

The Oil Drum: Campfire

Discussions about Energy and Our Future

The Time has Arrived to do Epic Shit

Posted by [Debbie Cook](#) on May 16, 2010 - 10:17am in [The Oil Drum: Campfire](#)

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

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[Larry Santoyo's](#) parting words to his permaculture students are, “Blame no one, expect nothing, and do something.” And not just anything but, “epic shit.” Clearly, there is some epic shit to be done in the Gulf of Mexico, where blame and expectations are running at epic proportions. While most of us can't do anything about that epic challenge, we face plenty of epic challenges closer to home.

I've been doing some self-assessment of my own skills as I heed Larry's additional advice of, “reducing your need to earn and reducing your need to spend.” The final exercise in his 6-month course is a *Lord of the Flies* inspired “Why should we let you live game.” It is not so much a game as a consideration of the skills and knowledge that makes us a resource or an anchor to our own communities. What expertise do each of us possess in the areas of food, water, shelter, energy, communications, security, health services, transportation, art, music—the many facets of society that are essential as we chart a course to our energy future. Do our needs match up with our resources? If I'm not adding value, “Why should you let me live?”

Last week, as I awkwardly straddled the hole I had dug to repair a complicated sprinkler pipe break in my yard, I pondered both of these issues: the seemingly epic proportion of my task—cutting tree roots in a hole with a hand saw, reconfiguring pipes that no longer aligned, splicing controller wire—and assessing the skill sets it would take to make it happen. As you can see from the photo, my fix was not a pretty site. But after the better part of a day and multiple trips to the hardware store, I muddled through—barely able to move the next day from the abuse to my aging body. It was an unexpectedly satisfying experience and a realization that I may have improved my chances of not being voted off the island.



The Oil Drum has contributed greatly to my understanding of needed post-peak skills. Since 2005, The Oil Drum editors, along with its readers, have been a tremendous resource for information, analysis, and ideas about a wide range of topics. This is where I come to satiate my appetite for news, enlightenment, and inspiration. Here, you all have shared your favorite [books](#), [history lessons](#), [seasonal cooking](#), [inspirational websites](#), [design ideas](#), [tools for managing research](#), and even [chicken laws](#) and the [funniest headline I've ever read](#).

Tonight let's build a campfire around the theme of "epic shit." Let's do some epic sharing. Amazing ideas are taking hold around the world, from tool libraries to yard sharing. We know what needs to be done; what are we waiting for? Share an epic idea, story, organization, person, book, video, podcast, website, or even a tool. Everyone who reads this has something to contribute. It need not be grand it just has to add value, like each of us. I'll kick things off with my epic weeding tool...the circle hoe...



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