD Redhouse and Company carries a number of local products from soap, to health salves, to ice cream and hot pads. They are encouraging the localization movement by word and deed. Their shelves, however, are still overwhelmingly stocked with product from far away.

In separate interviews with Sarah Schyuler of Mariposa Market, Darlene Bixler of JD Redhouse, and Jason Bradford of WELL we delved into how more local products can be sold in local stores.

Jason points out that one big issue is capitalization. New businesses need capital to get started. Most of the investments made by local residents are far away from here. Wall Street has much more of Willits' money than local businesses do. Considering the recent track record of the financial giants, does that make sense? If those with money to invest look for local opportunities we can create local employment, local commerce, and local prosperity by which our community can weather the worldwide financial crisis. Darlene spoke of six pointers for potential vendors wanting to sell their product through JD Redhouse.

- **Presentation**: the product must look professional on the shelf. Packaging and labeling must be pleasing to the customer, informative about the product, and convenient for stocking.

**Continued Page 6 – Local Product**

### Coordinating Committee Members

Updated after March election

Jason Bradford - 456-0760 - [jason@redinet.org](mailto:jason@redinet.org)  
 Madge Strong - 459-6675 - [mstrong@willitsonline.com](mailto:mstrong@willitsonline.com)  
 Jane McCabe - 456-9067 - [janესjet@hotmail.com](mailto:janესjet@hotmail.com)  
 Roger Wilson - 456-4111 - [roger@jollyone.com](mailto:roger@jollyone.com)  
 Ann Waters Weller - 459-6362 - [abweller@pacific.net](mailto:abweller@pacific.net)  
 Richard Jergenson - 459-6362 - [rjergenson@saber.net](mailto:rjergenson@saber.net)

### Willits Contra Dance

April 25<sup>th</sup>. 7:00 PM

Willits Center for the Arts - 71 E. Commercial St. in Willits

For information contact Roger: (310) 245-4821 /

[roger@jollyone.com](mailto:roger@jollyone.com)

7PM - Lessons for Beginners 7:30 - The Dancing starts!

Adults - \$7 Under 17 - \$3 Under 9 - 5 cents.

And for those of you dancers over 66, you're invited for free.

### The Rebuild Store

You already recycle glass, plastic, and aluminum...what about windows, cabinets, and that extra roll of tar paper in the shed?

Do you want to put in double pane windows to save energy, and save money too?

The Rebuild Store is a project of North Coast Opportunities that takes your used items and sells them (cheap) to people who can use them.

Their show room is open several days each week at:

**75C Kunzler Ranch Road in Ukiah (707) 671-6581**

### CERT Training

Presented by

**Little Lake Fire Department and City of Willits Police Department  
 In Cooperation with North Coast Opportunities (NCO)**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program was developed in California in the mid-80s as a way to train people to better prepare for emergency situations in their communities. Since then, it has become a national model for helping people respond to emergencies. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that improve the safety of the community.

CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations.

Date/Time: April 14th - 6:00-9:30p.m.

April 21st - 6:00-9:30p.m.

April 28th - 6:00-9:30p.m.

May 2nd - 9:00-4:00p.m.

May 5th - 6:00-9:30 p.m.

Graduation on May 12th - 6:00 pm.

Call for Registration

Cost: \$10.00

Location: Willits City Hall

111 E. Commercial St. Willits, CA 95490

For Registration: Kitty Setzco

(707) 637-5795

or via e-mail at [krobinson@saber.net](mailto:krobinson@saber.net)

### Now & Then Film Series

*Presents Two Films*



**Flow** is Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigation into what experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st Century - The World Water Crisis.

Salina builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel.

Interviews with scientists and activists intelligently reveal the rapidly building crisis, at both the global and human scale, and the film introduces many of the governmental and corporate culprits behind the water grab, while begging the question "CAN ANYONE REALLY OWN WATER?"

Beyond identifying the problem, FLOW also gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis and those developing new technologies, which are fast becoming blueprints for a successful global and economic turnaround.

### **a DROP of Life**

Set in the near future, A DROP OF LIFE is the story of two women, a village teacher in rural India and an African American corporate executive, whose disparate lives intersect when they are both confronted with lack of access to clean drinking water.

Mirabai, an impassioned schoolteacher, has left her urban lifestyle to teach in Kutch, Gujarat. When Mira witnesses growing illness among the village children after a pre-paid water meter is installed, she decides to take action.

Nia, an ambitious young African-American executive, represents the interests of Hydron, a Manhattan-based water corporation. Nia goes to this Indian village to demonstrate Hydron's new pilot project water pump that dispenses water with a swipe from a pre-paid credit card. When Nia finds herself in need of drinking water without a pre-paid card, both women must confront the horror of this system.

