



July - August 2018

Newsletter

... and we can make the warming globe cool again!

Greetings!

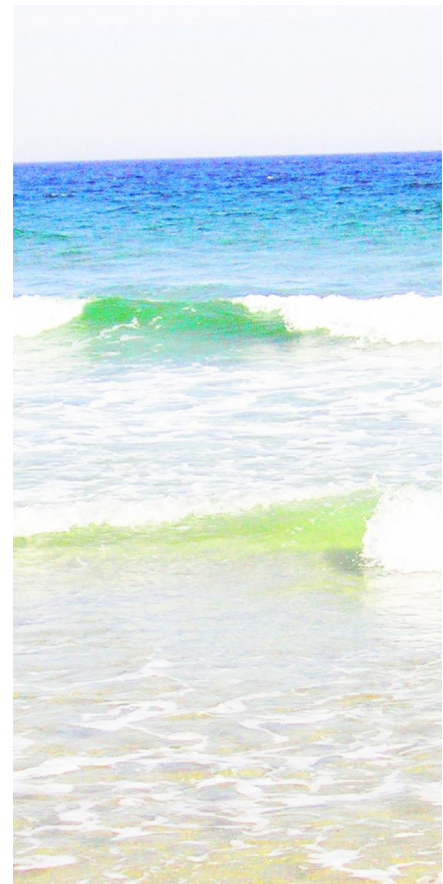
Whew! The summer is almost over, with record fires, heat and mounting climate disarray. Yet even with all the disruption I could write a book about the amazing and wonderful things afoot! Alas, I'll have to limit myself to our usual friendly neighborhood newsletter.

Be assured, however, that there are thousands - millions even - of dedicated and fiercely determined people working day and night to ensure an abundant future for the countless species of living creatures on planet Earth. That includes you, me, and billions of our cousins and their children around the world!

Very best wishes for a glorious fall,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam".

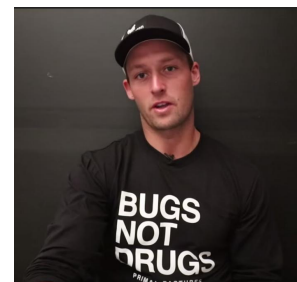
Adam Sacks, Executive Director



Here's one example of personal evolution and land regeneration through farming from an ex-marine who sought a new approach to life.

Primal Pastures

A novice farmer in Southern California, Paul Greive started Primal Pastures with 50 chicks in 2012. Drawing on family, friends and community support, he has grown it into a regional operation offering chicken, lamb, beef and pork All are raised to the highest regenerative standards - meaning the land, the animals and the people grow healthier over the years. As they say on their web page:



Primal Pastures is the outgrowth of 1. A belief that we are experiencing a major food crisis; 2. A sound idea of how to fix it; and 3. A vision of raising the best meat in the world - right n Southern California.

Organic is no longer the gold standard, nowhere near it. Regenerative is the agricultural - and climate - goal! Primal Pastures is doing it - be sure to watch a great intro video [here](#).



And to show that this kind of innovation is happening across the world, here's an example of a regenerative organization that's doing just that . . .

[Trees for the Future](#)

You could tell that Trees for the Future has been around for a long time - 29 years - just by their web address. These days there are so many websites out there where we need to type URLs like *cometoourwebsiteifyoucanrememberit.org*, But trees for the future is simply *trees.org*. How cool is that!

Well, pretty cool, but not nearly as cool as what they do. *Trees* doesn't just teach people to plant trees, they provide a well-tested path to Forest Gardens for self-sufficiency, community well-being - and great food! Watch their [inspiring documentary](#).



Here's how they work:

We identify a group of farmers—typically 300 families at a time—who have both a great

need for assistance and a high likelihood of success. Farmers provide the land, labor, and water; a powerful, entrepreneurial determination; and an inspiring sense of ownership. TREES provides training, mentoring, seeds, and nursery supplies with each family. We guide the large groups of farmers through the process of using trees to protect, diversify, and eventually optimize their crop land. We continue working with farmers for the four years it takes to fully establish the Forest Garden, offering ongoing coaching and regular site visits.

Projects like these are what we need around the world. There are many ways of reclaiming ruined lands and more every day. The power of grassroots work and excellent land stewardship is extraordinary - let's all help it grow!

Determination!



Adam Sacks, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate's Executive Director, has been a climate activist since the turn of the millennium. He spent his first eight years of activism rallying around the cause of emissions reductions, but by around 2007 became discouraged by the lack of progress as atmospheric greenhouse gases kept rising despite our best efforts. He took time

off from climate activism to study anthropology, history, and other areas of science (he had previously studied biological sciences at naturopathic medical school), hoping that there were other ways, more powerful and hopeful.

He began to learn about the eco-restoration perspective on climate, and how life has literally created the blue-green Earth (otherwise it would be dead, like Mars or Venus). In 2013 he and three colleagues, sitting around a kitchen table, founded what was to become Biodiversity for a Livable Climate.

Adam has taken a leadership role in our influential and growing organization. We are making important progress in changing the climate and eco-restoration conversations to emphasize regenerating a cool and abundant world. ***And we can only keep doing this crucial work and pursue our programs with your help!*** A monthly donation of \$100, \$50, \$25, or \$10 will make a big difference.

