

## **Kerr-Cole Sustainable Living Center**

### **A Living Homestead Demonstrating Solar Technologies & Voluntary Simplicity**

The Kerr-Cole Sustainable Living Center (KCSLC) is located on 10 acres of land overlooking Harvest Valley near Taylor, Arizona. The 5,800 foot elevation provides a four-season climate in a high desert terrain of juniper/sage. Taylor is a rural community located 175 miles Northeast of Phoenix.

Our objective is to live as harmoniously and sustainably as possible using skills and knowledge that have been refined over the past 30 years. This has culminated in our current homemaking methods using solar cookers, solar food dryers, organic gardening and other practices and technologies appropriate for our circumstances. We live off the electricity grid and off the community water/sewage connections. We minimize car use and shopping by preparing meals from garden produce, stored bulk foods, and home preserved fruits, vegetables and herbs. We enjoy sharing our knowledge and helping others develop in this direction. Guests are welcome to visit by prior arrangement.

#### **RESIDENTS**

Two alternative technology designer/users are on the premises and will help explore areas of your choice. Since 1972, Barbara Kerr, lecturer and author, has been designing and using solar cookers and solar domestic devices. Jim Scott is an electrical engineer with knowledge of renewable energy systems and green building technologies. Both welcome exchanging ideas with others on the same path.

#### **GUESTS**

Visits are available by appointment. Two small personal libraries provide on-site resources.

Group Tours, Seminars and Private Tutorials. Option to have a general tour of the Sustainable Home, or suggested donation \$5 per person.

School Field Trips. Can be negotiated.

Overnight and Longer Term Guests. Arrangements can be made for extended stays and internships. Guests provide their own food, vehicle, tent, sleeping bag, personal equipment, etc. If preferred, a motel is three miles away. Meals are often shared and evenings spent together.

Transportation. Car rental or White Mountain Bus Line available from Phoenix. By prior arrangement, we will pick up and return to our local terminal.

No drugs, alcohol, or smoking please. Pets possible by prior arrangement only.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers appreciated. Short or long term projects

## TECHNOLOGIES AND METHODS PRACTICED DEMONSTRATED

Solar Cooking: solar box ovens, solar panel cookers, solar wall oven and other solar cooking designs

Passive heated solar home and greenhouse

Organic garden with composting and seed saving

Alternative sanitation systems

Sustainable Kitchen: a system based on availability of fuels coordinating solar, small flame and retained heat cooking, using flint and steel fire starting. Suitable for home, camping, and emergency preparedness/disaster relief

Solar water distillation

Solar water heating

Food preservation by solar food drying, solar canning, and root storage

Menu preparation including use of bulk storage and whole foods

Off grid, stand alone, electrical system: photovoltaic panels, battery storage and inverters to provide ac current

Windmill and solar pumps for private well

Low energy refrigeration

Alternative construction (Sandbag and Papercrete)

Health maintenance practices

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS

The Sustainable Kitchen (home use and emergency preparedness)

Resource List (guide to sustainable publications and more)

Rocket Stove (highly fuel efficient wood stove - outdoor use)

Solar Food Drying

Solar Pasteurization

PV Solar Electricity (description of our system)

Expanding World of Solar Box Cookers (textbook, plans, 79 pages)

Humanure Commentary (composting your feces and urine)

Watson Wick (low cost alternative to septic)

## CONSTRUCTION PLANS

Cardboard Solar Box Cookers:

Cardboard Solar Panel Cookers:

Wooden Solar Cookers

Solar Food Dehydrators

Solar Water Heaters

## COOKERS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

CooKit: Cardboard Solar Panel Cooker. Ready to use.

Water Pasteurization Indicator (WAPI).

Sport: Portable Slant-Faced Solar Box Cooker. Ready to use.

## VIDEO

*A Visit With Barbara P. Kerr and Sherry Cole at the Kerr-Cole Sustainable Living Center*

## BOOKS

*The Expanding World of Solar Box Cookers*: Textbook by Barbara Kerr, 79 pages with plans

*SCI Trainer's Manual, Teaching Solar Cooking*: Panel cooker examples with language- free drawings

*Eleanor's New Solar Cookbook*: By Eleanor Shimeall, for red meat eaters. Canning. Pasteurization. Box and panel cooker recipes denoted

*Cooking With Sunshine*: By Lorraine Anderson & Rick Palkovic, Chicken, fish, egg, dairy. No beef, pork, lamb. Some vegetarian recipes.

*Solar Box Cooking, 2nd Edition*: By the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District. Specifically for box cookers

*Solar Cooking, A Primer/Cookbook*: By Harrier Kolfalk. Vegetarian, no animal products. One-dish meals. Canning and fruit drying. Box and panel cooker designs. Perspective articles

*God as a Shifting Concept, Poems Spanning 60 Years*: By Barbara Kerr

*Home Was a Windjammer*: By Barbara Kerr. A memoir of her early days sailing a New England charter schooner

Send SASE for an up-to-date price list of all KCSLC items for sale. Or visit our web site. All prices include domestic shipping and handling. Please add 50% for foreign orders.

Send check or money order to:

The Kerr-Cole Sustainable Living Center  
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