



**SOIL NOT OIL**  
**5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**SEPTEMBER 9 – 10, 2019**

**Grey Area's Grand Theater**  
**2665 Mission Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94110 USA**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

8:00 am **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

8:55 am **WELCOME**  
**Miguel Robles**, Core Organizer of Soil Not Oil Coalition

9:00 am – 9:35 am **KEYNOTE: Resilient Agriculture for a Changing Climate**  
**Elizabeth Kaiser**, Owner of Singing Frogs Farms  
*Introduction by Hana Lyon*

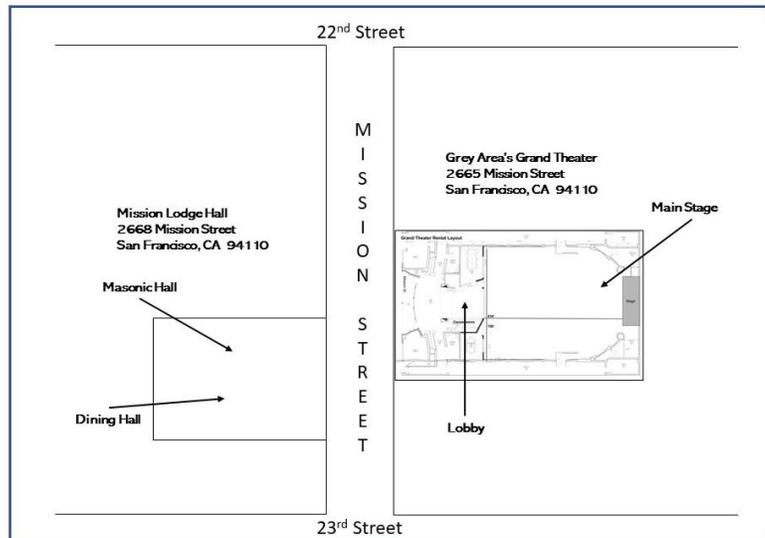
9:45 am – 10:45 am **PLENARY I - Soil Organic Matters**  
**Ronnie Cummins**, Executive Director of Organic Consumers Association  
**Seth Itzkan**, Co-founder of Soil4Climate  
**Diana Donlon**, Executive Director of Soil Centric  
**Josie Watson**, Soil Specialist  
*Facilitated by Ronnie Cummins*

10:55 am – 11:55 am **PLENARY II - Forever Forest: Ecological Restoration**  
**Don Tipping**, Permaculturist & Regenerative Agriculture Land Consultor  
**Mathew Trumm**, Permaculture Educator, Designer and Consultor  
**Alana Lea**, Founder of iGive Trees  
**Ildiko Polony**, Nursery Manager, Literacy for Environmental Justice  
*Facilitated by Leo Lauchere*

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **PLENARY III - Regenerative Hemp**  
**Alika Atay**, Hawaiian Farmer  
**Jorgen Hempel**, Hemp Builder Pioneer  
**John Roulac**, CEO RE Botanical  
*Facilitated by Linda Delair*

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **LUNCH**

Afternoon breakout presentations will take place in one of the following four locations:



## **BREAKOUT PRESENTATIONS**

## **LOCATION**

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Small-Scale Biointensive Farming and Carbon Sequestration: Growing Food and Soil for the Future, NOW** **Masonic Hall**  
*John Jeavons, Growing Biointensive*

“Most of the world’s farms are very small. Worldwide more than 475 million farms are less than 2 hectares in size and more than 410 million farms are less than 1 hectare in size, producing up to 70% of our world’s food supply” (UN-FAO, 2014).

Ecology Action Director John Jeavons, author of the bestselling “How to Grow More Vegetables and Fruits, Nuts, Berries, Grains, and Other Crops Than You Ever Thought Possible With Less Water On Less Land Than You Can Imagine,” will present an introduction to the sustainability challenges facing our planet, and explain how regenerative, organic, small-scale Biointensive farming is a real solution that average people can easily learn to use, right where they are, to help restore our soils, end fossil fuel dependence, and bring our agriculture back into harmony with the Earth. Plus, you get tomatoes!

