Whole System Design
Apprenticeship:
Permaculture Design

Amanda Sassi
Summer 2017
WSD Apprentices 2017
Projects: Beekeeping

- Right away we worked on building frames because as the weather warmed and the flowers bloomed the bees began to swarm.
- It was a constant project to try and keep the bees happy and separate the hives before the bees tried to find a new home.
- Over the course of the month of May we separated the hives multiple times as they kept practice swarming.
First we practiced grafting on prunings taken from established apple trees.

Once approved to practice on planted trees we took to the fields with scion wood Ben had collected in the spring while they were still dormant.

He collected wood that would attract game animals from wild crab apple trees.
Projects: Gardening in the Snow

- Top left is Alex broadforking garden beds to loosen the soil so that we could hand pull weeds and make planting easier without having to roto-till.
- Top right is more gardening in the snow.
- Bottom is the snow falling from where I stood in the mulch cart. People were coming to the cart for mulch and I was pulling it out of the corners so it was more accessible.
Projects:
Garden Prep in late May

- Ben did roto-till one bed to show us the difference between broad forking and tilling.
- We had a bunch of trees left over from our edible forest planting so we heeled them in in the nursery.
Projects:
Planting Edible Forest for the Generations

• Over the winter Ben cleared this acre and strategically felled the trees so they would fall near to the ground.
• We then planted different varieties of oak throughout layering them based on height and canopy width.
• Although it probably will not peak in our lifetime we are working toward a future we may never see.
Projects: Compost Work

- We worked for a whole day taking a five year old compost area that had fallen into disrepair with finished compost in it and turned it into usable compost, partially broken down compost, and new compost bins.
Projects: Cooking

- We did a lot of skill sharing while not outside working.
- Everyday we taught each other our specialties in cooking.
- Essentially it is one of the biggest drivers that brought us all together: our love of good food.
Projects:
Plant Identification and Medicinal Uses

• Whether wild or cultivated each day was filled with plant identification.
• It is crucial on a permaculture farm, where most things are intentional, to know where to step and what to pick.

Fiddleheads

Black Currants
Projects: Bird Care

• About a week into the apprenticeship the birds were moved from the Moretown farm to the Rochester farm, where we were staying.
• Once there I took over care of the birds with Shesan. I would let them out in the morning and give them fresh water. He would put them away at night and feed them.
Projects: Spring Capturing

• There are a lot of springs on the property in the Spring time because the snow is melting, but they dry up around October. Ben identified some water that continued to run during the dry season and we worked on capturing the spring to be utilized by people.

• We built two well houses, but only ended up putting one in. It is actually about four feet tall, but the water filled up around it when we put it in the pit.
Projects: Spring Capture
Time Lapse over Month

View from one room of the yoga studio, an apple tree, and the Zone 1 pond
Time Lapse over Month

View of part of the Site Mimic, Timber Frame Barn, Plum Trees, bird run, and Bee Hives
Time Lapse over Month

View from my room that I shared with two others ladies with the hoop house and what would become the first cow pasture.
Time Lapse over Month

View from the other window in my room looking out to the Green Mountains, fields, apple trees, and second closest pond.