

# Prairie Fire BIONEERS

November 4–6,  
2011

Center for Fine  
Arts,  
Knox College  
Galesburg, IL



## Prairie Fire Bioneers!

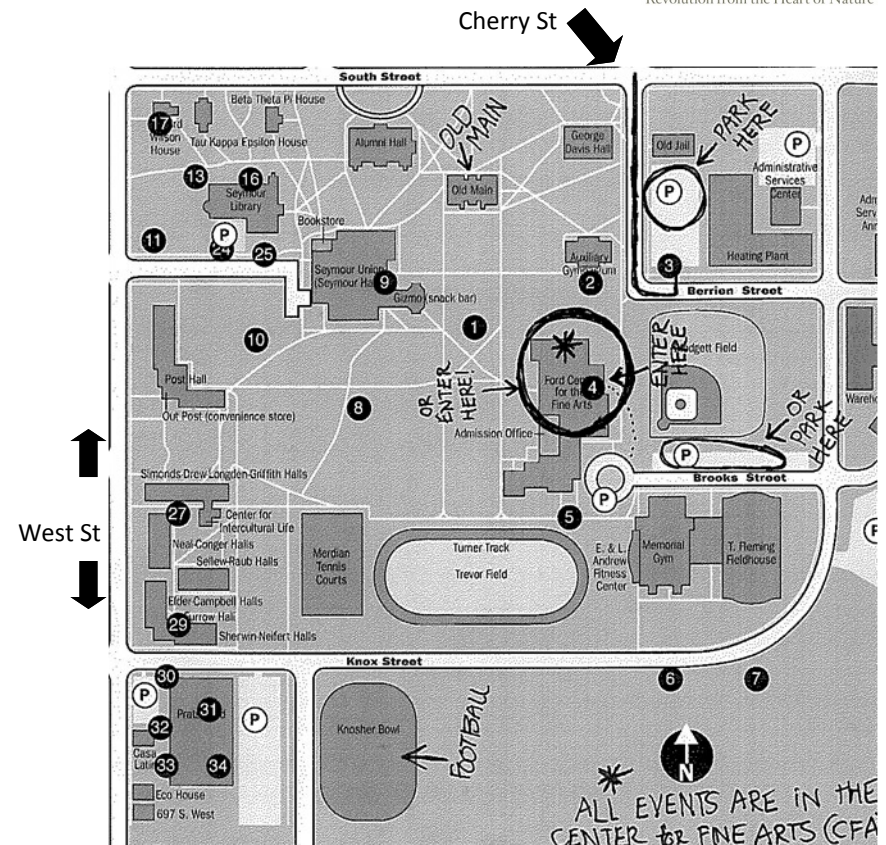
Welcome! We are very excited to be a beaming site for Bioneers this year and to share this experience with you. Everyone is invited to join us; we will have booths representing different groups and topics, showings of plenary speakers from this year's conference, and many interactive workshops. Come participate in collective collaboration towards a more sustainable, brighter future.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments at this year's Prairie Fire Bioneers Conference, please contact Michelle Gerber by email– [mgerber@knox.edu](mailto:mgerber@knox.edu) or by phone (508) 410-3535



**BIONEERS**

Revolution from the Heart of Nature



# Conference Schedule

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th

7pm-9pm: Introduction, Plenaries  
Round Room, CFA

9pm-11pm: "Get up, Stand up" Social Justice Open Mic, anyone can perform!  
Kresge, CFA

### Plenaries 2011

#### **John D. Liu**

*Restoration Writ Large: Unleashing the Potential of Nature and People for Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration*

Chinese journalist and award-winning filmmaker John Liu recounts his long-term chronicling of China's pathfinding experiments to revitalize the immense Loess Plateau. The breathtaking restoration of this radically degraded ecosystem shows transformational change on a large scale in fast forward once we widen our perspective beyond "production" to include ecoservices and natural cycles of renewal that can lead to vibrant local living economies. Next stop: restoration of the entire nation of Rwanda.



