

The Peach Clubhouse Newsletter imagines the minimum requirements for a sustainable, reasonably comfortable and rewarding human lifestyle within our earth ecosystem for our future generations.. Our goal is to learn, evaluate and share the minimum mental and emotional skill set we will need to grow such a lifestyle for the future generations. We must understand:

1. The basic physical requirements for our living earth to be healthy. Because the healthy functions of earth ecosystem give us everything we need to stay alive -- soil, food energy, air, water, shelter.
2. Practical, applied compassion. Because humans require compassion in order to lead reasonably comfortable and rewarding lives ([www://Bare BonesBiology](http://www://BareBonesBiology.com) 080-The Golden Rule).
3. A rule of law that recognizes the different and sometimes conflicting needs of different levels of life on earth-- individual, population, ecosystem -- and strives for the overall most useful solutions.

Factual Biology-Education-Practical Compassion-Rule of Law -| <http://factfictionfancy.wordpress.com>

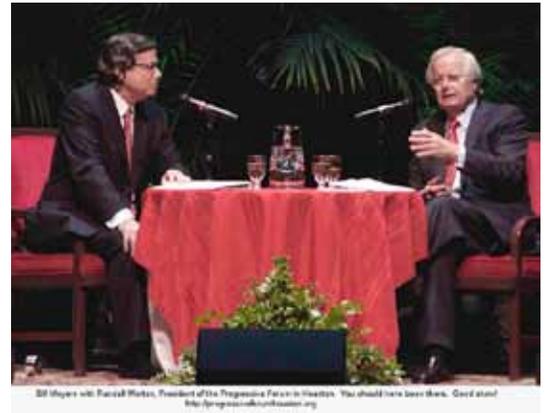
February 2012 - <http://FactFictionFancy.Wordpress.com>

Activities of Interest

Peach Clubhouse Newsletter will skip the March issue. We are going to the [Economics of Happiness](#) conference in Berkeley.

ESL (English as a Second Language) classes are free, Tuesday and Friday at noontime, but will be discontinued at end of April because the instructor will be gone for the summer. However, the space may be available.

Radio Spots – Bare Bones Biology Radio spots may be heard on KEOS FM, 89.1, three times a week. Sunday morning at 6:55 AM, Sunday afternoon at 3 PM, Tuesday evening at 8:55 PM. These may be downloaded free at <http://www.BareBonesBiology.com> or at <http://FactFictionFancy.Wordpress.com>.



February 9, Thursday, 6 pm LECTURE: **CLIMATE REALITY: IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING.** Pappa Rollo's Pizza in Waco, call

February 12 begins classes on **paper marbling**, at the Raindrop House. papermarblingcs@gmail.com

February 23, Thursday, 4-5pm, 215 Animal Industries Building (ANIN) **Texas Water Wars.** Dr. Kirk Winemiller, Regents Professor, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University

March 03 - **Texas State Amnesty International** - Texas A & M University - Zachry Engineering Building College Station, TX 77845 LAdler@aiusa.org, or (404) 492-7269. RSVP Appreciated.

March 25, Saturday morning, **Growing Hope for the Community.** the green festival in the churchyard of St, Andrews, across from The Village in Bryan.

Highlight of the Month

Bill Moyers' Return Engagement on PBS, Moyers and Company, check out his interview with Hacker and Pierson at: <http://billmoyers.com/episode/on-winner-take-all-politics/>

See my commentary on that interview at: <http://FactFictionFancy.wordpress.com/2012/02/02/bill-moyers-still-my-hero/>

See Hacker versus FactFictionFancy at: <http://factfictionfancy.wordpress.com/2012/02/02/>

Unless we change the direction we are heading, we might end up where we are going.

