## The Free Nature Movement

Contributed by Chuck Burr 04 March 2009

Why the environmental movement has failed to protect the environment. Introducing the "Free Nature Movement" and why like abolition and suffrage it can succeed in freeing nature from humanity.

Environmentalism is not a movement.

For a political campaign to be considered a movement, it has to drive a new right into the Constitution. Recycling and carpooling is not amending the Constitution.

The environmental movement cannot, as it is currently structured, protect the other species from our burgeoning population.

Nothing is effectively achieved until the Constitution is amended. A 28th Amendment that gives all other species equal rights to humanity would enable legislation to begin to reverse the 233 years of exploitation that the U.S. is founded upon.

This is not as far fetched as it sounds. In 2002 the lower house of parliament in Germany, the Bundestag, adopted a bill that for the first time enshrined animal rights in the constitution. The bill passed by a huge majority, and said "The state takes responsibility for protecting the natural foundations of life and animals in the interest of future generations." This makes Germany the first country, as far as I know, to give constitutional rights to animals. This is as good a place as any to say where the Free Nature Movement began.

On a local level, your town council or county commissioners can adopt the "The Rights of Nature Ordinance." First passed in 2006 by the Tamaqua Borough Council in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, the ordinance states that, "People and their communities are trustees of nature, and communities of nature and ecosystems form part of the natural trust."

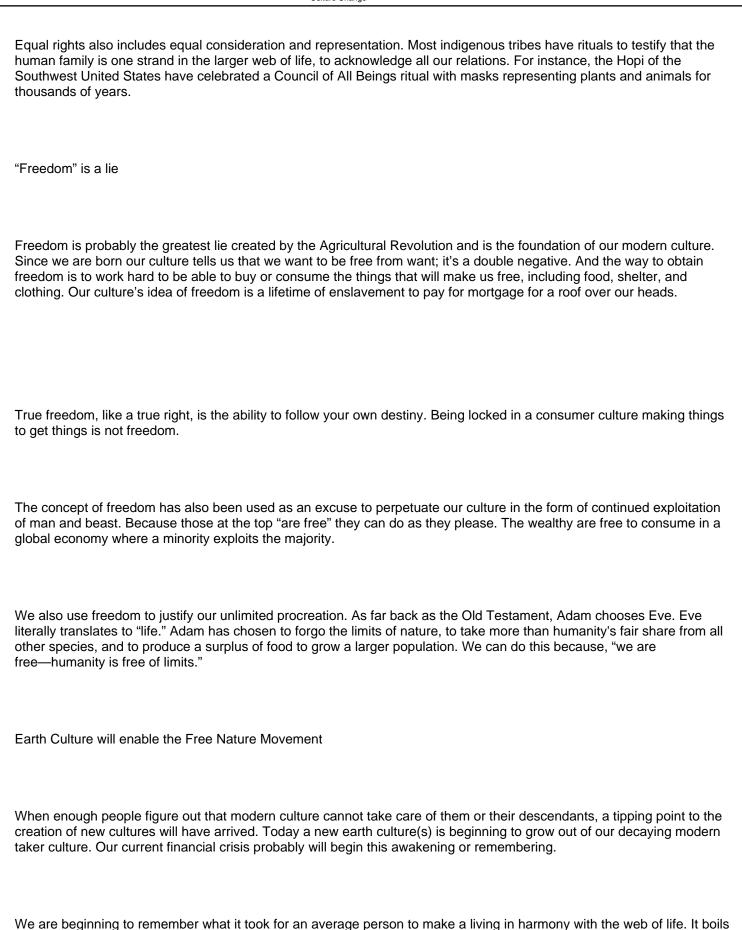
What is a "right"?

A right is more than the right to vote. A true right is to allow all other species to follow their own destiny as given by the universe and by god.

Today we have enslaved nature to do our bidding. The Bible refers to man's dominion "over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

As many know, this enslavement actually began with agricultural revolution 10,000 years ago when one tribe started living a new story, that "the world belongs to man." This was the birth of our modern taker culture [as in takers versus leavers]. One tribe in the fertile crescent between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers cast away the story that enabled humanity to live in symbiosis with the earth's ecosystem for three million years, that says "humanity belongs to the earth."

