



institute for sustainable living, art & natural design

July 18th, 2008

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you are not lost.  
– David Wagoner

Dear

From wherever you're reading this, **can you point due north?** Go ahead and figure it out – read on when you're ready.

Was that easy? It helps to have a clear and bright day outside, or to know your stars, and it helps to have been motivated to find one of the cardinal directions before. By finding north, you've **helped to fulfill one tiny part of ISLAND's mission:** to help people understand the place they call home. Thanks! **Now, will you help fulfill our mission again?**

Imagine a room full of people all pointing north. Imagine whole communities of people "pointing north" by **crafting connections with each other and their environment.** Here are just a few ways:

☞ Getting your hands dirty at our **Skill Swaps**, learning to care for a small orchard, understand local timber management, process your own chickens and build water-conserving irrigation systems (among many more). We've hosted two, with more to come!

☞ Attending our **Ecological Gardening workshops** - our second to start this September - where you're using nature as a model to produce perennial foods and integrate your garden into the surrounding ecosystem.

☞ Talking directly with expert home builders in our first ever **Green Home round-table**, where you're



learning about solar and wind power, natural building techniques and wastewater management.

Imagine, too, the connections you're creating. People linked by good food, great art, meaningful work and spirited discussion. People sharing their time and expertise with each other. People who are working every day to **connect to their home**. From forest to farm, nature to culture, soul to soil.

**I hope you'll contribute and help this important work continue.**

ISLAND has been growing! I'm proud to say that we've met or far surpassed our predictions of where we'd be today. In fact, I've been re-reading the two letters I sent last year – they seem five years old. **Look at this growth in just the last six months:**

☞ **ISLAND has a home!** We're on nine acres of rolling glacial hills, a short bike ride from the Village of Bellaire and surrounded by 1100+ acres of public land. We're carefully beginning to craft the artists' residency program and working homestead.

☞ We've also **held over a dozen events in 2008** – well more than all of our past events combined, with plenty still to come!

☞ We've also **hired our first intern** and are kick-starting a **great volunteer program**. It's gratifying to see ISLAND find its home in our favorite Northern Michigan community.

ISLAND's progress is, by intent, slow and steady. There are no lack of opportunities to consider! My work is to be as mindful as I am delighted about our progress. And as always, we care deeply about **what you would like to see from ISLAND**. This is your organization.

**ISLAND's goal is to rediscover "place."** Not in some generic, soft-headed way, but as a thoughtful and incremental process.

It's a process that begins in common work and common knowledge, and that never ends. It's composed of a hundred thousand acts, most too small to register on the evening news, which quietly secure us to the many communities – ecological, agricultural, cultural and economic – of this place.

**Will you support ISLAND's work?**

Your contribution gives us the needed funds to continue and expand our programs. **Particularly now!** Your contribution in 2008 builds the momentum we need to meet key goals - **hiring an employee and beginning to build facilities for artists and ecologists** - that will help ensure our long term success.

I've enclosed an envelope for your contribution. If you prefer to give online, please visit our website at [www.ARTmeetsEARTH.org](http://www.ARTmeetsEARTH.org) and click on "donate" in the upper navigation bar. **If you have any questions or comments**, please don't hesitate to contact me at the address, phone or email below.

Best wishes,

Brad Kik  
Co-Director  
Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural Design (ISLAND)

P.S. I hope you enjoy the enclosed quiz! I've learned to "point north" from ISLAND's home in Northern Michigan, but our mission is equally about your place and your relation to it. **No matter where you live, you can contribute to and benefit from this important work.**

