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IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Inspiring ↔ Informative ↔ Actionable
presented by



Giving Tuesday Message From Our Founder

"Nature is not optional." That was the message from Dr. Doug Tallamy when I saw him speak in Santa Clara in mid November.

But this truth is not obvious to many. Take my upbringing as an example.

I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. When you hear Nebraska you might think of corn fields, ranch lands, and big skies, but Omaha is a regular city of nearly 1 million people. I grew up in a typical suburban yard with *some* wildlife.

I enjoyed identifying birds flitting onto our feeder, watching monarch butterflies sip from our flowers, catching fireflies in a jar, and I felt mixed emotions being awoken by that Northern Flicker head banging our house.

But I had no idea any of that was at risk. After all, those creatures were there throughout my youth - as I presumed they had always been. No one taught me that *our* home was *their* home, and that we share a common fate. Television documentaries reinforced this thought, showing that the only animals in trouble were those majestic species of Kenya or India or Australia.

Fast forward some years to when I moved to California, opting to drive from Virginia, the location of my first "adult" job. At the urging of a coworker, I visited some national parks along the way. Experiencing places like El Malpais and El Morro in New Mexico, and the Grand Canyon in Arizona were life changing.

I arrived at my new home in Silicon Valley hooked on our national parks...but now what? Blessed with several national parks just a few hours away, a demanding job kept them tantalizingly out of reach. Thankfully, I found the nature near me to also be captivating.

There were unique birds along the creek and in open fields, winter salamanders wandering, and much more. I was on the pathway of realizing that life on earth is perhaps the most complex and interdependent system ever conceived.\

If you're reading this newsletter, I can assume that it means that you also realize that we are part of nature, and as Dr. Tallamy reminded me last month, "**nature is not optional.**" Just as we can't rely on someone else to care for us, we can't rely on someone else to protect and restore nature. We need to take action and do what we are able to in order to protect and restore nature.

That is why I founded Jumpstart Nature. Our podcasts now reach nearly 10,000 downloads each month, our newsletters reach another 1,000 people. And this is just a glimpse of what our dedicated team of volunteers can accomplish.

On this Giving Tuesday, I'm asking for your support with a donation. As you know, relying on government agencies or corporations to save nature is not an option. It's up to organizations like Jumpstart Nature to catalyze a movement - with help from people like you.

Your donation will help us establish a foundation so that we can hire supporting staff, continue to produce our podcasts, and develop our game-changing mobile app.

You can donate at jumpstartnature.com/donate/.

Thank you for your support! - *Michael Hawk*

Donate Now



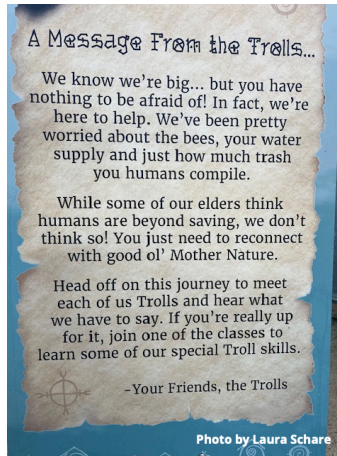
Nature Walks and Art With A Message

Need a reason to get outside? Sure, soaking up vitamin D, spotting wild animals, or admiring wildflowers are great excuses, but what if you could hunt for trolls instead?

Yes, trolls! Danish artist and activist, [Thomas Dambo](#), has created large outdoor art pieces using recycled materials and they are spread out in a [variety of places](#) around the world, as well as a traveling exhibit. I've been fortunate enough to see the traveling exhibit as well as two of the six [Pacific Northwest Trolls](#) this past year. These trolls are fun and super photogenic, and their message is clear - nature is important and worth saving. Though the trolls I've seen were easy to find, not all of them are so quickly accessible. Check out

the troll map and plan your trip to stumble into the trolls' homes wherever your journey takes you.

Mr. Dambo's art is meant to spread joy as well as the message to care about Mother Nature. In Norse folklore, trolls are staunch protectors of nature. Perhaps we can all take a page from the folklore and **be more like trolls...caring, protecting, preserving, and advocating for nature in all of its forms.**



Quick Connections

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



Worth a Read

[Desert Solitaire](#) by Edward Abbey, a memoir of his experiences as a park ranger in the desert wilderness of the American Southwest. In the book, Mr. Abbey takes the reader along a journey exploring the beauty of the natural world and the importance for its preservation.



Quote we're pondering

"It would mean so much for everyone if the idea of restoration would catch fire with the public – the natural world is something to be recovered rather than just protected in pathetic remnants." - **E.O. Wilson**



Are you a National Park geek? Then get the free [NPS app](#) which has detailed information about each park, downloadable maps for offline navigation, a calendar of daily events, and more.



Enjoy this free downloadable poster, the [Wonderful World of Woodpeckers](#), from Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Community Connections

We want to connect with you. Do you have a climate fiction book recommendation? How about a non-fiction book about nature, environment, or climate?

We read each and every response and will share selected reader stories in upcoming newsletters.

Share With Us

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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