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Permaculture design organic perennial food and medicinal gardens, fruit and nut trees, rainwater catchment, outdoor solar hot water, slip straw passive solar greenhouse.

The Blue Raven Permaculture Farm is an active demonstration site that educates students in self-sustaining systems and increased bio-diversity. In the last five years, the Blue Raven family has planted over 200 species of plants, including annual vegetables, medicinal and herbaceous perennials, timber, fruit and nut trees and native species. The site grows food for a small community box program and local food stores and restaurants. Examples of earth building, passive solar design, rainwater catchment, solar installations, micro-climate enhancement, berming, swaling, and delicious organic food can be found at The Blue Raven.

Landscape design

Permaculture farm utilizing natural resources and natural features of land to capture solar gains and rainwater. We are establishing a permaculture nursery for further tree plantings within natural woodlands. We make use of solar energy, berms (using branches, pulled scotch broom), mulching, grow our own bio-mass, and create swales for improving drainage patterns and for erosion control.

Community / lifestyle

Modest living - always working towards increased self-sustainability, we teach permaculture courses, give tours, and grow organic food for the local population.

Slip straw greenhouse

South-facing passive solar design with light clay (slip straw) north wall. Slip straw construction involves mixing straw with wet clay and tamping the mixture into formwork. The slip straw is used as infill between the loadbearing wood frame. Because of the straw content, the wall is fairly well-insulated. The clay provides thermal mass for storing passive solar gains.

Solar hot water

Two different types of solar collector, one on and one beside the greenhouse, provide hot water for outdoor showers.

Rainwater collection

Rainwater from the roof of the house is collected in a plastic storage tank. Rainwater is also collected in the pond in the lower corner of the property. The garden areas are irrigated from the pond and the water storage tank.

2009 Eco-home Tour is Sponsored by:

Earth Festival Society

tel: 250-537- 2616

www.saltspringenergystrategy.org

Salt Spring Island Conservancy

tel: 250-538-0318

#201 Upper Ganges Centre

www.saltspringconservancy.ca

Institute for Sustainability, Education & Action (I-SEA)

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www.i-sea.org