

## TRAVERSE CITY MICHIGAN THIS WEEKEND

February 10, 2011

By Michael Erlewine ([Michael@Erlewine.net](mailto:Michael@Erlewine.net))

I will be giving three presentations this Saturday and Sunday as part of the NW Michigan Permaculture Design Course. Details are here. Hope to see some of you there. - Michael Erlewine

### SPEAKING

Michael Erlewine in Traverse City  
TWO DAYS; THREE PRESENTATIONS

On the weekend of February 12 & 13 I will be giving three presentations as part of the NW Michigan Permaculture Design Course at the "Little Artshram" in Traverse City, Michigan at Historic Barns Park in The Grand Traverse Commons. My presentations (with accompanying photo shows) will be:

Saturday February 12th, 2011 at 1 PM  
"Dharma in Nature"

We all know about listening to dharma teachers like the Dalai Lama present the dharma, but few have heard that the Tibetan Buddhists also recognize what they call the "Lama of Appearances." In other words the world of nature is considered an authentic teacher and appearances themselves can be an important way to learn and study the dharma. For those of us who also feel reverence for nature and want to know how the Tibetan Buddhists approach the natural world, this may be of interest.

Saturday February 12th, 2011 at 6:30 PM  
I will be part of a panel after the showing of the film "The Economics of Happiness."

Sunday February 13th, 2011 at 9:45 AM  
"Making Dreams Matter: Being an Entrepreneur"

I will be speaking on my experience as an entrepreneur for the last fifty years. I checked the Internet and found out to my surprise that I am what is called a "Lifestyle Entrepreneur" in that I put passion before profit. I also am labeled as a "Serial Entrepreneur" in that I have done this again and again. Interesting. Anyway, I will share what I have managed to learn about listening to your heart, daring to brook the tide of conformity, and making your dreams matter in life.

Sunday February 13th, 2011 at 1:45 PM  
"Life Mandalas"

The term 'mandala' is most often thought of in terms of the intricate sand mandalas that the Tibetan Buddhists painstakingly create and then in a moment sweep into a nearby stream. Mandalas are offerings and we create them in our life whether we realize it or not whenever we try to offer the best of what we have (our talents and skills) to the world around us. There is an traditional art and method in how to offer ourselves and be successful and this will be presented.

As mentioned earlier, I will be presenting three talks at the invitation of Penny Krebiehl as part of Little Artshram's Permaculture Design Course in the Grand Traverse Commons, one of the most forward-looking and innovative redevelopment projects anywhere in this country. Located on 480 acres of hiking and biking trails, arboretums, and parkland the Commons also contains dozens of incredible buildings from what used to a state hospital. I am a Sixties person but have never in my life seen a community project as filled with possibilities as this one.

<http://www.thevillagetc.com/>

Little Artshram is here:

[www.littleartshram.org](http://www.littleartshram.org)

The Commons is alive with entrepreneurs and startups (individuals and groups of all ages) that are busy taking over these massive building complexes and turning them into retail shops, restaurants, bakeries, services, condominiums, and about anything you can imagine. This place is like a miniature city and speaks well to the future of local space usage -- creating communities that are almost complete villages in themselves. If I were a young person I would go there and build a life because this is the life of the future as I can imagine it.