**7:00 pm, Thursday, April 16**

**Little Lake Health Center**

**45 Hazel St.**

**Enter by back door in parking lot**

**Free Admission! Everyone Welcome!**

**Suggested Donation of \$5 to Help Build  
 WELL Film Library**

## Recent Links & Blogs

### Ecological debt: no way back from bankrupt

By Andrew Simms

While most governments' eyes are on the banking crisis, a much bigger issue - the environmental crisis - is passing them by, says Andrew Simms. In the Green Room this week, he argues that failure to organise a bailout for ecological debt will have dire consequences for humanity.

"Nature Doesn't Do Bailouts!" said the banner strung across Bishopsgate in the City of London.

**Read More at** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7988648.stm>

### Great Depression Cooking with Clara

Great Depression Cooking with Clara is the popular online cooking show. In each episode Clara prepares recipes that her mother made during the Great Depression. Clara shares her stories and wisdom from the Depression as she shows you how to make simple, inexpensive and delicious meals

**See More at** [http://www.greatdepressioncooking.com/Depression\\_Cooking/Welcome.html](http://www.greatdepressioncooking.com/Depression_Cooking/Welcome.html)

### We're Running Our World Like a Ponzi Scheme!

By Matthew Stein

Bernie Madoff sure made a name for himself, didn't he? First he made a name for himself as a "Wall Street Genius" whose coveted firm not only promised, but consistently delivered, extraordinarily high annual returns on investment, even when the economy was down. More recently he made a name for himself as the architect of the largest and most notorious "Ponzi Scheme" in history, bilking investors out of as much as 50 billion dollars!

**Read More at** [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/matthew-stein/were-running-our-world-li\\_b\\_183071.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/matthew-stein/were-running-our-world-li_b_183071.html)

### Toward a new sustainable economy

By Robert Costanza

The current financial meltdown is the result of under-regulated markets built on an ideology of free market capitalism and unlimited economic growth. The fundamental problem is that the underlying assumptions of this ideology are not consistent with what we now know about the real state of the world.

**Read More at** <http://www.paecon.net/PAEReview/issue49/Costanza49.pdf>

Continued on Page 7 – More Links & Blogs

### Local Product - Continued from Page 4

- Pricing: the product must sell at retail in the same range as its competition. That means that the wholesale price to JD Redhouse (or any other retailer) must be low enough to allow a reasonable mark-up. Local retailers can use the 'local product' label to help sell an item, but that won't overcome big price discrepancies with competing product.
- Quality: the product must be good quality for the price. Putting together a slap-dash product and expecting it to sell simply because it is local is unrealistic. Look at the competing product. Produce something that good or better and price it to sell.
- Market: There must be a market for the product. Do your market research. What do people want to buy? That is the product you need to sell. If you have an idea for a product, see what your competition is doing. Ask the people who buy that product now how it could be improved. Ask the retailers how well it sells.
- Follow-up: retail stores make their money by turnover of product on their shelves and by reducing the amount of time they spend on any given product line. The vendors that sell the most product are the ones who service their retailers. When you talk to a retailer, call them back when you say you will. If they are carrying your product, check in with them. Look at the display, how can it be improved? Are they almost out? Have their been any comments from their customers?
- Be professional: we are a small town with a sometimes casual approach to almost everything. Remember that successful businesses have developed the 'professional' attitudes because they work. Attention to detail, good paper trail (invoices, contracts, etc.), personable and drama-free relations with other businesses all add up to more business for everyone.

Sarah from Mariposa had her own points to add.

- Consistent Supply: though Mariposa sometimes carries one-off items in their gift section, for the rest of the store they only want to carry items that they can carry consistently. A few bags of zucchini or spinach are not sellable for them. A farmer who can offer a given number of bushels of zucchini for a season is going to find them much more receptive. The same is true for any of the packaged goods they sell.
- Known Quality: they can't just take your word for how good your product is. If they know you and have seen your product over time they can judge the quality for themselves. If they don't know you, certification or referrals from people they do know can help a lot.
- Competitive price: just as Darlene pointed out, a local product that cost twice the price of the competition just isn't going to sell.
- Shelf Space & Desirability: the primary thing a store owns is shelf space. Every foot of shelf needs to pay for itself by a turnover of product. You may have a wonderful product that one person in a thousand will pay a lot of money to purchase. Someone else may have a product that many people will pay a small amount of money to buy often. The shelf space dedicated to your product needs to pay the store at least as much per month as the shelf space dedicated to the neighboring product.

Our community does have capital available for investment. Our community does have creative, capable, and experienced craftspeople and agricultural experts. We need to put capital and concepts together to produce local food and local products for sale through local retailers. The local retailers are open to local products sold in a reasonable and professional way. Let's get to work!

