

Schedule

Thursday, May 1, 2014

7:30am–8:30 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30am–8:45 am	Welcome and Forum Introduction –William Linton
8:45am–9:45 am	Little by Little, One Travels Far: Embracing the Genius of Nature –Wade Davis, Ph.D.
9:45am–10:45 am	Intelligence in Nature –Jeremy Narby, Ph.D.
10:45am–11:15 am	Break
11:15am–12:15 pm	The Science, Art and Meaning of Forest Wisdom –Suzanne Simard, Ph.D.
12:15 pm–1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30pm–3:00 pm	A Shamanic Journey to an Animal Power – Michael Harner, Ph.D. & Susan Mokelke, J.D.
3:00 pm–3:30 pm	Break
3:30pm–4:30 pm	Panel Discussion: W. Davis, M. Harner, S. Mokelke, J. Narby & S. Simard Moderator: Steve Paulson
4:30pm–6:00 pm	Reception
6:30pm–8:00 pm	Hosted Dinner Conversations (preregistration required)

Friday, May 2, 2014

7:30am–8:15 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:15am–8:30 am	Day Two Overview –William Linton
8:30am–9:30 am	Quieting Human Cleverness: Excuse me, but may we borrow your recipe? –Dayna Baumeister, Ph.D.
9:30 am–10:30 am	Life is Smarter Than We Are: The Natural Intelligence Paradigm –Simon G. Powell
10:30 am–10:45 am	Break
10:45 am–11:45 am	Storytime with Willow Harth: The Intelligent Universe—From the Big Bang to You –Willow Harth, M.S., M.A.
11:45 am–1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm–1:45 pm	Using The Camera as a Portal Through Time and Space: A Consciousness-Shifting Journey –Louie Schwartzberg
1:45 pm–2:45 pm	The Planet, Politics and the Primal Truth Quest –Louis G. Herman, Ph.D.
2:45 pm–3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm–4:15 pm	Panel Discussion: W. Harth, L. Herman, S. Powell & L. Schwartzberg Moderator: Steve Paulson
4:15 pm–4:45 pm	Closing Meditation –Louie Schwartzberg & Malynn Utzinger, M.D.
4:45 pm–5:30 pm	Dessert Reception

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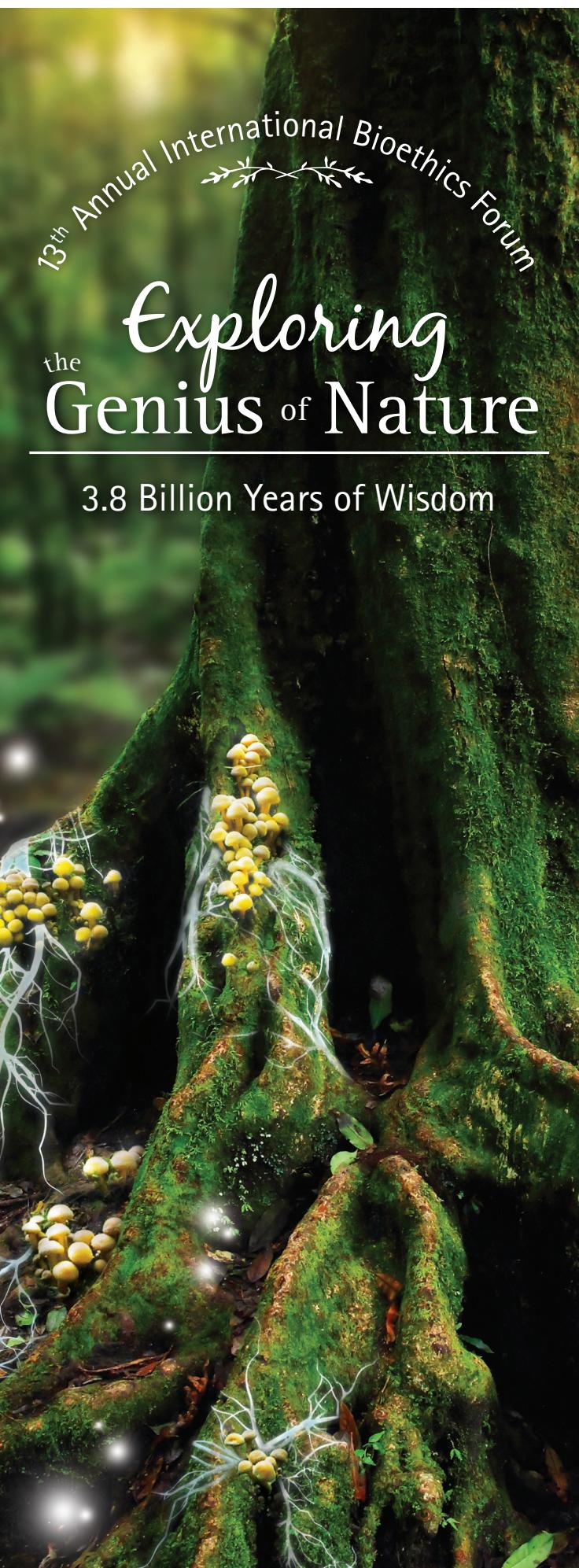
Contributors

