

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of North American Friends (Quakers) and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.

BEFRIENDING CREATION

Allen J. McGrew

Answering the Fire by Sowing SEEDS:

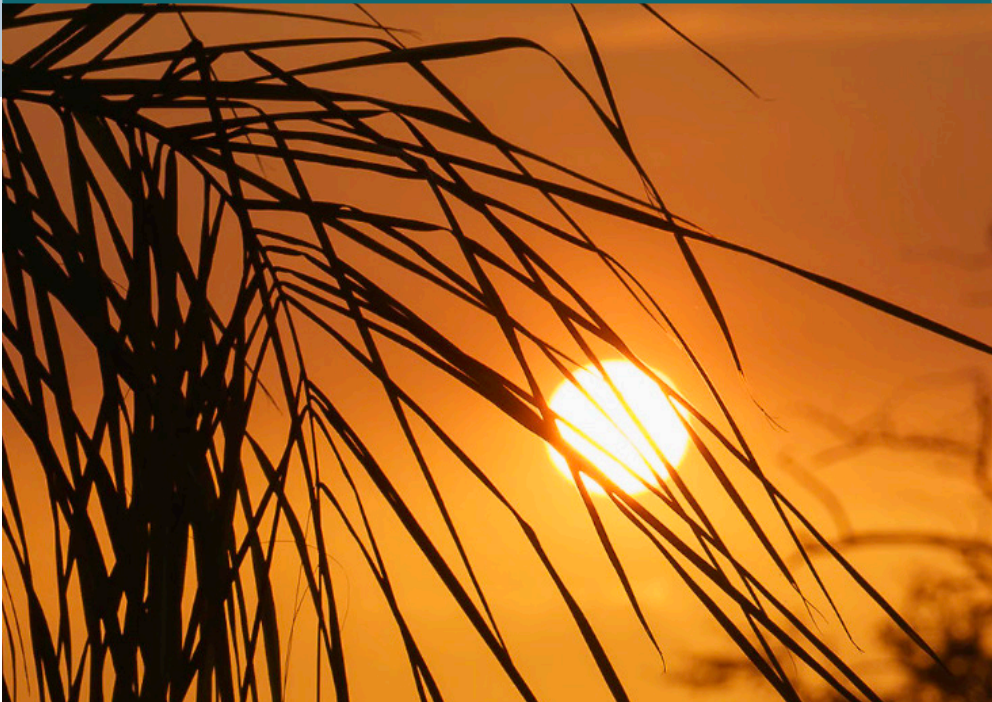
Announcing QEW's New SEEDS Grants Program

“Hey, Al,” came the call from the other side of the prairie. “Come on over here and give me a hand.” It was my friend Dave Nolin, who, as a young hire at Dayton area Metroparks and an M.S. student at Wright State University, had had a vision of Huffman Prairie restored to its once pristine beauty. Huffman Prairie is best known as the site of the Wright Brothers’ pioneering advances in aviation after their initial flight at Kitty Hawk, but the Wright Brothers had been introduced to it as a botanical gem by Orville’s high school botany teacher.

Unlike many of us, Dave’s vision (like the Wrights’ before him) did not stop with the dreaming. He did the work.

Now retired (but only in name), Dave put in a lifetime of work leading restoration projects not only at Huffman Prairie, but throughout Ohio’s Miami River Valley. And on this day, while I was out birdwatching, he was calling me to join him in continuing that work, too. Each fall, he invites a community of eager Dayton-area restorationists to collect seed with him from the best-restored areas of the prairie to spread them in adjoining, less densely flowered areas. It was spring now. The

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - VOL. 39 #02
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THE FIRES THAT RENEW

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Image Above: Photo by Kathy Barnhart

