The natural gifts, naturally inherited knowledge, traditional medicines, and so on that have been passed down from ancient times are all losing their value. We need to acquire new knowledge in order to be able to enter into all the interrelationships of these things... Today, no less than in ancient times, we are in need of knowledge that can really enter into the inner workings of nature.

—Rudolf Steiner, Agriculture (1924)

As our knowledge of the physical world has become ever more detailed, we have sought to master nature with a science based only on the material and quantifiable aspects of life. However, many advances arising from this thinking have brought destructive and unforeseen consequences. Once we acknowledge the limitations of the purely materialistic view of nature, where can we turn for a more complete understanding of the living Earth?

Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) was dedicated to developing a new science that accounts for all aspects of life—the material and the supersensible. The biodynamic method, which Steiner outlined in his Agriculture Lectures of 1924, brings to bear a spiritual understanding of nature and humanity's relationship to the natural world. Responding to farmers concerned about the declining vigor of their crops and animals, he described an approach to plant and land care that combines building up healthy soil with a renewed awareness of all the forces at work in the farm organism: among and between the soil, plants, animals, and humans, as well as the cosmos itself. The result: a modern, organic way of farming that raises the vitality of both soil and produce, going beyond sustainability to create a thriving agriculture...and a future for our fragile planet.

Now entering its sixteenth year, the Pfeiffer Center’s One-Year, Part-Time Practical Training in Biodynamics consists of thirteen full-day workshops beginning in September 2012 and ending in June 2013. Workshop days run from 9 am to 5 pm, and feature an engaging mix of classroom talks and field activities covering:

• making and applying the biodynamic preparations
• working with compost
• the rhythms of nature and planetary influences on life and growth
• agricultural handwork and pruning
• weed and pest control
• the honeybee
• and much more.

The Pfeiffer Center 260 Hungry Hollow Rd Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977

The Pfeiffer Center is a Program Affiliate of the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association. To learn more, visit www.pfeiffercenter.org and www.biodynamics.com
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012  Evolution, Environment & Ecology
A brief sketch of the evolution of the earth from a spiritual scientific standpoint. What are our tasks at this time in relation to the environment and why do farming and gardening play such a vital role in ecological, economic and social issues? We will do some hands-on work with the horn manure preparation, raised beds, and season-appropriate planting. Presented by Mac Mead.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012  Biodynamic Preparations
At the heart of the biodynamic method are the preparations used to treat the soil, compost and crops. Mac Mead and Megan Durney will lead us in making most of these preparations, as we discuss their healing effects on the earth and its produce.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012  Soil Building & Composting
Healthy soils bring forth healthy plants. We will explore basic concepts concerning soil building and composting methods. In a hands-on session at our compost site, we will not only discover composts of different materials and stages of maturity, we will also get our hands good and dirty doing so.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2012  Farm Animal Husbandry
Steffen Schneider will share the gleanings of his 30 years of farm animal husbandry. This full-day session will touch on all domestic farm animals, with emphasis on the role of animals in the farm organism.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013  Pruning Fruit Trees / Seed Saving & Rejuvenation
Pruning fruit trees is both a science and an art. The seed question is of vital importance for the future of our food supply. Hugh Williams, one of the best orchardists in the East and a biodynamic farmer with a large CSA, will be the main presenter. A few hours of hands-on pruning will be included.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013  Cosmic Forces in Relation to Nutritional Qualities / Seeing Nature Whole
We all know how the moon pulls the tides. What influences does it — or do the other planets — have on plant life? By learning how to strengthen and harmonize these influences, we can enhance the quality of our food. Presented by Mac Mead. In the afternoon, Craig Holdrege will explore how we can better understand the world, and our place in it, by working with the living dynamic qualities of plants and animals, and will discuss the implications of this understanding for sustainability.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013  Life Rhythms, Farm & Garden Tasks / Bees
In the first half of the workshop, we will look at the rhythms of sun and moon, and learn to work with nature, not against it. This enables us to compensate for extreme weather, making our task easier and improving the quality of our crops. Presented by Sherry Wildfeuer, editor of the Stella Natura planting calendar. The afternoon session focuses on the honeybee, given the drastic reduction of honeybee colonies in the last twenty years, we have to dig deep for the causes, and deeper still to discover the necessary means for reversing this trend.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2013  Preparation #501 / Compost Teas / BD Tree Paste
Making the horn-silica preparation involves grinding quartz crystals down to .2 microns. The day’s other focus will be the making and applying of herbal and compost teas and the biodynamic tree paste. Artistic activity and research project presentations follow.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2013  Water: H2O or Much More?
Water quality is fast becoming one of the world’s most pressing environmental issues. Do we really know what water is, what tasks it has in life processes, or how it carries them out? Jennifer Greene, director of the Water Research Institute in Maine, will take us far beyond what we commonly know, or suppose we know, of this element.

FRIDAY–SUNDAY, JUNE 7–9, 2013  The Final Weekend
Making nettle and yarrow preparations, taking out old preps, storing preps, various compost activities; presentation of research projects. We will bring together the years work into a comprehensive picture of the theoretical and practical aspects of biodynamics.