

Podcast Series: Holistic Nature of Us

Episode #89: A Summary: 9 Organizations that Contributed to Listener Enrichment

www.judithdreyer.com

I am excited to share with you a summary of the many organizations reflected in many of these podcast interviews. Dedicated folks, a part of organizations that seek ways to help with climate change, be a messenger of solutions each in their own way. They inspire and give me hope that when each of us contributes however big or small the step, we make a difference. Join me now for a summary of their mission and their talents. I enjoyed making this summary because each one reminds me that passion, doing what we love, taking a chance, looking outside the box is invigorating and rewarding.

Podcast: Organizations that have contributed interviews

1. Biomimicry Institute: “biomimicry is a practice that learns from and mimics the strategies found in nature to solve human design challenges- and find hope along the way.”
 - a. “Biomimicry offers an empathetic, interconnected understanding of how life works and ultimately, where we fit in. It is a practice that learns from and mimics the strategies used by species alive today. The goal is to create products, processes, and policies — new ways of living — that solve our greatest design challenges sustainably and in solidarity with all life on Earth. We can use Biomimicry to not only learn from Nature’s wisdom but also heal ourselves — and this planet — in the process.”
 - b. Janine Benyus states: “When we look at what is truly sustainable, the only real model that has worked over long periods is the natural world.”
 - c. Solutions that teams create and implement to me are astounding, awesome, and beyond amazing. All gathered from observing Nature

. Here’s an example:

From a team in the Netherlands: CocoPallet has developed a bio-based, bio-degradable export pallet from coconut waste to replace non-sustainable pallets. They have developed a technique to activate the particles between the coconut fibers as a glue, so there is no need for synthetic resins to bind the material. CocoPallets are fully circular, strong, cost-competitive with wooden pallets, and

can be milled and used for agricultural purposes after they are no longer able to be used as pallets. Their design was inspired by the curvature of plant leaf ribs, which give the product more rigidity and strength.cocopallet.com

TheEcoStp team From Bangalore India in 2019, created an ecofriendly approach to sewage treatment, inspired by the four chambers of a cow's stomach. This low-maintenance technology produces energy instead of consuming it, compared to conventional STPs, which use energy-hogging motors, exhaust fans, pumps, and blowers. This design doesn't use chemicals to treat the sewage but instead uses microorganisms, plants, and gravel to treat wastewater. With 93% of sewage untreated in India, the team is developing an economical and ecological solution that treats up to 1 million liters of sewage a day without needing to be connected to a power grid.

I could go on and on about this organization. Sustainable solutions discovered within Nature demonstrates forward thinking, finding solutions to our current problems, but for future generations.

www.biomimicry.org for more information

2. United Plant Savers:

Their mission: "United Plant Savers' mission is to protect native medicinal plants of the United States and Canada and their native habitat while ensuring an abundant renewable supply of medicinal plants for generations to come."

I have been a member of this organization mostly since its beginning. I love that they are seed saving. They have a main sanctuary and teaching center in Ohio. They also encourage and support member designated sanctuaries around the globe. They keep an eye on species decline, and you can access to- watch and at-risk plants summaries free on their website: www.unitedplantsavers.org. They also offer grants.

3. Bionutrient Food Association: I am a relative newcomer to this organization. They are at the forefront of a technology designed tool, the handheld spectrometer, which enables a

food grower to get real-time information about the nutrient density in that food. They support soil growth and soil health.

Their mission: “Our strategy is to use enlightened self-interest to create the reality we want to see. We do not feel that it is necessary to fight the forces that we see as detrimental in the food system but to simply educate, organize and empower those who understand what it is that we are working on. “When the people lead, the leaders will follow.”

“Our first core constituency are growers of food. We understand that economic viability is an issue in the agricultural community, and so educating growers in the logistics of creating healthier soil ecosystems will result in greater yields from healthier plants that will effectively reduce the cost of production.

Our second core constituency are consumers of food. Those who understand the ramifications of higher quality food on their health and the health of those they care about will make pocketbook decisions accordingly. This simple fact contains the essence of how we propose to facilitate the shift in market forces necessary to increase quality in the food supply.

Our third core constituency are purveyors of food. Food is generally a small margin business, and if we can help retailers determine quality before they purchase, they can advertise a superior quality product while also knowing that shelf life will be increased.

With the development of our research project that will illuminate the embarrassing state of the food supply, consumers will have the power to discern food quality before purchase which will give the suppliers of food an incentive to source the best quality available.”

We can make a difference. These folks are igniting a grounded passion for producing high quality, nutrient dense foods that supports all parts of growing food for the home gardener and farmer

www.bionutrient.org

4.Spikenard Farm/ HoneyBee Sanctuary: I had the opportunity a few years ago to visit this sanctuary. I first heard of them in a documentary: Queen of the Sun”. The farm is on the top of a small hill with pastures and flowers. Colors and form, bees all around, but a feeling of peace

pervaded the experience. Gunther Hauk, one of my guests, is a Rudolph Steiner trained and teacher, so the farm runs on biodynamic farming principles. Their focus is on bee preservation, conservation, and education.

