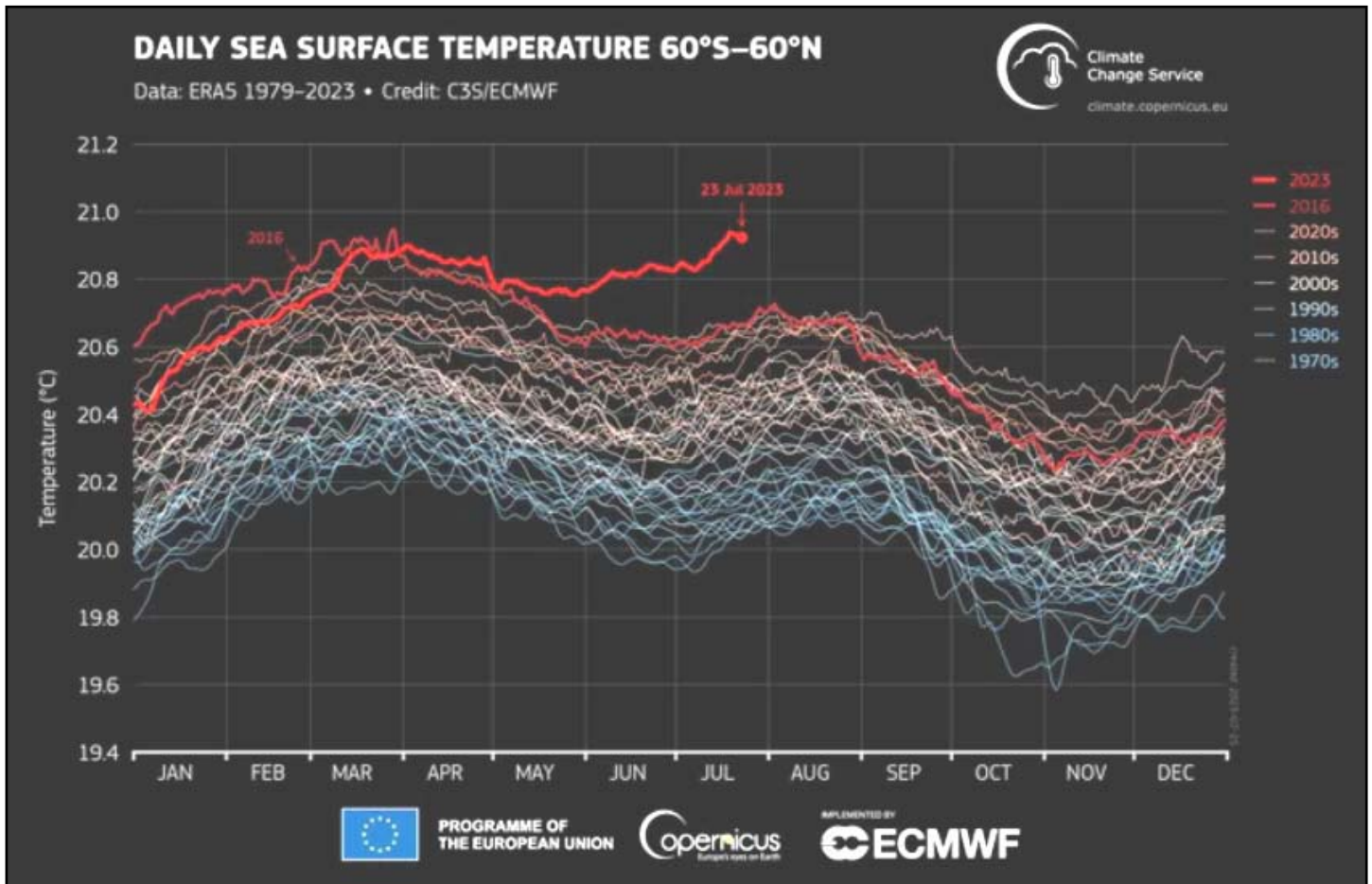


# TreeHuggers United = Invincible!

**Invincible:** Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

**Think about it:** What are you doing to and for our future?

Volume 9: July 31, 2023



Graphic Courtesy C3S/ECMwF

## UN Chief Proclaims ‘Era of Global Boiling’ as July Set to Be Hottest Month Ever Recorded

By Brett Wilkins

Common Dreams: July 27, 2023

“We can still stop the worst,” U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres insisted. “But to do so we must turn a year of burning heat into a year of burning ambition.”

As new data released Thursday showed that July is all but certain to be the hottest month ever recorded on Earth, the heads of the United Nations and its meteorological agency joined sci-

entists and activists in underscoring calls for “climate action and climate justice.”

The United Nations’ World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Union-funded Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said Thursday that based on globally averaged surface air temperatures, “The first three weeks of July have been the warmest three-week period on record and the month is on track to be the hottest July and the hottest month on record.”

“These temperatures have been related to heatwaves in large parts

of North America, Asia, and Europe, which along with wildfires in countries including Canada and Greece, have had major impacts on people’s health, the environment, and economies,” the agencies added.

Speaking at United Nations headquarters in New York Thursday morning, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said, “We don’t have to wait for the end of the month to know this. Short of a mini-Ice Age over the next days, July 2023 will shatter records

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across the board. All this is entirely consistent with predictions and repeated warnings. The only surprise is the speed of the change. Climate change is here, it is terrifying, and it is just the beginning.”

“The era of global warming has ended and the era of global boiling has arrived,” Guterres asserted. “Humanity is in the hot seat.”

“For vast parts of North America, Asia, Africa, and Europe, it is a cruel summer. For the entire planet, it is a disaster,” he added. “And for scientists, it is unequivocal – humans are to blame.”

