



Highlights for February 2023

Greetings to the MAHB Community

Check out what's happening: An [opinion poll](#) showing that public awareness of a Nuclear Winter is too low given current risks; Julian Cribb's new book [How To Fix A Broken Planet](#), and an 8-week online well-being [course on Forest Bathing](#), starting March 6 (no forest required!)

Read this month's [blogs](#) about solutions to resolving conflicts between farmers and wildlife in conservation areas; the important role of plankton in keeping the Earth habitable; an art blog on navigating futures; why family planning is crucial for breaking the intergenerational poverty cycle, and how we could build a world that's worth living. Also, check out our [arts](#) section.

Our [resources](#) include articles by Paul Ehrlich on what should be taught in every school but isn't; why we should move towards a planetary right to health; an optimistic story of population decline (at last); why Europe's industry increasingly moves toward heat pumps, and why limits are loveable after all.

Listen to two new [Our New World podcasts](#) - one with climate activist and poet Ashley Gore and another with young heiress and multimillionaire Marlene Engelhorn (and why she wants to be taxed more but isn't).

Also, tune in to Nate Hagens' [latest TGS episodes](#), for example, with environmental peacemaker and mediator Olivia Lazard on the relationship between minerals, conflict-vulnerable zones, and high biodiversity areas that pose risks to geopolitical and climate stability.

Don't forget to check out the latest MAHB announcements [here](#).

Not a member of the MAHB yet? [Join the MAHB](#) and help transform progressive civil society into an increasingly powerful force for positive change.

What's Happening



[Opinion Poll Survey: Public Awareness of 'Nuclear Winter' is Too Low Given Current Risks](#)

A survey study of awareness in UK and US populations shows that brief exposure to the latest data on 'nuclear winter' deepens doubts over nuclear retaliation. With the risk of nuclear war now at its highest in decades, populations once again need to be educated on the long-term climate effects of nuclear war. *Read more and download the full survey [here](#).*



Book Launch: How to Fix a Broken Planet

"Julian Cribb's pathbreaking new book, *How to Fix a Broken Planet*, looks squarely at the existential threats to our life-support systems and suggests how individuals and governments should take remedial action. I only hope people will read him and act." – *Paul Ehrlich, author of The Annihilation of Nature*



Connecting with Nature for Wellbeing: An 8-Week Online Course Starting March 6, 2023

8-week Online Course

Now CPD accredited

Relieve stress, have fun, connect with nature...and discover the magic of Forest Bathing in your neighborhood.

No forest required!

[Come and join us in our next cohort](#)

Enrolment now open – [click here](#)

Shinrin yoku – or Forest Bathing – is a modern approach to the ancient Japanese art of connecting with nature through our senses. When we approach nature, we slow down, and we pay close attention to what we are noticing. It's active mindfulness. *Find out more [here](#).*

Blogs for this Month

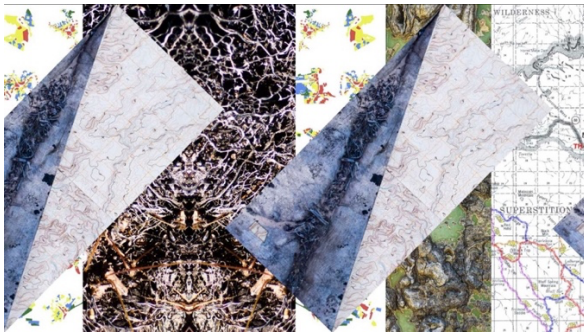
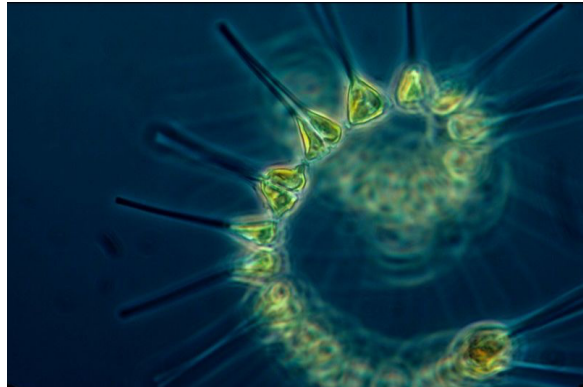


