

# EMERGENCE

JOURNAL OF INSURGENT PERMACULTURE  
ISSUE #1 WINTER 2023

## DURING WINTER MONTHS, FOCUS TURNS TO POLITICAL ADVOCACY



Geomancer founder Nachie Braga interviewed by WKYT on efforts to create non-market housing.

With many of the plants we work with having gone dormant for the season, we use this time of year to complete various administrative tasks related to running the business while sharpening our tools for the year ahead.

This has also been a fruitful time to advance some of our projects related to public policy and community organizing. Much of our work at this point is focused on the question of Lexington's housing crisis and how to enable nontraditional actors such as neighborhood associations to take greater control of their communities through becoming developers of non-market housing.

We are also incredibly excited to share that we have presented a proposal to Lexington's Water Quality Fees Board that would amend their existing Stormwater Quality Incentive Grants Program to include additional incentives for the establishment of new native tree canopy.

The Board will vote on this proposal on February 16th and, if approved, the new measure will become a symbol of bold leadership both in Kentucky and nationwide as we link statutorily-mandated public water quality management fees to the enhancement and expansion of our urban forest with all its benefits.

## GEOMANCER RECEIVES KY AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, COMMUNITY WORK

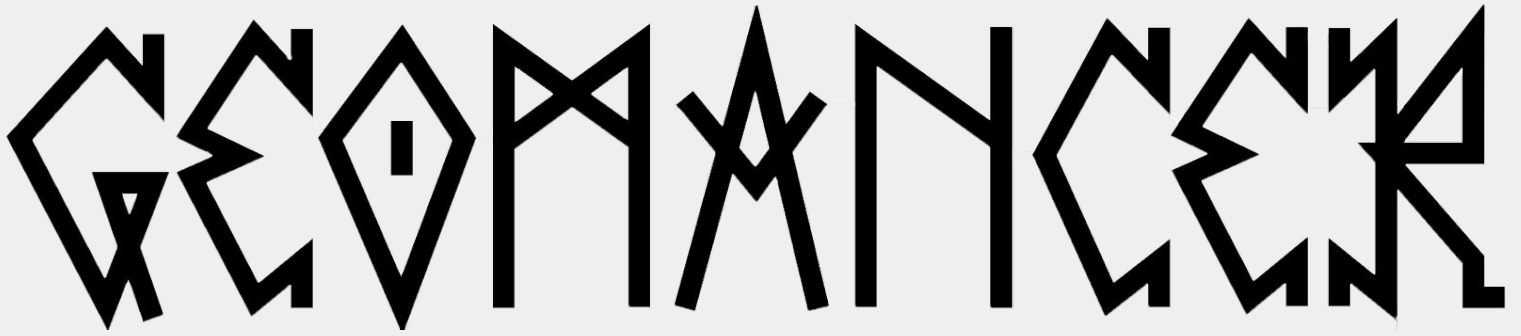


In 2022 our work was recognized through awards for **Outstanding Business** from the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education and **Community Environmental Luminary** from the KY Department of Environmental Protection.



Geomancer Permaculture is a crowd-funded, "for purpose" business. To support our work for as little as \$1 a month, visit:

[www.patreon.com/geomancerpermaculture](http://www.patreon.com/geomancerpermaculture)



## 2022 DIARY OF ACTION

- Launched our free fruit tree program for homeowners in Cardinal Valley, planted six native fruit trees at the local elementary school, and assisted the Neighborhood Association in mulching their public wildflower beds.
- Geomancer founder Leandro “Nachie” Braga was appointed co-chair of the City of Lexington’s ad hoc Tree Canopy Committee, tasked with distributing \$1.5M of municipal budget stabilization funds for the improvement of the city’s urban tree canopy.
- Excavated a new rain garden at Beaumont Middle School in Lexington, guided students in the design and planting of the garden, and gave several presentations to the Rain Garden Club on the hydrologic cycle and watershed repair through the use of passive water retention landscaping.
- Worked with Fayette County Public Schools to update their Facilities Planning Guidelines. Notably, we were able to push for an amendment to the prohibition against fruit trees on school campuses to allow for the use of native species.
- Began a new association with the Locust Trace AgriScience Center, led a class in site analysis for students, and successfully applied for grant funding to install a new native pollinator/rain garden on their campus in 2023.
- Successfully lobbied the LFUCG Department of Environmental Services for the addition of an exemption for plantings to the liability language of the new revised Encroachment Permit application governing activity on city owned greenways. The city also approved our design for the Kilrush Food Forest, which we believe will become the largest public food forest in Kentucky.
- Conducted a modest native tree planting/reforestation event at the Kentucky Castle as part of their 2022 Wild Health Summit.
- Led multiple field trips and site visits for college programs including Sustainable Agriculture and Geography students from the University of Kentucky, Art students from Transylvania University, and gave a presentation to Business Ethics students at Georgetown College focusing on the interactions between entrepreneurship and the nonhuman world.
- Presented a talk titled “Food Sovereignty Through Water Cycle Restoration” at Bluegrass Greensource’s 2022 Greenfest event.
- Expanded the existing rain gardens at McConnell Springs Park to better manage stormwater runoff from a neighboring industrial property.
- Worked with numerous community partners to mobilize against the permitting of a woody debris incinerator at C&R Asphalt (directly adjacent to McConnell Springs and several residential neighborhoods), resulting in a withdrawal of their permit application.