#### **Rebecca Moore**

*Google Earth-Eye View: Mapping a Future Environment of Hope*

From the heart of the Amazonian rainforest to the depths of the oceans, from Navajo Nation to the jungles of Brazil, Google Earth mapping technology is providing remarkable high-tech tools to visualize alternative futures. Rebecca Moore is founder and Manager of Google Earth Outreach, which gives non-profits and public benefit organizations the knowledge and resources to visualize their cause and tell their story to hundreds of millions of people. As a Google software engineer, she leads Google Earth Engine, a huge collection of the world's satellite imagery made available online with tools for scientists, independent researchers and individual countries who are developing applications for detecting deforestation and mapping land use trends. Rebecca shares her global vision in action, and how seeing the world from a Google Earth-eye view has changed her.



## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th

9am-10:30am: Prairie Seed Gathering  
Meet at CFA 9am sharp

10:30am-12:30pm: Plenaries  
Kresge Recital Hall, CFA

12:30pm-2:00pm: Lunch - all local food!  
Offered by the Sustainable Business Center  
CFA Lobby

**Note:** all workshops are in CFA, locations will be announced at the beginning of the conference.

2pm-3pm: Interactive Workshops

3pm-4pm: Interactive Workshops

4pm-5pm: Interactive Workshops

5pm-6:30 pm: Plenaries,  
Kresge Recital Hall, CFA

6:30 pm-8pm: Dinner  
CFA Lobby

For registered participants a home-made meal prepared by Knox students will be provided.

8pm-11pm: Community Conversation/Social Hour  
Round Room, CFA/Taylor Lounge, Seymour Union

Let's share our experiences and perceptions after today's activities, afterwards follow us to the Taylor Lounge for refreshments and music by the Knox Student group, "Poets & Peasants"

## SATURDAY Plenaries 10:30 –12:30

### Karen Brown

*Revolutionizing K-12 Education with Sustainability in Mind*

“Smart by Nature” education has the potential to impart to our young the keys to sustainable living, revitalize our nation’s approach to schooling, and point the way to a hopeful future.

This bold vision developed by the Center for Ecoliteracy is preparing today’s young people for the ecological challenges of the coming decades. Karen Brown, CEL Creative Director and an award-winning designer, explores how this vision is becoming reality in K-12 schools nationally.



### Roxanne Brown

*Blue and Green: Working Together to Secure a Sustainable Future*

The clean energy economy presents transformational economic and environmental potential for the nation. To ensure we achieve energy independence, mitigate the effects of climate change and secure a sustainable path for U.S. workers, it’s critical that labor unions and the environmental community work together to advance clean energy policies. As assistant Legislative Director of the United Steelworkers (USW), Roxanne Brown focuses on issues including defense, environment and climate change as one of five lobbyists in the USW’s Legislative Office in Washington, D.C. she also serves on the Steering Committee of the Bluegreen Alliance, a groundbreaking national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the number and quality of jobs in the green economy to secure a sustainable future.



### Anim Steel

*The Real Food Challenge*

As Director of National Programs at Boston’s famed The Food Project, Anim Steel has been building a strong nationwide youth movement for just food systems. Since 2003 he has provided leadership training for over 700 young people and forged a network of 5,000 + young activists and farmers. He highlights the Real Food Challenge, a campaign he co-founded to re-direct \$1 billion of college food purchases away from industrial agriculture towards local, fair, sustainable and humane sources.



## SATURDAY Plenaries 5 – 6:30 PM

### Amory Lovins

*Reinventing Fire*

Living legend Amory Lovins, Chairman and Chief scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute, offers us a new roadmap to how the U.S. can get completely off oil and coal by 2050, led by business for profit, sped by smart policies, and driven by informed customers. As the planet’s most important thinker about energy efficiency and energy’s links to resources, security, development and the environment, he’s a consultant to businesses and governments around the globe, has penned 31 books and won too many prizes to count. Now he and RMI are speeding the transformation, in short, “Reinventing Fire.”

### Dayna Baumeister

*Life’s Operating Manual*

Envision what our world would and could look like if we actually started reading and following the directions contained in “Life’s Operating Manual.” Co-founder with Janine Benyus of the Biomimicry Guild and Biomimicry Institute, Dayna Baumeister provides an eagle’s-eye view of biomimicry breakthroughs using ecological design and nature-inspired technologies that emulate nature’s profound design sophistication. She has worked in the field of biomimicry with Janine Benyus since 1998 and designed and teaches the world’s first Biomimicry Professional Certification Program.