## An open letter regarding future use of the Little Lake Valley Ranch

March 31, 2009

Mr. Matt Taylor

Little Lake Valley Ranch  
26500 Reynolds Highway  
Willits, CA 95490

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Willits Economic Localization (WELL) is a non-profit membership organization with a vision of "an enduring local economy that provides health and security for our community." Our mission is "to foster the creation of a local, sustainable economy in the Willits area by helping residents learn valuable skills and take action, and by partnering with other organizations to share knowledge and support projects that build a thriving community." Founded four years ago, we currently have a membership of over 300 and an email list of about 1,000.

In keeping with our dedication to a healthy local community, we believe that the choice of future land use on the Little Lake Valley Ranch property is extremely important. A rock concert venue would have major adverse impacts on the town and Little Lake Valley, including traffic, noise, safety, water use, and waste disposal.

In contrast, a proposal such as the Birchwood Conservancy's, to raise heritage livestock on the land and educate the public about the values of such livestock, would be in keeping with our rural community and values. Based on the initial information we have received, it seems this proposal would be a positive benefit to the property itself, to the Willits area and beyond.

We hope you will consider these concerns and the community's best interests in deciding the future of this land.

Sincerely,

Madge Strong, Secretary, on behalf of the WELL Coordinating Committee

## The Red Wagon Review

By Anne Waters Weller

It was a beautiful Saturday morning on April Fourth!

Four teams of Little Red Wagons left the Willits Little Lake Grange ready to plant veggies in neighborhood garden plots. Brookside Farm donated cuttings of an easy to grow staple vegetable, the tree collard, as well as lettuce. Our wagons were also loaded with broccoli and chard starts from Emandal Farm. Storage potatoes from Michael Stewart were also offered as a planting option. Thanks to all of our wonderful sponsors, donors and hardy volunteers!

Why were we walking the streets with vegetables? The future of healthy food begins at home – local, fresh – best when harvested daily. We can segue into larger kitchen gardens by creating an Edible Landscape – beginning with the introduction of 1 or more food plants into an existing flower bed, or large container of perennials or any landscaped, watered & tended area.

On Saturday, We planted over 15 different locations with an assortment of veggies, with grateful household recipients standing by, or helping to shovel the holes out! Who didn't want a free plant? Some renters or older residents declined, they couldn't care for it or didn't like to eat those foods, but – mostly – anyone who was home, wanted us to help them get started! I found that meeting a number of my neighbors was a very great thing, not to be underrated. I encourage anyone to take on this simple and fun opportunity – share a garden with your neighbors, especially the ones you haven't met yet! It could change you, the community, and the world.

More Links & Blogs – Continued from Page 6

### The End of the Roads

By Bryn Davidson

In my efforts to get Portland, Oregon's Peak Oil Task Force, [which identifies problems and solutions related to dwindling oil supplies], into Vancouver, I've run up against hurdles from the business community as well as from the climate community. So I've been really interested in saying, "Okay, how do we collectively start to get past our differences and focus on the commonalities?"

**Read More at <http://www.good.is/post/the-end-of-the-roads/>**

### Will New Food Safety Bills Really Outlaw Backyard Gardening and End Farmers' Markets?

By Ari LeVaux

There's been a lot of hype about a few new food bills. And while most of it is conspiracy theory there are some reasons to be alarmed.

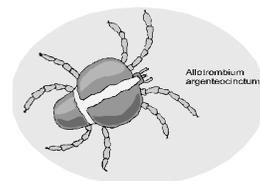
**Read More at <http://tinyurl.com/cn88l9>**

### Satellites Show Arctic Literally on Thin Ice

By NASA Earth Observatory

The latest Arctic sea ice data from NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center show that the decade-long trend of shrinking sea ice cover is continuing. New evidence from satellite observations also shows that the ice cap is thinning as well.

**Read More at <http://tinyurl.com/ddvyp6>**



## Willits - 6 Thursdays - 7PM Library Lyme Series Under Our Skin

**There's no medicine for someone like you**

There are two more dates in the series on Lyme Disease.

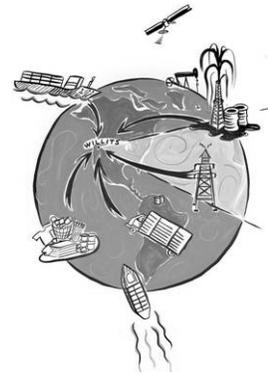
April 16th – Re-screening of the film  
Followed by discussion.

April 23rd - Strategies for wholeness. Group planning for personal empowerment.

For more information 459-9085

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Where Willits Is Today



Where WELL Wants Willits To Be

Art by Linda MacDonald

Here we are, faced with the loss of an environment conducive to human civilization, and we find governments prostrate before barely repentant banks, with their backs to a far worse ecological crisis

*Andrew Simms*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7988648.stm>

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