

Below are a series of books that have influenced my understanding of the topics in the workshops to a significant degree. In each area I call out a book or two that were indispensable for me. In addition, **I highly recommend Gaia's Garden, by Toby Hemenway** which was just released in a second edition. It covers all the topics below and is about as close to a "must read" as there is. The books below are for additional learning in the specific areas detailed in that book, and in the workshop. Sustainability thinkers that have influenced me greatly are David Holmgren (permaculture), Masanobu Fukuoka (Gardening with Nature), Elliot Coleman (Organic and 4 Season Gardening), John Jeavons (Sustainably Gardening) and Mark Shepard (Perennial Agriculture), for macro economic, social and climate issues, John Michael Greer (Druidism and Peak Oil), Richard Heinberg (Peak Oil) and Bill McKibben (Climate Change). Most are authors, and Mark is here in Viroqua, Wisconsin and gives talks frequently. Put together, they have had a colossal impact on my worldview and the actions that I am taking in my life. I blog at least monthly on onestraw.wordpress.com and Onestraw on Facebook.

I follow [permascience](#) on You Tube for some great videos and read the blogs of [Living the Frugal Life](#) and [Eat Close to Home](#) to keep me fresh. In your neck of the woods, the energy of your local VGI and Transition Milwaukee groups would serve you well, and I have been impressed with the knowledge and passion of Erik Lindberg, whom I really need to meet, and his Rooftop garden.

The internet is absolutely riddled with information - many of the above have their own sites full of knowledge. Google is your friend. Feel free to contact me one.straw.rob@gmail.com. We will also have more courses offered next year and I am open to giving talks to groups or organizations as well.

Building Soils

Living Soils

-Teaming with Microbes, by Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis **HIGHLY Recommended**
Soul of the Soil, by Grace Gershuny
Roots Demystified, by Robert Kourick

Composting

Compost, Vermicompost, Compost Tea, by Grace Gershuny
The Complete Compost Gardeners Guide, by Barbara Pleasant and Deborah L. Martin
-HIGHLY Recommended

Rainwater Catchment

Most of this I picked up piecemeal and through observation, but Gaia's Garden has an entire chapter on it. Here is the [You Tube video](#) of the video from the presentation

Edible Landscaping

The New Market Grower, & The Winter Harvest Handbook Elliot Coleman **-HIGHLY Recommended**

Grow More Vegetables and Fruits (than you ever thought possible, on less land than you can imagine) by John Jeavons

The Gardener's A-Z Guide to Growing Organic Food, by Tankya Denckla **-HIGHLY Recommended**

No- Work Garden Book, by Ruth Stout ** almost impossible to find. Also try Weedless Gardening by Lee Reich for the same technique with less wit.

System Thinking / Permaculture / Natural Step

Permaculture Principles & Pathways Beyond Sustainability, by David Homlgren - **HIGHLY Recommended**

Intro to Permaculture, by Bill Mollison **-HIGHLY Recommended**

The Natural Step for Communities, by Sarah James and Torbjorn Lahti

The Transition Handbook, by Rob Hopkins