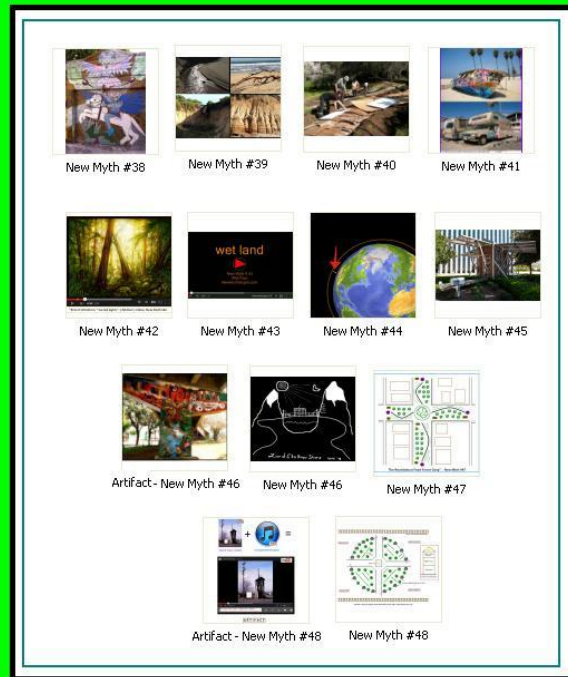


Myth Lab



New Myths #38 - #48

Artifact > Alchemy > Imprintation > Community

eBook 12

Willi Paul
NewMythologist.com

Myth Lab

eBook 12

New Myths #38 - #48

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+ Myth Lab results where applicable

Why we need new myths, poems, songs, and rituals?

Support for Myth Lab

"Your "Myth Lab" sounds fabulous. I love it. I'm completely in sync with your work. I would love to do this workshop,..."

Raven Gray, Transition US

' "Myth Lab" is all really awesome stuff, which I support wholeheartedly. I get on some levels what you're doing and I agree that it's necessary....'

Vladislav Davidson, vladislavdavidzon.com/

"Very interesting... A story writer creating "new myths." They hold all of the elements of established myths, but are new. Thirty or so of them? Kudos to you and keep up the very interesting work."

Joey C. Kantor, fargokantrowitz.com

Key Terms

Artifact – The Imprintable Artifact is a Nature-Human combination; examples include graffiti, a bill board, historic sculpture, and a permaculture garden, with special powers and messages to the neighborhood.

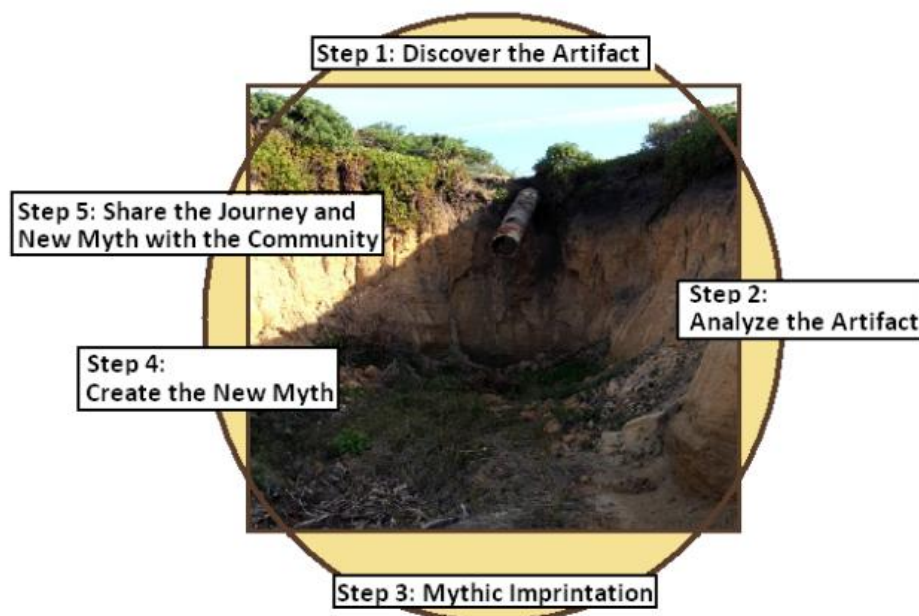
Mythos – The pattern of basic values and attitudes of a people characteristically transmitted through myths and the arts.