Arbor House Ltd.
Center for Investigating Healthy Minds,
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Center for Spirituality & Healing, University of Minnesota

Musicians

Tony Castañeda Latin Jazz Sextet
Tani Diakite

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3.8 Billion Years of Wisdom: Exploring the Genius of Nature

We will explore the almost infinite varieties of how nature expresses itself in plants, animals, microbes, fungi—across the spectrum of the living world. Nature has solutions to problems that we are just beginning to understand and to many that we do not yet fathom. The plant healers of cultures in many parts of the world explain that their knowledge comes from the plants themselves. There are so many beautiful examples of life forms accessing information that we simply cannot explain but call "instinct." There is no clear biological basis for that term, but observing it at work is breathtaking.

Designed for the general public and bringing together a diverse group of renowned presenters, the Forum focuses on the sharing of scientific research and the consideration of related social and ethical issues. It is coordinated by the BioPharmaceutical Technology Center Institute and Promega Corporation.

Presenters

Dayna Baumeister, Ph.D. Co-Founder & Keystone, Biomimicry 3.8 Institute, Missoula, MT

Wade Davis, Ph.D. Anthropologist, Author, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Michael Harner, Ph.D. Anthropologist, Author and Founder, Foundation for Shamanic Studies, Mill Valley, CA

Willow Harth, M.S., M.A. Partner, Omega Psychology Center, Madison, WI

Louis G. Herman, Ph.D. Professor, Political Science, University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, HI

William Linton President & CEO, Promega Corporation, Madison, WI

Susan Mokelke, J.D. President & Faculty, Foundation for Shamanic Studies, Mill Valley, CA

Jeremy Narby, Ph.D. Anthropologist/Writer, Nouvelle Planète, Lausanne, Switzerland

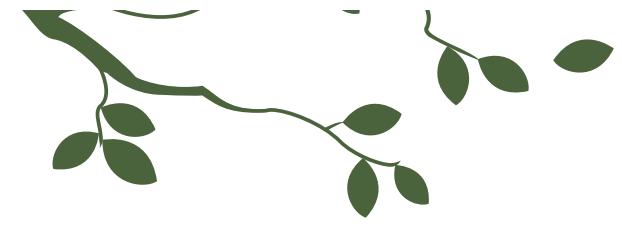
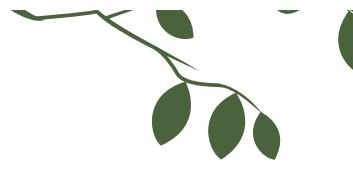
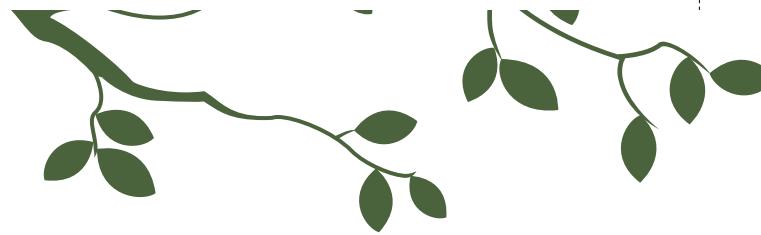
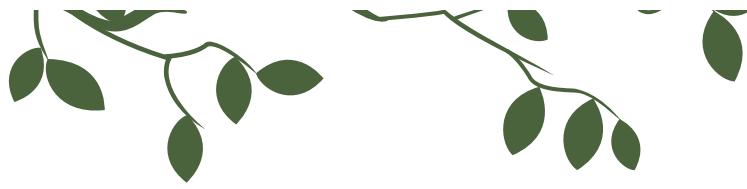
Steve Paulson (Moderator) Executive Producer, To the Best of Our Knowledge, Wisconsin Public Radio and Public Radio International, Madison, WI