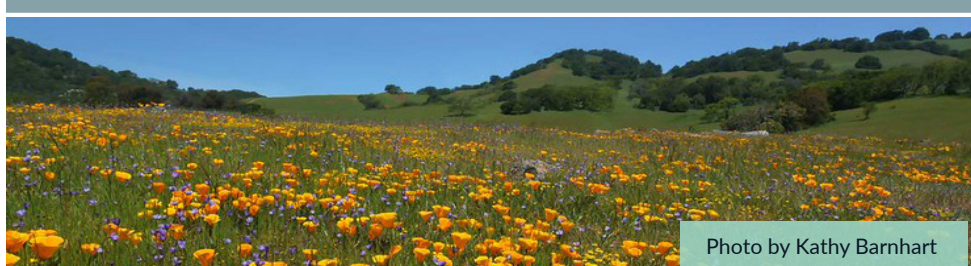


Photo by Kathy Barnhart

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Friends,

My name is Olivia Gray, and I am thrilled to be joining the QEW team as the new Media & Publications Coordinator and excited to share my first issue of *BeFriending Creation* as editor. Our small staff team has been a joy to work with thus far, and a wonderful support in bringing this edition to fruition.



Growing up in a developed, bustling corner of New York, discovering the solace of nature as a young adult felt like coming home and a big exhale. I went on to get a degree in Environmental Studies at SUNY Binghamton soon after. I continued to pursue my passion for the outdoors during my AmeriCorps terms dedicated to sustainability projects, where I witnessed the potential of local communities and grass-roots action to care for the Earth and one another. What drew me to Quaker Earthcare Witness is the shared belief that the most effective environmental work does not stop at data and policy; it invites people into a different relationship with the living world. I am excited and eager to channel both my environmental expertise and spiritual reverence for nature into this new role.

I hope that in the midst of these chaotic and destructive times, *BeFriending Creation* and the greater Quaker Earthcare Witness efforts can be a source of solidarity, so you know you are not alone in your grief or conviction for a better, more connected world. Just as our theme of this issue is "The Fires that Renew", I hope these stories of action, resistance, and spiritual revelation stoke the fire of your spirit, and remind you that deep transformative change is possible through even the smallest of actions.

I want to thank Keith, Sofia, our Steering Committee, and the many others who have contributed to the work QEW has done since our inception in 1987. We are the primary Quaker voice addressing the issues of Earthcare; please consider helping to build a robust, creative, impactful network of Friends taking action to care for each other and the planet. You can do this by getting more involved or donating to support our efforts at QuakerEarthcare.org.

Olivia Gray

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Our Vision & Witness

WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God.

WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity.

WE PROMOTE these truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth.

BeFriending Creation

We publish *BeFriending Creation* to promote the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness, stimulate discussion and action, share insights, practical ideas, news of our actions, and encourage a sense of community and spiritual connection with all Creation.

Opinions expressed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of Quaker Earthcare Witness, or of the Religious Society of Friends. The editor is responsible for unsigned items. Please share our work widely and broadly, always attributing it to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Donate at QuakerEarthcare.org.

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prairie had already begun to bounce back from a controlled burn that had left it blackened just a couple months before. Now it was time to cast seed.

Fire does not merely destroy. It can also renew. It can reset ecosystems as part of a natural cycle of rebirth. But we, too, must do our part in that work. In the words of Isaac Pennington, we must “sink down to the seed” and come to understand ourselves as seeds in the vital work of building a community dedicated to renewal.

For the past year, the QEW Mini-Grants program has been working to frame a new vision for our grants programming—one that calls on YOU to participate in the vital work of renewing the Earth. This new grant program is called SEEDS, short for Sustainable and Equitable Earthcare Dreams and Solutions. But SEEDS is more metaphor than acronym: seeds have deep resonance in Judeo-Christian scripture, Quaker faith, and the living testimony of the natural world. Tiny packages of dense wisdom and stored energy protected by robust shells, seeds embody faith, hope, persistence, and endurance through times of great stress, such as fire, winter, or drought. We live in such times. Earth is burning.

With their tiny size and their down-sinking into soil, seeds also embody humility, silent waiting, and patient confidence in an eventual bursting sunward, rooted in the discovery within the Earth itself of the nutrients and water needed to sustain a season of new growth. Finally, in their small forms, seeds embed the dense instruction necessary to build a sprawling plant, as in the parable of the mustard seed. All these conditions are needed to redeem the human relationship with Earth, and to ground it in healthy mutualistic abundance.