New Mythology – Is a call for new Nature-based, globally integrated stories without allegiance to any classic mythologies. New Mythology incorporates new symbols, new alchemy and climate change era rituals and is built for the future.

The Transition Movement includes new business exchange schemes where waste is used by another business; Transition is garden sharing that allows gardeners to re-use barren lands; the movement encourages people to choose local food and offer support for smart bicycle and mass transit systems.

Mythic Imprinting – Imprinting is defined as a two-way interaction with a selected Artifact that has generates synergistic meaning for both participants and the Artifact. Called “mythic imprinting” in the Myth Lab, this iterative and transmutative process is grounded in the initiation, journey and hero work from Joseph Campbell and is one way that neighborhood artifacts can help neighbors generate new songs, poems and myths.

Process Model: Steps 1 – 5 (from [New Myth #39](#))



8 Key Elements in the New Mythology

1. Localization – back to sustainability and community; self-sufficiency
2. Nature- Centered; Nature First
3. Spiritual (not religious)
4. Future-based (25 – 50 years from now)
5. Universal themes, issues and warnings plus messages
6. Para-Normal in conflict or characters
7. Initiation, Journey and Hero (after Joseph Campbell)
8. Permaculture & Transition: ethics, principles and values

The New Myths

[Halo and Kat Wing of Caledonia Alley, New Myth #38](#)

[ManPipe and the Ocean Clan. New Myth #39. Myth Lab 2 - Imprinting the Transition for the New Mythology](#)

[Permie Sheet Mulch Mob @ Paradise Golf Course. New Myth #40](#)

[Permaculture Motel & the Barge 4. Venice Beach, CA. New Myth #41](#)

[Forest Vibrations * Sacred Lights", Children's Video: New Myth #42 / Myth Lab #3](#)

[wet land, a children's video. New Myth #43](#)

[Beehive Glacier Boy & the Hole in the Sky", Kid's Video & New Myth #44](#)

["Code Ship Down - Highway 101", New Myth #45 / Myth Lab #4 Live Video](#)

[Land Sky River Stars. New Myth #46](#)

[The Roundabout Food Forest Gang : New Myth #47, by Rob Joyce, Please Touch Garden & Willi Paul](#)

[SunDial Tribe @ Cascadia. New Myth #48](#)

New Myth #38

Myth Lab # 1

Halo and Kat Wing of Caledonia Alley"



In 2042 the San Francisco Mission District is in bloom with organic cafes', food forests and walking paths. The streets are all gone, as are the cars and trucks that once clogged Valencia and 16th and the alleys with dark smoke and pesky horns. The fear from gentrification – a community diversity killer – has now been implemented **in reverse**. The Transition Movement arrived as the people's hero, killing the evil high rise developers, gated supermarkets chains and pirated water goons hiding in the High Sierra with a localized sword! Sharing and bartering is the economic way in this land. The eco- confederacy called Cascadia. Repair and can, sprout and send.

This is a revolution of the spirit, Brother with Sister, Mother with Father. The people declared their neighborhood as a Holy Place and protected their seeds with the same vigor as the vision for the neighborhood. It was not an easy path to social and environmental justice. After the permaculture committee ripped-up the intersection at 24th and Mission Street, all hell broke loose! The last bus line was stopped here; a new bicycle path network sprang up in its place – and almost over nite.

* * * * *

Since everybody has a mask on, the flick-lickey flames from the backyard fire pit took on another role on this clear July nite in the Mission. Somebody twirled and yelped; a young boy jumped over the flames like a wolf with a reason. As the sparks flew away, up into the nite sky, the drummers began.

Fires always give people a weird warmth – an out of body experience, right? A power boost of shaman juice and pagan thrust. Since the soil returned from the concrete makers, magic has returned to the hearts and hands of the Mission Tribe. Compost is the best money a farmer can buy.

“Here, let me paint your body with blue henna hatching,” cooed Halo.

“Just as long as I retain my warrior status,” laughed Kat Wing.

Their masks and costumes are an attempt to relive the tribal tale of good and bad times in the hood from the beloved garage painting still preserved in the former Caledonia Alley.

* * * * *

The Light Network crew visits each fire dance, every seed sourcing party, keeping watchful eyes on the Children of the Sun.