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Revitalizing Our Forests to Revitalize Communities** **Dining Room**  
*Kyra Rice, Board Member: Cloud Forest Institute, Member: Forest Reciprocity Group*  
*Colin Gillespie, Co-founder of Polecraft Solutions, Member: Forest Reciprocity Group*  
*Anna Hope, Member: Forest Reciprocity Group*  
*Eric Lassotovitch, Licensed Building Contractor in Northern California*

In the shadow of annual catastrophic fires that CA has been experiencing for over a decade now, the Forest Reciprocity Group (FRG) aims to collaborate with communities to tend forests for health and fire resilience while utilizing the abundance of thinned materials for fire-safe housing. Our focal strategy for improving ecosystems and fire mitigation in the western region is to incentivize the utilization of the fire-fuel loads of small diameter trees thinned from overstocked forestland. Working together with First Nations, landowners, local and state agencies, we can build capacity among forest stewards and educate home builders about the viable and superior alternative of small diameter timber framing for fire-safe home construction. The results of this full cycle of forest reciprocity will be revealed in healthy forests, long range carbon sequestration, community resilience, sustainable housing, and revitalization of a local economy that can be replicated in other forested bio-regions. FRG is an initiative of Cloud Forest Institute.

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm **Safe Soils** **Main Stage**  
*Rob Bennaton, University of California Cooperative Extension Bay Area*  
*Urban Agriculture Advisor*

This workshop will provide processes to assess urban soils and manage risk. Participants increase understanding of how to sample soils, map soils samples and their sample results in order to prevent soils-contaminant-exposure, when present. The workshop concludes on urban soil safety in context of heavy-metal-safe-growing and risk management in production, backyard, community and school farms and gardens, with continued emphasis on best practices.

2:45 pm - 3:30 pm **Your “Compost” as PFAS Contamination Vehicle? Re-evaluating “Recycled” Waste And Implications on Food, Water, Soil and Community** **Lobby Room**  
*Darre Sicher, United Sludge Free Alliance*

Once promoted as “nightsoil”, “compost” and “nutrient rich recycled waste”, 60% of all municipal sewage sludge waste is marketed as “biosolids fertilizer” to home and urban gardeners, landscapers and farmers. But what about the chemical contaminants that gather within the solid and liquid waste that is spread where we eat, drink and live: PFAS? Pharmaceuticals? Viruses? Heavy Metals? Yep, it’s all in there. With the recent EPA admission of hazardous toxins transferred to our soil, water and communities via biosolids/sewage sludge waste, re-evaluation has never been more important. What is YOUR farmer and community applying to YOUR food and water and how does

**Your “Compost” as PFAS Contamination Vehicle?** *(continued)*

this impact the survival and sustainability of the soil? Discussion will include historic background, industry-resistant science and why/how you can get involved to protect our food, water and future

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm **Endophytic Microbiology to Sequester CO in the Soil** **Main Stage**  
*Michael Collins, Founder of Everflux Technologies*

1. Regeneration of soil biome lost by chem fertilizer
2. Sequester carbon with abundant soil life and biodiversity
3. Clean the ocean by preventing fertilizer runoff

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm **The Sacramento River Watershed: Issues, Solutions, and Community** **Lobby Room**  
*Michael DiMartino, Executive Director of Golden Road Productions*  
*Rachel Linden, Executive Director of Green Lifestyles Network, Inc.*

The Sacramento River Watershed as a holistic bioregion, as well as the issues and ways that the watershed is at risk and the activism and innovative approaches to change.

- What the water protector tour is and why it is important to focus on the larger watershed, as a holistic entity in which critical approaches to change are needed in order to survive.
- Open discussion regarding concerns of the issues impacting various communities as well as to explore innovative approaches and how to collaborate in the Water Protector Tour.

