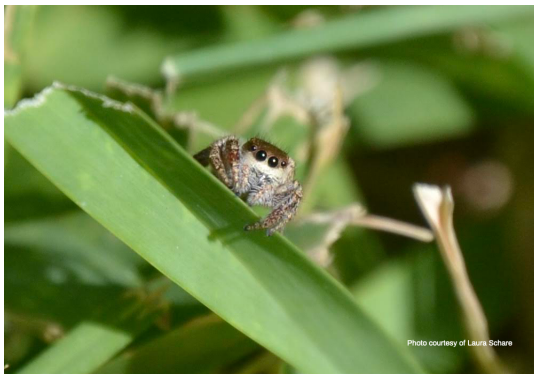


IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Inspiring ↔ Informative ↔ Actionable
presented by



The Gift of Gab

Virtually every organism on Earth has a means of communication. Increasingly, we are finding that many species beyond some of our close relatives may even have what we refer to as feelings and conscious choice-making capabilities. Of course, no other species has developed the extensively nuanced ability to communicate that humans have, as far as we know, but does that make those

species less somehow?

Communication takes place in myriad ways. Let's look at some instances found in the animal, and plant, kingdom. Did you know that:

- Male jumping spiders perform an [elaborate dance](#) accompanied by a drumming routine to woo a female.
- Trees share water and nutrients through their root systems and even [communicate via chemical signals](#). For example, [Acacia trees will release a pheromone](#) that triggers downwind trees to increase tannins to make their leaves unpalatable to foraging giraffes and other herbivores.
- Some species of [rattlesnakes](#) babysit, while [bats](#) will share food with struggling bats, and Acorn woodpeckers have an elaborate social structure which includes co-parenting.
- [Bumblebees and bees engage in play](#), can count, solve puzzles, and can [feel pain](#). Wasps can recognize one another, ants rescue other trapped ants, flies can sense

the passage of time, and so much more.

- Orcas, peccaries, ferrets, donkeys, monkeys, elephants, and even birds have been observed [mourning the loss of family members](#).
- Ravens [use tools](#), exhibit altruistic behavior, and have one of the largest brain to body ratios.

Considering the compelling evidence that many organisms exhibit some sort of sentience, it becomes imperative that we humans reevaluate the hubris of our superiority over other beings. In this newsletter, we often share steps and ideas to help make a difference and we hope you do take them to heart by putting them into use in your daily life. *Let's take it a bit further because what we truly aim to do is arm you, the reader, with enough information and desire to use your voice and knowledge to help protect this planet.*

Our forms of communication are vast and powerful and we can **use our voices** to create on-going and meaningful discussions about climate change, biodiversity loss, and our environmental impacts. Whether it is around the dinner table, in line at the store, a coffee break at work, or in front of your city council, every bit of discussion regarding our need to protect and restore nature in all its forms is becoming increasingly imperative. **Normalizing these topics and believing in science is the only way forward.**



- Don't be reticent to **point out** that extensive lawns could be better used as native planted areas that provide valuable habitat.
- **Advocate** how single use water bottle bottles and other items may be easily replaced with more Earth friendly options.
- **Invite** people to join you for meatless Mondays and share your favorite vegetarian (or non-red meat) recipes.
- **Tell** your friends and neighbors how many more birds and butterflies visit your yard now that you have chosen to leave some leaf litter and added in pollinator-friendly native plants to your landscape.
- Be available to **offer alternatives** to rat poison and other rodenticides as a means of controlling critters.
- **Share** the locations of some favorite outdoor spaces so others can fall in love with nature as well.

Remember, if folks don't know and learn about the nature around us, they won't care enough to save it. So, deliver your passion at every opportunity, the excitement can be quite contagious.

Ask us questions about issues near and dear to you and we will seek advice from an expert and/or peer-reviewed sources to provide an answer. Meet people where they're at and share your enthusiasm, you never know what will resonate with others and get them moving along a more sustainable and Earth-friendly path.

Heaps and Heaps

The alarming and rapid rise of fast fashion from 2000 and 2014 has resulted in 60% more clothing being produced worldwide. Worse yet, more than half of this clothing is tossed out in less than one year. Most of us have heard of the Great Pacific garbage patch in the ocean, but have you heard of the **"the great fashion garbage patch"** in the desert of Chile? Imagine a mountain of discarded clothing from all over the world as far as the eye



can see. And, it is located in a tourist destination desert area of Chile known for incredible stargazing.

Beyond clothing, *did you know that “only one percent of ‘stuff’ is still in use six months from its purchase?”* Columbia Climate School published an article highlighting how our [buying habits actually drive climate change](#). It's full of useful

information as well as alternatives and further links for more research. Give it a quick read and share it among your peers.

Our consumer-based society built on capitalism equates to a non-stop barrage of ads and offers encouraging us to buy and spend more, look trendy, and “keep up with the Joneses.” What if we use our voices (and wallets) here as well and start talking about the fleeting positive impact a new blouse has?

Saying no to unnecessary purchases is a great way to start. Buying products made sustainably, those with better and longer-lasting qualities, and repurposing also go a long way. As this [National Geographic article](#) mentions, “the challenge is turning off that tap” of fast fashion. We have the knowledge, now **we just need to find the collective willpower to make changes that will benefit the planet far past our own lifetimes**. What a legacy we can have!

Quick Connections

Books, websites, documentaries, podcasts, events, quotes, and more



Humans have a certain way of seeing the world, and in [An Immense World](#), Ed Yong invites us to consider the many alternative ways other species experience it.



Quote we're pondering

“I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use.” - Mother Teresa



The Scoop on Poop

Not all poop is the same, [take this quiz](#) and learn why dog poop is different and should always be picked up out in nature.



Camping Fun

As the weather warms and the camp sites fill up, here are some [free downloadable activities](#) to take along on your next outing.

Community Connections

We want to connect with you. Have you followed us on social media? The links are below. And, while you're at it, check out our two podcasts, [Jumpstart Nature](#) and [Nature's Archive](#), for more enlightening content.

Your feedback is important. [Tell us](#) how we are doing and what you would like to see covered in future newsletters.

Every connection counts! Please help grow our community of everyday heroes by sharing this newsletter with a friend or colleague.

Thank you,

Laura Schare, Editor

Michael Hawk, Founder

Jumpstart Nature

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