Petteri Taalas, who heads the U.N.’s World Meteorological Organization, said that, “The extreme weather which has affected many millions of people in July is unfortunately the harsh reality of climate change and a foretaste of the future.”

“The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is more urgent than ever before,” Taalas added. “Climate action is not a luxury but a must.”

Exacerbating the crisis, the WMO and C3S said that “contributing to the exceptionally warm July for the globe as a whole is a long period of unusually high sea surface temperatures” dating back to April.

Underscoring the severity of the situation, scientists were stunned this week by what may be the highest ocean temperature ever recorded on Earth as a thermometer buoy in Florida’s Manatee Bay near Key Largo registered a surface reading of 101.1°F, or 38.4°C.

Climate scientists around the world expressed alarm over the temperature records. Barring a major asteroid impact today, it is virtually certain that July 2023 will be the warmest month on record by a large margin,” Zeke Hausfeather of the California-based nonprofit Berkeley Earth told *The Guardian*. “I personally find the magnitude of this record a bit stunning. We don’t see anything analogous in the historical record for the month of July.”

University of Arizona climate scientist Katharine Jacobs told *The Associated Press* that, “Events like this are signposts along a highway we don’t want to travel. It is time to stop playing political games and get serious in order to protect ourselves and future generations,” she added.

Guterres reiterated a call for world leaders – especially those from the rich nations most responsible for creating

the planetary emergency – to “step up for climate action and climate justice.”

“No more greenwashing,” he said. “No more deception. We can still stop the worst. But to do so we must turn a year of burning heat into a year of burning ambition.”

Referring to the Paris climate agreement’s more ambitious goal, Guterres insisted that, “It is still possible to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C and avoid the very worst of climate change but only with dramatic, immediate climate action. We have seen some progress – a robust rollout of renewables and some positive steps from sectors such as shipping – but none of this is going far enough or fast enough. Accelerating temperatures demand accelerated action.”

**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/july-hottest-month-on-record>

***It’s precisely the people who are considered the least “likely” leaders who end up inspiring others the most. Everyday people and everyday acts of courage eventually change everything.***

~ Ai-Jen Poo ~

***This means you and me!***

~ Iona ~

## How to Subscribe

Dear Sister/Fellow TreeHuggers,

If you’d like to receive future issues of my newspaper, please email me at [grassrootscoalition@pa.net](mailto:grassrootscoalition@pa.net). Also, email me if you have good stories and photos you’d like me to consider publishing in future issues. In the past, I have published a Messages page similar to Letters to the Editor so if you’d like to share your thoughts, please do so.

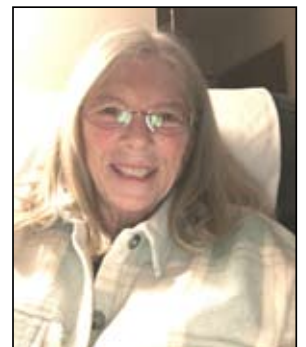
I’d like to see this be a team effort as it has been

in the past but we need time to develop this project and figure out ways to work together.

This is a labor of love but I always appreciate donations, which you can send to: Iona Conner, 157 Chambersbridge Road 4A, Brick, NJ 08723. If you use Zelle or PayPal, please reach my bank account directly via [dosomething@pa.net](mailto:dosomething@pa.net). Cash is OK, too. Thank you!

For the Earth and the Trees,

*Iona*



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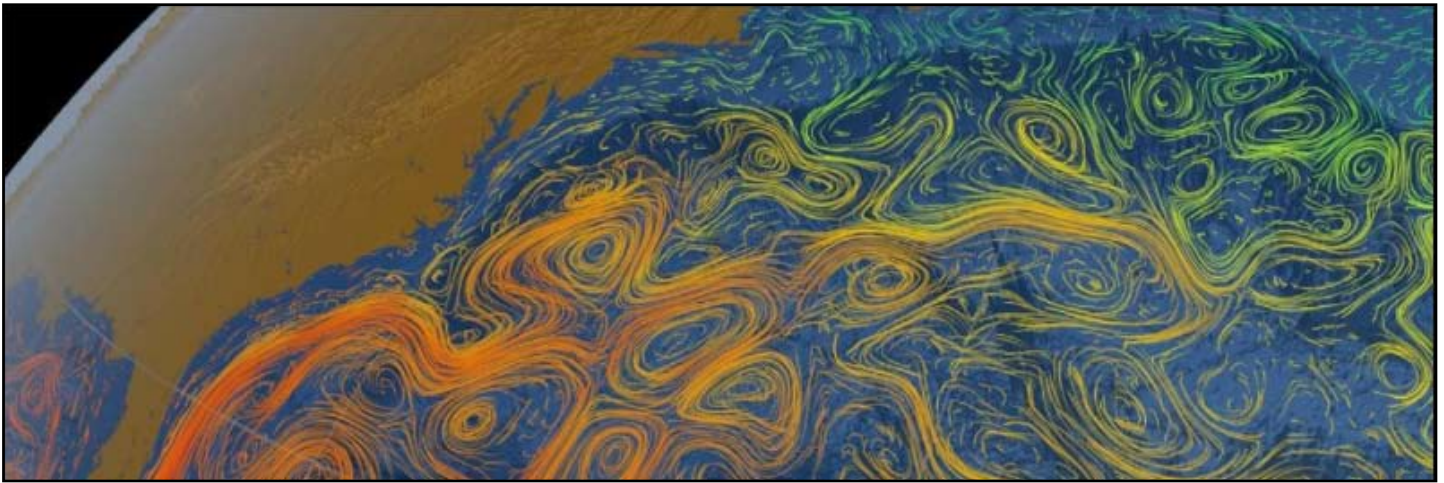


Image: NASA

The Gulf Stream is an ocean current that carries warm water from the Gulf of Mexico into the Atlantic Ocean.