Chinese Proverb

Compassion Corner

Love, it seems obvious, is an instinct that is characteristic of all normal humans. Basically love is the urge to give others what they want or what we want or preferably both. We all like and need love, including other mammals. Babies of humans and other social mammals do not thrive without it, physically, mentally or emotionally. My opinion as a geneticist is that the human urge to help others in need is also an inherited instinct. Humans just naturally respond in this way, and you can call it compassion, but I think compassion is quite a lot more than love and more than the desire to help others. Especially in our complex modern world, compassion also requires thought and careful analysis of the circumstances and an understanding of the natural law of cause and effect. Compassion is the desire to give other people what is best for their welfare, now and in the long term -- whether or not it gives them -- or us -- the soft-fuzzies. Of course that does not exclude love, because love is almost always good for social mammals. Almost. If our social structures are out of balance with the realities of our social needs, or out of balance with the welfare of the ecosystem, then love is not nearly enough, because the natural function of our social structures is to provide security, and the natural function of the ecosystem is to provide clean water and air and food. When the social structure is out of balance -- or we are out of balance with the ecosystem, then compassion requires that we try to understand and correct the imbalance. Our individual love is not enough, and it is our obligation to the welfare of our own well being and that of others that we learn as much as we can about the reality of the biological environment -- and our communal obligations to others, that is basically our rule of law (or not). Otherwise -- we can believe that we are helping others in need, but our beliefs are not enough, if we are unintentionally doing more harm than good.



Fracking News

Bloody noses? Short of breath? Depression? Dizzy spells? Heart problems? Passing out? No more crystal blue skies even on a "beautiful" day? Do you think the person who owns this fracked well has a right to do that to me? Just because it's not on my property? The purpose of a social and legal structure of human communities is to provide the best possible answer. How can human societies provide for the common welfare, even when there is a conflict between our common welfare and whatever I want (I want to not be driven from my home of 30 years) and what he wants, the owner of the neighboring property. He has been here for a lot more than 30 years. He wants money, but he provides hay to the community and beef to other farmers -- he brings food from the good earth. He doesn't need to destroy my health or force me out of the community in order to get money. And what the gas company wants - without doubt -- is money and without regard to my welfare, or the welfare of the entire ecosystem that is required to grow hay. I have a movie of the oil company discarding the fracking fluid into our watershed, I suppose because that gets HIM a lot more money. And some guy in a red pickup (license number)

threatened me for making movies on our public road. That's not community welfare. We do need energy. So let's do what we already know how to do and get what we need without destroying the clean air, clean water, and good living earth that grows our food. The oil and gas company wants our money, but it contributes nothing of long-term value. Because, whenever we run out of oil and gas we will be out -- no recourse -- and what would be truly good for me and the neighbor and the community would be to face that fact and figure out what to do about it now before we destroy yet more of our clean air, good soil to grow grass and food, clean water. This is a case for practical compassion. Doing what's best for the community now and in the future. That's what normal humans are genetically programmed to want for us all. But we have to work at it to get it.

Food

Last Wednesday, Allise and her guests, on KEOS, Rethinking Green, briefly discussed genetically modified foods. This newsletter is pro-food, and we aren't as fussy as some people, though we do prefer that our food not be treated with poisonous substances such as pesticides and herbicides. The basic function of food is to provide the energy for the entire living system to stay alive. Without food, there would be no us, and contrary to some opinions, food does not come from any part of the corposystem. Food is made of living cells, and living cells grow in the living earth (or they eat something that grows in the living earth) and those growing things are our only source of energy for staying alive. Indeed the corposystem is working hard to create life -- has been for several decades -- but I if I had a family I would not be holding my breathe waiting for Big Brother to succeed. I would be feeding the family with -- food -- food energy comes from photosynthesis in plants and other green living things. That's it. The silly talk about unlimited sun energy is silly talk. We can't eat the sun energy, our limiting factor is the health of the green growing earth. I have not talked about food before because of lack of space, but of course it is the most important topic of all. I mean, who cares about oil well energy for our cars if we don't have food? (Hint: that's why the corposystem wants us to keep fussing about oil and gas while they are destroying the good rich green earth. Energy for ten years they say. We don't have to do anything at all because they have found enough energy for ten more years. Talk about silly talk, that's just when your son will be looking for a job, isn't it, And then what? Better to at least try to fix it now, because Big Brother isn't even trying any nondestructive solutions.