SEEDS is a call not merely to conduct local Earthcare projects, but to leverage the new Quaker Earth Action Map in order to convene an international community of Quakers from all backgrounds and socioeconomic conditions to join in weaving their work together into a global Quaker response to the ever-growing Earthcare crises of climate change and biodiversity collapse. It is a call to Right Relationship – with each other and with the entirety of the living world.

See your Earthcare vision flower. Huffman Prairie on July 14, less than three months after the previous photo showing Al casting seed. Photo credit Al McGrew.



Al McGrew spreading collected seed at Huffman Prairie

There are many ways that you can participate. SEEDS will need far more than just applicants with wonderful local Earthcare ideas. We will need translators and mentors to help support applications from Frontline communities where Quakers work around the world, from Burundi to Alaska and Bolivia to Indonesia. We will need reviewers for proposals in each of our five main focus areas:

- Re-weaving the Web of Life.
- Fostering Climate Healing.
- Building Healthy and Resilient Communities.
- Education and Outreach for Environmental Transformation.
- Healthy Families and Human Population.

- And we will need Right Relationship Partners eager to support each other in sharing wisdom gained in the work.

To learn more about the new SEEDS grant program and how you can apply or otherwise help support it, you should soon be able to find a full description of the program and application guidelines on the Mini-Grants page of the QEW website.



Dear Friends,

The era that we are living through on Earth is both tremendously remarkable and challenging, and I believe we as people of faith are called together in these times to be a voice for the living world, to advocate for Earth justice and steward a future of environmental sustainability so that all of Creation can thrive in this world.

In my time working at QEW, I have been continuously inspired by the tenacity, wisdom, and reverence that our supporters and volunteers pour into their Earthcare. In the last year, we have hosted more than 20 events and programs, both in-person and online, that have allowed us to deepen our Spirit-led action and grow our Earthcare community.

This work cannot be done without you. Through both your on the ground support and financial contributions, you move our work forward. Our reserves are running a little low this year, as we've launched several new programs and campaigns, can you donate today to help us continue our advocacy?

Thank you for your generosity and care, it is an honor to do this work with you.



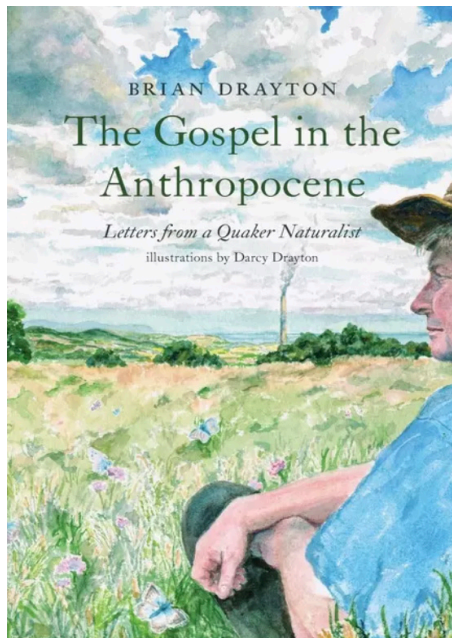
In kindness,

Sofia Di Pietro
Operations & Engagement
Coordinator

DONATE by sending a check to **236 W East Ave, Suite A #307, Chico, CA 95926** or at QuakerEarthcare.org/Donate

Ruah Swennerfelt

Book review: *The Gospel in the Anthropocene: Letters from a Quaker Naturalist*



Whether you are Christian or not, and whether you are biblically centered or not, I highly recommend Brian's beautiful book because you will learn and grow from reading it. But don't rush through it. Savor it, dip into it, and feel refreshed.

It is a collection of letters to an unknown person about the relevance of the Gospel in a new era of Earth's history—the Anthropocene—where natural processes are increasingly dominated by human activities, technologies, perspectives, and values. Each letter is followed by meditations that allow the reader to settle into the teachings

from the letters. It's beautifully written and illustrated by Brian's wife, Darcy Drayton.

He writes:

I am speaking as a Christian to other Christians, not to make barriers against those of other faiths or none, but to help individual Christians see that the challenges of the Anthropocene require us to live up to the gospel of love we profess to follow.

