

## ■ Brief Biography

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### DAVID BLUME

#### BIOGRAPHICAL POINTS

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- Growing up in San Francisco, California, David Blume helped his father organically grow, on a city lot, almost all the food their family ate.
- Majored in Ecological Biology and Biosystematics at San Francisco State University.
- Taught his first ecology class in 1970.
- Worked for NASA on an experimental solar self-sufficient energy, sewage treatment, desalinization plant in the Virgin Islands.
- Worked as part of the Mother Earth News Eco Village Team in North Carolina on alternative energy projects and alternative building techniques. Constructed many unique structures, such as a cordwood half-dome used as the back half of a greenhouse.
- Founded American Homegrown Fuel Co., a 15-employee organization that taught farmers and others how to produce and use low cost alcohol fuel at home or on the farm. Alcohol, a renewable and virtually pollution-free fuel, can be used in place of gasoline in automobile engines.
- Taught 180 alcohol fuel workshops comprising 7,000 people over two years, while appearing over 1000 times in print, radio and television.
- Worked with PBS for two years to port his alcohol fuel workshop to the 10-Part Television Series *Alcohol as Fuel*.
- Authored the much-lauded classic "bible" of alcohol fuel: *Alcohol Can Be A Gas!*
- Instigated a conference whereby the City of Urbana, Illinois, brought builders, lenders, developers, municipalities, building inspectors, architects, and engineers up to date on mainstreaming natural building practices.
- Served on the Board of nonprofit Ecosites International. Led survey teams to sensitive ecological sites and designed student study centers for these sites.
- Served on the Board of Vivamos Mejor as the director of Agroecology Projects. A year of this time was spent working in Mexico.
- Developed and implemented an Integrated Ecological Project in Central Mexico with a Nauhautl cooperative. Agricultural waste (coffee pulp) is used as a base material to grow oyster mushrooms, a highly nutritious food. The process of growing the mushrooms keeps the pulp from polluting the rivers and converts it to a good quality animal feed. Learn more.

- Served on the Board of the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture (now known as the Ecological Farming Association), sponsor of the planet's best-attended and most diverse sustainable agriculture conference, directed at conventional farmers to show them how they can profitably go organic.
- Served as Executive Director of the 1600-acre Hidden Villa Farm and Wilderness Preserve. By applying ecological principles of system design to business, and by using his entrepreneurial skills, David Blume turned this organization around in one year from losing \$250,000 per year on a \$750,000 budget, to a million dollar balanced budget. He instituted the organization's CSA farm, which converted that unit's \$60,000 per year loss to a surplus revenue-generating profit center which also provided a high profile community outreach opportunity.
- Founded the Community Supported Agriculture project, Our Farm. its impressive yields — as much as 100,000 pounds of food per acre, without a tractor, using only hand tools, on a terraced, 35 degree slope — resulted from David Blume's application of biointensive and permaculture techniques. As a teaching farm, hosting thousands of people at tours showing its sustainable practices, and over 200 live-in interns and apprentices from all over the world. It also pioneered public/private partnerships, which connected inner city residents with the source of their food. Learn more about Our Farm.
- Founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit International Institute for Ecological Agriculture (IIEA), which is dedicated to healing the planet while providing the human community with research, education, and implementation of socially just, ecologically sound, resource-conserving forms of agriculture — the basis of all sustainable societies.
- Helped train and certify over 450 participants, with IIEA, in two-week residential Permaculture Design Courses. Permaculture is an ethical system of ecological land design, incorporating the disciplines of agriculture, hydrology, energy, architecture, economics, social science, animal husbandry, forestry, and more. Permaculturally designed land can have up to 16 times the yield of conventional single-crop agriculture.
- Demonstrated alcohol-fuel-powered vehicles, working with Ford Motor Company, at a series of events in the U.S.
- Designed a proposed biofuels station in the City of Santa Cruz, California, that will be the first driver-owned fueling station in the US to pass the tax credits usually harvested by oil companies to the drivers.
- Testifies as an expert before various agencies on issues related to the land and ecology.
- Frequently speaks at Ecological and Agricultural Conferences in the Americas. He has spoken at the Bioneers Conference, Upper Midwest Organic Farmers

Conference, Ecological Farming Conference, University of Mexico (Xalapa campus) International Forum on Globalization, Technology and Society Committee, American Corn Growers Association, the World Biomass Conference, San Francisco's World Vegetarian Day, the Whole Life Expo (in a number of cities), the Omega Institute, Grow Your Own Conference, Veggie Fest in San Jose, Earthsave, Gaia-Song Ecological Living Conference, the Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association (Plenary Speaker), the American Agriculture Movement convention (Plenary Speaker), the Solar Living Institute's SolFest, and a host of smaller events including advanced training for USDA Master Gardeners.

- Has appeared in the media and as a guest on radio and television shows over a thousand times.
- Founded Whiskey Hill Farms, organic growers of high-value specialty crops in Santa Cruz County, California.
- Founded Blume Distillation, pioneers in ecologically turning agricultural waste into useful alcohol-related products.
- Consulted for a wide array of clients including governments, farmers, and food processors in turning waste into fuel, animal feed, carbon dioxide, and valuable industrial products.
- Consulted with the Blackfeet Nation in Montana, USA, on ecological microenterprise, improving the state of the land and the health of the people.
- Consulted with Quality Organic Nuts in Mexico, investigating the feasibility of organizing a 500-grower cooperative for exporting products.
- Consulted with individuals and government in Antigua, West Indies, on a water harvesting/reforestation project involving a permaculturally designed high-value hardwood forest.
- Consulted on a series of projects for the Government of Ghana in alternative fuels, training the country's agricultural extension agents in organic farming, and designing an ecological strategy to stop the advance of the Sahara Desert into the country.