New Myth #39

Myth Lab 2

ManPipe and the Ocean Clan. Imprinting the Transition for the New Mythology



Artifact



Video

New Myth #40

[Permie Sheet Mulch Mob @ Paradise Golf Course. New Myth #40](#)



Permie Sheet Mulch Mob @ Paradise Golf Course, New Myth #40, Willi Paul, NewMythologist.com

"Permaculture golf course is an oxymoron. In Scotland, home of golf, much of the course is "in the rough." Permie fairways would be the multi-purpose savannah / pasture areas."
- David Hoffman, Eugene

* * * * *

The Paradise Golf Course has been abandoned since the great Valley fire of 2034 singed the foothills of Chico and her suburbs. When the Light Network first assembled to access the charred course, just the Crow clan flew around and barked a greeting. All they found was black encrusted greens, flame tattooed pump stations and melted barbed wire fences. Interestingly, the 27 ponds were full. The Permaculture Design Workshop this began with algae under their visors.

The web site for the course was formally described like this:

"Paradise Golf Course is located in Northern California right outside of Chico, CA and only minutes away from the town of Paradise. The club showcases 18 outstanding holes of golf which is open to the public, competitively priced memberships, a beautiful wedding and reception venue overlooking the Chico, CA valley floor, full service catering, an all grass driving range, and full service grill for a delicious bite to eat during your round of golf. Come experience the breathtaking views of the Sutter Buttes, the skyline of Chico, as well as the Pacific Coast mountain range during your next visit to Paradise."

* * * * *

The evening break-out sessions and work planning - connected by multiple fire pits on the property - also generate new rhymes, stories and dreams for Cascadia. Factor in the occasional skinny dipping and sneaky side-glancing games, and indeed, the nights in Paradise are downright mythic.

Meet two young "re-composted transitionalists" from Central Cascadia Tribes: YellowLeaf and Rochelle!

"This is a regional and local resource development project for food production and education. "How can the site do both," Rochelle?

"Easy. Train local folks to grow stable food sources and barter the trade any excess to other Tribes. Clearly, we are building another Way Station for our Light Network travelers and guests."

"What are your ideas for specific land resource improvements, Rochelle?"

"Three small wind mills could pump water from the existing golf course irrigation system and produce electricity for the local are grid. As to the 'food forest fairway' that everyone's buzzing about, a labor-intensive sheet mulching process is logical. The large trees are ok and will provide some shade and wind break."

"You mean cutting the damaged fairway grass into 4" thick, 4' x 2' counter-sod strips, turning each one over to start the soil building eco-alchemy?"

"Yup. We did this in Golden Gate Park a few years ago. A starter supply of compost for the mulching program is available at the Chico Tribe; and cardboard waits at the former transfer station down by the highway. Some of the buildings can be revitalized as green houses with recycled windows from near-by demo sites."

"Enough human design science chit chat for one night!"

"Mulch Mob meets starts again at 7:30 AM."

* * * * *

Not destined to be a small hippie town, Paradise is poised to be a new star of public access, a holistic vision of organic food, sustainable power and Ag training where a county club and an 18 hole golf course once existed.

* * * * *

Please enjoy all **40 New Myths** from Willi Paul.

New Myth #41

Permaculture Motel & the Barge 4. Venice Beach, CA. New Myth #41



Down on Ocean Avenue, three blocks from the beach, waves a converted motel, really a Light Network Substation, an experiment sprouted by sun gods from the cool, wet lands of Cascadia. The "Permaculture Motel" as the locals call it, has a three-ring business plan, including: a SOCAL Seed Library and a Tool Lending Coop.

And don't forget the four Union donated, re-purposed Long Beach barges strategically marooned on the beach....

Nothing like the still smoldering take-over of the LA Metro power grid by the Asian box cutter mob in 2027 (and then multiple sustainability-hungry investors in Santa Monica) to spur some local innovation.

Sand dunes and tequila are the new Motel social media.

* * * * *

The electric Media Day tour bus from Culver City movie studios arrives each Friday at 11 am in a cloud of bumble squawk and stolen sun glasses. On the street, donation peddlers, punk rock drones are kicking up their cowboy boots and Telegraph tattoos.

"For a new buck or a burrito, ma'am, she said."

80's hair spray colors jump into building murals – cartoon people blending off the walls of Venice and into the streets like chameleons from last year's Van's catalog. The alley way network is both clandestine and celebrated daily: meetings, back stoop BBQ's – here is the yoga matt highway that cuts 90 degrees throughout the larger arteries of Transitioned Venice Beach.