Their mission: “Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary was born out of the realization that something had to be done for the honeybees and the Earth to ensure that future generations will witness this marvelous insect, so important to our life and our beautiful planet. The honeybees are much more than pollinators or honey producers. They are part of the complex living organism of the Earth and integral to our development as human beings. Our vision is to inspire in young and old not only interest, joy, and love, but also a new understanding and awareness for the importance of this magnificent, love-imbued, but very vulnerable creature.”

Bees are integral in our food system, a vital species that contribute to our wellbeing and life itself. I admire Gunther Hauk’s efforts to share his wisdom, knowledge, and expertise. If you are looking for a new aspect to study, I highly recommend his classes.

For more Information got to: www.spikenardfarm.org

5. Are you a tree hugger? A lover of walking in the forest on a quiet day, and find yourself in awe of trees?

As I have mentioned a few times, I love trees. Tall and strong, they offer so much to us. Our lifestyles, our logging practices, and weather changes continue to deforest the planet at an alarming rate.

The Arbor Day Foundation offers solutions through a program “Time for Trees” initiative. They have helped communities around the globe, replant millions of trees, and inspired 5 million tree planters to help carry their mission around the world. This program is excellent for families who are working and teaching from home—lots of help and resources for you to get involved in replanting devastated areas. Here in CT, we just got clobbered by storm Isaiah. So many trees were ripped up or knocked down.

You can go to www.timefortrees.org for more information.

6. Mission Monarch: who does not like butterflies? There’s something magical about the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly, a process that captures our imaginations. Butterflies

are universal symbols of transformation. They exist around the world and display all the colors of our rainbows. Not to mention are logo symbols, found in stories and poetry.

Mission statement:” Mission Monarch, being run by the Space for Life Insectarium, is a citizen science program documenting the monarch’s reproductive success. The program is part of an international research and education effort aimed at saving the migratory populations of this endangered species.”

This Canadian organization monitors data, looks at the science, and charts the life cycle based on observations in our landscapes. We can participate, and they make it easy to do so. For those parents homeschooling, this is a great organization to connect with for real-time learning. For grandparents and those with time at home, this organization could offer a new hobby.

You can reach them at www.mission-monarch.org

7. Earth Evolutionaries: Does Nature have rights? Is Nature subordinate to us, or are all species part of a complex web of life? This group formed to reach out through education and example that Nature and us can partner up and create sustainable landscapes vibrant and healing because of that relationship.

Their mission statement says it all:

“Every moment we are touched by Nature and have experiences of Earth, air, fire and water. As the natural forces move in and around us, we express these relationships through our thoughts, feelings and actions. When we live in kinship with Nature, we take up our rightful place as a part of Nature Consciousness and see that Earth and all her beings have an equal right to thrive. In this place of equality, a profound understanding emerges, and we are able to hear the voice of Nature. This voice comes to us through the wind in the trees, the constant babble of a mountain stream, the early morning bird song and the gentle musings that uplift our hearts. Earth Writes brings an inspirational reminder of our kinship with Nature and highlights how we can give voice to the vast web of Nature Consciousness.”

For more information got to: www.natureevolutionaries.com

8. Artists and Climate Change: My interview with Susan Hoffman Fishman, one of the core team members, more than inspired me. She reminded me that no matter what our gifts are on any level, we can contribute something to healing this planet. Science tends to scream at us: look out,

beware, oh no ...fill in the blank, but are we engaging with our emotions? Does it take a hurricane to wipe out a forest and home to wake us up or fires to ravage our neighborhoods only to find out that we built homes among trees that ignite easily? Will that wake us up?

“In 2005, in an article titled “[What the Warming World Needs Now Is Art, Sweet Art](#),” [350.org](#) founder Bill McKibben wrote that although we knew about climate change, we didn’t really *know* about it; it wasn’t part of the culture yet. “Where are the books? The plays? The goddamn operas?” he asked. An intellectual understanding of the scientific facts was not enough – if we wanted to move forward and effect meaningful change, we needed to engage the other side of our brains. We needed to approach the problem with our imagination. And the people best suited to help us do that, he believed, were the artists.”

Artis and Climate Change, an initiative of The Arctic Cycle, has a team of six artists representing four disciplines and three countries.

For more information go to: www.artistsandclimatechange.com

9. Joshua Land Trust: this is CT based land trust with a purpose similar to many land trusts across our country. No matter where you live, look them up. Find out what is going on in your neck of the woods.

Here in CT: The Joshua Land Trust maintains walking trails throughout fourteen towns in two counties in eastern CT. They also maintain two sites of historical significance: The Gurleyville Grist Mill and the Atwood Farm. Many land trusts rely on volunteers. If you are looking to leave your land in trust and happen to live in CT, I recommend you get in touch with them. If not find a land trust in your area. There is also a Land Trust Alliance that could be helpful as well.

Contact: For CT: www.joshuatrust.org or www.landtrustalliance.org

COVID changed our culture’s climate overnight. We continue to grapple with ways to handle our misuse of land, air, water resources that underline climate changes we experience today. These folks who gave of their time to my podcast series: Holistic Nature of Us, enriched our learning. Their dedication and passion seep into their discussions. I hope you will revisit them, go to my website, my YouTube channel, Spotify or iTunes, feel inspired again. Or take on a new hobby, maybe pick one to support in some way.

We love to hear from you and appreciate all comments. Do you have a favorite organization that you feel contributes to solutions? Let us know. Thanks again. Judith