

... by joining us! [Climate, Biodiversity, and Survival: Listening to the Voices of Nature](#) on November 17-18, 2018.



September - October 2018 Newsletter

Greetings!

I'm guessing that you love many creatures who aren't people, from cats and dogs, to fish, to flowers, to butterflies, to magnificent elephants - maybe even a favorite fungus or bacterium. Sadly, we're all in trouble as the damage to ecosystems worldwide accelerates.

On Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18, we offer an antidote: listening to the wisdom of species across the tree of life. While they don't speak human languages (yet!), they are always sending us messages. Many of those messages advise us how to live so we may all survive - even thrive.

Their human stand-ins, [our wonderful speakers](#), will provide us with two days of messages from our fellow earthlings, in words we can understand, that will help us all not only survive, but thrive.

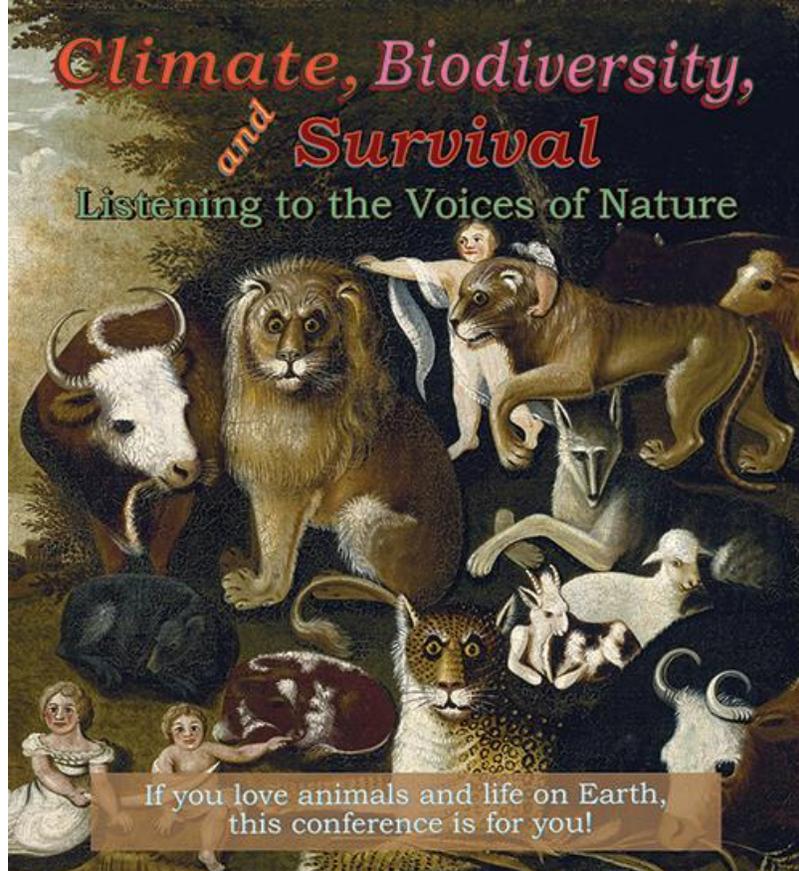
Looking forward to seeing you there, and very best wishes as we journey through the fall,

Adam Sacks, Executive Director



[Biodiversity for a Livable Climate](#) presents

**[Climate, Biodiversity, and Survival:
Listening to the Voices of Nature](#)**



Painting: Edward Hicks, "The Peaceable Kingdom," 1834

Register today!

This year we will be fascinated as we explore how smart non-human creatures are: their choices, their cultures, their thinking, their communications, and how they make their way in the world. And most importantly, what we have to learn from them in a world awash in global warming, extinctions, floods, droughts, burning heat. It doesn't have to be that way! We can still turn it around, and they're sending us countless messages about how to do it.

Sherri Mitchell - A Narrative of Indigenous Wisdom



In mid-October, at an event exploring Paul Hawken's book *Drawdown*, I had the honor of meeting and learning from Native American spiritual teacher, activist and attorney Sherri Mitchell. Among her many insightful points, I found this exchange with the audience particularly enlightening:

She asked if any of us ever felt persistent vague anxiety, whose cause we hadn't been able to identify. Many hands were raised, along with a hum of recognition. She explained that it was our personal pain in response to life unnaturally dying all around us.

For we are all connected in this web of life. As we engage in healing others, we heal ourselves. She tells us on [her website](#) what we know but so easily forget: we're all in this together

Sherri is the author of [Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change](#). From the back cover, "For those seeking change, this book offers a set of cultural values that will preserve our collective survival for future generations." I highly recommend this book.

