

Sustainable Students' International Gathering



The students at Sieben Linden enjoy their time by playing games

Two dreams were realised when 45 'Students of Sustainability' (SOS) from eight countries, gathered at the Ecovillage of Sieben Linden, Germany, in July 2009 at an international young people's week.

The first was that a truly international building week took place (rather than the normal German only gathering). The main purpose was to build a tree house at the Ecovillage.

The second achievement was to 'unite the diversity of young people who care' under the title of SOS. The motivation for this was born in a Dragon Dreaming circle at the GEN assembly last year.

During the week, three levels of connection became apparent:

► Mind: Exchanging ideas and

teaching people about transition towns, permaculture, communication methods, open space, community tools, world cafe, local currencies, and many other topics and an off-the-cuff master plan for world revolution started emerging!

► Heart: As the borders between organisers/facilitators and the participants faded, a self-organised, connected and nourishing community of young people came into existence.

► Body: The group gave their input to their host's land by hands-on-experiences in the cutting edge sustainable building projects at Sieben Linden.

A website is in progress; until then you can find out more at <http://twitter.com/SOSnet>

Cuban Village Visit

In August 2009 the Cuban Ambassador in Ireland, Noël Carillo, visited The Village in Cloughjordan, County Tipperary, to see its many ecological sustainability projects.

It was the first state visit to the town of Cloughjordan and local residents joined with ecovillage members in providing a tour of the town and ecovillage. The tour was followed by a tree planting, a screening of the film, *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*, a panel discussion with the Global Ecovillage Network's representative Albert Bates and The Village's Una Johnston and of course much merriment.

For further information please visit: www.thevillage.ie and <http://zone5.org/2009/08/28/permaculture-design-at-the-village-cloughjordan/>

Italian Solar Power



Damanhur's new solar panels

Solera, the alternative energy firm at Italian Ecovillage Damanhur, is preparing to install the community's largest solar panel system yet.

The company has developed a new method for connecting long distance systems through the internet. It allows the control of each individual panel, ensuring optimal energy production.

For further details on the site and system see: www.damanhur.org and www.solera.info

GEN General Assembly 2009 Largest Ever

The 2009 GEN General Assembly took place at Keuruu Ecovillage in Finland. 130 participants from 26 countries took part, by far the biggest meeting GEN-Europe has ever had.

The Assembly was followed by a five day workshop entitled 'European Ecovillage Movement - Research and Training for Sustainability'. Parallel sessions open to anyone facilitated the exchange of information. The groups covered subjects such as farming, legislation, transport and science.