## Study Warns Climate-Driven Collapse of Critical Ocean Current System ‘Much Closer Than We Thought’

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington DC, USA

“It is very plausible that we’ve fallen off a cliff already and don’t know it,” said one researcher.

By Brett Wilkins, *emphasis added*  
Common Dreams: July 25, 2023

The system of Atlantic Ocean currents that drive warm water from the tropics toward Europe is at risk of collapsing in the coming decades, an analysis of 150 years of temperature data published Tuesday concluded.

“The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), which includes the Gulf Stream, is a major tipping element in the climate system and a future collapse would have severe impacts on the climate in the North Atlantic region,” states the study, which was published in the scientific journal *Nature Communications*.

Although the analysis notes that, “Assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), based on the Climate Model Inter-comparison Project model simulations suggest that a full collapse is unlikely within the 21st century,” The study’s

authors “estimate a collapse of the AMOC to occur around mid-century under the current scenario of future emissions. We show that a transition of the AMOC is most likely to occur around 2025-2095,” the paper states with “95% confidence.”

University of Copenhagen professor Peter Ditlevsen, who led the study, told *The Guardian*: “I think we should be very worried. This would be a very, very large change. The AMOC has not been shut off for 12,000 years.”

Bill McKibben, co-founder of the climate action group 350.org, tweeted that, “Gulf Stream collapse used to be viewed as a far-off and remote possibility...Less so now.”

Meteorologist and climate journalist Eric Holthaus called the study’s findings “incredibly worrying.”

*The Washington Post* reports: *The new study adds to a growing body of evidence that this crucial ocean system is in peril. Since 2004, observations from a network of ocean buoys [have shown] the AMOC getting weaker – though the limited time frame of that data set makes it hard to establish a trend. Scientists have also analyzed multiple “proxy” indicators of the current’s strength, including microscopic*

*organisms and tiny sediments from the seafloor, to show the system is in its weakest state in more than 1,000 years.*

For thousands of years, the Gulf Stream has carried warm waters from the Gulf of Mexico northward along the eastern North American seaboard and across the Atlantic to Europe. As human-caused global heating melts the Greenland ice sheet, massive quantities of fresh water are released into the North Atlantic, cooling the AMOC – which delivers the bulk of the Gulf Stream’s heat – toward a “tipping point” that could stop the current in its tracks.

According to *The Guardian*: *A collapse of AMOC would have disastrous consequences around the world, severely disrupting the rains that billions of people depend on for food in India, South America, and West Africa. It would increase storms and drop temperatures in Europe, and lead to a rising sea level on the eastern coast of North America. It would also further endanger the Amazon rainforest and Antarctic ice sheets.*

“It is very plausible that we’ve fallen off a cliff already and don’t know it,”

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Photo: AIFE/Twitter

The four Ugandan activists arrested protesting the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) post defiantly after their release on July 12, 2023.

## Climate Activists Demand Justice for ‘Unjustly’ Arrested Ugandan Anti-EACOP Protesters

By Brett Wilkins  
Common Dreams: July 12, 2023

Climate campaigners around the world on Wednesday urged Ugandan authorities to drop charges against four climate activists arrested and jailed overnight after peacefully protesting a highly controversial oil pipeline under construction in the region.

Bob Barigye, Mutesi Zarika, Naruwada Shamim, and Nalusiba Phionah were violently arrested Tuesday in the capital Kampala for protesting the environmental and social impacts of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The activists – who were

later released on bond – were charged with inciting violence.

However, the #StopEACOP coalition – which said the protesters were “unjustly” arrested and jailed – argued that photos and videos from the demonstration show that it was peaceful.

“The arrests of these activists are a clear attempt to silence dissent and suppress opposition to the EACOP,” the coalition’s campaign coordinator, Zaki Mamdoo, said in a statement. “We call upon the international community and civil society organizations to join us in condemning these arrests and demanding justice for those detained.”

Samuel Okulony, director of the En-

vironment Governance Institute, said that, “It is not a crime to voice opposition to the controversial EACOP project or to advocate for the government and project proponents to explore alternative, sustainable solutions.”

“Peaceful protest and dialogue are fundamental pillars of a democratic society, and these rights must be protected and upheld,” Okulony added.

Charity Migwi, the African regional campaigner for U.S.-based 350.org, condemned the arrests “in the strongest terms possible.”

“These activists were exercising their democratic right to peacefully

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Hali Kilbourne, an associate research professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, told *The New York Times*. “I fear, honestly, that by the time any of this is settled science, it’s way too late to act.”

Other studies – including one published in March and another in 2021 – have also concluded that the AMOC is at risk of collapsing this century.

Meanwhile in the Southern Hemisphere, Antarctic currents that enrich

40% of Earth’s deep oceans with oxygen and nutrients essential for marine life have slowed dangerously in recent decades and could also collapse by mid-century, an Australian study released in May showed.

