Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming

June 2019 Newsletter

Dear First Name ,

This month we're taking a moment to appreciate our incredible staff, volunteers, and donors. Without their support, we wouldn't be where we are today. In previous issues, we've introduced some of our volunteers. In this issue, we're giving a big shout-out to one of our donors who is an active supporter. I was delighted to interview Sue Butler, who works in the Lab for Probabilistic Reasoning at Tufts University, and has worked as a psychiatric nurse as well. Read her interview below to find out why she is a big supporter of Bio4Climate!

Be it through individual or collective action, there is much we can do in restoring spaces to healthy, living ecosystems to cool our biosphere. See how you can take action by visiting the Solutions page of our website.

And don't forget to check out and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for your daily dose of good news and inspiration!

For the Health of our Planet,

Manjulika Das, Project Manager

A Wetland Decade: Delaware's Ambitious Coastal Restoration Project

The Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge on Delaware Bay has seen considerable change since the 1980s.

A major portion of the healthy East Coast salt marsh was converted into a freshwater marsh to attract more migratory waterfowl for hunters and birdwatchers. Unfortunately, starting in 2006, the ecosystem became vulnerable to a series of storms that inundated the area with saltwater, killing marsh grasses, riparian forests, farms and fish.

Refuge manager Al Rizzo took on the complex task of recovering the saltwater marsh: a $38 million attempt on 4000 acres. A quarter of Delaware remains wetlands, and the state has plans to conserve and restore them. Rizzo and Bart Wilson, Prime Hook's restoration project manager, have plans to "let nature dictate their course."

“You need to understand what’s broken,” Wilson says. “If you can’t understand that, you can restore it and it will revert right back.”

The results have been encouraging so far with the return of different birds and fish.

Read more here.

A Bee Story: Rescue Mission underway for Local Pollinators in Minnesota

The state is setting aside $900,000 to assist homeowners in creating more pollinator-friendly lawns. Planting wildflowers, clover, and native grasses would allow the state's bee population to recover.

The program specifically targets the rusty patched bumblebee, which is on the brink of extinction.

"The flowers have proved to be an excellent food source for bees while being cheap to plant and maintain", says James Wolfin, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota who researched "bee lawns", yards that grow pollinator-friendly flowers.

Pollinators are extremely important from a climate standpoint as well. The lawns that they pollinate grow into flowering ecosystems that can ultimately draw down and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. This affects various natural cycles that influence the microclimate of a region.

Read more here.

Catch Us at these upcoming Events!

Meet Sue Butler, an enthusiastic Bio4Climate supporter!

Sue has been an active supporter of Biodiversity for a Livable Climate since its inception in 2014: she learned about the organization's ideas and goals even before it officially formed. She found it vitally important to preserve biodiversity for the purpose of environmental and climate stability.

Sue with biochar that she conditioned with compost

"Bio4Climate has had some fantastic conferences that have been fun and thoughtful". One of the conferences she particularly enjoyed was the very first conference, Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming held at Tufts University in 2014. "The diverse panels with ranging viewpoints made for an exciting discussion."

Hugh McLaughlin, an expert in biochar and activated carbon, was also at this conference, and the next summer Bio4Climate organized a biochar demonstration meetup with him. Sue had already used permaculture and regenerative agricultural methods to restore her garden after she dug a geothermal well, and was interested in learning how biochar is made.

"Hugh McLaughlin actually made biochar in a biochar burner. The demonstration was very valuable learning. Very concrete and on-the-ground.

"Meetups are useful", she continues. "When you have one person as the presenter you get to go in depth. Flo Reed from Sustainable Harvest International was fantastic – seeing what they're doing, and their success, is really heartening."

Sue had already been using permaculture practices in her garden, and received her first samples of biochar from Paula Phipps, Associate Director of Bio4Climate. The meetup with Hugh McLaughlin further inspired Sue to speak about biochar.

"I ran into a farmer in upstate New York and we started emailing about biochar and fertilizer. It's important to build friendly company about adopting these changes. We need to be out there where it happens! Having biochar in Cambridge, for instance. Translating it into action in the real world is important."

Sue has recently decided to join a house party fund-raising committee for Bio4Climate, after previously hosting a party for us.

"I know how much Bio4Climate does with so little, and I'm happy to use my house as a resource to facilitate. A party helps with getting you known and building momentum. There's less time in [presentations], more time to schmooze."

Sue isn't new to hosting house parties for non-profits. She has organized house parties for the Sierra Club and Green Cambridge as well.

So, why support Bio4Climate?

"Bio4Climate is intellectually adventurous, curious, and concerned about on-the-ground actions. What are the things that are working? They are looking all over the world to restore environmental stability. This is urgently important, and they have been resourceful in bringing the people who are doing it to Cambridge through conferences, and to the world though their conference videos. These are an incredible asset."

Compendium Notes

Meetup with Laura Stabell

When: 6-9pm, July 28, 2019

Where: Cambridge, MA

Laura is a master gardener, arborist, horticulturist and naturalist whose work has been featured in magazines and on the Garden Conservancy open garden tour.

Details for this meetup TBA - follow our Meetup page to stay updated!

NOFA Summer Conference

When: August 9-11, 2019

Where: Hampshire College, Amherst MA

Nutrition Matters | Soil Health Builds Human Health

Find out more and register here.

Boston Greenfest & TechExpo

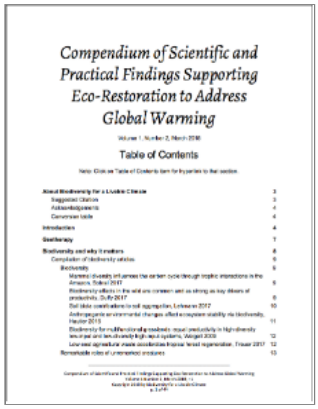
When: August 16-18, 2019

Where: Greenway and Long Wharf, Boston MA

Connecting Land and Sea

This event is free! Find more details here.

Here's another excerpt from our Compendium of Scientific and Practical Findings Supporting Eco-Restoration to Address Global Warming. The article below is from our fourth issue, January 2019, Vol. 2 No. 2 (p. 18):


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

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Regreening the Tigray Region, Ethiopia

More than 224,000 hectares (~554,000 acres) of drylands in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia have been restored after succumbing to devastating cycles of drought and flood. Now, the hillsides are green again, previously dry wells are recharged, and fruit trees grow in the valleys.

In the 1990s, local people started to remedy the problem of severe land degradation by digging small pits and building terraces and bunds (small walls) to capture rainfall and keep it from running off slopes. They also planted millions of tree and bush seedlings. In addition, tree cutting and livestock grazing were banned from degraded lands to allow vegetation to regenerate naturally.

Read more here.

Vidal, John, 2014, Regreening program to restore one sixth of Ethiopia's land: tree and shrub-planting program has transformed degraded and deforested land across Africa, with Ethiopia planning to restore a further 15m hectares by 2030, The Guardian, Oct. 30, 2014.

12th annual BOSTON green FEST & TechExpo

Last but not Least. . .

You're concerned about the current state of the Earth, and we are working for you, our young people, and the diverse web of life we all rely on.

Not to put too fine a point on it, we just want to say that we're a small non-profit doing BIG things.

Your support and involvement are very important! Please be sure to . . .

Donate

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

Many thanks!

Follow us on social media