

# Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter

May 7, 2023

## Ecological Civilization and

**Quakers:** An interview with Philip Clayton –*What Friends can bring to solutions for Earth's ecosystems.* **Tuesday, May 9, 7 p.m.** [Click here to join the meeting.](#) (Meeting ID: 288 711 054, Passcode: 593327) Philip Clayton is the president and founder of the Institute for Ecological Civilization, or EcoCiv. He is also a member of Claremont Friends Meeting in California. Bring your questions to Western Friend's online interview with Philip Clayton. We'll talk about the vision of EcoCiv to find ways of sustaining all forms of life in healthy ecosystems on our planet. Through the good work of our partners, Soul Force Ones, this interview will be recorded and will be produced as Western Friend Podcast 23. [Click here to read Philip's article in the March/April 2023 issue of Western Friend.](#) [Click here to learn more about EcoCiv.](#)

**Beavers** are a key natural climate solution. This keystone species helps slow waterways, maintaining wet streamside habitats. Studies have shown beavers help make habitat more resilient in the face of climate-driven wildfires and drought. Despite this clear science, beavers are still classified as "predatory" animals in Oregon, and regulated not by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), but by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

A bill currently moving through the Oregon legislature, [HB 3464](#), would remove that designation and allow ODFW to consider all the benefits beavers bring to the Beaver State when making management decisions. The bill has passed the House and has a hearing in the Senate **this week**. *You can show your support for HB 3464 by [uploading testimony](#) or [contacting your state Senator](#).*



**Eugene's single-use and polystyrene ordinance:** In 2019, our City Council passed ordinances prohibiting Styrofoam food service containers and requiring single-use service-ware and condiments to only be distributed upon customer request. Due to significant staff turnover and other impacts to food service businesses during the pandemic, there is little awareness of these ordinances at restaurants and food trucks. The city is currently sending letters to all food service businesses, and food service ware suppliers to explain, accompanied by a bilingual poster that visually describes the ordinances and which can be used to educate customers and staff. You can do your part by talking to businesses! [More information online>>](#)



**Living Grief, Finding Connection,** The May/June issue of Western Friend has this article by Mary Ann Percy, a Friend from Bellingham Friends Meeting. She says "*In acknowledging and living into our pain for the World, in the safe crucible of community, we may recognize on a visceral level that our pain springs from our connectivity with all Life. The true meaning of compassion means "to suffer with." We only grieve the loss of that which we love. Our capacity to respond to our own and others' suffering – that is, the feedback loops that weave us into life – can be unblocked, and we may then be led to take Spirit-led action on behalf of all Life.*" If you don't subscribe, look for the copy on the rack at the Meeting House. (from Carol)

# 350 EUGENE

## Forest Defense is Climate Defense:

Great news! At the end of April, the BLM and USDA announced a pathway to protect mature and old-growth trees and forests as part of a strategy to improve the climate resilience of federally managed forests. The rulemaking process will involve a public comment period to gather input on new policies the agency can adopt. The goal of our local 350 group is to generate over 500,000 comments. The deadline is June 20th. Stay tuned for talking points and toolkits!

Also, look for more information soon about the Forest Climate Week of Actions in the Pacific Northwest (June 24th - July 2nd) We're planning to hit the Eugene streets with some of the magnificent banners & posters from Earth Day during this week of action. We'll need lots of people to animate the art.



**The Quaker Council for European Affairs** has launched its report *Storytelling from the Frontlines: Forefronting the voices of communities most affected by militarism and the climate crisis*. The report discusses how militarization hinders local efforts to climate change and how securitized responses to the climate crisis negatively impact the natural environment. To access it, [click here](#).



## [The Giving Forest](#) nytimes.com:

Check out this article about sustainable forest management by the Menominee tribe of Wisconsin. "*The Menominee accomplished this by putting the well-being of the forest and their people ahead of profits and doing the exact opposite of commercial foresters. ... It is regarded by some as the nation's first sustainable forest.*" (from Linda).

## [Why elephants, otters and whales are nature's secret weapons against](#)

[climate breakdown](#): Check out this article about how species boost the amount of carbon stored in their ecosystems – and why protecting them is vital (from Jill).

## **Next Earthcare Support Meeting:**

**Monday, June 5**, at 7 p.m. Please join us every month on the first Monday, by zoom, to share our ideas for creative actions and celebrate our successes. If you want the link, let me know! Cynthia Black (541-344-3082, [cynblack55@gmail.com](mailto:cynblack55@gmail.com)).

**Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter** is distributed monthly or bi-monthly, and will include:

1. Reports of positive Earthcare related steps we have taken or intend to take - small or large, anything at all related to caring for the earth.
2. Information on topics of interest. Send me any links or information you have researched, with the sources listed.
3. Links and dates for upcoming earthcare action events.

**Next publication date: Mid-June 2023.** Please send news and information to Cynthia Black, [cynblack55@gmail.com](mailto:cynblack55@gmail.com).