Simon G. Powell Author, London, United Kingdom

Louie Schwartzberg Cinematographer, Director and Producer, BlackLight Films and Moving Art™, Los Angeles, CA

Suzanne Simard, Ph.D. Professor of Forest Ecology, Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Malynn Utzinger, M.D. Director, Integrative Practices, Promega Corporation, Madison, WI



Abstracts

Quieting Human Cleverness: Excuse me, but may we borrow your recipe?

Dayna Baumeister, Ph.D.

If we compress the age of Earth into one year, life, which arrived 3.8 billion years ago, shows up on February 25. And despite massive changes to the Earth's crust and multiple mass extinctions, life has thrived by creating conditions conducive to life. In the same calendar year, *Homo sapiens* showed up only 24 minutes before midnight on December 31. Collectively, all 7 billion of us have a lot to learn about creating conditions conducive to life. As mere infants on this planet, shouldn't we be asking our biological ancestors (i.e., the other 30 million extant species) how to live well? Biomimicry, an emerging discipline with an ancient practice, teaches us how to quiet our cleverness and learn to ask the right questions. By emulating nature's best practices, not only will our species learn to thrive, but we might also be welcomed once again by our neighbors on this planet we collectively call home.

Little by Little, One Travels Far: Embracing the Genius of Nature

Wade Davis, Ph.D.

A journey of discovery and transformation, from the Paleolithic caves of Dordogne to the monasteries of Tibet, from laboratory and library to the mountains of the Elder Brother, from the Amazon to the Arctic, the forests of West Africa to the searing sands of the Sahara, with insights drawn from peoples as diverse as the wayfinders of Polynesia, the thunderhoof shaman of Mongolia, the Vodoun acolytes of Haiti, and the Tendai monks of Japan. The other peoples of the world are not failed attempts to be modern. Each culture is a unique answer to a fundamental question. What does it mean to be human and alive? When asked this question the peoples of the world respond with 7000 different voices, languages that collectively comprise our human repertoire for dealing with all the challenges that will confront us as a species in the coming centuries. The very existence of these different ways of being, these unique visions of life itself, puts the lie to those who say we cannot change, as we all know we must, the way we interact with the natural world. Embracing the genius of nature is a first and essential step.

A Shamanic Journey to an Animal Power

Michael Harner, Ph.D., and Susan Mokelke, J.D.

"After having personally practiced shamanism, shamanic healing, and shamanic journeying for more than half a century, I can say that there is nothing I have encountered in reports of the spiritual experiences of saints, prophets, psychedelic drug experimenters, near-death

survivors, avatars and other mystics that is not commonly experienced when following classic journey methods using a drum."

— Michael Harner

Shamans are often called "seers" or "people who know" in their various languages because they are involved in a visionary system of deep knowledge based on their experiences in an altered state of consciousness. Shamans communicate directly with the spirits of plants and animals to receive information that is used to help heal and benefit their communities. Utilizing sonic driving with the drum, the presenters will provide an opportunity to experience the classic shamanic journey in connection with the general theme of the conference.

Storytime with Willow Harth: The Intelligent Universe-From the Big Bang to You

Willow Harth, M.S., M.A.

"Without a vision the people perish," said the Lakota Chief Black Elk echoing the Old Testament prophets. A vision is a big story that points us to who and why we are and how to be in right relationship with ourselves, all others and the earth that sustains us. The Intelligent Universe is a taste of a new story, one that might be called evolutionary spirituality. I have been gathering the ingredients for 60 years from science, poetry, psychology, and the mystics of all religions. It's just a taste, because the new story is, and will be, co-created from many voices, including those at this forum.