I've known Brian for many years and was drawn to him partly because of his wisdom, but most of all because of his deep relationship with the land that he and Darcy homesteaded. So I'm not surprised that his writings about the natural world we live in are filled with so many crises. Each letter is a teaching that is gentle, honest, and provocative. While reading these letters each morning, I was transported to a deeper place where I felt strong bonds to the whole living world.

The book has three parts—"The Worshipped and the Worshipper," "Spiritual Formation," "Reverence and Gospel Order," and "The Lamb's War—Worship, Praxis, and Proclamation for a Time of Climate Crisis." As examples, the meditation titles include: "The Great, Slow Gestures of Trees," "Lady Slippers' Orchid," and "Raven Plays on the Wind." They reflect Brian's understanding and deep reverence for the natural world, not as something "out there" but as something within and kindred.

With training in plant conservation biology, Brian has concentrated his research on science pedagogy, climate-change education, and learning and discourse in educational communities of practice. He is a member of Wellesley Monthly Meeting, and a recorded minister in New England Yearly Meeting.

Pamela Haines

The Gift of Showing Up

It was a rich and wonderful experience, and nothing about it was easy.

Building on dual passions, for urban agriculture and for connections across barriers that divide us, I joined the board of a local urban farming project years ago. The farm, then a white-led initiative in a black neighborhood, was full of everything that is right and everything that is wrong in our society. It was a rich and wonderful experience, and nothing about it was easy.

As we struggled with the problems of any small non-profit, with scarcity on all fronts, we also found ourselves dealing with gut-wrenching staff issues centered around gender and race, all within the context of an unfulfilled vision of local leadership, and ever-present second-guessing about the appropriateness of white people like me being involved at all.

I had to look hard at the ugliness of racism as it affected all of us in so many ways. Several years in, I found myself leading the board because no one else would, and we all knew I could. I felt the weight of the farm's survival heavy on my shoulders as I tried to nurture new board members and staff of color, follow the leadership that was there, and hold everything together in the face of unrelenting challenges.

Our commitment to grounding the farm back in its neighborhood led to a shared decision not to make a new administrative hire until we could hire locally,



Photo from Mill Creek Urban Farm Gallery, at www.millcreekurbanfarm.org

which led to more work for our one farmer, a greater burden on the few remaining board members, and an increasingly stressed context for both program work and fundraising.

We did amazingly well under the circumstances, made good decisions, survived, and I've never regretted the choice to put so much time and energy into nurturing this jewel of an urban farm. I loved being around all the people who love it, and have known it to be a gift in my life. One fellow board member, who clearly valued me but didn't reassure or comfort my whiteness, shone a light on parts of me that might otherwise have gone unexamined. It would have been so much easier if I'd looked away and settled for smaller challenges!

After a string of very hard years, there was a turnaround—with new local board members of

color, some very successful grant-writing, and a vision on the part of our new board leader to transform to a cooperative model. That first newly-expanded and energized board meeting brought more unexpected emotional work for me. Now, rather than feeling overwhelmed by just trying to keep the farm afloat, I was overwhelmed by feelings that I was no longer needed—clearly the wrong color, in the wrong place.

I fought my way, slowly and painfully, to the perspective that it was not my job to act preemptively on the assumption that I wasn't welcome, even if I'm white, even if it would feel easier to give up and disappear. It wasn't mine to make assumptions about how others perceived me. That was their job. My job was to keep showing up as fully as I knew how, despite my feelings, and to let others take the lead in working out the racial composition of

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Tom Small

VIRIDITAS

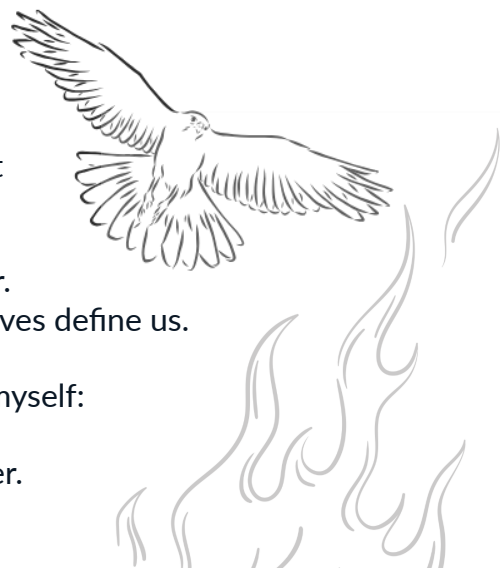
Stories around the campfire?
No. Let's tell stories about the fire,
stories that tell us who we are.
Should we begin with Prometheus,
learn about heroic trickery,
his daring and defiance, stealing
Olympic fire from oppressive gods?
No. We've had enough of superheroes.

