

Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

I promised some of you (awhile back) I would send you my upcoming events. Mea culpa for the delay. As you know, I only write when I have something to say; and recently my world has been all and only about our daughter's wedding. BUT, as promised, I'm back – and with two bonuses. Beyond the dates below, I have a bit to say to you about the dangers of ignoring the precipitous decline of our wildlife populations in my latest essay at the Center for Humans and Nature's City Creature's Blog – [Digital Clones](#) . It's chilling to me. I'll be interested in what you have to say.

A second item of interest is for any of you who might be showing a little (or a lot of) gray in your coiffure. I'll admit it right now (in case any of you thought I was just chronically sun-streaked.) (The sun-streaking is real. It's the brown underneath that has had chemical help.) My hair color is from a box. So, for a couple of years now this has been a thing despite the perils of the chemicals, health warnings I've read, and my husband's admonishments that I really should just go gray. YUCK! Not having it!! Old will always be fifteen years beyond whatever age I currently hold! No. No. NO! I'm all about very little or no make-up; but don't mess with my hair. My somewhat southern "roots" may be showing in my proclivity for holding onto my brown locks. Whatever the case, it was not until yesterday when I heard John Warner (Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry) discuss the insidious *water pollution* caused by three billion pounds of pollutants from hair dye annually that I got religion about it.

The great thing about John is that he is also into biomimicry. He and Elizabeth Lindsey, PhD have been looking at the structure and composition of hair over the past several years – and by mimicking the pigment eumelanin, in our hair – they came up with a solution. [Hairprint](#) doesn't work by just coloring the strand of hair outside the sheath. "Every strand of hair has a unique internal structure that determines the configuration of pigment in hair. When Hairprint is applied, the natural pigment reintegrates into the cortex restoring natural hair color."<sup>1</sup> No carcinogens. No water pollution. Now that's a biomimicry solution that will curl your hair – or at least color it! (OK, insert collective groan here on that last reference.)

Now for the promised dates:

- This Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> I'll be speaking with several esteemed colleagues at [The Tattered Cover](#) bookstore for those of you in the Denver area. As our co-editor John describes it:

Whether referring to a place, a nonhuman animal or plant, or a state of mind, wild indicates autonomy and agency, a will to be, a unique expression of life. Yet two contrasting ideas about wild nature permeate contemporary discussions: either that nature is most wild in the absence of a defiling human presence, or that nature is completely humanized and nothing is truly wild. This book charts a different path. Editor John Hausdoerffer, joined by contributors Margo Farnsworth, Aaron Abeyta, & David Rothman, will discuss and sign [Wildness Relations of People and Place](#) (\$30.00 University of Chicago Press) which brings together esteemed authors from a variety of landscapes, cultures, and backgrounds to share their stories about the interdependence of everyday human lifeways and wildness. Spanning diverse geographies, these

essays celebrate the continuum of wildness, revealing the many ways in which human communities can nurture, adapt to, and thrive alongside their wild nonhuman kin. Can't make it to the signing? Request an autographed copy here: [books@tatteredcover.com](mailto:books@tatteredcover.com)

- Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville - **[Impact Tennessee: Build Green, Be Well](#)** **[The Science Behind Sustainability](#)** This day-long ticketed event is the Tennessee U.S. Green Building Council's inaugural statewide conference. Ann Sussman will keynote in the morning and I'll speak right after awards at 1:00. You know about me but Ann, an architect, author and researcher has co-authored the book, *Cognitive Architecture, Designing for How We respond to the Built Environment* (2015) which won the 2016 Place Research Award from the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA). She lectures frequently and spoke at the international Greenbuild2016 conference in Los Angeles last year. As for me, I'll be speaking on **[Consulting Nature for Business Solutions](#)** From ants and bees to mussels and trees; architects, designers and engineers are now working with biologists to ask nature how to build smarter, heat and cool less expensively, and travel more efficiently. I'll describe various biomimicry inventions relative to the built environment and their effects on the planet, profits and the people who took the time to ask nature how to solve their challenges in the first place. Who knows? After hearing what others are doing you may be the next to use biomimicry in your workplace!

Alright – promise fulfilled! Here's hoping I see you sooner than later and that we all enjoy our own work in sustainability whatever it is!

Best to you and our big Earth too,

Margo

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<sup>1</sup>Warner Babcock Institute website; [Warnerbabcock.com](http://Warnerbabcock.com)