But, oh, I said I was going to talk about food this time, and I think I will put in an extra page here so I can make three points a little more clear. First. All our food comes from plants -- actually from photosynthesis that happens in plants and other green organisms, like algae for example. That is also where our oxygen comes from in the air, because it is released in the process of making the food. Remember food is cells that we eat. Plants and algae and all living things are made of cells. We eat the plants (or our cows eat the plants and convert plant cell materials into cow cell materials). Plants and animals are made of cells. Cells are made of proteins, carbohydrates, lipids and some other molecules. The cells make these molecules by joining together carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen in various combinations. Making molecules, to make cells with, is work and work requires energy. Energy is the ability to do work. The energy to do the work of making cells comes from photosynthesis in green living organisms such as plants and algae. The energy to do photosynthesis comes from the sun, but only the green living things can do photosynthesis. (I know, the corposystem keeps trying, but photosynthesis is an emergent property, not just a simple little biochemical reaction. It's a whole system of sub-systems of biochemical reactions that requires a cell to do it in.) That's how life functions, systems of systems.

To stay alive, animal cells (that's our cells) break down the lettuce cells, chop up the lettuce proteins, carbohydrates, into their subunits, and put them back together in the form of human proteins, carbohydrates and other molecules that cells are made of. That is work, and so it requires energy. Plant cells can get energy from the sun, we can not. The energy to do the work of making animal cells comes from breaking down the plant cells. When the plant cells are making molecules, they are using energy from light to *make* the molecules. The plants convert the light energy into chemical energy and that chemical energy becomes part of the molecules. When we eat the plants, and break down the plant molecules into their subunits, we release the energy in a way that our cells can use it to keep our bodies alive. Whole books are written about it. Photosynthesis converts light energy into chemical energy that is stored in the cells of our food.

Chemical energy that is stored in the cells of plants and other photosynthetic organisms is the *only* source of energy for people to stay alive. We could live without cars and trains and all that, but we can not live without food, and all food for humans comes from the green growing earth. That's point one. Point two on next page.

Alberta Tar Sands -http://www.garthlenz.com/#/touring-exhibit--%14tar-nation/tar_sands_ex_-37

Please go to the web site of the photographer, GarthLenz.com, and click on his touring exhibit, Tar Nation. Don't forget to click on the captions. For example this one. "To date, 4500 square kilometers have been directly impacted by the mines. Alberta Energy has reported that the landscape being industrialized by rapid tar sands development could easily accommodate one Florida, two New Brunswicks, four Vancouvers and four Vancouver Islands."

Please then think about it this way. Which is more important to life, a permanent source of food energy (produced and maintained by living organisms -- look at the entire exhibit and you will see what they are tearing out) or a one-time source of energy for machines that will destroy productivity of such a large area? Which is more important, your car or your grandchildren's children? And you probably want to read the article at http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/eij/article/crude_conundrum/



Food (continued)