Let's begin with poor Pandora,
very first woman on earth,
created to plague all humankind
with countless evils, resulting
from female disobedience.

But let's go back beyond
Judeo-Christian, Greco-Roman
overlay, Pandora's box by way of
patriarchal mistranslation,
helping to establish masculine
dominion over unruly, uppity
sexually overactive women.

Let's resurrect the older story,
the story of Pandora sprouting
from earth, her head and shoulders
first, mortal woman and goddess
Earth herself, bearing not a box
but Gaia's pithos, brimming over
with "all the gifts" from all the gods
and goddesses, all earthly blessings
for humankind and all creation,
especially fertility and fire,
not the Promethean version,
domesticated for the hearth,
no, this the greening life force
of sun, full moon, the stars,
envisioned by Hildegard of Bingen,
green fire, viriditas,
ignis Spiritus paracliti,
"the flame above the beauty of the fields,"
fire that drives the blossom from the bud,
drives the tree root deep down earth,
pulses all creation toward healing,
wholeness, all verdancy and greenness.

Unbind your very own Prometheus,
save your liver—don't worry,
the imperial eagle will find
another liver, chained to
yet another Caucasian rock.
Take to your heart the ancient
story of Pandora, let it be
our story for these times
of patriarchal insane slaughter.
The stories that we tell ourselves define us.



So here's the story that I tell myself:

Thank you to my single mother.
You gave me my green eyes.

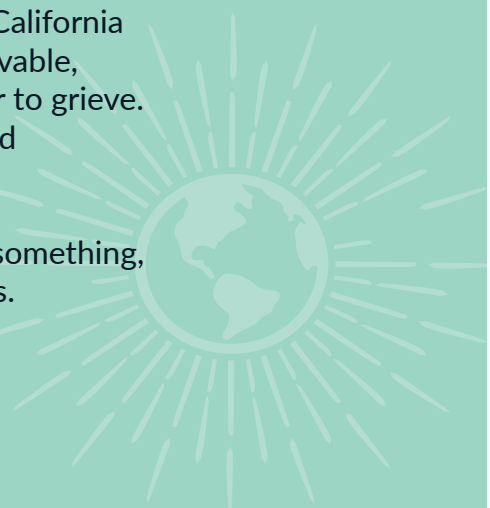
Pamela Haines

Wind and Fire

All week my morning walk
has been foreshortened.
I've missed my loop around the park, and now
a patina of trash is everywhere.
It's bitter cold—an act of will
to stoop and pick.
I walk on, the wind picks up.
Our public garden too
I find, is full of trash.

Stooping again in this strong wind
skin exposed to bitter cold—
an image comes of fires in California
spreading damage inconceivable,
till now too big to take in or to grieve.
But being out in such a wind
that spreads the trash,
evoking desecration,
for the first time I can feel something,
connect with that great loss.

It's not my job to pick up
every bit of trash
or shoulder every tragedy.
And yet it is my job to care.



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Chico, CA 95926 or at QuakerEarthcare.org/Donate



Photo from Mill Creek Urban Farm Gallery, at www.millcreekurbanfarm.org

the board going forward and evaluating my contribution. At some point, everything I was doing might well be adequately and more appropriately done by others, but I could still be fully present till then. I could continue to treasure the relationships that were built through struggle over the years. I could even make new ones.

In the midst of all this hard work—emotional and otherwise—I had the opportunity to support a young climate activist friend. His vision, commitment, and initiative had put him in the center of the national climate movement, with all its contentious issues around turf, leadership, and direction, and with opportunities to make race-related mistakes at every turn. He was engaged in a delicate racially charged alliance-building project and glad for the attention I could offer.