[Page 7 of the report: *Transition will happen but also an estimate of when it will happen. We predict with high confidence the tipping to happen as soon as mid-century (2025–2095 is a 95% confidence range). These results are under the assumption that*

*the model is approximately correct, and we, of course, cannot rule out that other mechanisms are at play, and thus, the uncertainty is larger. However, we have reduced the analysis to have as few and sound assumptions as possible, and given the importance of the AMOC for the climate system, we ought not to ignore such clear indicators of an imminent collapse.*

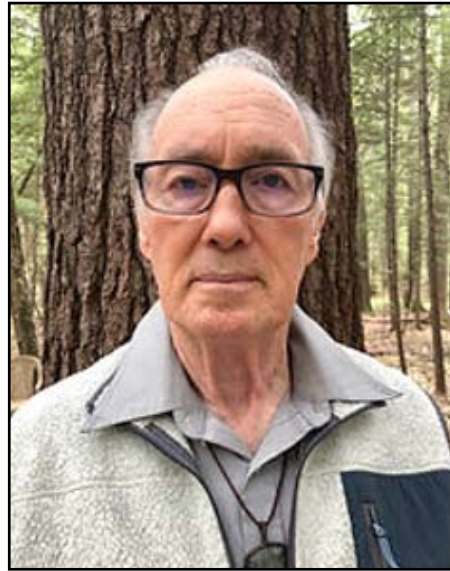
**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/amoc-current-collapse>

# Robert Leveret: “Premier Old-growth Forest Evangelist”

## Environmental-Forest Research Organizational Affiliations (Current)

- **Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest:** Cofounder (1993), President, and principal old-growth forest ecologist, a federally recognized non-profit environmental organization and an officially recognized Friends organization to the state forests and parks of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- **Native Tree Society (NTS)**  
(formerly Eastern Native Tree Society – ENTS) Cofounder (1996), Executive Director. A forest and tree advocacy Internet interest organization with members devoted to scientific research, tree modeling and measurement, education, and general enjoyment of forests and trees. Membership consists of academics, government scientists, professional foresters, arborists, research scientists in environmental organizations, and ordinary citizens. The core of NTS is an advanced tree measuring group, which develops methods for measuring trees to a high level of accuracy. Associate editor of and contributor to the *Bulletin of the Eastern Native Tree Society*, a scientific journal. Principal editor, Dr. Donald Bragg, U.S.D.A. Forest Service. [www.nativetreesociety.org](http://www.nativetreesociety.org)



**American Forests National Champion Tree Program:** Senior Advisor (since 2014)

## Writing & Publications

### BOOKS

- *Old Growth In The East, A Survey*  
Wrote forward and lead essay for Dr. Mary Davis’s seminal publication on

the old-growth sites in the East, 1993. Provided the data for southern New England and selected sites in northern New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and the southern Appalachians. Assisted Mary Davis with the 1996 update.

- *Eastern Old Growth Forests: Prospects for Rediscovery and Recovery*

A co-conceptualizer of the book with Dr. Mary Byrd Davis. An assistant editor and a coauthor of this widely received book on eastern old-growth forests. Island Press (1996).

- *Stalking the Forest Monarchs: A Guide to Measuring Champion Trees*  
Coauthor with Will Blozan and Jack Sobon. Self-published book on how to measure champion trees (1997). Included new measurement techniques.

- *Wilderness Comes Home: Re-Wilding the Northeast*

Contributor to this book edited by Christopher McGrory Klyza. Wrote chapter on eastern old growth. University Press of New England, 2001.

- *Sierra Club Guide to Ancient Forests of the Northeast*

Coauthor with Bruce Kershner of this book on old-growth sites in the  
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protest against a project that they believe will have devastating consequences for the environment and the people of Uganda and beyond,” she said, urging the Ugandan government to “drop all charges against them.”

This isn’t the first time anti-EACOP activists have been arrested for peacefully protesting the pipeline. Last October, nine student leaders were arrested by police and subsequently charged with inciting violence for holding a Kampala demonstration in support of a European Parliament resolution condemning the project’s human rights and environmental violations. Four more anti-EACOP activists were arrested last December.

Barigye, a 34-year-old biology teach-

er and climate activist, was arrested in January for anti-EACOP organizing despite having police permission to protest. Barigye told *African Arguments* earlier this year that he was held for four days, during which time he was “psychologically tortured” by police.

“They threatened my life and family,” he said. “They dragged me into a filthy cell, made me starve... I could not sleep as they would interrogate me at any time of the night.”

“We are looked at as the enemies of the state,” Barigye said of the anti-EACOP activists. “The police now prefer psychological torture because physical torture will create bad publicity around the oil pipeline project, which could push away investors and insur-

ers... The government doesn’t want to be in the international spotlight for the wrong reasons.”

If completed, the \$3.5 billion, nearly 900-mile (1,448-kilometer) EACOP would transport up to 230,000 barrels of crude oil per day from fields in the Lake Albert region of western Uganda to the Tanzanian port city of Tanga on the Indian Ocean.

Earlier this week, Human Rights Watch published a report detailing how EACOP has devastated the lives and livelihoods of tens of thousands of people in its path while exacerbating the climate emergency.

**Source:** <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/eacop-2662268386>

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Northeast, 2004.

- *American Indian Places – A Historical Guidebook*

Contributor to this book organized by Frances Kennedy. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008.

**Writing & Publications****American Forests Tree-Measuring Guidelines Handbook**

U.S. Forest Service retired. An 86-page internet manual on measuring trees for championship competitions.

**Studies (Samples)****• Survey of Old-growth Forest in Massachusetts**

Coauthor with Dr. Peter F. Dunwiddie, Massachusetts Audubon Society, published by *Rhodora*, Vol. 98, No. 896, pp. 419-444, 1996. This is one of the two authoritative scientific inventories and studies of old-growth forests of Massachusetts.

**• The Sine Method: An Alternative Height Measurement Technique**

Coauthor with Dr. Donald Bragg, U.S.D.A Forest Service; Dr. Lee Frelich, Director for Center of Forest Ecology, University of Minnesota; Will Blozan, President Native Tree Society; Dale Luthringer, Naturalist and Educational Specialist, Cook Forest State Park, Pennsylvania. Published by United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, Southern Research Station, December 2011. This is an authoritative paper that compares and contrasts the principal methods of measuring tree heights.