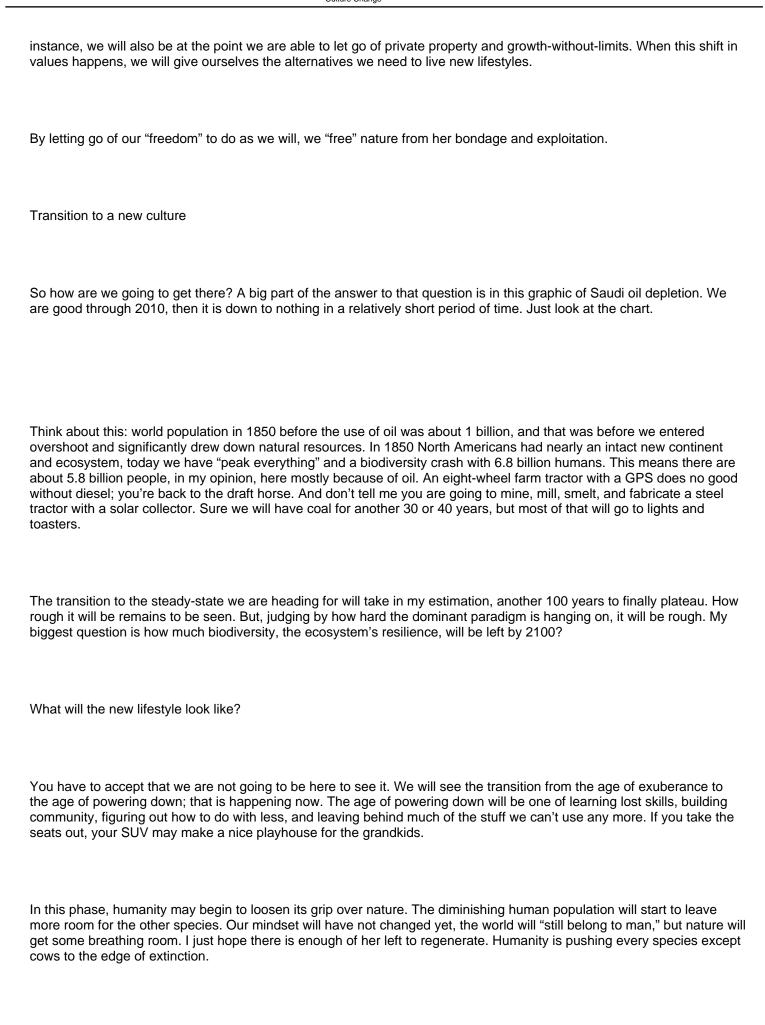
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Once we can turn that corner and make that mental shift that we are just one strand of the web of life and that we need the entire web for not only our sake, but for the sake of our relations, then we will let go of our false freedom. For

down to giving support to get support instead of making things to get things.

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If enough of nature is left after 2100 years, that is when the restoration time begins. Hopefully what is left of modern

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culture will be so shell-shocked in 100 years by what they have lost that our descendants will just walk away from that failed lifestyle and live closer to the earth. They will have to.
It is easy to describe a future souped-up 1850s lifestyle maybe with radios, but it is the ethics and story that we live by that will make all the difference. For the last 110 years our ethics have been blinded by an addiction to a cheap energy surplus that created all this stuff, technology, and the middle class. Without cheap energy, it will all go away. Lets hope there are people starting to think about building knowledge arks now.
The point is that it is the story we live by that can free nature. If we can remember the original story that worked for humanity for three million years, that "humanity belongs to the earth," then we will be able to let go of our selves, our grasping, and our freedom in order to free nature.
In the end, I believe that the Free Nature Movement will just happen because the dominant culture will just go away. There will be very little modern taker culture left to have to convince to allow nature to follow her destiny. It will just happen.
Read Culturequake: The End of Modern Culture and the Rise of Earth Culture. Visit www.culturequake.org to learn more about Culturequake the book and the online magazine. ©2009 Chuck Burr LLC
Notes:
BBC News: Germany to grant animal rights:
news.bbc.co.uk
CELDF: Rights of Nature Ordinance:
celdf.org
EarthLight: The Ecological Self:
earthlight.org

Culture Change: Counter Argument for "Stimulus," Growth and Employment:

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The Honoring All Life Foundation: Exploring Choices Honoring the Essence of All: honoringalllife.org
Culturequake: Usufruct: End Private Property to Solve the Financial Crisis and Create Food Security: culturequake.org
The Oil Drum: Saudi Arabia's Crude Oil Production Peaked in 2005: theoildrum.com
Wikipedia: World population: en.wikipedia.org
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Editor's note: The author asks, "What will the new lifestyle look like? You have to accept that we are not going to be here to see it." I believe we will see it. And we had damned well better. We will be lucky to see it, at the rate we are seeing our Earth home trashed and spinning out of balance. It is optimistic to assume we will see coal used along with toasters for decades to come, although I personally would like to see a culture change that gives up the alleged need for the coal on a massive scale. – JL
Graphics above courtesy Chuck Burr's website.