What became abundantly clear was that living through the challenges in my own little corner of the world had set me up to understand, experientially, the challenges he was dealing with. By bringing my own hard-won experience to the table, knowing in my bones something of what he was going through, he could rest in feeling seen and understood. He could use the space I was able to offer to look at his hardest feelings, regain perspective, and think freshly about next steps. As I stretched to bring everything I had to support this man I loved, doing work that mattered deeply to me, I was thankful beyond words for the gifts I had been given by the farm.



QEW Earthcare Day of Action: A New Biannual Tradition

The Day of Action is an invitation for Quaker meetings, churches, schools, worship groups, and surrounding communities to gather for a day of intentional Earthcare: work done as prayer, celebration, community resiliency, and witness.

Possible actions include but are not limited to: Planting a native or pollinator garden. Removing invasive plants from meetinghouse grounds. Cleaning up a local stream, park, road, or shoreline. Building compost bins. Grinnell Friends Church in Grinnell, IA, decided their action would be building bird houses with high school youth!

September 19th, 2026 marks the first QEW Day of Action, but this is only the beginning of a new tradition. We hope Earthcare becomes woven into the seasons of Quaker life: with future Days of Action happening twice a year, one during the Season of Creation in the fall, and another in the spring around Earth Day.

Find out more and Register your Day of Action at quakerearthcare.org/day-of-action to join the movement. Your action can help inspire other Friends.



Susan J. Tweit

Leaning in to Terraphilia



Photos by Kathy Barnhart

I feel like we're living in a cyclone, all howling winds and fearful noise. The constant churn of change ratchets up our stress and anxiety, and makes it difficult to focus and take action, even to simply live.

Which is why I am "leaning in" to terraphilia. Practicing that cell-level attachment to a world larger and more lasting than human concerns reminds us to live with love and care, to stay centered, connected, and kind.

Practicing terraphilia is not navel-gazing or a distraction from the real issues. It is a strength-training routine for our hearts and spirits, those muscles essential to living as humans, especially living in times that are overwhelming and frightening.

Cultivating our inner terraphilia offers connection and hope, inspiration and grounding. It right-sizes our egos, reminding us that humanity is not the center of the universe. Nor are we all-powerful. Humanity is pretty darned minuscule in the vastness of time and space.

Strong, healthy hearts and spirits are essential to taking what Quakers call "right action," that is, doing things in a way that lasts, that makes a positive difference in this world. Right actions are reciprocal, give back, create community, and nurture the bonds of belonging. In short, terraphilic.

Nature-Time: Our Calm in the Storm

Practicing terraphilia reconnects us to nature, the web of interrelationships that create this living Earth, our home as a species and our sustenance always. Spending time in nature is like bathing in wellness.

As little as 15 minutes spent in a natural surrounding—or even just looking at images of natural surroundings soothes many of our modern ills:

- Nature-time lowers our stress levels
- Calms our fight-or-flight responses
- Drops our heart rates and blood pressure
- Strengthens our compassion circuits
- Increases our ability to focus and concentrate
- Improves decision-making and critical thinking
- Heightens our capacity for both empathy and self-love
- Lessens depression and feelings of hopelessness and helplessness.

In other words, nature-time gives us back our best selves. To live, love, and act.

Cultivating our inner terraphilia offers connection and hope, inspiration and grounding.

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Resources

Watch a video with detailed ideas on how to spend mindful time in nature, from nature-based psychotherapist Jeanne Malmgren, author of the Rx Nature newsletter, which is a wonderful resource itself. Find the video at jeannemalmgren.com/nature-therapy, and the newsletter at jeannemalmgren.substack.com.

Two nature-inspired Substacks to check out: For intimate glimpses of wildness and also writing process, Amy Hale's *From the Smokey Side of the Fire*, and for thoughtful and deep monthly musings, Priscilla Stuckey's *Nature : Spirit*.

Practicing Terraphilia Could Be What Saves Us

Terraphilia is our species' superpower. Cultivating that innate connection with nature reweaves our essential bond with our home and community on this planet. It allows our hearts to unclench and our spirits to feel grounded and strong. It renews our capacity to hope and to give back to this world in whatever way we can.

