



2016 Permaculture Design Course

Dates: February 8 – 22, 2016

Location: Finca Bona Fide, Isla de Ometepe, Nicaragua

Instructors: Scott Gallant, Mitch Haddad, Laura Killingbeck, Christopher Shanks

Course Description

Project Bona Fide's annual Permaculture Design Course (PDC) is a 2-week hands-on training experience in permaculture design principles and practices. Our course offers the standard PDC curriculum with a special emphasis on forest gardening in the tropics. Particular attention will be given to forest garden design, layout and planting, in addition to agro-forestry, wildlife corridors, agro-silvo-pastoral systems, and agro-ecology.

Although we will be in a tropical setting, many of the techniques will transfer directly to any climate. Students will receive resources and plant lists for many climates as part of the course content.

This 15-day course is ideal for anyone interested in taking an active role in building a regenerative future, as well as anyone with a focus in agriculture, architecture, ecology, gardening, landscaping, education, or community development. No prior permaculture experience is necessary.

At the end of the course, all participants will receive a certificate of completion of 72 course hours plus 20 additional hours of skill-building workshops and hands-on work experience.

About Project Bona Fide

Project Bona Fide is an internationally recognized 26-acre permaculture site that has been in development for 14 years. Located in the town of Balgüe, Nicaragua, Bona Fide has become an important center for education and community development, and has been featured in various

permaculture publications including “Sustainable Revolution.” Our infrastructural systems include natural buildings built with local materials, terraced & medicinal plant gardens, an extensive nursery, a seed bank, developing fruit and nut orchards, food forests, native timber forestry, timber bamboo plantings, water-catchment, drip irrigation and ferrocement technologies, renewable energy systems, and composting toilets.

Past and present Bona Fide outreach efforts include social programs that provide educational opportunities based in ecological agriculture, community reforestation efforts that are supported by our seed bank and nursery, local seed and plant exchanges, a children’s nutritional kitchen, and a community center. The developing site, interwoven with the support we’ve received from our local community, allows Bona Fide to be fertile ground for cultural exchange on the island and beyond.

Course Format

The course begins with an intensive introduction to the principles, philosophy, and ethics of permaculture design: what is permaculture, how it is applied, and the main design and thought paradigms used. Course participants will be introduced to the Bona Fide farm as a teaching and demonstration tool, as well as farm facilities.

The next several days will be dedicated to specific aspects of permaculture design, including Water Systems, Energy Use and Efficiency, Natural Building, and Agroforestry. These days include lectures, on-site examples, and hands-on experience putting all of the information into context. Several hours in the afternoon are dedicated to workshops and more intensive work projects on the farm.

The end of the course brings everyone together in a final group design project that is presented on the final day of the course.

A typical course day looks like:

7:30 am	Wake up, have breakfast at the hostel
8:30 - 9:30 am	Arrive at the farm, do farm chores & work projects
9:30 - 10:45 am	Class time
10:45 - 11:00 am	Break (coffee & snacks)
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Class time
12:30 - 2:00 pm	Lunch on the farm and free time to relax, read, study, etc.
2:00 - 3:30 pm	Class time (often out in the field)
3:30 - 5:30 pm	Work projects and/or workshops (ex: compost making, grafting, plant propagation)
6:30 pm	Dinner at local café
7:30 - 9:00 pm	Evening session on some nights (ex: lecture, slideshow, movie)

The course spans 15 full days, with 14 days of class and 1 free day about halfway through the course (date still to be determined).

Food and Lodging

All meals during the course are included in course costs (Monday, February 8 through Monday, February 22). Food is a mix of local cuisine for breakfast, farm-fresh food at the Bona Fide farm for lunch, and farm-fresh food at a local café for dinner. We are happy to accommodate dietary restrictions and preferences – please let us know before you arrive.