Point number two about food is that the productivity of the green growing earth, and also its basic health, can be evaluated in a general way in terms of biodiversity. You can think of biodiversity as the number of different kinds of organisms that are living in the same area, all doing the work of keeping that area alive. Just as the various kinds of cells keep you alive and healthy, so also the various kinds of organisms keep the ecosystem alive and healthy. Breathing in and out (making the air and the climate) and recycling water and all the other things that cycle. Just like any individual living organism, the earth requires many different processes to stay alive, and all these processes are balanced and interact with each other to maintain the natural “body” of the earth. You have lungs to bring the air in so your body can use the oxygen to help burn carbohydrates to release the energy from your food. Then you breathe out carbon dioxide. The plants require the carbon dioxide to do the process of photosynthesis and then they breathe out oxygen. We all get the oxygen and the carbon dioxide from the air. Life MAKES the air. In your body, the oxygen and carbon dioxide circulate in your lungs. In the whole earth, the oxygen and carbon dioxide circulate in the air. In your body, water circulates. In the whole earth water circulates and helps to make the weather.. In your body, chemical energy is used up doing work. In the whole earth, chemical energy is used up doing work. In the whole earth the chemical energy is generated by the process of photosynthesis. In your body the chemical energy is already there in your food because of the normal cycles of the earth. There are millions of cycles -- made of processes -- going on all the time, and all these cycles interact with the whole living earth. Just like all your cells are doing things all the time so that you may live. Every different kind of cell contributes to the healthy balance of your body. Every living organism on earth contributes to the balance of the life of the earth, and whenever something changes the life and climate of the earth, then the whole earth must change enough to rebalance itself to keep all the life cycles in balance.



The whole living earth consists of cycles of cycles of cycles. Cycles inside of cycles and cycles interacting with other cycles, and they all flow the energy from photosynthesis into life. And they all have evolved together over incredible lengths of time to be all in a dynamic balance with each other. Dynamic balance means if there is a change in one cycle, then all the other interacting cycles need to also change so the whole thing can continue to function. The ability to do this is known as resilience. Anyone who tells you he can control this behemoth -- well, let's say he has an ego problem. Nobody *knows* what are all the cycles. We do know there are fail-safes in the cycles, so that the earth can maintain a balance, but, honestly, we don't know how it all works except in theory. It's a little bit like you or I were in the cabin of a jet liner looking at all those different dials. We probably wouldn't want to mess with the dials until we knew a little bit more about how they work to keep the plane aloft.

Right now we have a food energy problem on this whole earth (earth-policy.org/, PCI.org/). Our problem is a shortage of food energy for ourselves and other species that is causing an unprecedented reduction in the earth's biodiversity. The solution to that problem is not to just jump in and start flipping switches, pretending we are powerful enough to change the way the ecosystem functions. The solution is to reduce the population in the most compassionate way possible, preferably not by starving or killing, to the point where the earth can recover her balance and produce enough food, clean air and water for the people and all the other organisms that keep the earth in glowing green health. Instead we are killing off other species (and each other) by the hundreds and thousands, without even knowing what they are and what they do to keep space-ship earth alive. Apparently this is because the corposystem can make money using this approach, but in fact it can't solve the problem, but only make worse problems.

Point number three is about monoculture - and this point was made brilliantly by a scientist, Dr. Martha Crouch, who published cutting edge research that was then used by Monsanto as part of their genetic engineering of crops. More than 20 years ago The Plant Cell published her paper “Debating the Responsibilities of Plant Scientists in the Decade of the Environment.” I'll post the paper on the lower right of my blog, <http://www.FactFictionFancy.wordpress.com>. Monoculture takes several forms. First is the killing off of other species, wiping out entire ecosystems that consist of many different kinds of animals and plants, so that we can plant food crops. Next, we learned to make “hybrid” plants and animals and more recently we have learned to clone both plants and animals. Hybrids (like hybrid corn for example) and clones are genetically identical groups of organisms that are selected for predictable characteristics, for example high milk production. Then we learned to do “genetic engineering,” and the corposystem took control of both the engineering and the farmers. The problem with all these methods is that they reduce the resilience of the earth ecosystem by reducing the numbers of species and the variability within species. The even worse problem, short term, with the crops as we have engineered them, is that they require heavier and heavier applications of poisons -- both insect poisons and weed poisons. These poisons are not good for us, but even more importantly they kill millions of organism that enrich our soils, thus killing off the millions of organisms that make up rich, productive soil. There's more to say about GM foods, next time.