### Gloria Steinem

*When Women Are People...and Corporations Are Not: Why the First Inequality Will Also Be The Last*

Often the same adversaries oppose women’s, anti-racist, environmental, peace, human rights, indigenous, sexual liberation, consumer, children’s rights and other such movements. Yet these movements often remain separate and don’t see their organic linkage. Gloria Steinem, the iconic leader who continues to inhabit the leading edges of progressive social change, traces the historical, political and practical reasons these movements are linked - not ranked - and why our success depends on it.



## **SATURDAY Interactive workshops 2 — 3 PM**

**Rhonda Brady “Seed balls for Monarch Restoration”** - Rhonda Brady, University of IL Master Gardener will lead this hands on workshop to create seed balls of monarch friendly plants to aid in the restoration of Illinois butterfly habitat. As a participant in the Monarch Watch tagging program since 1997, Brady has witnessed the decline in habitat areas in Western IL and the effect that decline has had on the local butterfly population. Each participant will create seed balls to distribute in November which is the prime time to plant seeds requiring cold moist stratification to germinate.

**Greg Vickers, Sr. “Peace and Unity in the Community”**- Discussion on violence prevention, housing and jobs. Open to the public to voice issues and concerns to better strengthen the community.

**Helen Schnoes, “The Food Movement: Get Revved Up!”** - What is the Food Movement? What issues does it address? This workshop will be part-presentation, part-workshop/discussion that will expose you to all sides of the food movement, and then explore ways for you to become engaged with this exciting national effort right here at Knox and in Galesburg. First, we will conduct an overview of the social, economic, environmental, and political aspects and campaigns that comprise the Food Movement--highlighting several key issues, groups, etc., including the Real Food Challenge. Then, we will focus in on the food-related initiatives and activities on campus and in the community. After our hour session, we will all leave energized and ready to take the next steps towards a more real and just food system--and pumped up for the subsequent food-related Bioneers sessions! To echo the mantra of the first Food Day (October 24), It's time to eat real, America!

## **SATURDAY Interactive workshops 3 — 4 PM**

**Little Village Environmental Justice Network “Raising Little Village: The fight for Celotex!”** - LVEJO—The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization—has worked with residents affected by issues of flooding basements, rashes and cancer causing chemicals for the past 10 years. These problems were connected to their next door neighbor: an abandoned 23 acre toxic superfund site known as Celotex. Currently LVEJO is working with residents on their quest to have Celotex become the home for the new park they deserve. How did this campaign start? What were the victories and losses? More importantly what key steps kept the community engaged in the struggle? Please join us for a thoughtful conversation after our delightful homemade 30minute film.

**Amy Brucker, Jim Stanley, Lorelei Ullrich “Food Hub: the concept and what it means to small growers.”** - Local producers often face challenges when it comes to distributing their goods in the surrounding area; learn how we can work together to bring more local food to our tables while supporting local growers.

## **SATURDAY Interactive workshops 4 — 5 PM**

**Little Village Environmental Justice Workshop “ Correction, We Are NOT a Food Desert”** -Join LVEJO volunteers, but more importantly passionate gardeners, as we talk about our current urban agriculture projects in Little Village—the Midwest most densely populated Mexican community. Fun and colorful pictures will describe and invite discussion on how the Latino Community in Chicago is shaping Urban Agriculture to fit their actual needs. Likewise we hope to give the audience a glimpse into how people of color are reacting to current and future Urban Agriculture policy in Chicago.

**Gary Lay & Thomas Veague “Local Energy Solutions”** - Across the Midwest a growing number of cities and their citizens have begun addressing the issue of energy cost and energy security. With a focus on electrical needs, this workshop will examine the feasibility of renewable energy being a major player. The workshop will include a demonstration of the latest solar and wind technologies for homeowners and businesses.

**Knox Advocates for Recycling and Environmental Support(KARES) “A Roundtable Discussion of Activism in the Community”** - Working for change in a small community can feel daunting, especially when you or your group is the only one who sees the need for reform. This brainstorm session aims to bring together activists from college campuses and communities around the Midwest to discuss their struggles and successes. By working with and learning from activists in other communities, we can use their examples to streamline our own efforts and offer advice to activists who face challenges we ourselves are familiar with.

