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IT'S ALL CONNECTED

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presented by



Why “It’s All Connected”: Understanding the Impact of Our Actions

In our daily lives, it's easy to see our actions as isolated events. We mow the lawn, spray for bugs, or toss a single-use item into the trash without much thought. But the reality is far more complex—everything we do has consequences that ripple through the environment, affecting not just our immediate surroundings but

also the broader ecosystem. This is the essence of why our newsletter is called "It's All Connected."

Localized connections may be easily understood through the seemingly simple act of maintaining a lawn. Lawn treatments, often laden with chemicals, are designed to keep our grass green and pristine. However, these [chemicals don't just stay on the surface](#)—they seep into the soil, run off with rainwater, and eventually infiltrate our groundwater, posing risks to both humans and animals.

Similarly, bug spray services, intended to rid us of pesky insects, carry unintended consequences. They don't just target the intended pests; some of these chemicals may become airborne, spreading toxins to other properties and harming a wide range of unintended species, while others are ingested by any number of critters who then carry the poisons elsewhere to affect even more unlucky creatures up and down the food chain.

The use of lawnmowers and leaf blowers adds another layer of impact. Beyond the noise and dust they create, the gas powered machines emit [noxious gasses far beyond what](#)

[cars emit](#), massively contributing to air pollution and affecting the health of those who breathe it in.

Then there's the use of rodenticides, which are designed to eliminate unwanted rodents but often end up [poisoning predators higher up the food chain, including pets](#) and other wildlife.

Even our reliance on single-use items has far-reaching effects. These items contribute to the mountains of trash accumulating in landfills, and their production consumes vast resources, further harming the environment.

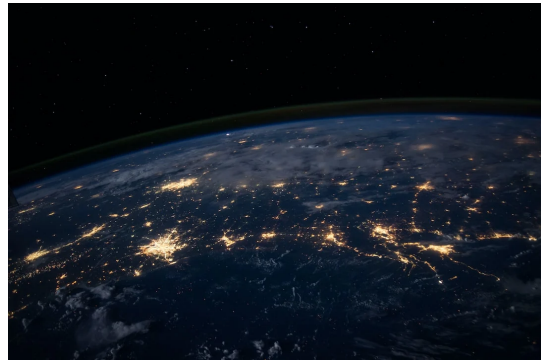
*"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." - **John Muir***

Global connections illustrate a broader impact because these connections don't stop at our neighborhood borders. On a larger scale, the runoff from industrial farming, laden with fertilizers, flows into rivers and oceans, creating vast dead zones devoid of life.

Water diversion projects, like those at Owens Lake and the Salton Sea, have dried up lake beds, leading to dust storms that impact human health over long distances.

Our dependence on fossil fuels has contributed to the depletion of the ozone layer and the warming of our planet. This warming, in turn, is killing coral reefs and kelp forests, vital components of the marine ecosystem.

Hotter temperatures also [dry out old growth trees](#), making them more susceptible to insect attack and devastating wildfires. And when we alter or develop wetlands, we remove natural barriers that protect communities from flooding, leaving them vulnerable to disaster.



*"Find me one thing that's not connected to the rest, and I'll give you my house. I'm pretty sure I'm going to keep my house." - **Greg Sarris**, [Place and Purpose](#) podcast*



Consider the example of smoking bans in public spaces. These were implemented because of the deadly effects of secondhand smoke, a clear example of how one person's actions can have serious consequences for others. The scientific correlation between smoking and illness, even among non-smokers, is undeniable—it's all connected.

But the impact doesn't end there. Cigarette butts, which are often discarded carelessly,

contribute to significant environmental damage. These [small pieces of trash, laden with plastic and toxins](#), litter our beaches, parks, and other public spaces. They can be mistaken for food by animals, or worse, ignite fires when still lit.

Just as the actions of smokers affect others, the way we treat our lawns, yards, and the creatures that inhabit them has a direct impact on our neighbors and the larger environment.

Every action we take is part of a larger web of connections. From small, local ecosystems to the vast, global one we all share, our choices matter. We don't need to wait for regulations or laws to guide us—we already know what's right. What benefits us as individuals often benefits the planet as well.

Never forget: **"It's All Connected."**

Nature Photography and Connections

Our sister podcast, Nature's Archive dropped an episode last month discussing [professional wildlife photography with Jake Davis](#). In addition to hearing about what it takes to get those once in a lifetime shots, Jake and Michael end the podcast with a heartfelt discourse on how nature photography provides an entry to connecting with nature. Beyond taking photos of megafauna and picturesque landscapes, by definition nature photography places oneself outside where you inevitably begin to notice more detail, as well as benefiting from being out in nature.



Jake commented that he *"might start off thinking about one thing like maybe filming a bear or filming a squirrel or something and then if you really have immersed yourself in a place it what's revealed to you is actually like how connected all of these different species even between plants and animals are to each other to form this much larger picture and I think to see that on like a small level is quite cool."* This discussion delves a little deeper and I invite you to listen in, especially around the 48 minute mark.

Additionally, I suggest you go a little deeper into the idea of connectivity and ecosystems and listen to Michael's [100th Nature's Archive episode](#) for more insight into what this former tech engineer has learned from nature podcasting.

Quick Connections

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



Required Reading

The difficult truth about [mosquito spray services](#). And news about potential [safer ways to deal](#) with these pesky critters.



True or False?

Wildlife coexistence is an important topic and Urban Wildlife Week is coming up next month, get prepared and read up on [some common urban wildlife myths](#).



Photo Contest

There is still time to [submit your favorite marine life and ocean related photos to REEF](#), deadline to enter is September 19th.



Puzzle Time

How quickly can you solve this [nature crossword](#) from National Wildlife Foundation?

Community Connections

We want to connect with you.

It truly does take a village and we appreciate our followers here at Jumpstart Nature. Since you all share our love for nature, we want to extend an invitation to anyone who wants to join our volunteer ranks so we may continue to grow and strengthen our reach.

Drop us a note and let's chat about getting onto our team.

Yes, I am interested

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

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