**• Annual Report to Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation by Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest (FMTSF)**

Two annual reports detail the research accomplished by FMTSF on the old-growth forests and outstanding second-growth forests on DCR properties. Study participants include Robert T. Leverett, Professor Gary Beluzo, and other scientists of the Native Tree Society.

**Forest Inventory and Research**

- Inventory, study, and GPS-GIS

map all old-growth forest stands on state lands in Massachusetts. Inventory is being performed for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under a special use permit from DCR. (current)

- Assist Trustees of Reservations map and document old-growth forest on William Cullen Bryant Homestead and other Trustees properties. (current)

- Ecological and tree growth studies in second growth and old-growth areas of Mohawk Trail State Forest and other state forests. (current)

- Special research permit from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as part of general ENTS research program entitled Tsuga Search. Study and document old-growth hemlocks in the National Park. (past)

- Special research permit from Congaree Swamp National Park as part of general ENTS forest research program. (past)

- Inventory, study, and GPS-GIS map old growth forest stands on the property of the City of Springfield Water Department. (1999-2000)

**Magazine – Internet Articles (Samples)**

- **American Forests**  
www.americanforests.org

Two articles on exemplary forests and tree-measuring: 2013, 2016

- **Rewilding Institute**  
www.rewilding.org

Articles and podcasts on old growth forests and carbon sequestration, 2018

- *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, Northampton, Massachusetts

Articles on old-growth forests and champion trees, since 2000

- *Trees For Life – Findhorn Journal*, Scotland

Author of article on old growth forests, 1999

- *Wildflower*, North America's Wild Flora Magazine

Articles on historic trees and old growth forests, 1995

- The Woodland Steward, *Berkshire*

**Magazine**

- Articles for the Massachusetts Forestry Association's primary publication

- *Spiritearth*

Article on old-growth forests for Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics

- Eastern Old-Growth Forest Clearing House

Regular contributor to 'Old Growth Notes,' the publication of the Clearing House, mid-1990s.

- *Wild Earth*

Numerous articles on tree species and old growth forests to include definitions, early 1990s

- Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics

Articles on eastern old-growth forests, 1990s

**Roles (current and past)**

- Chair, Forest Reserves Science Advisory Committee for Massachusetts DCR (current)

- Advised and assisted Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation in delineating the boundaries of nine major forest reserves amounting to 50,000 acres (20,234 hectares) in the state of Massachusetts (up to 2011)

- Cofounder (2016) with Don R. Bertollette of American Forests National Cadre of Expert Tree Measurers

- Acted as primary point of contact in early 1990s to Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program on old-growth forests in Massachusetts (1989-1991)

- County Coordinator (Hampshire, Berkshire, and Franklin Counties) for Old-growth Forest Network

**Environmental-Forest Research Organizational Affiliations (current and past)**

- **Conference – Forest Science in the Landowners Interest**

Principal architect/organizer and presenter. Co-sponsored by Williams College, Harvard Forest, Massachusetts

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Department of Conservation and Recreation and others. October 26-27, 2019.

### • **Ancient Eastern Forest Conference Series**

Principal Architect, and Presenter (since 1993)

Conferences held on eastern old-growth forest sites bring together academics, resource managers, and environmental activists to share information on eastern old growth and present technical papers. Conferences held at University of North Carolina; Williams College, Massachusetts; University of Arkansas (2 events); Clarion University of Pennsylvania; University of Minnesota; Harvard University-Harvard Forest; Sweet Briar College, Virginia; and the University of New Hampshire, Eastern Kentucky University.

### • **Forest Summit Lecture Series**

Cofounder with the late Professor Gary Beluzo. Sponsored annually by Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, Massachusetts as a public service. Six conferences held to date. Conferences present updated information of old growth forests in the East. Leverett is the primary presenter on Massachusetts old growth sites, 1990s-2013.

### • **Eastern Old Growth Forest Clearing House – Georgetown, Kentucky**

Advisor and consultant. Worked with this organization dedicated to accumulating and archiving information on eastern old-growth forests, mid-1990s.

### • **White Pine Society of Ely, Minnesota**

Member and contributor. Organization was formed to preserve the remaining white pine sites in Minnesota to include those with old growth. Collaborated with Dr. Lynn Rogers on role and importance of old-growth white pines as habitat for wildlife.

### • **Forest Stewards Guild**

Associate member and program presenter

### • **Massachusetts Forestry Association**

Member of and advisor on old growth forests in Massachusetts

### • *Wild Earth* Publication

Editorial Advisor

• New York State Natural Heritage Program

Contributor to location of old growth sites in Adirondack Park

## Educator

• Guest lecturer at numerous colleges, universities, and forestry organizations on old-growth forests, big and/or historic trees (current)

• Principal trainer and workshop leader for American Forests on tree-measuring methods for championship trees. Workshops held at Cook Forest State Park, Pennsylvania; Mohawk Trail State Forest, Massachusetts; Virginia Tech, Virginia; University of Tennessee; Dartmouth College, New Hampshire; Red Hill Plantation, Virginia, NPS; George Landis Arboretum, New York; USFS-BLM, Durango, Colorado (current)

• Principal program coordinator for interpretive programs for Mohawk Trail State Forest sponsored by Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest. Developing trail maps and guidebooks for Mohawk Trail State Forest (current)

• Volunteer assistant to Cook Forest State Park, Pennsylvania, Educational Coordinator and Naturalist on tree measuring workshops (current)

## Contract Interpretive Forest Ecology Instructor

• Walnut Hill Tracking and Nature Center (current)

• Hitchcock Center for the Environment (current)

• Paul Rezendes Programs in Tracking (past)

• New England Wild Flower Society (past)

• Harvard University-Arnold Arboretum (past).