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th**

*10am-11:30am: Yoga with Laura Bush  
Auxiliary Gym*

*10am-11:30am: “Ecotour of Galesburg” led by  
Peter Schwartzman  
Meet in CFA*

*12:30pm—2pm: Plenaries  
Kresge, CFA*

*2pm-3pm: Interactive Workshops*

*3pm-5pm: Plenaries & Closing  
Round Room, CFA*

## **SUNDAY Interactive workshops 2 — 3 PM**

**Illinois Stewardship Alliance “Beyond the Fork: How Real Change is Going to Come in the Food System”** - In the October 2011 issue of the Nation Magazine acclaimed food system critic and journalist Michael Pollan had new article titled, "How Change is Going to Come in the Food System," where he looked at both the successes and shortcomings of the "Good Food Movement." Focusing on food and farm policy and the upcoming Federal Farm Bill this workshop will examine the future of the local food movement and how the movement can grow beyond the fork through collective action and community engagement and bring real change to the food system.

**Tom Colclasure, Asha for Life Community "Human Trafficking. What it is. How it works. What you can do."**

**Student’s Health Advocacy Group (SHAG) & Students Against Sexism in Society (SASS) “Alternative Menstrual Products”** - Menstrual products have an impact on the environment too! Learn about these issues as well as learn about environmentally friendly menstrual products. You also get the opportunity to purchase these products after the workshop!

## SUNDAY Plenaries 12:30 – 2 PM

### Melissa Nelson

*Revitalizing Indigeneity: Eco-Cultural Knowledge and Reciprocity*

Dynamic indigenous eco-cultural revitalization movements provide compelling leadership models by native peoples working to maintain and restore their Traditional Ecological Knowledge. TEK, the art and science of resilience for the sustainability of future generations, is critically needed as a partner to Western science to restore the world's ecosystems and biological and cultural diversity, including native foods and languages. Professor of American Indian studies at San Francisco state, Melissa Nelson is President of the Cultural Conservancy, a Native American nonprofit dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of indigenous cultures and their ancestral lands. She illuminates how the "re-indigenization" movement is inspiring a commitment to reciprocal relationships with place as well as collaborative partnerships among peoples and landscapes.



### Paul Stamets

*Solutions from the Underground: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World*

In this sixth Age of Extinctions, the life support systems that have allowed humans to thrive are eroding. Paul Stamets, the world's leading visionary "mycotechnologist," shows how fungi and mushrooms can help restore ecosystems, degraded landscapes and human health - fast. Like people, habitats have immune systems, and our close evolutionary relationship to fungi provides the basis for novel environmental deployments of key mushroom species that can lead to greater sustainability and better health.



## SUNDAY Plenaries 3 – 5 PM

### Joshua Fouts and Rita King

*The Emerging Imagination Age*

Visionary media innovators Josh Fouts and Rita King call this time The Imagination Age. From sudden revolutions in the Middle East to "unimaginable" natural and human-made technological and economic disasters, our world is in a state of radical transformation and readjustment. At the same time, powerful new media are emerging that could presage a hopeful new global culture and economy. Josh and Rita illuminate how extraordinary new tools - virtual worlds, games and the worldwide web - can leverage global cultural empowerment and educational reform, amplified by creativity, collaboration, art and music.



### Phillipe Cousteau

*Continuing a Legacy: Building a Sustainable World in the 21st Century*

Phillipe Cousteau explores his iconic family legacy and its contributions to global oceanic exploration and conservation, and describes how that experience inspired him growing up. Explorer, social entrepreneur and environmental advocate, he is continuing the work of his father through EarthEcho International to engage and empower people to take action for a brighter future with education, balanced advocacy and a commitment to action. A special correspondent for CNN International, he is also Chief spokesperson for Environmental Education for Discovery Education, the #1 provider of K-12 broadband-delivered educational content to U.S. schools. He was appointed founder and co-chair of the Gulf Action network for the Clinton global Initiative. He will reveal not only the discoveries but also the challenges in a rapidly changing world, and why oceans and water are the most important systems on the planet. Using video clips from his father's films and some of his own TV work, he'll explore ways all of us can share in the adventure of building a sustainable future.



### Pam Rajput

*Voices for Peace and Sustainable Development - The First Women's Parliament of India*

India's first "Women's Parliament" brought together over 500 democratically elected women leaders from every part of the country. What began as a "shadow" Parliament addressing the under-representation of women in government has become an inspiring innovation and success story. Pam Rajput, among India's most eminent leaders in the struggle for women's rights, is an academic turned internationally renowned activist engaged in the women's movement in India and internationally. She helped organize and lead the Women's Parliament as its first Speaker, and shares her vision of how the empowerment of women globally will transform the world.

