

Making money in a young Community

Posted by Matthew237 - 2008/01/26 20:32

What are some ways to bring money into a community, especially during the very early stages when the "community" is more like a bunch of overgrown land without access roads?

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Perpetual Almanac aka books that breath

Posted by Matthew237 - 2008/01/26 22:08

I quite attracted to the zine and feel like it would be a low investment way to get the shire into printed form, share well formed ideas and possibly even make some money.

I have seen quite a few old publications that consisted of a binder and numerous parts that were purchased based on personal interest. As the publishers put out new work the binders would grow and eventually become "books"

I propose a periodical focused on time and seasons. I imagine two parts, the first guides a reader though the first year of a property, establishing key parts like a garden. The second book would be open ended, covering upkeep and expansion. As the communities interests grow, so would the book. It would become a personalized almanac, pages turned as tasks were completed.

I see the "final" product as a perpetual calendar that used climatic changes rather than dates to describe the passage of the year. We would put out kits, such as beekeeping that would contain small pamphlets that the user would put into their books in the appropriate time slots. In this example, now when the user reaches fall they would run into a section on preparing the bees for winter.

To go off on a bit of a tangent (see the note on my personality) this book could also be used as a community facilitator. Replaceable sheets could be used to document who completed a task, problems encountered, advice to whoever undertakes the project the next year, etc. These sheets could also be used to keep track of projects that span multiple years, for example a thicket of furniture willow harvested every three years could have a sheet that is simply a time marker, a date would be signed and the page flipped.

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Re:Perpetual Almanac aka books that breath

Posted by Matthew237 - 2008/01/26 22:13

By the way... I would be willing to help put this together if people with knowledge are willing to submit. I would also make leather book bindings sold to people who are interested in signing up for our publications once we have enough written to offer a starting-continuing set

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Re:Making money in a young Community

Posted by Thenor - 2008/01/27 00:04

I like the Idea... not sure how to make it work at this moment... but in the near future that is a definite possibility.

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Re:Making money in a young Community

Posted by nic - 2008/01/27 23:05

I especially like the idea of focused, collaborative documentation of the intial thoughts and experiences on the land itself. This section would be invaluable to people joining the project after more human impact had changed the landscape. People could see the process and thoughts involved at the outset and understand the space more completely. It would also help people see the general trajectory that was set out at the beginning, thus aiding in constructive input and minimizing thoughts of "why wasn't this done like this?" Instead, an understanding of why something was done the way it was would foster thoughts more like, "now we can do this."

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Re:Making money in a young Community

Posted by crossfire - 2008/01/28 00:49

Good idea! I'll try and incorporate a place for this in the new site layout.

This would be a detailed project area, with the basic plans laid out. Perhaps project news, maybe milestones, stuff along those lines.

BTW, for anyone who wants to know the new design is coming along nicely and we can expect to go live sometime before the end of Febuary.

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Re:Making money in a young Community

Posted by LoDukeBear - 2008/02/04 20:00

cottage industry, from traditional crafts (wool sweaters, handmade knives, jam) to visionary crafts (hydrogen fuel cells, wind turbines, bicycle powered airplanes) landcraft (farming, forestry) and intangibles (massage, therapy, green consulting) all fit into the S.H.I.R.E. design. we need to look at habitat, like nick said, primarily. the assumption needs to be, in the creation of S.H.I.R.E.s that we are using the cradle to cradle sustainability model and the permaculture method, in production. so talking about sustainability in relation to what is already needed (marketable) and with a keen eye on remediation is where we need to focus. the jobs are already cut out for us, our work is to redesign them.

Re:Making money in a young Community

Posted by LoDukeBear - 2008/02/04 20:02

oh, and matt, great great great idea on the books that breathe. call me, lets discuss more.

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Re:Making money in a young Community

Posted by nic - 2008/02/07 00:14

I like this thread, much much. I agree with the focus in the last post, and want to add some things.

First, I like the four crafts: traditional, visionary, land and intangible. These should all be connected, for example, with visionary technologies helping with landcraft which is used for materials for traditional craft used for intangibles. More specific using such a connection, wind power used to make essential oils from mint grown on the land used for massage therapy.

Second, a focus on remediation i think is essential. There is alot to be done to clean up the mess, and there is no such thing as waste. There are only resources that we have not figured out how to use well. Lets figure out how to use them, then teach people how. Money gets made by taking "waste" products and turning them magically into resources.

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Re:Making money in a young Community

Posted by LoDukeBear - 2008/02/07 02:35

yes yes yes! i owe you all an article on education, and also a cover all "what is the S.H.I.R.E?" and i apologize for not having those out yet because those are essential to understanding some of the basic S.H.I.R.E. principles which include the spirical principles that unite the industry with the academy with the ecovillage, and that is the key. i could keep going but instead ill just work on the article.

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