I know this by personal experience: practicing my own terraphilia saved me in the most painful and difficult years of my life, while I was mid-wifing the deaths of two of the people I loved most in the world: my husband and my mother.

Cultivating my connection to the larger world of nature and this earth is what kept me from losing my mind after their deaths. As I wandered for the next decade-plus, lost and grieving, terraphilia grounded me, taught me who I am, and gave me a purpose.

Practice: Give Your Devices the Gift of Nature

Here's a simple way to bring the healing and calming power of nature into your daily life as you practice your terraphilia: use images of nature as wallpaper and screen savers on your electronic devices.

So when you pick up your phone or pad, wake your computer or glance at your television, the first image you see offers calm in the storm, lowering your stress levels, clearing your mind, and lifting heart and spirit.

We need the practice of terraphilia to strengthen our whole selves. To give us connection and inspiration, joy and hope. To hear the voice of the sacred who speaks within all of us.



St. Francis of Assisi Dances on Water, sculptural fountain by Monika B. Kaden, Santa Fe, NM, Photo by Susan J. Tweit. Even though the fountain is dry for the winter, St. Francis is clearly practicing his terraphilia here—what joy!

To remember how to reciprocate for the gifts of the earth and our communities. To discern right action. To simply live.

Remember this: Love does win, not easily, not quickly, but it does win. Love lasts.



A self-described "plant geek," Susan J. Tweit is botanist who studied wildfires, grizzly bear habitat, and big sagebrush in and around Yellowstone before turning to writing to tell the stories of this living Earth. She is the author of 14 books, including her new eco-devotional, *Earthbound*, *A Year of Mindful Connection in Nature*, available through Simon & Schuster, plus the best-selling Substack newsletter, also called *Earthbound*. A roving Quaker, Tweit currently lives in rural Western Colorado.

Eileen Flanagan

Why ESG is Not Enough



Image Above: Photo by Rachael Warriner, rachaelwarriner.com

Quakers have a long history of removing our financial support from enterprises that do not align with our values, such as slavery and weapons production. In the last three years, Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) supporters have moved \$60 million out of Vanguard, the world's largest investor in fossil fuels. Meanwhile, Quaker Earthcare Witness has begun asking, "What if Quakers left the stock market entirely?" While EQAT and QEW are pursuing different strategies, we agree that mainstream approaches to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing are insufficient to allay our moral concerns about financing environmental and climate destruction.

In theory, ESG ratings help investors identify companies that are doing well by doing good. For example, reducing packaging or energy use is both good for the Earth and good for investors since they save the company money. Unfortunately, companies can receive ESG credit for small steps or alternative technologies, obscuring the larger impact of a company's operations. Exxon has gotten ESG credit for pursuing carbon capture, while continuing to profit from oil extraction. Plans to store the captured carbon are being foisted on communities along the flood-prone Louisiana coast, where locals fear the gases will escape through abandoned drilling rigs.¹

It's not just fossil fuels we need to move away from, but the coercive systems that led to our ecological and climate crises in the first place. In Chester, Pennsylvania, residents have long protested a Covanta

trash incinerator, whose emissions contribute to high cancer rates in the predominantly Black community. When a Swedish company purchased Covanta a few years ago, it claimed the incinerator business would be good for ESG scores, since incineration is a non-fossil fuel energy source that keeps trash out of landfills.² In a classic case of greenwashing, its 2024 sustainability report rebrands the company "Reworld" and features a photo of a Black woman's hand reaching out to a blue butterfly.³

Chilean activists are resisting a greenwashing scheme on the land of the Mapuche people, where some of the world's oldest trees were

felled to make room for monoculture timber plantations that use a dangerous amount of water. The timber company Arauco is getting subsidies to make wood pellets, which count as renewable biomass energy on their ESG score. This is why asset managers like Vanguard need Indigenous rights policies, which would make it harder for such schemes to be passed off as green energy.⁴ Instead, Vanguard is one of the world's largest investors in Arauco and other companies engaging in exploitative and environmentally harmful practices, including Exxon and Reworld's parent company.