* * * * *

Back to the four beached barges at ocean edge? This is Large; a kind of "moon landing in 2031."

The Barges are:

B - 1 – Food Forest with Compost Factory below (table and crop leftovers) + sea water and dirt from the neighborhoods. Growing the Food Forest on the backs of post-industrial wales

B -2 – Concert Stage / Dance Hall with housing below, the House Band are "The centering ones." Moan and groan and make up cords from the old cargo hold.

B -3 – Skate Park with Recycle Works below. This is a nice synergy: staffers make repairs as soon as skaters break shit!

B - 4 – New Business Incubator above and classrooms below. The last start-up to emerge from the roost was a solar oven converts and stores electricity for moon shine brownies!

* * * * *

Hordes of greenies, trainees, travelers and transitionists are always streaming down from the LA valley cloud for a shot at a bunk and a plate. The Motel and its crew are like a 24/7 movie set buzz; a bee hive hum with **a million futures.**

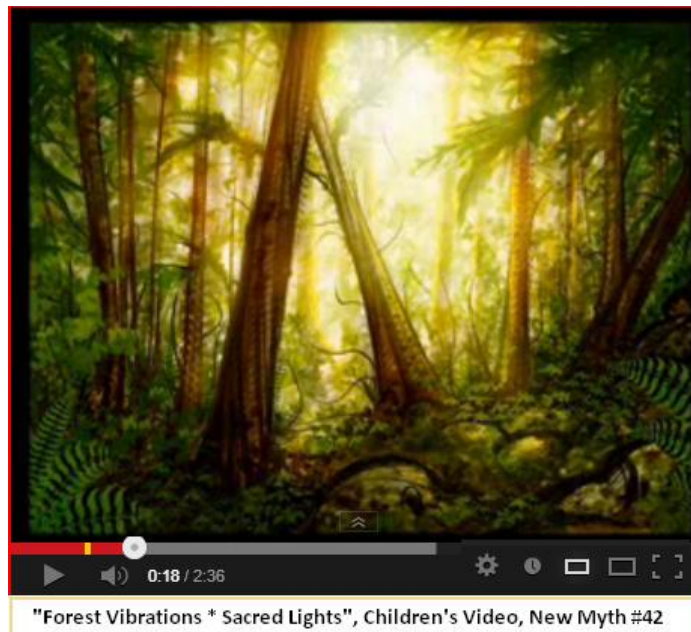
New Myth #42

Myth Lab #3 Children's Video

Forest Vibrations * Sacred Lights



Artifact



New Myth #42

New Myth #43 Video

[wet land, a children's video. New Myth #43](#)



[Video](#)

- narrative -

nesting songs
ripple resilience
grass filter
mud bugs engineering
channel eyes
water alchemy
inflow ouflow
heart beat ecology
shelter eggs
hibernation bloom
food feed
tiny house to go

New Myth #44 Video

["Beehive Glacier Boy & the Hole in the Sky", Kid's Video & New Myth #44](#)



[Video](#)

Narrative from the [Video](#)

Prometheus Smith, Idaho Falls, Idaho, has a dream. To build and fly a solar-powered rocket to punch a hole in the sky, allowing harmful greenhouse gases to escape from the atmosphere and cool down the planet.

Visions abound in the Falls!

The young scientist will use the geo-thermal forces... of the Beehive Geyser in Yellowstone to launch the ship skyward.

Pollution-free!

In the park's early years it was common for visitors to use thermal features as "wishing wells", ... and this practice continues with Prometheus' "Solar Finger."

On the big day, the green tech gang carefully timed the eruptions of the old girl and placed the ship on the cone hole,...

LAUNCH !!!

Prometheus shoots a huge hole the brown layer! Gas is everywhere!

After his balloon brought Prometheus and his craft safely back to Earth... he now works on clean energy and localization technologies for Idaho Falls. Solar Finger stands proudly in the town square.

