

1 3/9/07

# Elfin Permaculture

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## SCHOLARSHIP

### INFORMATION FOR REGISTRANTS AND PROSPECTIVE REGISTRANTS PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE ONLINE

**Scholarships.** We offer limited numbers of scholarships in each course that we teach. If you would like a scholarship, you must type one page only stating why you want to attend the course, brief information on your background, why you cannot meet the tuition cost, how much you can contribute, and how you anticipate using permaculture design after the course. Request our scholarship guidelines for more details or download it from our web site. They are also found in the **BFPC Info Sheets** folder of the *Permaculture Design Course CD* and in the Course Preregistration Package. Enclose a SASE or international return mail coupon, as appropriate. **Submit scholarship applications only between July 1 and Aug.** These will be considered for the next online course, whenever it is scheduled to be held. We encourage you to seek support from other sources as well. We sometimes have one **workship** for a someone who assists with the course in various ways. Usually this is taken by people repeating the course. Local people can also barter work at our site for tuition. See the section on barter below.

**Contributions for Scholarships.** There is a great need for contributions for scholarships to pay tuition and reading materials. If you are able to help, please do so. Contributions amounting to about \$1,900 cover tuition, books and associated costs for one student as of this date.

**Native Peoples.** Minority peoples historically native to the region where the course is given are not charged for attendance, however the number of such students must be limited for practical reasons. With the online course, this is not clear-cut, since we do not hold the course in any one region. Generally, we give priority to scholarship applications from people representing minority indigenous groups.

**Koha.** All Elfin Permaculture Scholarships are based on the Maori *Koha* concept. The *koha*, is, roughly speaking, a gift given in consideration for a gift received. It is not an exchange. It is an acknowledgement of the law of gifts: "Love is the harmony between giving and receiving."

The *koha* supports people who provide services to others in ways that limit their attention to their own needs. It enables people to get services that they need--healing or teaching, for example--independently of their material resources. Elfin Permaculture has found that in Western societies, the *koha* is culturally alien and it is not possible for us to conduct our work solely on this basis. So, we offer only as many scholarships as we can afford on a *koha* basis. The *koha* principle applies to all scholarships that we grant.

The *koha* scholarship is given without strings. If, after our workshop or course, you

2 3/9/07

wish to contribute something as a gift, it is welcome. A gift can be money, goods or services. The giver of a *koha* bases it on the importance of the gifts they have received from the event and what the person has to give. There is no such thing as a large or small *koha*. We do not keep track of who gives *kohas*. Our only responsibility is to give service the best that we can. Consideration of the *koha* is the responsibility of the person receiving the services—we do not trouble ourselves about it.

If what you have to offer is clearly not suited to our circumstances, please direct your *koha* gift in a way that will further permaculture and the welfare of Mother Earth. There is no time limit on the giving of a *koha*. In applying for a scholarship with us, you accept the principle of *koha*.

**Barter.** In principle, we will accept barter of goods and/or services in lieu of part or all of tuition. However, our material needs are few. Our experience forces us to require barter payment in advance, just as with cash payment. We can often use labor donated to the development of Barking Frogs Permaculture Center.

**Enrollment.** Maximum enrollment in the online course is 20 students. Five of these may present their design practicum in the present course cycle. Usually, there is space for everyone and room for more.

**Selection & Eligibility.** Anyone who is seriously interested in the course is eligible to attend. If, due to lack of room, it is necessary to select participants for this course, selection criteria will include priorities to early registrants, women, indigenous people, minorities, people who seek to share what they learn with others and people of other diverse skills and backgrounds.

**Advanced Reading.** The course is very intensive. We strongly advise students to acquire the course reading package and begin reading scheduled assignments a month or two in advance. **Again, the reading package is not included in our scholarships.**

This is a very brief summary of some course considerations. We advise course registrants to download the course protocol and study it carefully. The protocol is also found in the **CourseTools** folder of the *Permaculture Design Course CD* and in the Course Preregistration Package.