[Possible solutions for resolving conflicts between wildlife and farmers living in conservation areas](#)

How planting crops for wild animals can minimize conflicts

The Overlooked Forests of the Sea

Tiny organisms make mighty contributions to the Earth's climate and ecological balance



navigating futures

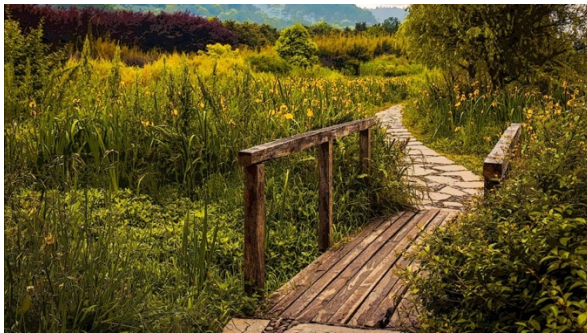
Why pay attention, as artists, to science or as scientists to art?

Family Planning Offers the Best Means for Combating Climate Change: An interview with



Carter Dillard, Fair Start Movement

How to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty that deprives people of the means to determine their future



Choosing a Partnership Future: Evolving a Sustainable, Life-Affirming Way of Being on Earth

A way to build a world we should all want to see

[Read More](#)

Please add your thoughts to the conversations. Previous posts to the MAHB Blog can be found [here](#).

Resources



Population and The Human Predicament in a Nutshell

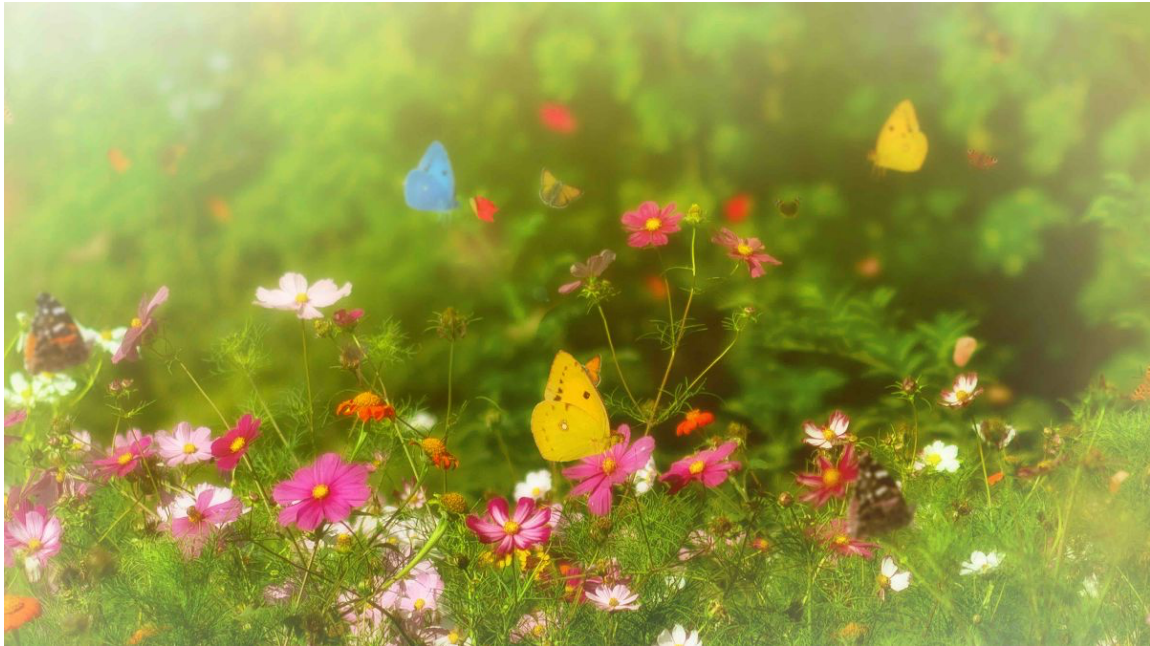
What should be taught in every middle school but isn't: Instead of being barraged with financial, celebrity, and sports trivia, children must learn the facts of humanity's survival. People's impact on their life support systems is a product of how many people there are, how wealthy they are (read: how much they consume), and what technologies and arrangements they make to

service that consumption. Every human being should understand and keep this in mind when thinking about the future.