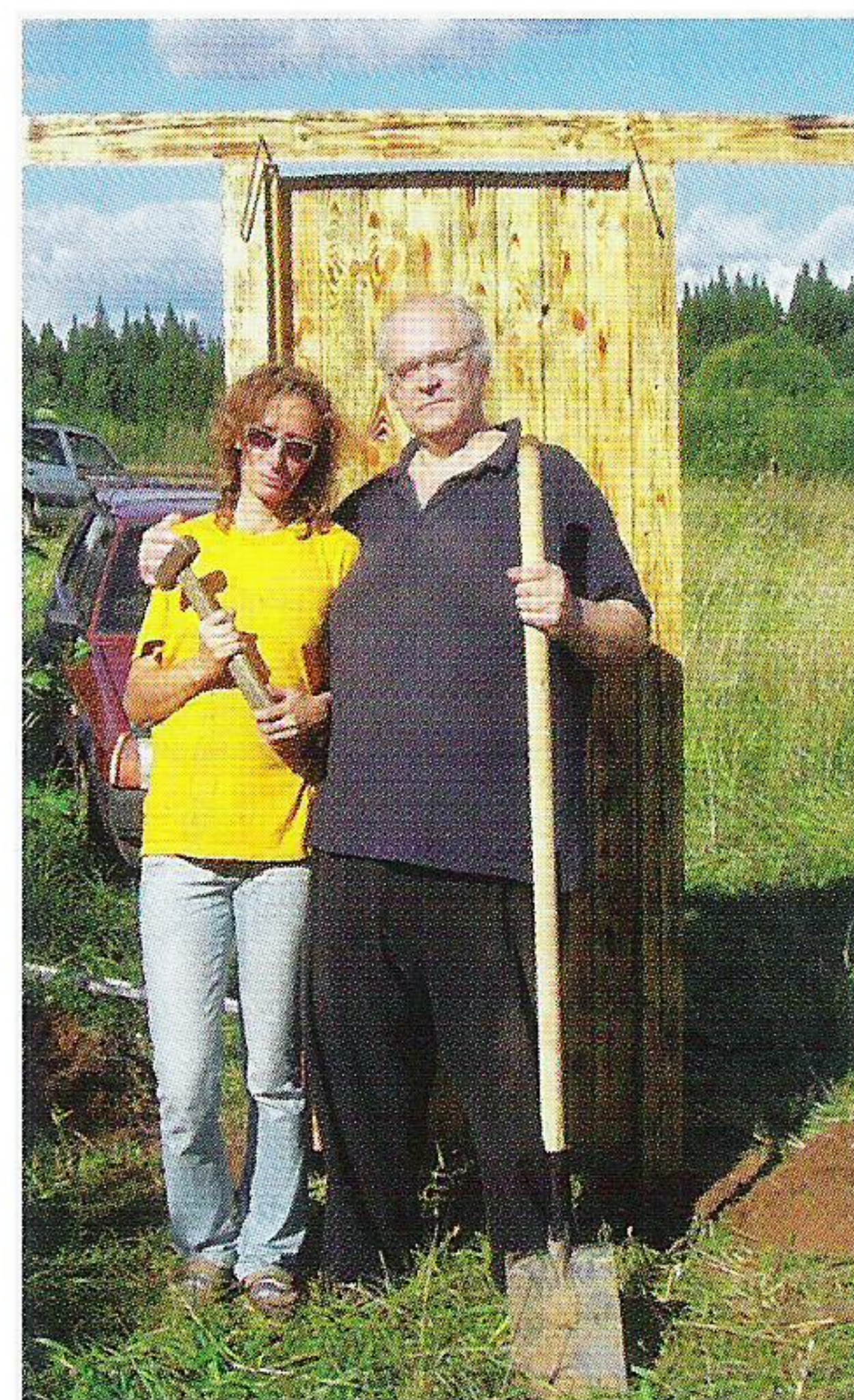
There was a strong presence from the Baltic region and Russia, where many new Ecovillages and

other sustainability initiatives are springing up. A family from Big Stone Ecovillage offered traditional Russian folk dances and songs while the Finnish hosts demonstrated many traditional sustainable crafts and wood lore. John Croft shared the Dragon Dreaming methods for creating "outrageously successful projects".

In the evenings participants presented their own projects after which it was time to hang out around the camp fire or to take a late night sauna and a dip in the lake.

For further information on GEN visit: gen.ecovillage.org

Russian Ecovillage Offers Door To New Life



The doorway at Shiram Ecovillage

'Create Your Door To The New Life' was the title of a workshop at Shiram, a new Russian Eco-village, located between Saint Petersburg and Moscow.

Participants chose a place in nature and built a door, symbolising a new path in life. The workshop was part of a summer gathering ('Veche' in Russian). Participants included Russian experts in fields such as Holotropic Breathing Transpersonal Psychology.

The community at Shiram is dedicated to the realisation of human development.