* * * * *

Myth Lab #4

New Myth #45

Code Ship Down – Highway 101



Code Ship Down – Highway 101

university av overpass

fossilheads vs transitionites tribes

cascadia & anti-cascadia

east palo alto vs west palo alto

dumpster seller's vs compost cast

no shoes 2043

wake up, maybe from a dream

or maybe in something else

wander up the overpass

hw 101 concrete busted below

rotting tires bad memories

post-militarized climate zone

four season's prison

stanford compounds

ikea rainbow day care

late to the game machine

dna-injector permiepsalms

voicemessages flowerseeds

did it land here, or was it snuck in?

like a shinning metal beetle

arms hope & trust in winged box

curiosity and mystery

alchemic coin toss

lesson catalysts

time warp carrier vessel

hope and trust coding together

soiled bridge 'n' human fences gone

new overpass up

“Hi. Where do you think this thing came from?”

transition palo alto garden share june 9, 2013

Myth Lab #5

New Myth #46

[Land Sky River Stars. New Myth #46](#)



Artifact



New Myth #46

Land Sky River Stars

The Two Peak Tribe migrated to the northern range of the Oregon coastal mountains from Salt Lake City some 23 years ago, initially bound together as a Permaculture Guild. Tomu is a former ARMY grunt from South Chicago was squatting on the land adjunct to the river canyon when the missionaries showed up.

Cascadia, 2040 AD

* * * * *

Tomu needs a way over to the sunny side of the river canyon. The Tribe's current shady side is alongside a splashy waterfall and on top of a soil-poor land fertile enough to grow a food forest – and new stories for his people. 40 precarious feet to the next phase of their lives without a ladder or a leap of permie faith.

Visioning

One night, Tomu dreams of a great black eagle who offers to help the Tribe cross the divide if he can raise his chicks in safety on the warmer mountainside. Eagle tells the Tribal children to gather hair and dried grasses so a strong twine can be spun.

Then Tomu wakes up!

He doesn't know if the master bird is coming in real life but he starts in on the hybrid rope bridge just in earnest.

The shady side of their half of the twin mountains was never warm to the Tribe. The shadow of its sister peak kept their village cool with a sparse afternoon sun. Only a limited number of crops grow. Think "year round partial eclipse"; many hugs but few fruits or raps:

A one eyed-patch mythology?

The river is roaring or trickling depending on the season. The Tribe sources fish and water at the falls, bathing and meditating.

Nesting

Building such a connection between old land and the new world brings danger and rewards. A young woman, a runner with long black hair and toned muscles named Zollum earned the right to throw the rock with the twine over the chasm attached to a small team of Tribe builders waiting to tie the two lands together as vision for the outpost and bi-directional barter path requires.

The tribe engineered a cabin built of young trees, lashed tight by strong reeds that grow along the river banks on the beams in the middle of the canyon. Something like the open carriage that Kings traveled in with long handles in ancient times. A grail on poles, graced by mist; a security outpost passing permaculture code between the dark and light. Fishing without the bears is a real joy and remains of the catch enhance their compost.

Tribefolk now come from many regions to chart the stars and Moon cycle from the roof portal, a river drenched observatory cooed by the rushing sounds of the water below and ancient wind through the sparkling canyon.

Barter Path

Tomu and the Tribal Council eventually decided to integrate gates at both ends of the sky river outpost. The “passage barter” requested brought much needed goods and services to the Tribe and word of the friendly passage spread throughout the territory. Like the defunct Panama Canal in the old world, the observation deck and bridge brought much needed security to the mountains. And if hostiles come their way, they have the handy option to cut the bridge down quickly to prevent their advance.

Food Forest

The tribal dream for many, many years – for both elders and their children – was ample sun and soil for a food forest. Landing on the other side of their sister mountain brought this yearning into a beginning.

The sign at the Food Forest Deer gate says:

Night Shade -Sun Shine

Water Capture – Release

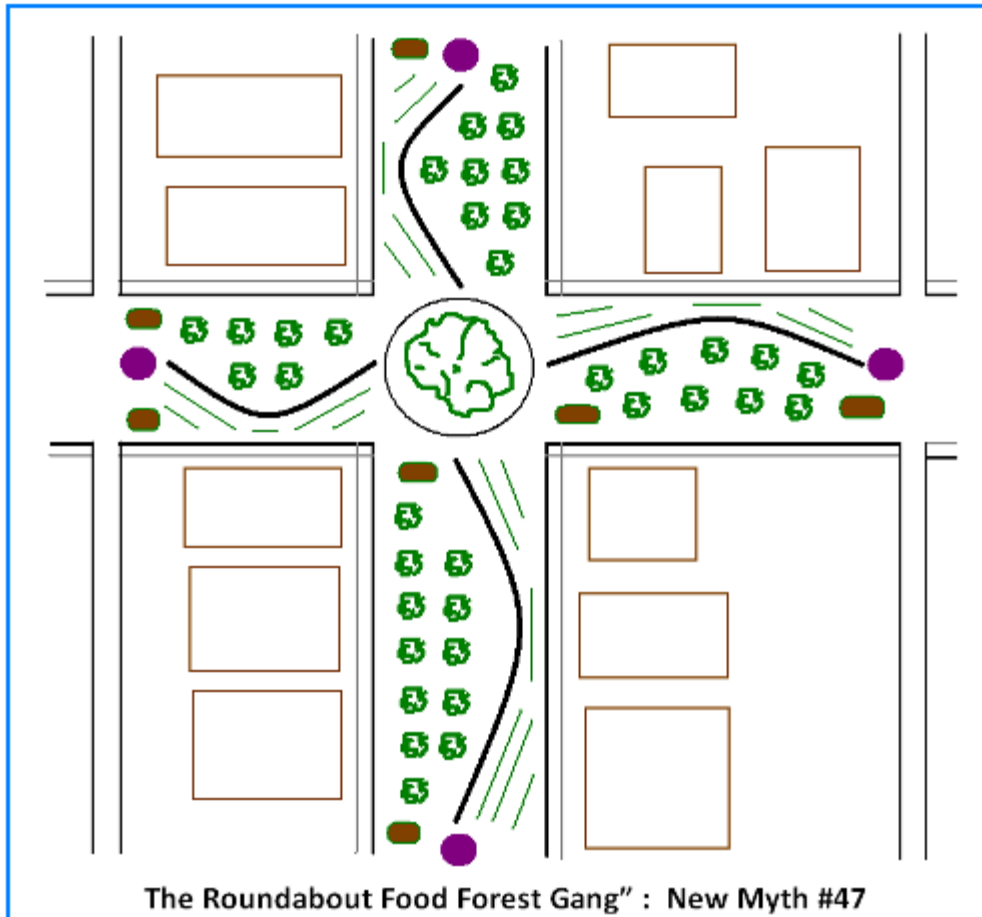
Plant Diversity – System Security

Education – Enchantment

Myth Lab #6

New Myth #47

[“The Roundabout Food Forest Gang” : New Myth #47, by Rob Joyce, Please Touch Garden & Willi Paul](#)



Access > Plan > Stewardship

The Roundabout Food Forest Gang (RFF) had a vision of returning a four block street and roundabout to a place to walk, connect, plant and harvest, including a pathway for walkers and bikes in a post-petroleum rebirth. RFF is calling for a permaculture-driven map free from City tentacles, long broken by bankruptcy and a 1950’s vision. Their roundabout cluster went off-grid when the utilities were unearthed and sent packing. Green technologies are in place

now: water cachment, grey water, solar hub, and other shared earth-friendlies. The food forest was planted by the 16 original neighbors.

A bright green local seed for a change.

Today the “roundabout dirt share” includes large swathes of vegetables – currently producing tomatoes, zucchini, squash, kale, cabbage, celery, asparagus, and broccoli – as well as maturing fruit trees such as apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot, avocado, cherry, orange, tangerine, fig, and pomegranate.

Residential lots in each of the four directions emanating from the circle are spirit transformed; integrated. The Gang broke-up the concrete curbs and removed the asphalt streets. They removed the boulevards but kept the sidewalks. At the center circle stands an ancient dwarf Gala Apple Tree. Hummingbirds pollinate the food forest and the flowering veggies, sing, dance, play, have their babies and entertain the circle scene; they are watch dogs, messengers and teachers for the neighborhood. The residents put up hummingbird condos to facilitate the hummer’s pollinatic and dare devil ways.

Human elements now include benches, gravel paths, plants, a compost area, and a tool shed.