Pakistan's Ambition to Plant 10 Billion Trees!

We've mentioned [Blessed Unrest](#) a number of times as we discover individuals, small groups and organizations doing amazing regenerative work. Now Pakistan, among other nations, is joining the ranks of the regenerators.

Like us, they recognize two facts at once: We're in a great deal of trouble AND we can collaborate with nature to fix it. That combination inspires both enthusiasm and critical work!



Read more [at the Washington Post](#) . . .

Staff Notes - Welcoming . . .

. . . Jed Katch - Director of Education

Jed says: As far back as I can remember, I have been interested in conservation. At an early age I wanted to keep certain items forever, be they a stuffed bear, a favorite shirt, or a wildflower. The latter was one of my first reminders that everything changes. I was baffled by people who wanted more stuff than they needed. I liked small, cozy houses that felt intimate, and small cars that used less gas and were easy to drive. In addition, I was drawn to simple foods, the fresher the better.



As a teacher, I favor project- and discovery-based learning for students to find meaning in what they learn, especially explorations into the natural world. I intuitively relate to Bio4Climate's explanations of how the biological forces of nature can bring dried, dying soils back to life - without complicated technology. Through the power of eco-restoration, and working with this dedicated and energetic group, I believe I can play a pivotal role in helping youth to reverse environmental collapse, and especially global warming.

The Youth Education and Activism Project

Parents, teachers and educators are increasingly aware of the high anxiety among young people who take a good, hard look at their futures. *The best way to alleviate this anxiety is to get to work.* We need to help them do that. In collaboration with several educators, Bio4Climate is building a way for these budding high-school and college activists to spend full time on urgent planetary rescue - and also receive full academic credit.

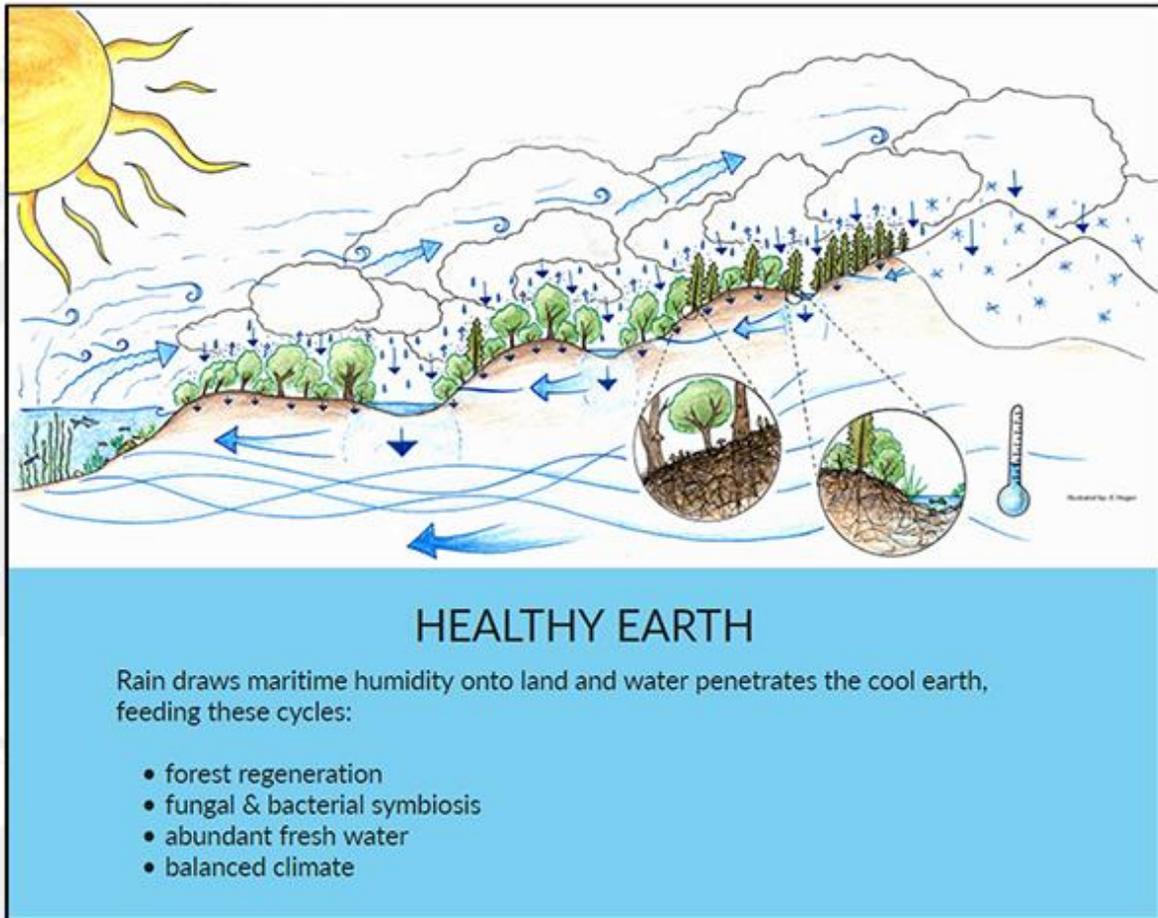
Adam Sacks, Bio4Climate's Executive Director, offered me the position of Director of Education and I eagerly accepted; we are now in the initial phases of program design. (Full disclosure: Adam and I have known each other for over 50 years, having graduated from Goddard College together in 1968.)

