



# ARGENTINA CULTURAL EXCHANGE Staff Bios



## Josh Trought

<<<Josh serves as the Executive Director of D Acres of New Hampshire, a nonprofit Organic Farm & Educational Homestead located in Dorchester, NH. Josh has several years experience traveling and working in other cultures. His experience in Latin America includes two winters volunteering with the NGO “La Caravana Arcoiris por la Paz.” In 2004 he led the Argentina Cultural Exchange through D Acres. Josh is an accomplished builder, with experience in alternative and conventional construction.

>>>Since his youth, Gustavo has been fascinated by art, oriental spirituality and nature. Since graduating as a veterinarian in 1983, Gustavo has participated in several wildlife projects. He became interested in the health of the planet as a whole and started working toward the protection of two wild areas near Buenos Aires. Whilst working there he created and developed an environmental education program based on a deep connection with nature. He is a founding member of Gaia Association. He has lived at Gaia Ecovillage for five years, and has played a leading role in the general design of the site. He recently built, together with his wife, their cob cottage with local materials. For Gustavo, Permaculture design synthesized many areas in which he has been working separately, which has opened new paths in his work with nature. He took his first course in Permaculture design with Max Lindegger in 1996, and has gone on to teach Permaculture Design Courses in Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, and Chile. He has created and coordinates the Instituto Argentino de Permacultura. He is an active member of RAPEL (Latin-American Permaculture support network) and was a speaker at the 1st Latin-American Congress in Argentina. He has also been an active member of GEN (the Global Ecovillage Network) and ENA (the Ecovillage Network of Americas) since their creation. One of his main interests at the moment is the adaptation of Permaculture systems to the Latin-American reality, and the inclusion of art, native flora, and popular knowledge to his designs.

## Gustavo Ramirez



## Silvia Balado

<<<Silvia’s background is in health, group dynamics, native American rituals and sacred dances. She co-founded Gaia Ecovillage and the Argentine Permaculture Institute and has been actively involved since the beginning in the Global Ecovillage Network. Silvia has been active with the Ecovillage Network of the Americas.