## Volunteer Interpretive Forest Ecology Instructor

• Massachusetts Audubon Society (current)

- Trustees of Reservations (current)
- Laurel Hill Association (current)
- Sierra Club (past)
- Appalachian Mountain Club (past)

## Special Recognitions

• **Recognized by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program** as the discoverer of most of 50+ old-growth stands in Massachusetts.

• **Recognized by *Wild Earth* publication** as the East's "premier old-growth forest evangelist."

• **Recognized by U.S. Forest Service** in 'Information About Old-Growth for Selected Forest Type Groups in the Eastern United States. General Technical Report NC – 197.' Forest Service recognized definitions of old-growth forest and data contributed by Leverett.

• **Recognized by Great Smoky Mountain National Park** as an expert in old-growth identification (Keith Langdon, Natural Resource Specialist, February 2, 1993).

• Numerous articles have been written about Leverett in prominent magazines, national and local papers, on national public television, on National Public Radio (Living On Earth Series). For example, in April '92 escorted Fumi Hiko Yoshida of *Asahi Shimbun*, Japan's 3rd largest newspaper, on old-growth tour of the Berkshires. Article appeared in June '92. Leverett's work and role is being covered in several books.

• Featured on WQED National Public Television's program "The Web of Life" – aired April 3rd, 1995.

## Recognized in...

...a variety of publications as an expert on old-growth forests. Selected examples are:

• *The Appalachian Forest* by Chris Bolgiano (1998)

• *Yankee Magazine* Article: 'Defenders of the Forest,' October 2005

• *Massachusetts Audubon* Article: 'The Evangelist of Old Growth' by Tom Conuel, January/February

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- 1994-1993 conservation award of the year from New England Wild Flower Society

### Cited as Old-growth Forest Expert

and assisted in *Identification of Multi-spectral and Textural Signatures of old-growth forests from remotely sensed digital imagery of Northwestern Massachusetts – A Thesis* Presented by Donald Ross Bertollette. University of Massachusetts, Department of Forestry and Wildlife.

- Recognized by Department of Conservation and Recreation in special museum display of Western Gate Heritage State Park, Massachusetts as primary discoverer and measurer of exceptional trees in Mohawk Trail and Monroe State Forests.

### Conservation Awards

- Citizen conservation award of the year from the Springfield Naturalist Club, Springfield, MA (2010)

- Massachusetts Audubon Society for their highest citizen conservation award (2000)

- Nominated for the Ester C. Cunningham Award by Western North Carolina Alliance “for outstanding community service in conserving our natural resources”

- Conservation Award of the Year from New England Wild Flower Society (1993)

### Other Biographical Information

- Retired Military, USAF
- Retired President of Management & Planning Systems Inc. (MPS) – a management and computer consulting corporation of Springfield, Massachusetts. Position as Executive Vice President for 15 years. President for seven years (past). In a technical capacity, served as industrial engineer and computer software developer for MPS.

- Adjunct Instructor of Computer Science at Holyoke Community College.

(1977-2001). Other teaching positions with American International College and Elms College (past). Regular guest lecturer at Hampshire College and Greenfield Community College.

- Formal Education: Industrial Engineering and Management B.S., Georgia Institute of Technology. Graduate studies in Economics, University of South Dakota State, graduate studies in Business Administration and Computer Science, University of Wyoming.

*We are LEDASCO, the company with a vision to work all over the world, to save large trees, and improve the climate in urban areas. We believe that saving these trees can create many new jobs. We are creators of TREEIB®, the irrigation bag for watering mature, large, and veteran trees, and creators of the method of large trees watering.*

**Source:** <https://www.treeib.com/robert-leverett-bio>

Photo Below Courtesy Old-Growth Forest Network, <https://www.old-growthforest.net/>





# Revolution

## *Imagine the World YOU Want to Live In*

**Note from Iona:** I love this story so much that I'm publishing it for the third time now. With all the disastrous news these days about "global boiling" and slowing ocean currents, I feel it's imperative to keep our spirits up and our mind focused on the beautiful future we're all working so hard for, each in our own way. I urge you not to be discouraged. Sometimes I am and sometimes I'm sad and sometimes I wonder if this little newspaper really helps anyone, but I carry on with hope in my heart. I will not give up. May Surnai's vision brighten your life.

By Surnai Ó Maoildhia, Ireland  
*Parabola*: Spring 2020

There came a time when the square concrete slabs sitting heavy along the suburban streets were pried up with crowbars and the squashed soil beneath sucked in the fresh air and people kneeled down along the stretches of dark earth and said Sorry.

There came a time when all of the lightbulbs in each of the streetlights in each of the streets were unscrewed. And in the night the stars shone down unblinded.

The bricks of derelict houses were pulled from tired walls by many sets of hands and were stacked, like the building blocks of children, in wheelbarrows, to be wheeled away and used again.

Then the foundations of the lonely houses crumbled and were swept away and soil flew in on the breeze carrying dandelion seeds with it, and those many hands with soil in the curves of their fingerprints placed tiny seeds in tiny pressed hollows that grew to be oak and sycamore and birch and ash.

