

Hello Students, Colleagues and Friends,

This week over 700 people from around the globe, passionate about our rivers, lakes and streams will gather at River Rally in Oregon. They'll learn about a myriad of tools which we can use to help our waterways like the Clean Water Act, green infrastructure, and skills for how to work with people you thought didn't care about natural resources like rivers. Jacques Cousteau's daughter will speak as will Robert Kennedy - to inspire, cajole and support these people to higher levels of activity - protecting H<sub>2</sub>O upon which we all depend for survival.

We've all learned about the water cycle - that circle from textbooks which illustrates clouds yielding wet stuff to earth for supplying homes for fish, transportation for many, recreation for those inclined and liquid nourishment for all of us. From the earth and streams we see it sink into aquifers or flow to the ocean only to inevitably be evaporated back up to the sky to begin the process over again. It is the essence of elegant simplicity.

Man (and woman) began harvesting water for other uses thousands of years ago. They supplied small groups of livestock in concentrated places with water and built small dams to turn grist wheels. More recently we began creating drinking water for millions and cooling nuclear reactors. Utilizing our natural resources is not a bad thing; and shows itself with many faces - many positive and necessary. Abusing our natural resources out of ignorance and/or greed is another thing completely and ultimately harms not only the resource but all species depending on that resource including us. That's why so many of us work to create, or remember, better ways of doing things - more in sync with natural cycles.

Within the river movement there are many of us exploring the water-energy nexus. It will be a major topic of conversation this week in Oregon. It should be a major topic of conversation in all our lives on a regular basis. Many of you have been instructed in biomimicry by a few of us out in the field and in class. In synergy with our colleagues out in Oregon I wanted to offer a means for you to save water by saving energy. As many of you learned in class, it takes a behemoth amount of energy to clean, distribute, and clean again the water that we use in our lives. It is incumbent upon us both to conserve and use efficiently water in our direct connections to it; but also *conserve it by using our energy efficiently*. Through biomimicry, emulating individual organisms up to and including entire ecosystems, an ever-greater number of tools are becoming apparent and are being used in ever-widening circles to operate within Earth's operating conditions. Enjoy watching how Regen mimics swarm logic and saves both energy and water in the process <http://www.regenenergy.com/> . Then, go back out into nature with your business problems and a biologist in order to do similarly.

Here's to you and our small planet too,

Margo

Margo Farnsworth

**Screendoor Consulting**

Adjunct Faculty, Lipscomb University Institute for Sustainable Practices

[615-478-4889](tel:615-478-4889)

*Give good people good information and they'll do good things.*

(If you've just received this single newsletter, it may be because I thought you'd be interested in this particular subject. You may or may not get others. If you want on my list regularly, e-mail me. If you want off my list, e-mail me. Thanks!)