

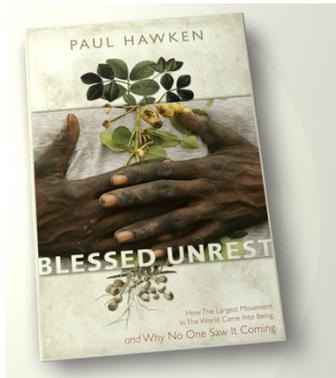
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming

August 29, 2017

by Adam Sacks

In 2008 Paul Hawken published his remarkable book, ***Blessed Unrest***, with observations of an invisible global movement in progress. These are projects in all corners of the world, created by individuals, NGOs, government agencies, businesses. They're peopled by farmers and filmmakers, ranchers, innovative scientists, landless peasants, artists and entrepreneurs and anyone else you can think of. These projects are usually small and local, and they may not know about each other, but their diversity is the key to the resilience of this un-named movement, and this year it is coming into its own.



The big, important global conferences with very important global people dominate the headlines, but the real work is done by those toiling to pull us through today's environmental crises of climate, desertification, floods, droughts, extreme heat and the sixth great extinction.

What a wonderful movement this is! No one is in charge, there are no pre-eminences for us to bow before, no hit-and-run profits to be made. Well-being - of planet, biodiversity and 7.5 billion fellow humans - is the heart of the work. You can see it evolve on a daily basis, in real time, virtually everywhere. I've been following this phenomenon for a couple of decades now (before I realized it was a phenomenon) and an inspiring quantum leap is in progress. Here are just a few examples (more are posted regularly on our [Facebook page](#)).

Events

[Meetup, Potluck and Discussion!](#)

Sunday, September 17, 2017

6 - 9 p.m., Cambridge, MA

**Sharon McGregor:
From Turf to
Paradise
- In your own
backyard (or window
box)!**

Sharon is a Board Member of Biodiversity for a Livable Climate and a former administrator with Mass. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). She initiated the Community Preservation Act and the Department of Ecological Restoration - and also gave us the whale tale on our license plates!



Photo: WILD

The [WILD Foundation](#) has been around for over forty years . . . and despite the fact that I'm constantly discovering great organizations, I've only recently heard of it. Its mission is to protect "wilderness while meeting the needs of human communities, working across cultures and boundaries by collaborating with local peoples, organizations, the private sector, and governments to create dynamic practical projects, inspiring solutions and communications initiatives."

With roots in Africa combining indigenous and western knowledge and experience, WILD initially offered connections between people and nature; it has since expanded into many and varied projects. Examples include [Indigenous and Community Lands and Seas](#), advancing "a vision for 21st century conservation rooted in the best practices, wisdom and experience of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and institutional and contemporary conservationists"; [The Mali Elephant Project](#) to "empower local people to reverse habitat degradation by uniting multiple ethnic groups to jointly manage the land for the benefit of people and elephants"; and [The WILD Cities Project](#) to bring abundant and healthy natural habitats to the growing populations of cities worldwide; and others. Finally, [Nature Needs Half](#) seeks to protect and interconnect at least half the Earth's land and water areas to restore biodiversity and address alarming plant and animal extinctions.

WILD is one of our organizational partners, and welcomes your participation on many levels. Their [short introductory video](#) is well worth a look!



Photo: Somerville Community Growing Center

Urban farming has taken off around the country and



She will highlight how she implemented a nature solution benefiting climate in her own back yard, by transforming it from a monoculture monotone lawn to the vibrant colorful and biodiverse ecosystem it once was.

Connecting All the Dots to Reverse Global Warming!

November 17-19, 2017

Save the date!

(web page up soon)

Our tenth conference in three years takes a systems approach to climate. It's not just about carbon, or regenerative agriculture, or water, or politics - it's about the entire Earth system working as a complex whole. We can solve a universe of problems by understanding the pieces and how to bring them back to life. The good news: we already know how to do it!

Join us this fall in Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 17-19, 2017, when we'll look at the most hopeful picture yet, as we

is beginning to move from conventional gardening to regenerative and organic. Another new discovery, in the city next door, is the [Somerville Community Growing Center](#), a permaculture food forest nestled on a quarter acre in one of the most population-dense and paved-over cities in the USA: Somerville, Mass.

Beginning in 1993, volunteers and consultants in collaboration with the city turned a former school site into a community garden. In 2015, in order to promote sustainable urban agriculture in its limited space, it began a permaculture redesign project, employing a local design firm, [Terra Cura](#). The project is ongoing and the center continues to evolve. Here's [a brief video](#) that showcases this community hub with its many events, among them: a Flight Song Collective, children's play groups, a Children In Nature Initiative, and workshops to build skills in urban agriculture.

It's another shining example of the movement to redefine the meaning of "City," working towards local-based nourishment and sustainability in urban settings.



Beneficial Eucalyptus Photo: Carbon Neutral

Finally, half-way around the world, here's the [Yarra-Yarra Biodiversity Corridor](#), on former wheat fields in Western Australia. This project of the Australian organization [Carbon Neutral](#) aims to regenerate and connect twelve nature reserves with islands of remaining natural habitat and remnant natural vegetation sites - creating a continuous 10,000 sq. km. (3,861 sq. mi.) corridor for wildlife, one that will let local species move more freely and prevent their loss and extinction. Here's [their video](#).

The project is also planting diverse species from locally-collected seeds, and emphasizes the carbon-sequestration benefits. And Carbon Neutral offers a regenerative [Plant-A-Tree](#) program:

We specialise in biodiverse conservation plantings using trees and shrubs that are native to the region. Our trees sequester carbon, help reduce soil salinity, help combat wind and water erosion, enhance biodiversity and restore habitat for native animals.

prepare to put these dark and disturbing days behind us.

For up-to-date info on our local events

[Join our Meetup Group](#)

Stay Connected



While you're visiting we have a small favor to ask...

Won't you join us in turning this climate crisis around? Please click the donate button below and join our monthly giving campaign.

[Donate](#)



About Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Through education, policy and outreach, our mission is to promote the power of the natural world to stabilize the climate and to restore biodiversity to ecosystems worldwide. Collaborating with organizations around the globe, we advocate for the restoration of soil, and of grassland, forest, wetland, coastal and ocean ecosystems - along with the associated carbon, water and nutrient cycles - to draw down excess atmospheric greenhouse gases, cool the

Planting trees also provides local employment, supports local business, and may contribute to increased rainfall.

These are only three examples of blessed unrest among thousands, with more springing up like blessed thistle! Watch Paul Hawken's [2007 video](#), and note how very far we've come in these past ten years. And thanks to the growth of the internet we can find each other more easily than ever before. Join us in watching this vital and "invisible" movement unfold!



Photo: Somerville Community Growing Center

biosphere, and reverse global warming, for the benefit of all people and all life on earth.

Learn more about our ongoing projects and upcoming events and find additional information and resources at bio4climate.org.

!!Announcing!!

Our Compendium of Scientific and Practical Findings Supporting Eco-Restoration to Address Global Warming is available now.

The evidence is powerful and it's growing by leaps and bounds. We're collecting it in a comprehensive document that will be updated every six months. The power of Nature is out of the closet - let's welcome her with open arms!

Download it [here](#), pass it around!