The black smoke that once wheezed from car exhausts and chimneys and seeped up into the sky, staining the



Photo: <https://stock.adobe.com/uk/>

*"And the flowers are nourished by that same light, the flowers that were planted in the ground and in boxes and baskets and on rooftops and in the old bulbs of streetlights hanging upside down from loops of twine. The same light that's sprinkled like sugar onto the fields and fields of daisies, fields bursting with daisies," writes the author.*

white clouds dark, was now only in the burning of fallen branches on beaches from bonfires, and the smoke was grey, not black, and the red sparks wove within it a fiery embroidery that sparkled beneath the unveiled stars.

The trees that lived in their circles in the pavement in the cities now stretched their roots out, stretched the length of them, stretched long and lovely and intoxicatingly as all that concrete was changed to loose earth and so the roots could uncoil and the trees could stand steady.

And in this time, this time that came, on Sunday mornings, people went to the sea and kneeled and saw the waves swell against the cliffs or lap against the stones or soak into the sand. They went to the forest and kneeled and

looked at the trees shiver, shake, and lose themselves in the wind. They went to the mountains and kneeled and watched, straining their eyes to see the breaths in the earth of the mountains, the mountains that breathe so slowly in their millennial meditation that one cannot see the rise and fall.

And above this breathing, above this spiralling of roots and trickling of water in the hollows in the soil, and alongside the curling of the waves and amidst the frolicking of the dandelion seeds, is the turning, turning, turning of bicycle wheels as people make their way through their day, to the sea or to work or play or school...

To school where children have risen from beds to kneel against rows of dif-

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ferent beds and gently pluck out weeds and water the seedlings and the growing bulbs, and place potatoes in their patterns and name each one before they bury them...

To school where children solve puzzles with simultaneous equations and build contraptions with blueprints and nimble fingers and then discover the workings of plants, animals, atoms, space, and the rhythms of a story as they read and read and read...

To school where children fill the halls with music and the foot-stomping of dancing and the pounding of running feet and the careful breathing of yoga and meditation as they learn to stretch their limbs and minds and where to stretch them so as to get the most light...

The light that fruit and vegetables have used to swell and ripen, to be gathered then in baskets on bicycles or pooled in cloth bags, and the soil is brushed off with fingers and the slugs are placed outside and the vegetables, each one a different shape, are chopped and cooked.

And the flowers are nourished by that same light, the flowers that were planted in the ground and in boxes and baskets and on rooftops and in the old bulbs of streetlights hanging upside down from loops of twine. The same light that's sprinkled like sugar onto the fields and fields of daisies, fields bursting with daisies, trimmed with pink and centered by their own little suns, and if you look quickly, especially at dusk, it is only pink you see; oh, but how can you only glance? Of all the standards of beauty, there is nothing more lovely than a field full of daisies...

And in a house where all the win-

dows are open a bumble bee has found himself trapped and a young girl sees him and gasps and she runs for a glass. And following him on tiptoe through the different rooms of the home, she finally moves the glass over him and places a book on the end and shifts the buzzing bee, buzzing, buzzing, buzzing, into the garden where he swoops up into the air, pauses, buzzes, and swoops again and disappears.

And though the girl can't see – but can imagine – the bee moseys over miles of green grass, dotted with pockets of gardens and houses and trees, and the bee crisscrosses with swallows who have tuned the sounds of spring to summer with the forks of their tails. And the bee pauses on a sunflower planted in a stretch of space that was once a graveyard, and is still, but the rectangles of gravel and the squares of headstones have been swapped with shrubs and flowers and so bluebells grow from the bodies and the memories of lost ones, who are not truly lost, simply shifted, and their names are painted on pebbles that have been moved from the shore.

And all of that rubbish that dropped from all of those cluttered lives, the rubbish that could not decompose, that could not die – immortal – heaped on top of nature, smothering; and then on top of itself, piling, over and over, minute after minute, until it leaked into the cracks in the planet, filling the gaps and then overflowing until it spilled and spilled into all of the bellies of all of the whales, cleared. It was cleared.

And there came a time when the ocean released that breath it had been holding and eased down a few inches. And the wounds in the sky were al-

lowed to heal and knit back together and dolphins could sew their threads through the clean, blue waters again.

And there came a time when the treetops were patched up and noisy again and orangutans collected their armfuls of fruit again and all that crumbling, wilting, dying turned to growth and the world was fresh and clean, as after a spring rain.

And the poles became solid once more.

And the famine ended.

And people learned to love this nature.

Loved it wholly and completely and unconditionally. And they learned that they are not excluded, that they are nature too. And the indomitable nature within them loved the uncontrollable-ness, the insuppressible-ness, the irrepressible-ness...loved the wildness of it all, the mess and the chaos; they learned to love the life in it, the life in them, in us, the organic, circular movement of everything.

And we learned to say, Sorry.

**Surnai Ó Maoildhia was raised on Inis Mór, a small island off the west coast of Ireland, She was homeschooled there along with her siblings. Homeschooling is certainly a way to encourage creativity. Her parents ran an organic garden and housed volunteers. She is currently living in Scotland and about to begin her second semester of a Masters degree in Modern and Contemporary Literature at St. Andrews University. It's an old university in a very beautiful seaside town. [email received January 14, 2023] "Thank you so much for choosing to include my story again in your wonderful newspaper – I'm honoured and very grateful."**

**It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives. Nourish it then,  
that it may leaf and bloom and fill with singing birds.**

*~ Black Elk ~*



## Iona is in Earth Spirit School: First Report

By Iona

First, I need to let you know that I have resisted any “religious” articles but now that I have signed up for a year-long course about deeply spiritual things related to my love for Earth, I am going to be sharing what I’m learning now and then.