Given the climate movement's criticisms of greenwashing, many were surprised in 2022 when conservative politicians attacked ESG as "woke capitalism." Financial commentators described the "woke" trope as "non-sense".⁵ Still, it gained traction, tapping toxic narratives about racial equity and climate action as left-wing plots.

² "Understanding the carbon impacts of Waste to Energy," Zero Waste Europe, March 18, 2020.

³ *Reimagine Your World: Sustainability Report 2024* (Reworld, 2024).

⁴ Environmental Paper Network, Colectivo Viento Sur, and Global Forest Network, "Conflict Plantations, Chapter 3: 'Stolen Land and Fading Forests in Chile,'" May 2022, Environmental Paper Network; Sergio Baffoni, "Indigenous Mapuche Forest Activist Murdered in Chile by Police," Environmental Paper Network, June 30, 2020.

⁵ David Bach, "The American Right Has Gone to War With 'Woke Capitalism'—Here's What They Get Wrong," *Conversation*, February 24, 2023.

¹ Zoë Schlanger, "America's New Climate Delusion," *Atlantic*, September 3, 2024.



Photo by Rachael Warriner

In response to this backlash, Vanguard retreated from its only tepid climate commitment and reduced its shareholder engagement, which convinced EQAT that it was time to move our money, a tactic we had delayed to give Vanguard a chance to take more positive steps. In 2026, Vanguard was the only one of three huge asset managers to settle a lawsuit filed by Republican attorneys general, alleging that they were using their power to influence the policies of coal producers.

Ironically, the lawsuit affirms our belief that asset managers could play a role in helping to shift our economy away from fossil fuels, the reason that a coalition of climate groups decided to take on Vanguard in the first place. We don't just want asset managers to exclude polluting companies from a few of its funds, so we can feel better about our portfolios. We want Vanguard to use its tremendous influence to steer these companies away from climate destruction, which Vanguard itself has acknowledged will be bad for its investors.

EQAT is now making a broader call for Friends to boycott Vanguard and its funds because choosing its relatively few ESG offerings is not enough. To support Friends in finding alternatives, we offer monthly webinars. We also ask people to report their money moving in a confidential method that allows us to feel our collective impact. This is a moral stand, but it's also a movement that connects us to people struggling for a better world from Chester to Chile and beyond.

The article includes excerpts from Eileen Flanagan's book Common Ground: How the Crisis of the Earth is Saving Us from Our Illusion of Separation.



Welcoming Norwood Keaton as QVS Fellow

Starting September 9th, Quaker Earthcare Witness welcomes Norwood Keaton as our new Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellow. Norwood brings a background in sustainability, education, and Quaker community building to develop our action map and lead in QEW's regional field presence this fall in the Philadelphia area.

In this role, Norwood will coordinate QuakerEarth campaign partnerships on the ground, working closely with Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) and local meetings to mobilize spirit-led action for proactive environmental campaigns. Together, we're allying with regional partners focusing on opposing exploitative data center developments in the NJ Pinelands, halting proposed LNG export facilities in black and brown communities on the Delaware, and pushing for bold regional climate legislation like NJ's fossil fuel polluter accountability bill.

Connect with Norwood and get involved by writing him at norwood@quakerearthcare.org



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Explore the New Quaker Earth Action Map

Visit quakerearthcare.org/map

It is my immense pleasure to share with you our reimagined Quaker Earth Action Map! The publication of this map is the culmination of the lion's share of my work as the QuakerEarth Action Fellow, and I am so proud to share this wonderful tool with this community and the world.

The QuakerEarth Action Map is an exciting way to connect with Quakers engaging in a

wide range of Earthcare and environmentalism around the world. The Action Map is a living document and Meetings and organizations can update their submissions as we continue to evolve and expand our Earthcare. Meetings and organizations not currently represented on the Map can be added at any time with the submission form on our website, at quakerearthcare.org/mapform.

Not only can the map tell you about different Meetings' actions, but it is also a place to learn and share about personal stories of Friends' Earthcare. These personal stories can be found by clicking the small arrow on the right hand side of the screen. Let's continue to do amazing work, get inspired, and share the good with each other!



In Light, Solidarity, and Love,
Jonny Costello
Mapping & Outreach Coordinator
Quaker Earthcare Witness