Please join us in the [Youth Education and Activism Project](#) (YEA - pronounced "yay") a critically important effort on behalf of the next generation! We value your suggestions for creative ideas, networking, partner organizations or activities that relate to YEA. Please email me: jed.katch@bio4climate.org.

Thanks!

Jed

[Elemental Ecosystems](#), led by permaculturist Zach Weiss, is one of a growing number of young companies that does water restoration projects in the U.S. and abroad. We thought you'd like their illustration below, which captures the rhythms and flow of water, an essential element in addressing global warming. And check out the projects [on their website](#). Thanks, Zach!



Meet one of our speakers, Douglas Zook . . .



. . . who is a lifelong biologist and educator. At UMass Boston he is the Director of the Global Ecology Education Initiative (GEEI), a unique and dynamic enterprise seeking to engage all peoples in the wonders of our natural world. GEEI publishes an excellent periodical twice a year, [Coming Home](#).

Through the GEEI Doug engages students in undergraduate and graduate courses that explore global ecology, and how biodiversity and human diversity are interconnected and must work together for global solutions to our most pressing environmental challenges. In addition to college courses, GEEI offers K-12 educational training for teachers to integrate global ecology into their science teaching. Through "EarthCare," one of GEEI's programs, Zook offers multimedia presentations on Earth-centered ethics and climate change and the symbiosis revolution. Through his work in "solutions ecology" he discovers grassroots partnerships in ecological sustainability by women and diverse cultures worldwide and brings them to wider public awareness.

Doug is also an enthusiastic photographer - [view his reflections](#) through a glass lightly!

Check out our [program](#) and all of our [speakers](#), and . . .

[Register today!](#)

And . . .

Here's another excerpt from our [Compendium of Scientific and Practical Findings Supporting Eco-Restoration to Reverse Global Warming](#). The article below is from [our first issue](#), July 2017, Vol. 1 No. 1 (p. 84):

The Perils of Peer Review

Perhaps peer review is not quite the gold standard we are led to believe. It may well behoove us all, including the scientists among us, to take a careful look at how science works today and how practices may improve. Peer review may be a useful tool, but it may also be a significant obstacle to scientific progress. Peer reviewers are established scientists in a field and tend to be resistant to new ideas and theories.

Richard Smith was editor of the British Medical Journal for thirteen years, and writes incisively and wryly about the peer-review process. He states that peer review is "the method by which grants are allocated, papers published, academics promoted, and Nobel prizes won. Yet it is hard to define. It has until recently been unstudied. And its defects are easier to identify than its attributes. Yet it shows no sign of going away."

Smith continues, and asks, "What is peer review?"

"Who is a peer? Somebody doing exactly the same kind of research (in which case he or she is probably a direct competitor)? Somebody in the same discipline? Somebody who is an expert on methodology? And what is review? Somebody saying 'The paper looks all right to me', which is sadly what peer review sometimes seems to be. Or somebody pouring all over the paper, asking for raw data, repeating analyses, checking all the references, and making detailed suggestions for improvement? Such a review is vanishingly rare. . . .

"Robbie Fox, the great 20th century editor of the Lancet, who was no admirer of peer review, wondered whether anybody would notice if he were to swap the piles marked 'publish' and 'reject'. He also joked that the Lancet had a system of throwing a pile of papers down the stairs and publishing those that reached the bottom. When I was editor of the BMJ [*British Medical Journal*] I was challenged by two of the cleverest researchers in Britain to publish an issue of the journal comprised only of papers that had failed peer review and see if anybody noticed. I wrote back 'How do you know I haven't already done it?'"

Richard Smith, 2006, "Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals,"

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

Volume 1, Number 1, July 2017

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[Compendium downloads](#) are free!

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 involvement and support are very important!

Please be sure to . . .



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

Many thanks!

See what's happening on our social sites

