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IT'S ALL CONNECTED

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presented by



Forests Are Magical And They Sometimes Require Help

Cutting down trees in a forest must mean you are in the timber business, right? Not at all, in fact, a forest might need some tough love in order to reestablish as a healthy thriving ecosystem. Logging for timber has wrought a lot of destruction upon forests everywhere and those that have been allowed to grow back are often doing so in an unhealthy way. From sick trees, to invasive plants, to deer overpopulation, and more, foresters are addressing these issues with a variety of methods that may seem surprising and counterintuitive.

Last year, Michael Hawk interviewed [Ethan Tapper on Nature's Archive](#) and discussed what is involved in managing a forest. Ethan manages a tract of forest in Vermont, and has had to deal with expanses of invasive species, disease, mismanagement, and much more to turn the tides and make the forest healthier.

Foresters, who are not managing a forest for timber production, but rather for a long term sustainable ecosystem must navigate hard choices which sometimes requires removing trees, using chemicals, or culling deer in order to achieve the goal. Communicating these necessities is a delicate balancing act nowadays because popular messaging seems to be that leaving it alone is the best way to let things flourish. And, that planting a tree equates to removing carbon.



Ethan Tapper, photo credit: Benji Soll

Listen to the podcast as Ethan illustrates that forestry is inherently interdisciplinary, requiring a critical understanding of how things relate, whether it is trees, animals, sunlight, shade, soil, water, or fire. Ethan beautifully educates the listener about what a healthy forest is and the trade-offs involved in obtaining the goal. He is also the author of a book, [How To Love A Forest](#), where Ethan delves into the personal journey he embarked upon in forestry and learning to communicate with the public about the tough love a forest needs to thrive. Follow Ethan Tapper on [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), and [YouTube](#) as well as his [website](#), and his new consultancy, [Bear Island Forestry](#).

Ending The Never-Ending Cycle

Have you noticed what a vicious and repetitive cycle lawns are placing on your landscape routine? Lawns require watering, mowing, fertilizing, seeding and reseeding, and it's a cycle that drains you of time and money. Our lawns are on constant life support. Turf grass, such as Kentucky Bluegrass, is native to Europe, hence it requires lots of help looking good. Side note: "Kentucky Blue Grass" is simply a marketing name which has nothing to do with the origin of the grass, but is a great sales pitch to get consumers to believe otherwise.



Did you know that the lawn area in the United States is equivalent in size to the state of Florida? That's a lot of grass which actually isn't very green from an environmental perspective. Keep in mind that large **lawn care companies spend millions of dollars** each year to convince us that beautiful lawns are a mainstay of home ownership. The harsh truth is these companies are peddling chemicals full of neurotoxins and carcinogens. Our children and pets play on these lawns. If you aren't quite ready to lose the lawn, then "be lazy" and try out this [low maintenance lawn trend](#).

Curb appeal doesn't only apply to a large boring expanse of green grass. In fact, trees and bushes absorb heat and [lower the temperature](#) around your home during the summer. Add in some native grasses and wildflowers and your yard will be a low-maintenance, water saving, [pesticide free ecosystem](#) full of happy bees, birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

All of this adds up to the perfect trifecta:

- **saving money** since you can stop watering, fertilizing, and using pesticides
 - **saving time** as there is no need to mow, water, or haul the clippings to the trash
 - **saving the environment** because your new native plants help support birds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators
- It's a win, win, win and **it's actually easy.**

Quick Connections

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



[**Nature's Best Hope**](#) ([Young Reader's Edition](#)) by Doug Tallamy adeptly blends brevity, imagery and literary devices making it easy to understand.



Quote we're pondering

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - **Dr. Seuss**, [**The Lorax**](#)



Now that you know how to love a forest, listen to this [video about establishing micro forests](#) of your own.



Who can resist baby pictures? Cornell Lab has you covered with these [adorable baby bird photos](#).

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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.

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Thank you,

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