

Rural America has seen several waves of back-to-the-landers – people who have given up mainstream contemporary American culture for a return to a way of life variously imagined as simpler, more natural, more rooted in community. ...The new returnees to rural America are exemplified – and will be inspired – by Lisa Kivirist and John Ivanko.

— from the Foreword by Bill McKibben, author, *The End of Nature*

BLENDING INSPIRATION WITH practical how-to's, *Rural Renaissance* captures the American dream of country living for contemporary times. Journey with the authors and experience their lessons, laughter and love for the land as they trade the urban concrete maze for a five-acre organic farm and bed and breakfast in southwestern Wisconsin. Among the many topics explored in *Rural Renaissance* are:

- “right livelihood” and the good life
- organic gardening and permaculture
- renewable energy and energy conservation
- wholesome organic food, safe water and a natural home
- simplicity, frugality and freedom
- green design and recycled materials
- community, friends and raising a family
- independence and interdependence
- wildlife conservation and land stewardship.

An authentic tale of a couple whose pioneering spirit and connection to the land reaches out to both the local and global community to make their dream come true, *Rural Renaissance* will appeal to a wide range of free agents, conservation entrepreneurs and both arm-chair and real-life homesteaders, regardless of where they live.

Join these two delightful people on their modern-day journey back to the future, experiencing with them the joys and jitters of leaving the corporate cubicles for the land, llamas and the rich lifestyle of a rural community.

— JIM HIGHTOWER, author of *Thieves in High Places*

John and Lisa are a real inspiration, showing how two people can make a real impact now and for the future. You don't have to move to the country to gain from their experience; there are lots of suggestions to help you put some of their ideas to work in your own life right now.

— NELL NEWMAN, co-founder of Newman's Own Organics

Fantastic! *Rural Renaissance* is inspiring, funny, and packed with information and resources for sustainable living.

— JAN JOANNIDES, Executive Director, Renewing the Countryside

This book is for anyone wishing to improve their life by achieving greater balance with the earth and their actions.

— ALISA GRAVITZ, Executive Director, Co-op America

Rural Renaissance is the ultimate guide to reinventing individual lives and reinvigorating our shared future.

— DANIEL H. PINK, author of *Free Agent Nation*

LISA KIVIRIST and JOHN IVANKO are innkeepers at Inn Serendipity, organic growers, and authors of numerous books, among other diverse endeavors. Nationally recognized for their contemporary approach to homesteading, conservation and more sustainable living, the husband and wife duo share their farm with their son, two llamas, a flock of chickens and millions of ladybugs.



US\$22.95 / CAN\$27.95

ISBN 0-86571-504-1



9 780865 715042



NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS
www.newsociety.com

ANCIENT FOREST FRIENDLY: PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER

IVANKO
KIVIRIST

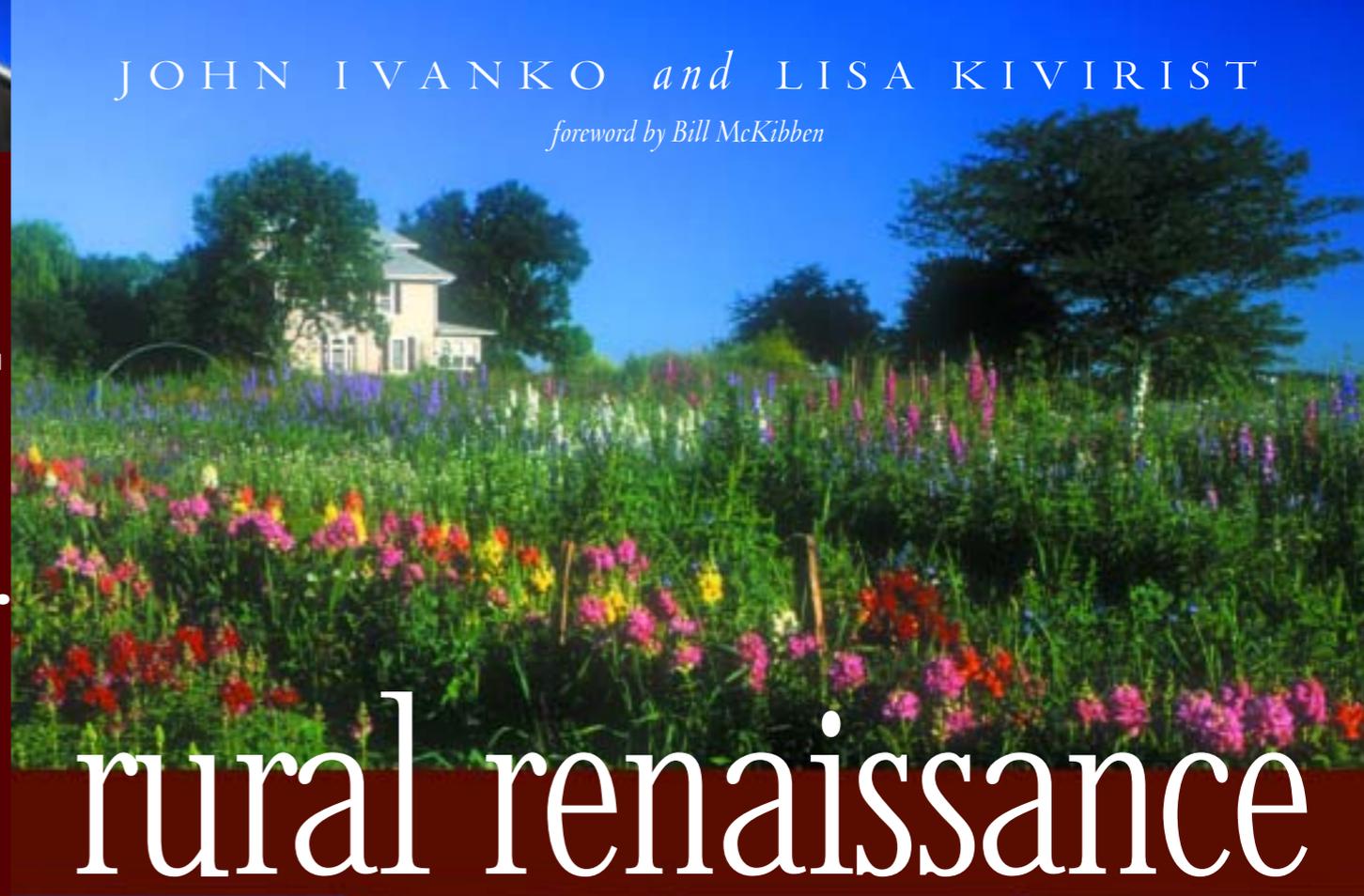


NSP

rural renaissance

JOHN IVANKO and LISA KIVIRIST

foreword by Bill McKibben



rural renaissance

A MOTHER EARTH NEWS Book for Wiser Living



*Renewing the
Quest for the
Good Life*