Recommended References (*RR)



Powers of the Weak - http://www.amazon.com/Powers-Weak-Elizabeth-Janeway/dp/0394406966/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1325785263&sr=1-1

Pine Island Paradox - http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_0_12?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=pine+island+paradox&srefix=Pine+Island+

Earth Island Journal - <http://www.earthisland.org/journal>

Postcarbon Reader - <http://www.pci.org>, my favorite resource for sustainable living

Bare Bones Ecology Energy Handbook - <http://www.factfictionfancy.wordpress.com>

Linked the New Science of Networks, by Albert-Laszlo Barabasi

Beyond Religion: Ethics for a Whole World, by H.H. The Dalai Lama

Web Sites

www.youtube.com/watch?v=USQkUbmJ-RM

<http://transitionculture.org/2011/07/07/resilient-to-what-a-fascinating-new-look-at-risk/>

<http://www.democracymatters.org/>

<http://www.celdf.org> Democracy School

<http://www.DemocracyNow.org/>

<http://www.thepeacealliance.org/>

<http://www.upaya.org/>

gpsy@populationinstitute.org

[http://www.earth-policy.org./](http://www.earth-policy.org/)

Excellent essays and podcasts on the subject of education - <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/>

TheWildlifeCenter.org (near Santa Fe, NM) - <http://www.thewildlifecenter.org>

Our Tentacles

Benecia - We're getting ramped up to hold a series of four symposia on Energy as it relates to Benecia and our Climate Action Plan. I'll be filming and putting the video on my youtube channel: youtube.com/cmbeutel. The symposia will run the first thursday of Feb, Mar, Apr and May and we are hoping to draw top ranked people to talk to the issues.
Constance Beutel

Friends of Peace - in Waco - <http://friendsofpeace.org>

Many of you are aware that Professor Marc Ellis, who spoke to the Friends of Peace a few months ago, is under attack by Baylor University. The Friends of Peace also stands ready to do a protest at Baylor should Professor Ellis request us to do so. <http://www.change.org/petitions/ken-starr-president-of-baylor-university-stop-persecution-against-prof-marc-ellis>

The Gulen movement was begun in Turkey by Fethullah Gülen. "He came to believe that education, in science especially, could equalize the disparity of poverty, that love and respect for humanity and the natural world could lead to peace; that people of different faiths, or no faith, could be friends, and that service to less fortunate people could help people live their best lives." Institute of Interfaith Dialogue

LinksRule of Law

<http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/docs/common/opinions/200802/05-1097a.pdf>

<http://www.environmenttexas.org/newsroom/clean-air-news/clean-air-news/president-obama--epa-protect-public-health--announce-landmark-mercury-standard-for-power-plants>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/apr/10/bolivia-enshrines-natural-worlds-rights> Bolivia enshrines natural world's rights with equal status for Mother Earth

http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175485/tomgram%3A_bill_mckibben%2C_buying_congress_in_2012/#more

Citizens United - <http://freespeechforpeople.org/node/292>

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2012/02/stephen_colbert_is_winning_the_war_against_the_supreme_court_and_citizens_united_.single.html

Corporations versus Democracy, 2004, http://store.bioneers.org/product_p/2004-linzey.htm?1=1&CartID=0

Turning Defense into Offense, 2006, <http://store.bioneers.org/SearchResults.asp?Search=2006>

"With Linzey's help, 78 municipal governments across Pennsylvania have written laws that ban corporations from environmentally destructive agribusiness such as industrial hog farming and sewage-sludge spreading. Corporations in turn have had to sue to assert their "rights" – setting up court battles framed in favor of local communities seeking to protect their way of life and rights of self-governance. A key piece of the Democracy School curriculum is retraining activists to see that the traditional avenues of fighting corporations e.g. the state and federal regulatory arena exist primarily to permit corporate harms. "The only things these laws regulate are workers and environmentalists. And they enable and empower the corporations," said Grossman."

