



# Honoring Laird Schaub, 1949-2024

*With contributions from Harvey Baker (FIC), Neil Planchon (Cohousing Research Network/CohoUS), and others*

We are sad to announce that Laird Schaub, an instrumental figure in the intentional communities movement and major force in the rebirth and thriving of the FIC, died December 17th at age 75 after nearly nine years of living with multiple myeloma.

Laird dedicated his life to fostering connection, collaboration, and skillful handling of emotional energy in meetings, helping countless groups navigate the joys and challenges of building strong, inclusive communities. His teachings on group process and community living inspired so many, leaving a legacy that continues to ripple through our movement. It's almost impossible to put into words the positive impact that Laird has had in the cooperative world, whether it was by supporting individuals, communities, or organizations.

Laird was one of the original incorporators of the Fellowship for Intentional Community in 1987, and served as its Executive Secretary and primary administrator from 1987 until he handed the reins to Sky Blue in 2015. Since then he continued his service to the FIC (now named the Foundation for Intentional Community) by serving on the Awards Committee and providing numerous sessions for the FIC's online education and events programs (you can find his re-run courses

by scrolling down at [ic.org/fic-courses](http://ic.org/fic-courses)). He was also co-founder of Sandhill Farm in Rutledge, Missouri (living there for 39 years) and an enthusiastic writer, serving as publisher and frequent contributor to COMMUNITIES and authoring a blog, "Laird's Commentary on Community and Consensus," at [communityandconsensus.blogspot.com](http://communityandconsensus.blogspot.com).

Laird's passion for cooperation and community led him to a joyous life making a positive change in the world, promoting the deep values he held—including compassion, understanding, and belief in the power of people working together. His time, energy, and creativity have made an impact on the present and future world of cooperative culture that is inestimable. We are grateful for his presence in our lives and are saddened by his loss.

For those who wish to learn more about Laird's journey or share their condolences with his loved ones, we encourage you to visit his CaringBridge site: [www.caringbridge.org/site/1295c428-817c-3b8b-af02-d9b1094a1be4](http://www.caringbridge.org/site/1295c428-817c-3b8b-af02-d9b1094a1be4). The Summer 2025 issue of COMMUNITIES will include a more extensive tribute to Laird; to submit your memories for possible last-minute inclusion, please email [editor@gen-us.net](mailto:editor@gen-us.net) as soon as possible. See also "Remembering Laird," the editor's personal reflection in this issue. 🐦

## The Community, Consensus, and Facilitation Book Project

Several of Laird's students and friends have come together to ensure his wisdom and work continue to help communities by turning his lifetime of teaching into a series of books—a project being funded through a GoFundMe campaign: [gofund.me/6e57fd23](http://gofund.me/6e57fd23).

Over his past four decades as a consensus and facilitation trainer, mediator, and consultant to intentional communities and other cooperative groups, Laird wrote more than 130 articles in COMMUNITIES, over 1200 blog entries, and a wealth of handouts and monographs about various aspects of cooperative group dynamics. However, he never had time to com-

pile this material into book form. Early in 2024, with Laird's blessing, a small team formed to start organizing and editing these writings.

Given adequate funding, the team plans to cover the following subjects as separate publications: Secular Consensus, Inclusive Facilitation, Navigating Conflict in Cooperative Groups, and Dynamics in Intentional Communities (key challenges and how to address them). Your contribution at [gofund.me/6e57fd23](http://gofund.me/6e57fd23) can support these efforts. Thank you for considering this way of honoring Laird's memory and helping his work continue! 🐦