3:40 pm – 5:10 pm **Towards a Veganic Revolution: Agriculture as the Key to Social Equity and Sustainability** **Masonic Hall**  
*Nassim Nobari, Director and Co-founder of Seed the Commons*  
*Chema Hernandez Gil, Board member and Co-founder of Seed the Commons*  
*Alisha Utter, Co-steward Arbor Farmstead*

In this panel we will discuss the historical connections between different agricultural systems, environmental degradation and the development of inequality, highlighting in particular the differences stemming from animal domestication. We propose a transition to veganic farming and speak of the current states of both the veganic farming movement and the broader movement for ecological farming. Finally, a young farmer and agroecology PhD student will show how agroecology can incorporate an animal liberationist perspective, sharing experiences from her farm and others from around the United States.

3:40 pm – 5:10 pm **Survival and Soil: Why Nuclear Weapons Still Matter** **Dining Room**  
*Jackie Cabasso, Executive Director of Western States Legal Foundation in Oakland*  
*Marcia Campos, President of the Board of Directors and Adjunct Faculty of the Western Institute of Social Research (WISR)*  
*Andrew Lichterman, Policy Analyst and Lawyer at Western States Legal Foundation*

Climate change is an existential threat, one that could wipe out much of the human population of this planet. Nuclear weapons long have been known to pose similar dangers, and yet public concern about them has receded. This is so despite the renewed dangers of arms racing among countries that still possess enough nuclear weapons to end human civilization in a day. The connections between these existential threats remain largely unexplored in the movements sparked by accelerating climate change. Both have impacts that have disproportionately affected colonized and indigenous people. This workshop aims to encourage discussion on the relationship among movements working to confront these fundamental challenges facing humanity. It will include a perspective on the Cold War era movements of the global South, whose contributions to nuclear disarmament work during that time largely have been overlooked.

3:40 pm – 4:25 pm **Soil Our Next Energy Economy** **Main Stage**  
*Jeff Wright, Everything Dirt Composting*

Sewer and "dig" agriculture are stone age concepts that are changing to empower our soil economy. Permaculture and no dig farming are coming on strong, but stepping away from our water toilets is the key to fully see our soil revolution come to be. By fixing our waste stream we

**Soil Our Next Energy Economy** (*continued*)

will fix our food economy. Seeing humanity as a eusocial superorganism of soil makers and food growers. One of the most difficult and expensive tasks we're asking our children and communities right now is to perpetuate water sewer. This presentation will discuss the actual logistics of this change and or transformation. Also how easy and doable it will be for households, communities and the "people-powered" service that will perform it. The perpetual energy equation we are looking for is not a machine or a device, but humanity as a whole. The main text will be Joe Jenkins "Humanure Handbook."

3:40 pm – 4:25 pm **Hidden in Plain Bite** **Lobby Room**  
*Monica Chen, Factory Farming Awareness Coalition*

From monster hurricanes and wildfires to record-setting temperatures across the globe, environmental issues are increasingly grabbing people's attention. Yet one key piece is often left out of the discussion: the food system. Our food choices are one of the most powerful ways we can help stop everything from climate change to deforestation to water depletion and pollution. Join Monica Chen, the National Programs Director of the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition, as she shares how educators are helping students and stakeholders make the connection between their daily food and the environment. She'll also be speaking about the successful passage of the Green Monday resolution through Berkeley City Council last year and the program's expansion into schools, companies, and municipalities.

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm **Soil is the Foundation of Climate Restoration** **Main Stage**  
*Matt Powers, Author, Educator and Entrepreneur*

Every bold plan to reverse climate change relies upon SOIL as a strong foundation and their first step. The plans to reforest the earth, to regreen the deserts, and reverse erosion from agriculture: all are, at heart, reliant upon soil. If we are to mitigate climate change, bring back biodiversity, restore our oceans and forests, bring back the nutrition in our food, and secure a stable future economically for our families, we must focus on soil building as the foundation for all healing in both the earth and people systems. Join author, educator, and permaculture expert, Matt Powers, in exploring our deepest roots and interconnection with the soil and how every aspect of our lives and our futures relies upon healthy, diverse, and rich soil.