I have known Mare Cromwell, our teacher, for decades and have always admired her and read her books. I get it. Many years ago, I spend time learning about Nature Sprits at Perelandra in Virginia. Somehow when I married John in 1990, my grassroots activist soul took full charge of my mind and, while I remained devoted to the Earth, I pretty much forgot about these deeper spiritual qualities in my heart.

I am really happy to be reconnecting with Mare and participating in her class, which started in June.

### About the “Way”

“The Great Mother Love Way” is a Way of Being, as the Tao is a way of Being. It offers a year-long set of teachings to bring us back into the Quantum Divine Love field which we have forgotten we source from. It also offers a grounded path deeply connected to the Great Mother, to live on

this gloriously Sacred Earth in a way that honors the divinity of all that is around us with reverence and joy – to ensure that the future generations of all beings can flourish.

### Why “The Great Mother Love Way”?

There is a New Earth birthing through the chaos at this time with the Ascension energetics rising across our Sacred Planet. As this birthing continues, there is a spiritual imperative from the celestial realms for humans to embrace a more evolved Spirituality of Oneness.

This Spirituality weaves Quantum Divine Love into the rising and balancing of Divine Feminine and Divine Masculine planetary energetics to bring us to the full state of Oneness. This Oneness dynamic that is pulling us into the future is also founded upon a deep reverence toward all beings as they are all inherently One also.

AND we are being called to manifest Sustainable Cultural Systems based not only on Wisdom but Quantum Divine Love. Spiritual Councils of Ascended Masters and more are coordinating this birthing process and one rather high set of councils ‘led’ by

the ‘Family of ONE’ has asked Mare Cromwell (Gaia Mystic & High Priestess, Visionary, Author, and Healer) to organize this course. Oona & Oon lead these Councils respectively and Oona’s council includes Mother Gaia and the Virgin Mary along with other significant Divine Feminine beings.

Mare has surrendered not only to Mother Gaia but also to these high councils to be a conduit of their spiritual energies and wisdom to support the New Earth birthing presently.

One underlying premise for the Great Mother Love Way is that our inherent nature is Love, sourcing from the Quantum Love of Creation and Mother Gaia. The trees know this. The whales and dolphins and owls know this. All beings here on our Sacred Earth are aware of this other than most of the human race.

Mother Gaia along with the Greater Spiritual Realms are calling for all humans to come Home to this Truth of Love, and learn how to Celebrate our amazing gift of being alive here and now to help birth the New Earth.

**Source:** <https://www.greatmotherlove.earth/great-mother-love-way-course>

# Messages from Our Friends

(For many, English is not their native language.)

Keep at it, Iona. I also feel sad at times, but you are doing a great service!

**Marney Bruce**, Maryland USA

Keep great and moving forward.

**Hanson G. Blayon**, Liberia

These are great! Well done!

Best regards,

**Feruzi Juma Kikuni**, Kenya Refugee Alliance for Development and Innovation for Developing, Educating, Empowering, Promoting, Protecting, Learning and Youths Support

We celebrate your presence in our lives as a family of Comforter of the Voiceless Child Friend Space Uganda.

**Amos Mugarura**, Uganda

**Dear Iona,**

That is wonderful that you included our conference in your newspaper. I will let Sarah Robb-Greco know that you shared this as well (Sarah is the Old-Growth Forest Network northeast coordinator and the coordinator of the conference).

Glad to join your mailing list. I hope you are staying cool in the days ahead.

**Brian Kane**, Outreach Coordinator & Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager, Old-Growth Forest Network

Volunteer for free!

Am interested in Rotarian Travel Volunteers or individual Volunteers to Uganda, the pearl of Africa, for community experience.

Am the coordinator of a grassroots community-based organization and a tour operator in Uganda and seeking for hosting volunteers in my country and communities as well.

Looking forward to receiving people that you have connected to me.

Thank you.

**Herbert Bagyenyi**, Uganda  
www.onevillagetours.com

**Dear All,**

Greetings fellow trustees. Please let me know how you can contribute to the development of the Baobab Park awarded to the Repair Earth Projects Trust to be developed to a Park.

My suggestion is that we chat outside the group and organize activities there. The forestry commission donated trees we planted [at our] last tree planting day and these require maintenance.

My suggestion is that we dig a well for 20m/ at \$10/metre to be able to get water for the trees. Also we will build a 2-room cottage and a toilet. For this, I require 15 roofing sheets @\$10/sheet, 8000 bricks @ \$25/1000 bricks,

3 doors @ \$20 each, 3 door frames @ \$15, each, 8 window frames @ \$25 each, 15 bags cement @ \$15each, 10 brick forces @ \$4 each. Please help me protect this land for the project.

Thank you in anticipation,  
**Bigboy Musemwa**, Repair Earth Projects, Zimbabwe

I love you so much Mom may God keep you for me and global family at large.

**Mukama Awali**, Uganda

**Note from Iona:** I worked closely with 37-year-old Kabi Wyclif for weeks. He helped rescue innocent Mukama (above) from prison for not paying rent, then helped him get the medical care he needed to treat tuberculosis. When Mukama was discharged, Wyclif invited him to live with his family (his wife and three daughters). Because he spent so much time caring for Mukama, Wyclif was demoted and sent to work in another prison near the Congo. Tragically, Wyclif was beaten mercilessly by rebels in the Congo area. After many days suffering in a hospital ICU, he entered eternity July 24. I consider Wyclif a hero.

For further information, contact Mukama at mukamaawali02@gmail.com or WhatsApp: +256-753737651.



(left) Kabi Wyclif. (right) Wyclif with his wife and daughters. The government prison system will pay half of the funeral expenses but Wyclif's body needs to get home for the burial. Mukama is handling everything from this point on. Please contact him at mukamaawali02@gmail.com