Accommodations are at a local, family-run hostel in the town of Balgüe called *Así Es Mi Tierra* (<http://www.mitierraometepe.com/>). They have hosted Permaculture Design Course participants for the past several years and are very good at accommodating guests' needs. We generally rent the entire facility from them for the course, and most participants will be staying in 2-person rooms. It's also located right on the lake – perfect for swimming and recreation!

We also have limited space available on the farm in dorms and camping platforms. These spaces fill up quickly and are usually taken by concurrent Bona Fide volunteers. These spots are filled on a rolling basis – please specify in your registration form if you are interested.

Lodging is included in course costs for all nights of the course, plus the night before the course starts (Sunday, February 7) and the night after the course finishes (Monday, February 22).

Packing List

We (and past course participants) recommend bringing the following:

- Comfortable clothing that you can move around in (maybe even a long-sleeved shirt for sun/bug protection, or for those random nights where it may get a little cool)
- Long pants to protect your legs from bugs and plants
- Light rain gear
- Covered shoes or boots, as well as sandals/flip flops
- Hat and/or sunglasses
- Towel or sarong
- Bathing suit (there are some good swimming holes on the island, and this gigantic lake nearby...)
- Toiletries, shampoo, conditioner, body soap
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray (optional)
- Water bottle
- Headlamp or flashlight (very, very useful!)
- Something comfortable to sit on in class, ex. Crazy Creek-type chair or sleeping pad
- Notebook and pen/pencil
- USB drive for uploading electronic resources at the end of the course

Tuition

The full course price is **\$1350 USD**. This includes:

- 3 meals per day for all 15 days of the course
- Lodging in a local hostel during the course, as well as the night before (Sunday, February 7) and after (Monday, February 22)
- All course materials and fees

Airfare is NOT included.

Expats are given a \$300 discount (total price of **\$1050 USD**).

Citizens of Central America are offered the course with a \$600 discount (**\$750 USD**). There are also a limited number of partial and full scholarships available for citizens of Central America. E-mail courses@projectbonafide.com for more information.

Registration Information

To reserve your spot in the course:

1. Complete the online registration form available at <http://projectbonafide.com>; AND
2. Submit a non-refundable deposit of **\$400 USD**.

Your spot will only be reserved after Project Bona Fide has RECEIVED your \$400 deposit. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation e-mail from courses@projectbonafide.com.

Remaining tuition balance is due by **January 9, 2016**. Failure to pay the full tuition balance by this date may result in losing one's spot in the course.

You may pay by any of the following payment methods. To pay by...

- Check:
 1. Make the check out to "Mitch Haddad"
 2. Mail the check to:
Mitch Haddad
10 Mainstone Road
Wayland, MA 01778
USA
- PayPal:
 1. Log in to <http://www.paypal.com> (if you don't have an account, signing up for one is free and easy).
 2. At the top-left corner, click "Send Payment."
 3. Enter "courses@projectbonafide.com" as the recipient and the payment amount in U.S. Dollars. Click "Continue."

4. Choose the “Friends and Family” tab to avoid paying extra transaction charges. Note: If you pay using a bank account or PayPal account (instead of debit/credit card), then there are no transaction charges.
5. Review and confirm the payment details. Afterwards, you will receive an e-mail receipt from PayPal for the transaction.

After submitting a payment, you will receive a confirmation e-mail from courses@projectbonafide.com when Project Bona Fide has received the payment.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

If a participant cancels or withdraws from the course...

- On or before January 9, 2016: Project Bona Fide will refund the amount paid so far to the participant (excluding the \$400 non-refundable deposit).
- On or after January 10, 2016: Project Bona Fide retains all course fees that have been paid. We cannot offer any refunds less than 30 days before the course start date.

If for some reason the course is canceled, Project Bona Fide will refund all course fees, including the \$400 deposit. (However, we have never to date canceled a course!)

Contact

Feel free to contact Project Bona Fide with any questions or concerns!

Phone (Nicaragua): (+505) 2560-1457
E-mail: courses@projectbonafide.com
Website: <http://projectbonafide.com>