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm **Biodynamic Apiculture in the Anthropocene** **Lobby Room**  
*Michael J. Thiele, Founder of Apis Arborea. Rewilding Honeybees*

“What is the truth at the center of the image honeybees were born with?” The Anthropocene and the accelerating extinction of life on earth are a wake-up call for a fundamental shift of being on earth. It is also an opportunity for innovative initiatives in the apicultural world and for the creation of ‘symbiotic narratives’ that not only place the very basic needs of honeybees at the center of our concern but also brings to light the bio-dynamic plasticity and life-giving gestures of honeybees as a keystone species and cultural innovator. In this context, the vision of rewilding of honeybees leads to the rehabilitation of natural and complex biotic systems and also re-calibrates our capacities of perception and cultural identity as human beings. “We can learn so much from honeybees because they completely contradict the thoughts we form about them” (Rudolf Steiner).

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm **PERFORMANCE: Ashel Seasunz**

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **PLENARY IV - Agroecology: A Global Movement**  
**Clara Nicholls**, Professor of Agroecology & President of presidenta horofica y co-directora de CELIA (Centro Latinoamericano de Investigaciones Agroecologicas)  
**Peter Rosset**, Professor of Agroecology at the ECOSUR  
**Jahi Chappell**, Executive Director of Food First  
*Facilitated by Paul Rogé*

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm **KEYNOTE: The EPA Friend or Foe**  
**Jonathan Latham**, Executive Director of the Bioscience Resource Project  
*Introduced by Jeffrey Smith*

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm **PERFORMANCE: Francisco Herrera**  
*ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION CAMPS MIXER*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

8:00 am **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

9:00 am – 9:35 am **KEYNOTE: Monsanto and Democracy Capture**  
**Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**, President of Waterkeeper Alliance  
*Introduced by Theo Ferguson*

9:45 am – 10:50 am **PLENARY V: Oceans Threats and Solutions to Save the Soup of Life**  
**David Helvarg**, Executive Director of Blue Frontier  
**Blake Kopcho**, Senior Oceans Campaigner, Center for Biological Diversity  
**Dakota Peebler**, Heirs to Our Oceans  
**Mary Crowley**, Executive Director of Ocean Voyages Institute  
*Facilitated by David Helvarg*

10:55 am – 11:55 am **PLENARY VI: Circular Eco-Systems & Threatening Technologies**  
**Isaac Nicholson**, Creative Leader and Entrepreneur  
**Nils Michael**, CEO of Whole Health Marketing  
**Dafna Tachover**, Executive Director of We Are the Evidence  
**Jeffrey Smith**, Executive Director of The Institute for Responsible Technology  
*Facilitated by TBD*

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **PLENARY VII: Urban Farming & Environmental Justice**  
**Haleh Zandi**, Co-founder and Director at Planting Justice  
**Estève Giraud**, PhD Student at Arizona State University  
**Minkah Taharkah**, Black Earth Farms  
**Martha Dolores Ayon**, Zapoteppec Agricultural Community  
*Facilitated by Leah Attwood, Co-Director of MESA*

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **LUNCH**

**BREAKOUT PRESENTATIONS**

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Grassroots Rising: Regenerative Agriculture, Climate Crisis and the Green New Deal**  
*Ronnie Cummins, Founder and International Director of the Organic Consumers Association*

**LOCATION**  
**Masonic Hall**

How regenerative food, farming, and land use, along with a transition to renewable energy, can get the USA to Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030 as outlined in the Green New Deal. How to build a movement to do this by supercharging the four main drivers of regeneration: (1) grassroots consciousness, mobilization, and movement building; (2) scaling up farmer, rancher, and land management innovation and best practices; (3) gaining political power and changing public policy through a ballot box revolution; and (4) mobilizing public and private funding.