From the right to a healthy planet to the planetary right to health

The right to a healthy environment cannot be found in the texts of important environmental treaties but has been enshrined in the constitutions of over 100 nations, mostly in Africa, Europe, and Latin America, and at least in 130 regional treaties. Such widespread recognition constitutes evidence that this right is becoming part of customary international law. The right to a healthy environment should evolve into the right to a healthy planet, a step that would guard against excessive anthropocentrism predicated on an untenable chasm between humans—metaphorically considered to be the centre of the world—and their environmental surroundings as well as the assumption that the planet is, in whole or in part, an objectified human property that could legitimately be destroyed by people at will.



The Alternative, Optimistic Story of Population Decline

The shoe has dropped. The big one. China, the most populous country on the planet for centuries, this month reported its first population decline in six decades, a trend that is almost certainly irreversible. By the end of the century, China may have only around half of the 1.41 billion people it has now, according to U.N. projections, and may already have been overtaken by India. The news has been met with gloom and doom.



In Europe's Clean Energy Transition, Industry Turns to Heat Pumps

With soaring gas prices due to the Ukraine war and the EU's push to cut emissions, European industries are increasingly switching to high-temperature, high-efficiency heat pumps. Combined with the boom in residential use, the EU is now hoping for a heat pump revolution. Heat pumps are three to five times more efficient than gas boilers, according to the International Energy Agency.



Why Understanding Limits Is the Key to Humanity's Future

Recent news articles about a breakthrough in nuclear fusion research heralded the potential for “limitless” energy. Fortunately, several other writers have successfully refuted “limitless energy” claims regarding fusion. However, it may

be useful to explain more generally why the promise of limitlessness is misleading and sometimes deadly—and why limits are lovable after all.

Podcasts & Videos



[Ashely Gore – How to Start](#)

Ashely Gore is a young climate activist who decided over lockdown that something needed to be done about the environmental crisis. In school, and now more globally, Ashely has set up movements and organizations that focus on action and collaboration. She is passionate, positive, and determined. Her recent book on 'eco-poetry' (a new term for the 21st century!) is titled '[Unsaid](#)'.



Who Wants to Tax a Millionaire? With Marlene Engelhorn

What do you think about a wealth tax? Heiress Marlene Engelhorn is a millionaire who wants to be taxed more. She isn't alone in this, and when I spoke to her she stressed that she is not alone in having this idea as a wealthy person, nor is she an expert on the issue. That being said, she is very well-informed, extremely passionate about the idea that social inequality could be improved with a wealth tax, and she understands the issue from a deeply personal perspective.



[The Great Simplification – Olivia Lazard: “Peace and Power in the Mineral Age”](#)

In this episode, environmental peacemaker and mediator Olivia Lazard joins Nate to unpack the relationship between mineral deposits, conflict-vulnerable zones, and high biodiversity areas to create interlocking risks to geopolitical and climate stability. Will we have to plunder the planet in order to save it? Will we be able to transition to a multi-polar world order somewhat peacefully? And what can we learn from mediators and peacemakers, like Olivia, as we move into a more materially constrained future – where the whole pie is smaller?

Arts



Owl's Rest - Marianne Bickett

Encountering the Wild Where We Are

This evening I was relieved to see her take flight. It was after dusk, and she had been very still in her sound sleep all day. Her eyelids were shut tight over her huge yellow eyes as the wind tousled her long, brown shawl of striped feathers. The tree branch upon which she was perched swayed and rocked as her strong talons gripped it like a confident surfer or a steady boat upon a restless sea. *Continue reading [here](#).*

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