

# Keyline® Design for Whole Farm Fertility

With Facilitators: Neil Bertrando, Owen Hablutzel, and Mike Langevin,  
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Boring, OR U.S.A

**TOOLBOX FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD – DROUGHT-PROOF YOUR PROPERTY – RAPID SOIL CREATION  
– ELIMINATE OFF-FARM INPUTS – LIVESTOCK AS TOOLS TO IMPROVE LAND – INTEGRATE PASTURES, PONDS,  
AND PRODUCTIVE TREE CROPS - LIVE YEOMANS KEYLINE PLOW DEMO**

This three day hands-on workshop will change the way you see and manage your landscape, and your future. The course is particularly applicable if you operate a farm, ranch, nursery; or just want to learn how to 'drought proof' your property. The course will leverage the most effective tools, principles, techniques, and strategies from Keyline® Design, Permaculture Design, and Holistic Management® into an integrated whole farm plan.



Because nature is complex, managing land and natural resources has never been a simple job. This critical task becomes ever more difficult in our rapidly changing world. This course will add many new practical skills to your management 'toolbox.' Discover techniques and strategies to manage water and fertility cycles; accelerate topsoil development; and eliminate off-farm inputs and reduce costs. The course will emphasize Keyline® techniques for maximum harvesting of rain and runoff water, and drought-proofing your land. Learn hands-on surveying, GIS mapping 'on-the-cheap,' how to analyze and improve your water catchment.

Using Yeomans' Keyline Scale of Permanence as a guide for effective whole farm planning, this course will lead you through the process of developing a comprehensive land management plan. Keyline's Scale of Permanence (Climate, Land Shape, Water Supply, Farm Roads, Trees/Plants, Permanent Buildings, Fencing and Soil), will help you evaluate the impact of decisions regarding your property.



### Course Objectives:

- A hands-on course teaching the principals and application of Keyline® design for both small-plot and broadacre properties; integrating relevant aspects of Holistic Management® planned grazing, and Permaculture Design Principles.
- Learn how to build maximum amounts of new soil each year with the application of Keyline® plowing to increase soil depth.
- Discover design strategies to 'drought-proof' your property with enhanced water retention, catchment, and storage.
- See how to enhance soil fertility, nutrient cycling, and carbon capture with the application of Functional Polycultures including plants and animals for applications such as rotational grazing, agroforestry, contour cropping, silvopasture, and nursery stock production.
- Experience on-site design and application of Keyline® Pattern Cultivation with a Yoemans Plow.

### Key benefits of taking the course?

- Generate an inspired vision for your landscape
- Increase the yields and resilience of rangelands, pastures, and your whole operation
- Learn to create and implement a whole farm plan using the insights of Keyline Design
- Discover the secrets for rapid creation of healthy, and biologically active topsoil
- Plan for whole landscape water harvesting (using Holistic Management and Keyline techniques), for your property
- Learn to connect and integrate farm infrastructure, layout, and functions for improved efficiencies and synergy
- Reduce costs and dependency on outside inputs, increase profits, and enhance livelihoods while improving your quality of life
- Position your farm, ranch, or nursery operation for success in changing times



### For further information contact:

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## **Facilitators (alphabetically):**

### *Who is Neil Bertrando?*

Neil Bertrando is passionate about cultivating regenerative ecologies as agricultural systems. As a consultant, educator and designer, he combines Keyline Design and Agroecology for whole farm planning and implementation. He has worked and taught in Tropical, Dryland and Temperate systems primarily in the Western US, Mexico, and Hawai'i. He strives to improve the value of landscapes to both this and future generations of stewards by working in harmony with nature's cycles.

### *Who is Owen Hablutzel?*

Owen Hablutzel is a Keyline Design® consultant and Holistic Management® Certified Educator working in the U.S. and internationally. Trained under the world's leading Keyline consultant, Darren Doherty (<http://www.regenag.com>), Owen has been successfully working to transform soil fertility and increase whole landscape hydration through regenerative techniques since 2007. By working together with farms, ranches, and land managing organizations his integrated approach is helping to create more fertile landscapes, robust farm economies, and resilient watersheds across the West.

### *Who is Mike Langevin?*

Mike Langevin is interested in regeneration strategies for small-plot and broadacre properties. Mike has been involved with ranching, farming, or gardening throughout his life in Oregon's Willamette Valley. He has spent the prior three years on a project in Bend, OR demonstrating the potential of Permaculture Design based land restoration practices in Oregon's cold climate High Desert region. With the expansion of Nature's Permaculture back into the Portland, OR metropolitan area, he is currently focused on integrating highly functional animal and plant polycultures within Permaculture and Keyline design methodologies with an emphasis towards broadacre applications. Mike's designs are heavily influenced by his studies with Darren Doherty, Sepp Holtzer, Geoff Lawton, and Eric Toensmeier. Mike currently serves as the Executive Director of Nature's Permaculture.

## **Additional Information:**

### *What is Keyline® Design concept and practice?*

Keyline Design emerged from Australia in the 1940's and is one of the first, farm planning frameworks to take a whole-system approach towards achieving a 'permanent agriculture.' Originator, P.A. Yeomans, developed planning tools and innovations—using his knowledge of geology, hydrology, and soils—which lead to drought-proof and highly diversified farm, with increasing yields. Yeomans overturned conventional wisdom by demonstrating that topsoil can be built at astounding rates and in a cost-effective fashion using his ingenious and proven Yeomans plow and Keyline pattern cultivation.

### *What is the Yeomans Plow?*

As part of his water harvesting and soil building innovations, Yeomans developed a unique, non-inversion, sub-soiling chisel plow known as the Yeomans Plow. This implement is designed to break compaction and aerate soil profiles with minimal undesirable disturbance to soil life by not inverting the existing soil layers. Used in the proper geomorphic pattern of ripping--known as Keyline Pattern Cultivation--maximum soil moisture, explosive pulses of soil life, and rapid building of topsoil can result. Good results have been found for brush control situations and erosion control as well.



### *What is Holistic Management?*

Holistic Management replaces fragmentary and short term solutions with whole-focused framework for improving critical decision-making, healing damaged land, and offers tested tools and strategies for creating and managing healthy land. Sustainable livestock use and positive economic, social and ecological outcomes emphasized. Currently, there are nearly 75 million acres (30 million hectares), world-wide under Holistic Management.

### *What is Permaculture?*

Permaculture is an applied science of agricultural-ecological design, rooted in the observation of nature. It is practiced on many thousands of properties in 120 countries globally. As a whole-systems approach to planning and design, Permaculture has a positive and creative solution-based focus, using a practical set of design principles and methods to harmoniously integrate landscapes with people, food production, structures, technologies, energy, natural resources, animal systems, plant systems, as well as social and economic structures.