

The Oil Drum: Campfire

Discussions about Energy and Our Future

Books and Courses on Our Peak Oil Future - What Do You Recommend?

Posted by [Gail the Actuary](#) on April 1, 2010 - 10:18am in [The Oil Drum: Campfire](#)

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

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There are now a number of books and courses available relating to how we might deal with the challenges of peak oil in the future. I'll mention a few I have run across, and ask that you mention ones that you want to recommend. If you could give a little information on the approach the person takes, that might be helpful, because different folks have different approaches, and some of us like one approach better than another.

In the books department, one that comes to mind is Dmitry Orlov's book [Reinventing Collapse: The Soviet Example and American Prospects](#). Dmitry Orlov experienced the Russian collapse, so comes with his own perspective on how things will work out, and what will be important. It seems to me he would stress flexibility above all--perhaps moving often, fitting in with the new system. He also does presentations--this is a [link](#) to a recent one.

A recent book I ran across is [Oil Dusk: A Peak Oil Story](#) by John Cape and Laura Buckner. This is the fictional story about the challenges a family faces when a drop in the value of the dollar leads to a steep rise in the price of oil. The book is well done, and not overly scary, because while the high price of oil has some moderately bad consequences, somehow, the family seems to fare pretty well--in part because of preparations made by the grandfather, who has since passed on. The back of the book mentions a number of peak oil resources, including The Oil Drum. This is a link to the book's [web site](#).

Many of you know that Andre Angelantoni (known as [aangel](#) on The Oil Drum) has a website called [PostPeakLiving](#) that features sustainability courses. I recently attended his [uncrash course](#). Jason Bradford of our staff presents the foods portion of the class. Andre and Jason do a good job. I would describe the focus as somewhat on peak oil education and somewhat on preparation for a downslope--buying electric bicycles; making copies of records governments may not have the staff to provide later; and having a buffer of some food in storage, for example.

Besides his regular [courses](#), Andre has a new course taught by Carolyn Baker that will be starting April 24 that has to do with dealing with the psychological aspects of peak oil. The course is called [Navigating the Coming Chaos of Unprecedented Transitions](#). Dr. Baker is a former psychotherapist. Some of the topics her course will cover include "Healing through the dark emotions," "Mirth-making amid crumbling and chaos," and "Bringing back the world".

I don't there is any "One Size Fits All" when it comes to post peak books and courses. Each of us will have different needs at different times. Since we don't really know for certain what the future will hold, we can't say for sure that one course or book is more correct in its view than another.

What books or courses would you like to mention? It might be helpful if you can tell a little about

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them, to help us distinguish one from another. We don't run ads, and I am not aware of peak oil websites that do, so it makes it somewhat difficult for people to get the "word out" about what they are doing.



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