For further details on Shiram

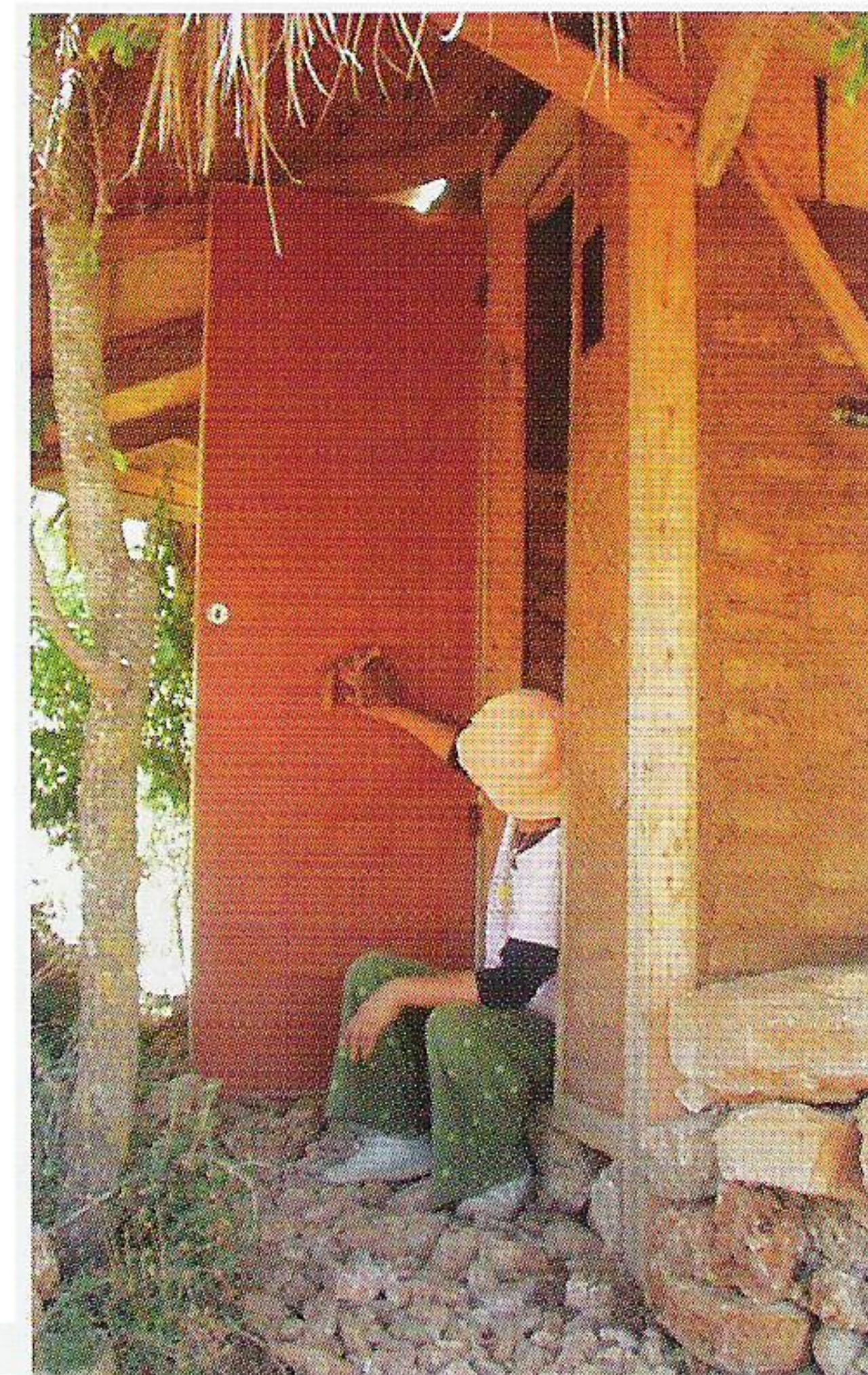
Compost Toilets For Peace On The West Bank

Israelis and Palestinians have collaborated in building compost toilets and bathrooms out of adobe at the Tent of Nations meeting place in the West Bank.

The new toilets help ease the chronic water shortage in the region. More importantly though, the initiative, supported by Tamara's Peace Research Centre, was another little step towards autonomy and peace.

For an Israeli like Sharon, and for Palestinians like Daoud Nassar, who both participated in the project: "peace is the only solution. The land will tell us how".

For more details see: <http://tentofnations.org>



Compost toilet under construction