



The Whole Village

Bank



Winter
2014

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Projects on the Farm



Several projects have been in development on the property over the last year. Resident Peter Holm is currently creating a heated greenhouse to house fish and fresh greens in an aquaponic setup. Aquaponics uses the waste of the fish to fertilize lettuces and small vegetables, and in turn, the produce filters out the bacteria as the water heads back into the fish tank. Peter plans on breeding Tilapia for their mild taste and practicality to an aquaponic system. Over the winter months he plans to research ecologically responsible ways to heat the greenhouse to make it efficiently run year-round. So far he is most interested in bio-char for its relative abundance and clean and efficient burn. He has a few pet crayfish in his tank as well in the hopes of retailing to

fisherman in the future. We look forward to Peter's progress (and more escaping crayfish in the game room!).

Another resident is in the process of creating a mobile home out of an old school bus. Jon Gagnon first became interested in the idea of a school bus motorhome, or "Skoolie" when a friend had recounted her story of buying, retrofitting and hitting the road in her own Skoolie. It linked his thirst to travel with his interest with small, practical homes. After months of shopping and ill-prepared test drives he finally settled on a '99 Ford International diesel, "Gertrude." He is currently finalizing floor plans and beginning the process of framing and insulation after spending the summer gutting, repairing and painting the interior floor and siding. The goals for the bus are to keep it simple but comfortable, adaptable to various situations (summer, winter, on-the-road, parked etc.) and to use minimal new materials and complicated systems. A comfortable, simple and mobile living arrangement that will, hopefully, be a starting point to a debt-free life. Much more work remains, but the progress, though slow, is there and the overall experience is rewarding in itself.