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IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Inspiring ↔ Informative ↔ Actionable

presented by



Get In The Know

Information overload seems like a daily assault. And, being well-informed is key to navigating our world. Rather than relying on corporate funded algorithms feeding you information they want you to see, it might be best to go right to the source(s) for up-to-date reporting. When it comes to climate, nature, and environmental issues, there are some great resources to follow and below is a list for your perusal. While we will always strive to bring original curated content, we can't report on everything, so perhaps you'll consider subscribing to one (or more) of these organizations as well:

- The [National Wildlife Federation](#) website is chock full of information about conservation, waterways, environmental justice, animals, kids' activities, ways to certify your garden, native plant finders, opportunities to get involved, and so much more. Spend some time on it, check back regularly for new stories, and even opt for email updates. If you haven't yet watched [The Americas](#) narrated by Tom Hanks and sponsored by NWF, it is quite well done and if you aren't in love with nature yet, you will be after watching (available on NBC and Peacock). Enhance your viewing experience with these [watch kits](#) specially developed for each episode.
- [Project Drawdown](#) has built a powerhouse team who leverage science and science communication to provide attainable solutions for our climate problems. Their work uses storytelling intended to catalyze everyone from individuals to governments to international investors, and more. Page through the many resources on the website and sign up for their newsletter as well.
- [Homegrown National Park](#), founded by Doug Tallamy and Michelle Alfandari, seeks to raise awareness and inspire people to plant native and remove invasives in order to bring back greater biodiversity which will make the planet healthier and more resilient. Root around their site, get on the mailing list, take advantage of the many resources, and put yourself on the [HNP map](#).

- Birds may be the focus of the [Audubon Society](#), but their work truly provides benefits for all because protecting birds helps protect the entire ecosystem around them which ultimately benefits us too. Follow along at the nationwide level or [find your local chapter](#) and keep abreast of the fantastic work Audubon is doing worldwide.
- [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#), part of Cornell University, uses bird-centered research to effect positive environmental change to the good of all. They also emphasize community science efforts to engage people worldwide and empower them to become part of the solutions for building back a healthier planet. Peck around their website, sign up for eNews, and you might even be inspired to get a free [eBird](#) or [Merlin Bird ID](#) app and account.
- [Xerces Society](#) seeks to protect our world through invertebrate research, conservation, and habitat protection. From saving butterflies, bumble bees, and other pollinators to educating about the out-sized detrimental effects of pesticide use, this organization is a treasure trove of information. The website provides native plant information, educator resources, a unique gift shop, and so much more. Crawl on over and see for yourself.
- [iNaturalist](#) is a favorite organization of ours at Jumpstart Nature and we hope you might give it a try too. Their idea is to connect people with nature using technology (think Pokemon Go for the real world). Get started snapping away and uploading photos of any wild plant or animal and the beautiful community at iNaturalist will chime in with identifications. Before you know it, you will be an amateur ecologist making friends with all of the natural life surrounding you. P.S., while the free app is great, the website has much more functionality and they have a sister program called [Seek](#), designed especially for the younger nature enthusiasts.
- Earth's surface is predominantly ocean and the [Ocean Conservancy](#) keeps vigil, conducting research and communicating the many needs to protect the vast waterworld we rely on. Take a deep dive and learn about the important work they are doing. Sign up for their newsletter to keep abreast of their activities and get cool sea creature facts and photos swimming across your screen regularly.
- [The Prairie Ecologist](#) written by Chris Helzer, Director of Science at [The Nature Conservancy](#), is not only well written and at times humorous, but he shares photos as well as important information about prairies, restoration, and lots more.
- [Leaf & Limb](#) is actually a tree care company located in North Carolina, but they are so very much more. The company uses a forward thinking approach to tree care and utilizes better practices that are more effective in promoting a healthy ecosystem. Check out their website which is filled with [informative articles](#), videos, and even a free download of Mr. Camu's book, [Wasteland to Wonder](#).



Of course there are innumerable more groups and we apologize for missing any of your favorites. In addition to those above, log onto the sites of your closest natural history museum, local botanical society, and even your state parks and National Parks. For National Parks emails, you'll need to find and subscribe to the [park partner](#) associated with your park of interest. Whichever websites you land on, you'll be welcomed with a wealth of information to make your Earth friendly journey even better.



Up For A Challenge?

Of course you are, so set aside some time to participate in the **10th annual City Nature Challenge** sponsored by California Academy of the Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. This four day global event starts Friday, April 26th and encourages people everywhere to get outside and document the *wild plants and animals* they encounter whether it's your backyard, front sidewalk, neighborhood

park, or on a hike.

Using the [iNaturalist](#) and [Seek](#) platforms, participants become amateur scientists through the documentation of the various flora and fauna they observe. Join the fun by making a free iNaturalist or Seek account, upload some observations, and keep tabs on all the truly amazing nature photos and sounds people upload from places all around the world. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles provides an easy [step-by-step tutorial to help you get started here](#). If you still have questions or want a little extra insight, please reach out to us directly at [Jumpstart Nature](#) and we'd be happy to help too.

Quick Connections

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



Level up your nature knowledge with this wildlife [migration quiz](#) from the National Wildlife Federation.



It is **National Wildlife Week**, show your love by supporting one of the wonderful organizations above, virtually adopting a wild animal, or speaking out for more environmental protections. Whatever you do, please do something for our wild friends.



Quote we're pondering

"Love the world as your own self; then you can truly care for all things." - Lao Tzu



Sharpen your brain with this [bird-themed fillable crossword](#) from Audubon and read the attached opinion piece for inspiration to keep working at whatever puzzles you.

Subscribe

Be sure to subscribe to the [Jumpstart Nature podcast](#) and [Nature's Archive](#) and take part of the enlightening conversations with experts and researchers helping to protect biodiversity and teach us how to make a difference.

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

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