A permaculture food forest mimics some of the beneficial relationships of a natural forest. They are quick to point out that food forests are not ‘natural’, but are designed and managed ecosystems that are very rich in biodiversity and productivity. The food forest meets several goals:

- a. To produce food
- b. To produce forage for beneficial insects, pollinators, chickens and song birds
- c. To create wildlife habitat to nurture for our bodies through herbal teas and concoctions
- d. To create beauty and sense of well being

Four totem poles – one at each corner from the roundabout – are reserved as four activity spaces:

- a. Yoga / stretching
- b. Reading / quite conversations
- c. Water fountain
- d. Two picnic tables

Values > Invitation

At each totem, the working principles for the project are posted on a small plaque:

Work Collaboratively

Use Local Resources First

Re-Use & Recycle

Hands-on, Peer-to Peer Learning

Gifting

Horizontal Decision Making

Celebration > Hope > New Myths

At the “roundabout opening” celebration, children tie recycled purple cloth ribbons around the trunk and main limbs of the old Apple tree to show of unity with Nature and their new community intersection. Each ribbon represents a wish to put some energy back into their neighborhood, food forest and friends.

No one noticed a small person wearing a dark grey hoodie smiling at the crowd tonight, leaving the celebration early with an apple in his pocket.

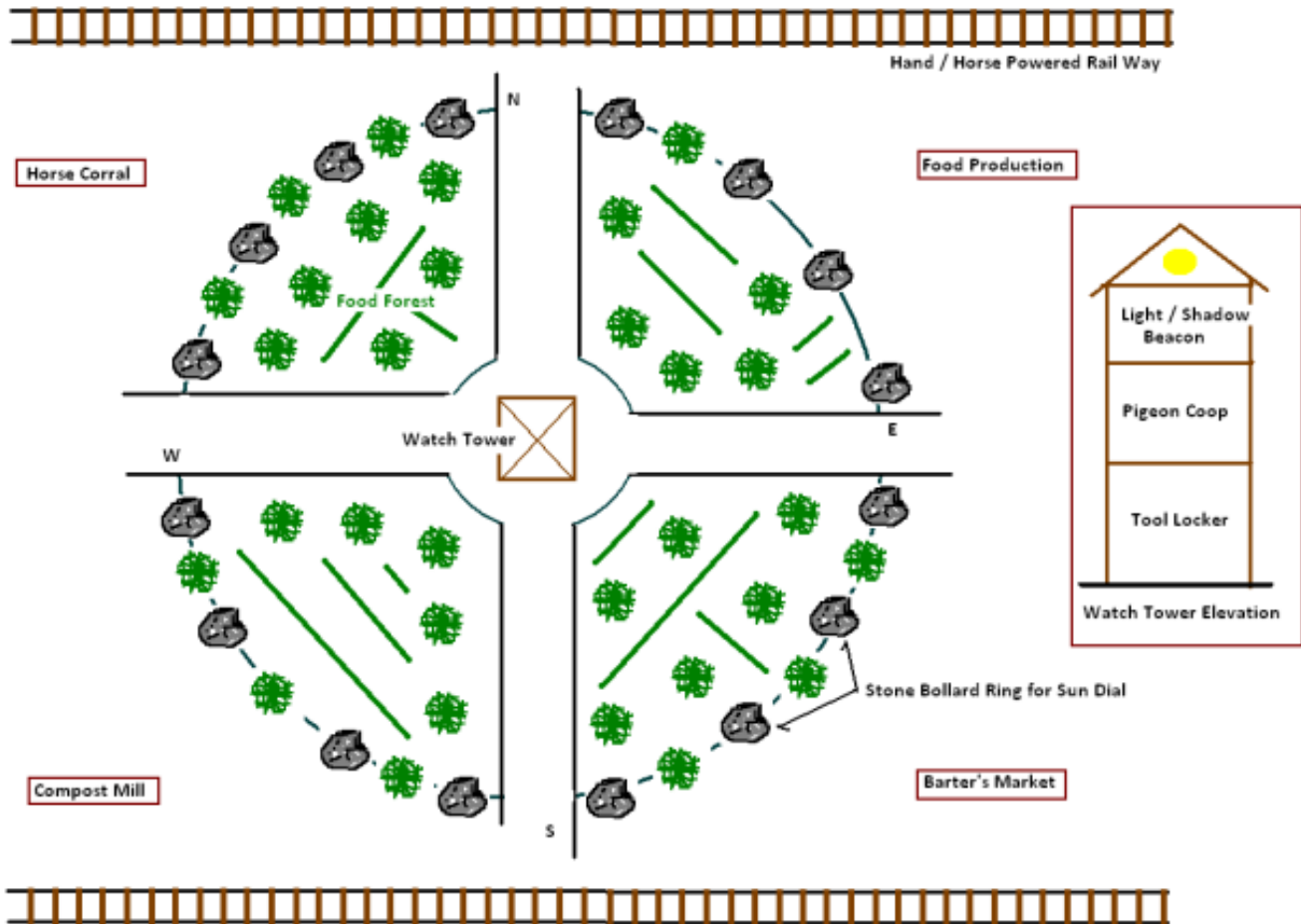
He is the wise-old “Green Guardian” who lives in the hollowed-out roots of the Gala Apple Tree and keeps an eye out for kids, litter bugs and the birds.