You can join the growing numbers of people who understand that global warming is more than a greenhouse gas issue, it's about crucial biodiversity and Earth's living systems, ***unique in the known universe.*** Sadly it's unraveling quickly, there's a lot of work to do and not much time. But as the articles in this newsletter illustrate, there are thousands of hopeful possibilities!

*Let's reach for the best that we humans can do. **Become part of this most critically important and extraordinary movement . . .***

Please Donate!

Biodiversity for a Livable Climate presents

Symbiotic Earth

*co-sponsored by the **Encyclopedia of Life***

September 22, 2018 in Cambridge, MA

Speaking of leading a farming revolution, have you consulted the microbes lately?

[*Symbiotic Earth*](#) is a wonderful new documentary about one of the great scientists of the twentieth century - and one you may never have heard of: Lynn Margulis. She added the perspective of the microbial world to the science of evolution, and that changed everything.



Microbes (archaea, bacteria, protocists) invented all the biochemical processes of life long before multicellular creatures appeared on Earth. The microbes, in effect, collaborated to create new "higher" species. Darwin, of course, didn't have access to high-powered microscopes. Lynn added a huge missing piece to our understanding: she showed that evolution is far more about co-operation than competition. For decades she annoyed mainstream biologists no end. She was rewarded with derision and marginalization, but in the end she has prevailed. Darwin would have loved it!

This is the gripping two-and-a-half hour story of an amazing scientist and person, as well as a saga of the practice of science and how paradigms are turned upside-down. Watch the trailer [here](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS (note change of date)! Join us on Saturday, September 22, 2018, 1 to 5 p.m., at the Geological Lecture Hall (Harvard University*), 24 Oxford St. in Cambridge, Massachusetts We will be showing *Symbiotic Earth*, and a panel of scientists who knew Lynn will discuss her extraordinary work. If you'd like to pick up a copy of your own, it's available [here](#).

More information and tickets [here!](#)

*Biodiversity for a Livable Climate is not affiliated with Harvard University, nor is this showing a Harvard University program or activity.

One more new organization, an excellent offering for the world's transition to farming to support *all* of life.

[**Citizens Regeneration Lobby**](#)

From their website:

Citizens Regeneration Lobby (CRL) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit education and grassroots lobbying organization that builds local, state, regional and national support, among citizens and government officials, for local and regional organic regenerative agriculture and policies. CRL promotes the transition to a regenerative food, farming and land-use system as the pathway to revitalizing rural economies and communities, regenerating public health, restoring biodiversity and climate stability, cleaning up the environment, and strengthening local democracies.



Climate, Biodiversity, and Survival: Listening to the Voices of Nature

We've jazzed up the name of our next conference, but the topic is the same fascinating exploration of how smart non-human creatures are. Their choices, their cultures, their thinking, their communications, and how they make their way in the world.



The planning for our November 17-18, 2018 conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, [Climate, Biodiversity, and Survival: Listening to the Voices of Nature](#), is almost done. We have a couple of speakers still to find, but we already have a full roster of people with intriguing stories about our co-creatures on Earth! Check out our [speakers](#) and [program](#)! [Register here.](#)



One of our speakers is a singer, and she's written a song especially for us! Seventeen-year-old **Arielle Martinez Cohen** is also a songwriter, producer, and activist from Los Angeles, CA. She has been working in the music business since she was nine years old, singing back-up vocals for artists such as Macklemore, Imagine Dragons, Frank Ocean, and Foster The People, and appearing on the Jimmy Kimmel Show and Conan O'Brien Show, among others. At 15, she was selected to attend Grammy Camp for Songwriting. In January 2018, her song,

"Two Minutes to Midnight" was used by The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists in their update of the Doomsday Clock, and in March 2018, she sang her song "Why" at the March For Our Lives rally in downtown Los Angeles. This led to interviews on BuzzFeed News and ABC 7 News, which in turn, led to her being selected by Instagram for their #captureconfidence campaign, featuring teen girls who are using their talents to effect positive change. The campaign was launched on Good Morning America with the release of the book *Confidence Code for Girls*. Arielle also sang at the National Die In Day rally in Los Angeles and at the Zero Hour Youth Climate March in Washington DC.

And . . .

Here's another sample from our [Compendium of Scientific and Practical Findings Supporting Eco-](#)

[Restoration to Reverse Global Warming](#). The article below is from [our third issue](#), July 2018, Vol. 2 No. 1 (p. 21):

[Tropical reforestation and climate change: beyond carbon](#) (Locatelli, Bruno, et al., 2015, *Restoration Ecology* 23(4) : 337-343,)

Tropical reforestation (TR) mitigates regional and global climate change, not only by sequestering carbon but also through biophysical cooling (via evapotranspiration), by recycling rainfall regionally, and by reducing pressure on old growth forests.

Furthermore, TR helps local communities adapt to climate change by recharging stream flow in the dry season, reducing the severity of floods, protecting slopes against landslides and, through mangrove reforestation, reducing the impact of coastal storms and waves.

Reforestation also creates livelihood opportunities through the sustainable harvest of forest products, and creates shelter and habitat for species vulnerable to climate change.

[Compendium downloads are free!](#)

Compendium of Scientific and Practical Findings Supporting Eco-Restoration to Address Global Warming

Volume 1, Number 1, July 2017

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Last but not least . . .

Not to put too fine a point on it, we just want to say again that we're a small non-profit doing **BIG** things. We rely on your support to keep us going!

Please be sure to . . .



. . . and a monthly donation is **especially** appreciated . . .

Many thanks!

See what's happening on our social sites