Paul Cienfuegos_ Challenge Corporate Power! Save the World!.mp3

Citizens United - <http://freespeechforpeople.org/node/292>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/04/citizens-united-montana-supreme-court-corporate-spending_n_1182168.htm

Biology

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/shock-as-retreat-of-arctic-sea-ice-releases-deadly-green-house-gas-6276134.html>

The biological riches of Ecuador's Yasuní national park - guardian.co.uk, 30 Dec 2011G

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/dec/30/ecuador-paid-rainforest-oil-alliance>

Climate

2011-01_EWG_Bulletin_4_E.pdf

A Buddhist View on Climate Change.doc

Global Warming-Tomgram - http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175468/tomgram%3A_bill_mckibben%2C_puncturing_the_pipeline/#more

Population

What a population of 7 billion people means for the planet - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/18/population--biollion-planet>.

Ethics

<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/394777/august-16-2011/colbert-super-pac---frank-luntz-commits-to-the-pac>

<http://moralground.com/>

Spring Creek Project - [Http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu](http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu) The Blue River Declaration: Ethics for a Changing Planet - download the pdf and paste it on your wall.

Compassion

"In today's materialist world there is a trend of people becoming slaves to money, as though they are parts of a huge money-making machine. This does nothing for human dignity, freedom and genuine well-being." HH The Dalai Lama. Beyond Religion, Ethics for the Whole World. (And it unbalances the ecosystem because of taking out and not putting in).

Fracking

Shale-Shocked - http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175492/tomgram%3A_ellen_cantarow%2C_an_environmental_occupy_fracks_corporate_america/#more

Democracy Now - dn2011-1104-1

<http://www.nyrp-uc.org/?p=1026>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gary-wockner/colorado-fracking-rules_b_1176922.html?ref=email_share

Occupy Fracking - http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175492/tomgram%3A_ellen_cantarow%2C_an_environmental_occupy_fracks_corporate_america/#more

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/23/opinion/sunday/fracking-on-my-land.html?r=1&pagewanted=all>

EPA plan to study effects of fracking on drinking water - study has been done and reported to Congress. Effects were found. hf_study_plan_110211_final_508.pdf

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2011/12/28-10>

<http://www.care2.com/causes/ohio-earthquakes-may-be-linked-to-fracking.html>

Brazos Valley Community-Based Web Sites

Brazos Insight Meditation Group (www.BIMS.org) holds a half-hour sit, followed by discussion of a general nature, every Wednesday at noontime at the Unitarian Church in College Station, Friday at 3 pm at the Peach Clubhouse.

Brazos Buddhist Association (www.BBA.org) practises Tibetan Buddhism on Sunday and Monday at the Unitarian Church in College Station.

Unity Church of the Brazos Valley | 4016 Stillmeadow Drive, Bryan ... <http://www.unitybv.org/>

St. Andrews Episcopal Church <http://www.standrewsbcs.org>

Institute of Interfaith Dialogue- collegestation@interfaithdialog.org

Brazos Locavores' mission is to connect local eaters with local producers in the Brazos Valley, <http://brazosgrows.org/brazos-locavores/>

Brazos Valley Farmer's Market - Saturday morning. Located on the corner of Texas Ave. and William J. Bryan Pkwy in Bryan, Across from the Brazos County Court House. <http://www.brazosvalleyfarmersmarket.com/locations/>

Students organic farm, open to everyone – Howdy! Farm at TAMU - http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=427169369603

Students' ecology seminars - http://biodiversity.tamu.edu/ABS_seminar_videos.html

Brazos Natural Foods - www.brazosnaturalfoods.com

Brazos Valley African-American Museum - <http://www.bvaam.org/>



And FYI the PeachClubhouse.org is now undergowing some growing pains that will involve leasing (long-term, reasonable) a 13-acre property in a nice location of Bryan, TX, if someone wants to take good care of it and grow a sustainable farm on the property. The possibility also exists of renting, with room for horses, dogs.

Contact MLLamoreux@hotmail.com