



LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

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A good place to start is here at the beginning of this transition represented by a fresh look to our journal, as well as new ideas and directions, brought about by our new editor. It is a real pleasure to introduce you to Rebecca Briggs, who recently joined us in August, as she completes her master's degree in environmental studies at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Rebecca brings excellent writing, editing, and proofreading skills, along with experience in publication layout and project management. Her knowledge of and experience with Biodynamic agriculture will serve her well in her new position.

The content of this current issue represents this transition to the new by honoring in greater depth and paying tribute to an individual who played such a central role in the development and understanding of biodynamic agriculture in America and throughout the world for over forty years. This individual is Herbert H. Koepf (Dr. Koepf), and he was important to the lives of so many of us still working today in many different parts of the world. Personally, Herbert was my introduction to biodynamic agriculture and anthroposophy as well as my mentor over the years. I met him over thirty years ago and had the privilege to see him a last time months before his death in January. I was able to say goodbye at the service for him in March at Emerson College, where his ashes were buried in the garden surrounded by the memories of so many of us who were inspired there by this incredible gentleman.

We also welcome Dawn to our office near Eugene. She brings a confident professionalism to the daily operations and is a positive addition, handling the diverse range of activities in

which we are involved and preparing for the increase in activity that we anticipate in the near future.

This past spring we closed our fulfillment office in Pennsylvania and trucked the tons of books and materials to Oregon. After remodeling a space on the ground floor and taking delivery of a forty-foot insulated cargo container (which is now full), we are up and running. It is terrific to have this consolidation completed and to be working nationally, and internationally, from a more local level. We are redesigning our materials, including the *Biodynamic Resource Catalog*, and acted as publisher for the beautiful *Fairy Tale Moons* calendar advertised here.

Our conference this year took place in August at the Rudolf Steiner College in Fair Oaks, California. With the college as partner and with major support from the Biodynamic Association of Northern California, the conference was a huge success. The two-hundred-plus participants received absolutely excellent keynote addresses by Alan York, Beth Wieting, and Harald Hoven; twenty-five workshops; local tours; great food; a pre-conference introduction to biodynamic agriculture; entertainment; raffles; wine tasting; and hundred-degree weather. You can read more about the conference in this and future issues.

During the conference a new association had its public launch. Though many will not have heard of its existence, it promises to become part of our consciousness, and our movement, from here into the future. This association is the Biodynamic Trade Association (BTA). The BTA is committed to promoting public awareness of certified biodynamic farms, gardens, and agricultural products. It is a resource on certifying criteria and will assist the Demeter Association in safeguarding the Demeter/Biodynamic certification mark.

In addition to the BTA, there are a number of initiatives, events, meetings, and publishing projects to which we are party that will be reported on and shared in the months ahead. One initiative is the formation of the Association for Qualitative Picture Forming Methods, led by Jennifer Greene. It will further the understanding of these methods, plan training sessions in their use, publish research results, and conduct conferences to raise the level of professionalism in their interpretation.

We are working on six seminars/workshops on various topics. They are currently at differing stages in the planning process. We have undertaken two in-house publishing projects, with the first scheduled to be at the printer the first week in November and the second still in manuscript form. On November 9, the Association's board of directors will meet jointly with the Demeter Association in Portland, Oregon. This important meeting will be followed immediately by our board meeting in Junction City. Reports on both meetings will follow. The Future of the Preparations Group will hold their gathering in Viroqua, Wisconsin, in the latter part of January, which we will report on in the Spring 2008 issue of the Journal. We will also assist in handling orders for Turtle Tree Seeds again in the new year. We look forward to developing the web site and the journal in coming months so that they may work and share information to a much greater degree and for their mutual benefit. A tumultuous year just past and a very active one ahead.