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Organic for All: The Science of Why Organic Works and the Organic for All Movement to Bring Organic Food to Schools**  
*Kendra Klein, Senior Staff Scientist, Friends of the Earth*  
*Debbie Friedman, Program Director, Conscious Kitchen*  
*Adriana Silva, Tomatero Farms*

**Dining Room**

The science is clear: organic works. New research shows that pesticide levels in four diverse American families dropped up to 95% in one week on an organic diet. We found pesticides linked to cancer, autism, infertility and more in all participants—this inspires our work to make organic for all. As one mother in the study said, “Everyone has the right to clean, organic food. That is a human right.” The farmers and farm workers who grow our nation’s food, and their communities, have a right to not be exposed to chemicals linked to serious health problems. And the way we

**Organic for All** (*continued*)

grow food should protect rather than harm the ecosystems that sustain all life. Learn about the science behind why organic works for our health and planet and about efforts to transform our food system to make organic for all from one of the scientists behind the study, an organic farmer, and a leader in the organic-to-school movement. Learn how Conscious Kitchen transformed meals at a low-income elementary school in Richmond, CA to 100% organic sourced from regional farms, and help inform ideas on how to scale this model in California and beyond.

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm **Digging into the Science behind Climate Smart Farming and Small-scale Intensive No-till Systems** **Main Stage**

*Sara Tiffany, Senior Manager for CAFF's Climate Smart Farming Program*  
*Emily Buerer, Program Coordinator for CAFF's Climate Smart Farming Program*

CSF focuses on the interface between agriculture, climate change and ecosystems in order to identify and promote farming practices and agroecological systems that mitigate and adapt to climate change, conserve natural resources and improve farm productivity and resiliency in the long-term. In order to further investigate and influence adoption of CSF practices and systems, CAFF works directly with farmers on pilot projects which bring together research on the soil health aspects of targeted CSF practices and systems, with the farmer experience of practice implementation, documenting farm-specific adaptations and innovations along the way.

One of the key pilot projects which CAFF has been running since 2017 is our Small-scale Intensive No-till project. In this project, three California farms with different climates and soil types were trained by Singing Frogs Farm in Sonoma County and have since implemented Small-scale Intensive No-till trials on their own farms. Along the way, CAFF has collected extensive soil data, documented farmer experiences and worked to build a farmer-to-farmer network around Small-scale Intensive No-till farming systems, also referred to as Biointensive No-till. Results from this project thus far have demonstrated the viability of this ecological farming system and the important opportunity it presents to beginning and minority farmers with limited access to land and capital.

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm **The Three Sisters: Bringing to Your Region the Development and Support of Youth and Families as Climate Activists** **Lobby Room**

*Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, Youth Acting for Earth*  
*Isaac Vergun, Youth Acting for Earth*

Learn about Youth Acting for our Earth (YAE!) and how you can bring this innovative youth and parent climate training program and support program to your community.

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm **Towards Dirtier Philosophies of Creative Interchange (Transdisciplinary Art Practice in Soil Studies)** **Main Stage**

*Linus Lancaster, Arts Educator in Northern California*

This presentation documents a series of art projects done by my students and I over the past ten years that have sought to raise public interest in soils, as well as awareness about their imperiled condition around the world. While interest in, and concern for soil is at the center of our work, as art projects they also push the boundaries of traditional ecology in experimental ways. Given the severity and complexity of the current ecological crises, many of the solutions will have to come from practices that are as of yet unknown and untried. In this sense, art practice is an ideal discipline from which to approach seemingly insurmountable problems due to its ability to think and perform outside of conventional parameters.

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm **Kenaf: Plant Based Solutions for Industrial Growth and Environmental Regeneration** **Lobby Room**

*Joseph Hart, Co-founder of Kenco*

This workshop will discuss alternative plant-based solutions to solving and bridging the gap between some of the worlds biggest industries and the environment in which we live. Participants increase understanding of industrial process and the how to's of reducing big ag's grip on the

**Kenaf: Plant Based Solutions** (*continued*)

family farmers of the world. We will review plant-based solutions that are proven to effectively reduce industrial waste, costs and social unrest, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the differences in traits and market comparisons of some of the top alternative plant cultivars available.