Have you seen him?

Myth Lab #7

New Myth #48

[SunDial Tribe @ Cascadia. New Myth #48](#)



SunDial Tribe @ Cascadia. New Myth #48 by Willi Paul, openmythsources.com

HISTORY > RETROFIT

The old train watch tower in the center of the Tribe circle and food forest was retrofitted over ten years ago with a lighthouse lens from a Bolinas, CA antique store. Legend has it that good spirits came with the 305 lb. orb, a beacon that generates more than shadows and a safe path home. The “Watch Tower” as the Tribe calls it, is a copy of a Detroit rail road look-out hut that was manned in support of human track switching much preferred over an electronic hand (and mandated by local law).

SITE MAPPING > ZONES

The tower has a three-part functionality:

(A) Light / Shadow Beacon – During a sunny Cascadia day the structure spills a shadow on rough stone bollards and around the sundial so the community can orchestrate their schedules and chores. At night, a security light shines in four directions to help guide travelers and vendors.

(B) Pigeon Coop – guano for the garden and the traditional winged-mail

(C) Tool Locker – permaculture tools like shovels, spades, twine

In four quadrants, the food forest is mostly fruit trees with some leafy greens and flowers woven in. Adjacent to the circular food forest, four outer land uses have been established:

(A) Horse Corral – these animals include donkeys and pull the small carts on the rail way.

(B) Compost Mill – including the pigeon guano, horse manure and human waste for soil making and barter.

(C) Food Production – honey bees are here as is tofu and jam making spaces,

(D) Barter's Market – Tribes share more than their neighbor's food at the weekly Sunday market!

Their oasis or Tribal hub is sandwiched on the north and south sides of the property by rail tracks that go east or travel west to the coast.

INVITATION > COMMUNITY SHARE

Helios: "But I still don't how light is emanating from that tower every night! There is no power source"

Rache: "Surely there are some things that even a big time permaculturist can't explain!"

The Tribe has its share of irascible teenagers and these two are the driving contours of their click. Helios loves to care for the large animals and earns riding chits almost daily. The integration of the Tribe's horses as transportation engines, and in the compost chemistry, are legend. Rache, more a people person with a sharp eye and smile for barter and quality in general. Many see these two on the Tribal Council some day.

As the SunDial Tribe retrofitted the rail way, many unforeseen communication and commerce opportunities were discovered and "rolled-out." Library books now come and go back thru a loaner program from Eugene. Fish from the Pacific and inland streams go to market once or twice a month. Letters and packages go on rails.

During harvest rituals, the SunDial is lit with bee wax candles and turned in to a dance space. Meals are eaten on the four paths and songs are performed from the high room in the tower.



Why we need new myths, poems, songs, and rituals?

[“Just before his death”](#) Joseph Campbell was interviewed by Bill Moyers and that interview was later turned into the documentary, “The Power of Myth.” In this interview he postulated the idea that humanity was in need of new mythologies. Ones that were not rooted in the ancient world as all our current ones are. But myth’s that would help us navigate this new and strange world we are creating.”

Long-held institutions like the Catholic Church and governments like the City of Detroit have failed while corporations are fighting each other to frack our land and steal water rights. Capitalism will surely fail in the near term as climate changes raises the stakes on who has food to eat and land to live on. **We are the [Chaos Era](#).**

We are running ourselves into the ground.

What now? A so-called **Transition Era**. 50 – 75 years from now what will our children believe? Sing? Will they find [the tools](#) and a healthy spirit to build a new world culture, based on sustainability values, local connections and alternative tools like permaculture and green technology? Or just more disposable gadgets and online communities driven by selfishness and advertising?

I believe processes like Myth Lab can pull us together - and past the darkness we face.

Myth Lab [is a filter, a mapping process](#) to a new world that is coming quickly:

Describe the present > implement the mythic > work a global dream

