

GENERAL INFORMATION

Summertime has come to the Valley. While many of us wilt from the days of above 90°F weather, the beans, corn, and squash--our heritage from the natives of this land, are just soaking up that sunshine and have begun what will hopefully be a bountiful crop.

Many of you are reading this newsletter for the first time, having encountered the VCLT at that annual event of the future held at the Amherst campus of U-Mass; the Towards Tomorrow Fair. We take this opportunity to welcome you. Our current pamphlet (enclosed) will give you some background of the organization, and an overview of our purposes. Additional information on the Valley Community Land Trust is available from us, for those not in this area, we would encourage you to write the National Community Land Trust Center; 639 Mass Ave; Cambridge, Ma. 02139, for information on the CLT nearest you. You may continue to hear about the VCLT through this leaflet for a \$2 newsletter fee, or for a \$5 membership donation.

COME TO THE MOVIE

We have gotten access to a movie called "Farming is Farming", put together by a man from Ohio, Douglas Miller. It is a 45 minute color film that looks at five family farms in Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, and Vermont, ranging in size from 100-200 acres. The movie shows the philosophy and worth inherent in such small time farming, compared with the larger and ever more present corporation owned farms. Not only do these farms provide a meaningful life for the people who live on them, they combine higher yields and better quality food with lower energy use. We would like to invite you and your freinds to this film. There will be a presentation of the CLT idea before the film, and a discussion of the film afterwards.

There will be two showings of the film. You can see it at the Amherst Town Hall on Thursday evening, August 10, or at the Greenfield Public Library on Friday evening, August 11. There will be a small donation asked at the door. More information about the film can be gotten by calling Ed at 253-5427.

LAND TRUST RECEIVES FIRST LAND

On June 5 the VCLT acquired its first piece of land, a beautiful 130 acre farm on Shearer Road in Colrain, and its first lessees, Pam Roberts and Ed Wierzbowski. Since we actually acquired only a one half "undivided" share in the property, we know find ourselves co owners with a woman in New Jersey. Considerable collaberation between Pam and Ed and the Lease Committee has produced a first lease which should, except for the peculiar provisions necessitated by our one-half ownership, provide the beginnings of our model lease. The real roots of the CLT philosophy are discussed in lease committee meetings. Now it is up to the Land Use committee to work with Pam and Ed on the practical matter of developed a plan for the land. In the near future we hope to have a general meeting in Colrain to celebrate, play, work, and havethe tour.

MORE TO COME

There is more land in the offering--three small wooded pieces in Ashfield. In size they range from 2 acres to 20 acres, with the largest one having the potential to make a fine sugarbush. They all have access and building potential.

If these pieces of land sound intriguing, or if you are looking for land of a different sort, please fill out a leasee questionnaire (if you have not done so already). These will be available at the film, or by writing: Juanita Nelson; Woolman Hill; Deerfield, Mass. 01342. The film will be a good time to meet other potential leasees.

NOTE TO OLDEST MEMBERS

If there is a star next to your name, it means that you first joined the VCLT more than a year ago, and your membership is up for renewal. This may be done at any VCLT meeting, or by sending \$5 to: Steve Morgan; Box 213; Sunderland, Ma 01375. There is the option of doing work instead of paying money. There is plenty to be done; for example, we have run out of copies of our old by-laws, and the revised ones need to be typed onto stencils for copying. Let Steve know, and you will be contacted. Remember too that the annual meeting is coming up this fall, and we will need people to serve on committees and on the Board.