

# ECOLEADER NEWS

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR ECOLOGY AND THE ECONOMY: SPRING 2004



## INSTITUTE GRADUATES FELLOWS FOR 2004

Front: John Sawyer, *Santa Rosa*; First Row: Bill Robotka, *Santa Rosa*; Marsha Taylor, *Santa Rosa*; Judy Withee, *Santa Rosa*; Sarah Gurney, *Sebastopol, CA*; Katie Elliott, *Santa Rosa*; Jenny Bard, *Santa Rosa*; Mark Weinberger, *Santa Rosa*; Theresa Zaro, *Santa Rosa*; Second row: Jean Davis, *Forestville*; Beth Martinez, *Santa Rosa*; Clare Najarian, *Sebastopol*; Kim Caruso, *Sebastopol*; Sherry McGary, *Santa Rosa*; Raini Sugg, *Sebastopol*; Caroline Christian, *Santa Rosa*; Janet Kurvers, *Cotati*; David Carpenter, *Santa Rosa*; Larry Haenel, *Santa Rosa*; Joan Riback, *Forestville*; Yvette Williams van Aggelen, *Sebastopol*; Back row: David Harris, *Santa Rosa*; Jim Duffy, *Rohnert Park*; Duane Dewitt, *Santa Rosa*; Samuel Pierce, *Sebastopol*; Linda Kelley, *Sebastopol*; Linda Picton, *Santa Rosa*; Katie Greaves, *Santa Rosa*; Ron Sundergill, *Windsor*; Not pictured: Jim Leddy, *Santa Rosa*; Deborah Swanson, *Glen Ellen*.

May 6<sup>th</sup> was Graduation Day for the 31 students in the Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future program, Class of 2004. It was held at Two Acre Wood, a co-housing development in Sebastopol.

The daylong program began with a panel of elders who shared stories of their involvement in shaping public policy. They included Bill Kortum, Ernestine Smith, Helen Libeu, Kay McCabe, and Marty Griffin.

Several class members noted how moved they were just to be in their presence. The recollections of the elder leaders were extremely poignant and their messages consistent: communicate your vision, organize like-minded individuals, expect lots of failures for every victory, and don't give up.

This was followed by a panel of past graduates of the Leadership Institute who told how their Leadership

Training experience helped them achieve success in affecting change for a more sustainable future.

They included Susan Briski '03 who is training companies in Sustainable Business Systems, Anne Hudgins '03 who saved more than 30 affordable homes in her neighborhood, Portia Sinnott '02 who organized Car Free Sebastopol, and Greg Young '03, a Cisco Systems technical leader now on the Boards of Circuit Rider Productions and the Leadership Institute.

Extremely moving presentations were also made by ecopsychologist Larry Robinson on maintaining one's spirituality while engaging in the political process and anthropologist Benjamin Benson, coordinator of Native American Studies at Santa Rosa Junior College, on what we can learn from indigenous people and their connection to nature.

# LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

FOR ECOLOGY AND THE ECONOMY

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[www.ecoleader.org](http://www.ecoleader.org)

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**MISSION:** Educating leaders to create public policy that is environmentally friendly and socially equitable for a healthy economy and a sustainable community.

Ron Sundergill, President

Rick Theis, Founder and Board Chair

Directors: Noreen Evans, Claudia Haskel,

Carolyn Johnson, Jake Mackenzie, Steve

Rabinowitsh, Scott Vouri, Greg Young

## CLASS OF 2005 APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 1

We are pleased to announce that the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy is now accepting applications for the 2004-2005 Leadership Training class that will begin in September. This will mark the fifth year that this training has been offered. For the first time this year college credit for both graduate and undergraduate level students is available through Sonoma State University.

We are seeking nominations of individuals who you think might be interested in taking the class. An application form, which must be submitted by July 1, 2004, is available on our website [www.ecoleader.org](http://www.ecoleader.org), and then clicking on "TRAINING" or by contacting the Institute office at 578-9133 or sending an email to [ecoleader@ecoleader.org](mailto:ecoleader@ecoleader.org).

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HONORS THE INSTITUTE AND AWARDS GRANT

The Community Foundation-Sonoma County honored the Leadership Institute For Ecology and the Economy and Rick Theis for innovation at its Models and Mentors Holiday Tea late last year.

Robert Judd, Institute Fellow '03 and Program Director of the Community Foundation, made the presentation.

Others honored by CF-SC included Henry Trione and David Fischer of LBC, Vicki Schnurpfeil of Friends in Sonoma Helping, Janet Condron and Mike Kerns of Shelter Solutions, and Nancy Dobbs of KRCB.

The Institute also received a \$5,000 capacity-building grant from the Community Foundation. As a result, the Institute created an asset development and fundraising plan.

## GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

President Ron Sundergill and Founder Rick Theis have spoken on topics related to the Institute's mission on the following occasions:

- Research on the Harm of Big Box Stores to Local Economies, Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary by Sundergill;
- Keynote Address to the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies, Sonoma State University by Theis;
- Sustainable Futures, UC Berkeley Wurster Hall program for students in environmental studies, by Theis;
- Building Sustainable Communities, Environmental Forum, SRJC, by Theis and Sundergill.

## THE BOARD GROWS WITH NEW DIRECTORS

We are excited to welcome three new board members to the Leadership Institute. Joining us are Claudia Haskel, Scott Vouri and Greg Young. "We are delighted to have the energy, enthusiasm and expertise of these community leaders supporting the Institute. They are professionals in their fields and significantly add to the breadth and depth to our governing board," said Board Chair Rick Theis.

Haskel is a non-profit management and fundraising consultant, and former executive director of LBC. Her talents are especially welcome as the Institute works to achieve economic sustainability as it grows to fulfill its mission.

Vouri is a graduate of the Institute's Class of 2001. He worked for 17 years in Silicon Valley where he was a VP and general manager of a high-tech firm. He recently founded Public Policy Entrepreneurs where he is a public affairs consultant specializing in sustainable land use and education.

Young is a graduate of the Institute's Class of 2003. He is a Technical Leader at Cisco Systems in Petaluma and on the Board of Circuit Rider Productions. His experience in team leadership and business management are especially appreciated.

They join current directors Noreen Evans, an attorney at Lanahan Reilley; Carolyn Johnson, an environmental scientist and educator; Jake Mackenzie, retired from EPA; Steve Rabinowitsh, on the political science faculty at SRJC; and Rick Theis, former executive director of the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association.