- 3:40 pm – 5:10 pm **Living in a Fire Ecology - California** **Masonic Hall**  
*Elizabeth Azzuz, Board Secretary of the Cultural Fire Management Council, Humboldt County, CA*  
*Douglas Bevington, Ph.D., Forest Program Director for Environment Now*  
*Larry Ray, Fire Response and Prevention Expert from Northern California*

Since California will burn, and we live in an ecological setting where fire plays a vital role, especially for some native species, it is important to become conscious of what it takes to live in a fire ecology and support our communities.

- 3:40 pm – 5:10 pm **Will Biotech Replace Nature?** **Dining Room**  
*Jeffrey Smith, Leading Consumer Advocate Promoting Healthier Non-GMO Choices*  
*Dana Perls, Senior Food and Agriculture Campaigner with Friends of the Earth*

If we successfully stop climate change, save our oceans, and protect our soils, we still may lose the natural world that we cherish. There is a quiet gold rush going on—a gene rush—where companies and institutions are seeking to alter and profit from anything containing DNA. From algae to animals, from fungus to flowers, nothing is off limits. Their combined trajectory could REPLACE NATURE.

When genetically modified organisms are released into the environment, they can spread, contaminate the gene pool, and be passed on to future generations. The only thing that lasts longer than self-propagating genetic pollution is extinction. The decisions we make in this generation can impact our future like never before.

- 3:40 pm – 4:25 pm **Biodiversity Islands: Pockets of Biodiversity in Human Dominated Landscapes** **Main Stage**  
*Brett Levin, Yale University / Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology*

This presentation serves to identify and promote strategies for the implementation of the framing and planning tool we term Biodiversity Islands.

- 3:40 pm – 4:25 pm **5G and Wireless Radiation a Threat for the Planet** **Lobby Room**  
*Dafna Tachover, Managing Director of We Are the Evidence*

Wireless technology has become a necessity of modern life. 5G, the next generation of wireless is promising to further revolutionize the way we live including agriculture, and “Smart” technologies are being incorporated into the Green New Deal as tools to help combat the impact of Climate Change. At the same time, the voices calling for a moratorium on 5G and alarm about the adverse effects of wireless technology radiation on humans, animals, plants and our planet, are rapidly growing. This presentation will explore the scientific evidence of harm; answer many of the questions currently surrounding 5G and wireless technologies; present evidence that some of the effects attributed to climate change may be a result of the exponential increase in our use of wireless technology—and suggest that solutions aiming to protect our planet should be seeking to reduce our use of wireless technology rather than increase it.

- 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm **Waste Transformation Closed Loop Farming** **Main Stage**  
*Paul Olivier, Empowering the Poor through Waste Transformation*

Transforming biodegradable waste, integrating plant and animal systems, deindustrializing agriculture reducing carbon emissions, sequestering carbon, de-commodifying food and restoring biodiversity.

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm **Planet vs. Corporate Rule: It's Up to Us**  
*Keyan Bliss, Move to Amend*

**Lobby Room**

Without systemic change, industry and mega-corporations will continue to have too much influence on the enactment of environmental protections, and accessibility to sustainable energy technologies. Climate change is making the urgency clear.

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm **Short Films Screening**

- **El Mate** - *Introduced by Guido Luis*
- **Journey to Pavitramenthe** – *Introduced by Rafi Loiderman*
- **The Commons (Trailer)** – *Introduced by Bunker Seyfert*

6:00 – 7:00 pm **PLENARY VIII – Youth Rising**

*Rachel Parent, Food/Climate Youth Activist and Speaker*

*Isaac Vergun, Youth Acting for Our Earth (YAE!)*

*Jibril Kyser, Co-founder of Black Earth Farms*

*Mackenzie Feldman, Co-founder of Herbicide-Free Cal*

*Facilitated by Daniel Kook*

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm **PERFORMANCE: OLOX**

9:00 PM **CLOSING**