



## SEEDS Hosts: Michigan's First Democracy School

**DATE:** November 17-19 starting at 6:30pm Friday and going through lunch on Sunday

**LOCATION:** Heritage Center, Traverse City

**FEES:** \$315/person – limited to 20 participants!

**INCLUDED:** 365 page Curriculum Book; lunch and dinner on Saturday; snacks and Fair Trade coffees and teas all three days

**QUESTIONS:** Look to SEEDS website to keep up to date: [www.ecoSEEDS.org](http://www.ecoSEEDS.org)

Or contact: Sarna Salzman, [sarna@ecoSEEDS.org](mailto:sarna@ecoSEEDS.org) 231.929.3663

The Daniel Pennock Democracy School is a stimulating and illuminating course that teaches citizens and activists how to reframe exhausting and often discouraging single issue work (such as opposing toxic dumps, quarries, factory farms, etc.) in a way that we can confront corporate control on a powerful single front: people's constitutional rights.

Democracy School teaches a paradigm shift, a dramatic new way of looking at our role as citizens in a democracy, and how to assert our inalienable rights as a sovereign people. Attendees explore the limits of conventional regulatory organizing and learn how to "reframe" single issues to confront the rights used by corporations to deny the rights of communities, people, and the earth.

Lectures cover the history of people's movements and corporate power, and the dramatic recent organizing in Pennsylvania by communities confronting agribusiness, sewage sludge, and quarry corporations. Included with enrollment in the Democracy School is a 300 plus-page notebook of background reading material, and a copy of Defying Corporations, Defining Democracy.

Created by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) and Richard Grossman, co-founder of the Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy (POCLAD), Democracy Schools were launched with five weekend sessions at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in 2003. Since then, the number of schools has grown rapidly. The Schools are built around carefully designed readings, clear presentations and group discussions. Each school:

- Reveals how it came to be that the law enables corporate managers to dictate their values, and impose their projects on communities.
- Includes an intense, comprehensive history of the judicial bestowal of constitutional rights of persons on corporations.
- Teaches the secret of how People's Movements have cut to the essence and won their struggles.
  - The Anti-Federalists
  - The Abolitionists
  - The Suffragists
  - The Populists
  - The Labor Movement
  - And earlier movements

*Democracy School was a mind-blowing experience. During the School, I was forced to come to grips with the understanding that I really knew very little about the true structure of law that controls our activism. Democracy School is a must for everyone who seeks to be liberated from our defensive, after-the-fact reactive organizing strategies.*

-Krishnaveni Gundu, '05,  
Calhoun County (TX)  
Resource Watch

*If you take no other training this year, do the Democracy School. It is a superlative unfolding revelation of how corporations have hijacked democracy. It meticulously deconstructs the historical arc that brought us to this precipice. But most importantly, it then departs into the highly pragmatic and inspiring work now underway that is slowly turning the tide . . . This Second American Revolution may be the most important political work going on anywhere in the country or the world.*

-Kenny Ausubel, Founder and Co-Executive Director, Bioneers

Democracy School is for people of all ages, interests and occupations, from local officials to farmers to academics. Classes consist of small groups of 10-20 people like you.

*Write a check to SEEDS and sign up today!*

**Join:**

**Thomas Linzey**, Esquire, Executive Director of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). He is author of many local ordinances and co-author of the *Model Brief to Eliminate Corporate Rights*. Bioneers keynote speaker 2004 and 2006.



--and--

**Ben Price**, Project Director for the CELDF *Corporations and Democracy Program*. He educates and organizes community groups to challenge corporate usurpations of people's rights and governing authority.

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**The Neahtawanta Inn** – a certified Green Lodge Steward; make a reservation to stay at a sweet B&B on Old Mission Peninsula by checking online: [www.oldmission.com/inn](http://www.oldmission.com/inn)

*Democracy School is dedicated to the memory of Daniel Pennock, a 17-year-old boy from Berks County, Pennsylvania, who died in 1995 after being exposed involuntarily to land applied sewage sludge. Daniel's parents, Antoinette and Russell Pennock, have traveled across Pennsylvania to end the practice of sludge disposal, by which waste management corporations reap massive profits hauling and spreading sludge on farmland. Their work has inspired ours.*