Last month Liz Ryan Cole of Pinnacle Cohousing sent me an email that included an E. B. White quote. "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." I know he was being flippant, but was the author of Charlotte's Web inferring that making our world a better place and having fun is mutually exclusive? Whether it be the simple acts of kindness between individual community members, or the collective decision of a community to reduce its ecological footprint via housing choices, cohousers actively participate in making the world a better place in small and large ways. What we have over E. B. though, is that we can have fun while doing so. Whether it be a planned celebration, or simply goofing with each other while cooking community meals, we do not have to choose between improving the world or enjoying it. It is too bad that E.B. was not a cohouser. If he had been, he would have shared with us the privilege of having it both ways. 

Bill Hartzell, Board President

Tours & Events

Regional Cohousing Conference - Boulder CO
Sept 26-28, 2014   Sponsored by Coho/US
There will be topics of interest to both established cohousing communities, and those just starting out, including aging in cohousing; affordable cohousing for young adults; children of cohousing; marketing for new communities and resales; integrating a farm into cohousing; intergeneration living .. read more

Communities Conference 2014 - Aug 29-Sept 1
Co-sponsored by the Fellowship for Intentional Communities
This conference at Twin Oaks Community in Louisa VA is a chance for people interested in intentional communities to share ideas, network, and enjoy a weekend together. There are workshops, open space, as well as many informal opportunities to cross-pollinate with other community-minded folks. read more

Aging Successfully 2014: October 6-10, Nevada City
Who do you know who would like to create more Senior Cohousing? Those seniors now living in cohousing were lucky enough to figure it out and move into a state-of-the-art community. But otherwise, too many seniors are living in single-family houses where they raised their family, but which are not fit for a successful aging scenario, nor for a sustainable future...read more

Classified Ads

Homes for Sale
- Come visit us! Affordable homes at Mosaic Commons
- For Sale in New Hampshire's Greenest Community
- Liberty Village Cohousing is Building Phase II
- Live the Dream at an Organic Farm in Southern New Hampshire!
- LIVING THE DREAM IN PORTLAND!
Cohousing Blogs

New Marketing Ideas
Sharon Villines, Takoma Village Cohousing
Carolyn Dyer of Iowa City Cohousing, still forming, posted their marketing plan to the Cohousing-L email list recently. I thought it contained many new ideas and asked her if I could share it here. I particularly liked their use of speakers on related topics, field trips, and follow up on the effectiveness of their presentations and materials. It brings out people with similar interests to socialize who might not be interested in a pot-luck. read more

Aging in Cohousing - Why is this a Good Choice?
Alice Alexander, Coho/US Executive Director
Being interviewed by two reporters in two days about "senior cohousing" is an indication that aging in cohousing is receiving more attention. And this is good, since we know how beneficial cohousing is to life quality, and can be a particularly good choice for older adults. Here are some of the benefits I identified … read more

Exit Dynamics in Community
Laird's Community Blog www.communityandconsensus.blogspot.com/
Although it's not what folks generally have their attention on when they start or join communities, the other side of the coin is that people leave. To be sure, this can happen for a wide variety of reasons. Let me give you a hypothetical dozen…. read more

Kindness

From The Wisdom of Group Decisions copyright © 2006 Craig Freshley

In principle, it's better to be kind than to be right. The ego in me wants me to be right. The peace seeker in me wants me to be kind. The word "kind" is related to the word "kin." they both come from the same root "kinn" meaning "family." To be kind is to treat people like family; as if we were intimately connected over time. Practical Tip: To contribute to good group decisions, feed the peace seeker within, keep the ego in check, and strive for kindness. Take more interest in healthy relations with fellow decision makers over the long run than in getting your way in the short run. Give unconditionally without expectation of return, free of strings. True kindness is not only free, it's priceless.

End Notes

Call for National Conference Presenters
Click here for information and application

New Resources
Cohousing Brochure Use as a recruiting tool for members, and an education tool for the public.
visit our community. We partnered with other cohousing communities to present a senior cohousing forum attended by over 90 participants. read more

Thanks for reading
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