The essence of the new story is this: The universe emerges in and as you, just as the ocean emerges in the waves. You are the latest chapter in the story of the universe and, at the same time, everything that has ever happened. All 13.7 billion years of it from big bang to galaxies to supernovae to Life is present in you. The eye with which you see the universe is the same eye with which the universe sees you. Who would you be in relationship to your self, everyone else and the earth, if you knew your "self" as a verb, not a noun; a process, not a thing? Sound crazy? Stay attuned. More will be revealed.

The Planet, Politics and the Primal Truth Quest

Louis G. Herman, Ph.D.

One of the most astounding achievements of "the genius of nature" has been the creation of human beings capable of freedom and creativity and thus wise and foolish choices. Today our daily decisions reproduce a global, industrial way of life that is responsible for catastrophic damage to the biosphere and the greatest mass extinction since the end of the age of dinosaurs. Political philosophy—the search for the best way to live—is no longer an esoteric concern of scholars but an urgent practical matter of epic proportions.

The same science implicated in this cataclysm offers an evolutionary narrative that points us toward the philosophical truth quest as it first emerged, fresh out of wilderness, in the earliest and simplest hunting gathering societies. Here, we find that the San Bushmen—probably the oldest hunting gathering culture on

the planet—created a society where every individual was encouraged to act like a Socrates or a Plato. All followed the four archetypal processes of the primal truth quest, where each asks the questions of ultimate concern, in face-to-face relationship with others in democratic community, where all are committed to weaving knowledge into an open-ended big picture of the good of the whole community of life.

Our contemporary one dimensional focus on technological control of the earth's process has eclipsed the primal truth quest in public and political life. As we cultivate what we have repressed and neglected, we make a surprising discovery: we realize this primal practice expresses both our search and the heart of the good life we seek; we find ourselves already following a "Tao of politics."

Reflecting on this discovery within the context of the story of the unfolding universe suggests we are fast approaching an evolutionary threshold of astonishing proportions: the possibility of a leap in consciousness to a more life-loving politics in resonance with the genius of nature. By re-instating the truth quest at the center of our culture, we can accelerate this transformation and take the leap with full self-conscious intention.

Intelligence in Nature

Jeremy Narby, Ph.D.

An anthropologist first learns about the intelligence of plants and animals from indigenous people in the Amazon, then traces it in recent scientific research, only to find that the words we use, such as intelligence, nature and mind skew our understanding. In his view, grasping the capacities of living organisms involves learning to see through the prejudices of our own culture. Indigenous people, who have long viewed non-human organisms as intelligent beings with specific intentions and personalities, have concepts that can stimulate the investigative imagination of scientists. Scientists, after all, are quite new to the field—plant intelligence, for example, has only been a matter of scientific inquiry since the 1980s. This discussion will include highlighting conversations with scientists that are presented in Intelligence in Nature. Taking the indigenous perspective into consideration can give scientists a "reverse angle" from which to consider their research.

Life is Smarter Than We Are: Introducing the Natural Intelligence Paradigm

Simon G. Powell

We live in a world where advanced intelligence and wisdom are attributed almost exclusively to ourselves. We also tend to think of intelligence and wisdom as distinct from biological systems. We further view the evolutionary process from which we and all other forms of life emerged as being devoid of intelligent characteristics. The orthodox scientific view is that nature is dumb, mindless and without any inherent direction. Life just happens, evolution just happens and conscious intelligence just happens to emerge from all this. I will promote

a radically different paradigm. Without recourse to ID creationism, I will show that evolution is a naturally intelligent process that crafts naturally intelligent systems of bio-logic. This is not simply a matter of words and definitions but a new perspective on life that is crucial at this juncture of human history.

Using The Camera as a Portal Through Time and Space: A Consciousness-Shifting Journey

Louie Schwartzberg

I am a filmmaker on a voyage of discovery passionate about using my camera as a portal to take us on a journey into the wonder and beauty of nature by connecting with the deepest parts of our soul. I can explore things which are too small, too fast, too slow, too vast or simply invisible for the naked eye to see.

This opens our minds to the wonderful world that surrounds us by seeing the beauty of our natural world from a different perspective of time and scale.

The Science, Art and Meaning of Forest Wisdom

Suzanne Simard, Ph.D.

The wisdom of forests has long resonated with indigenous peoples, evidenced in scores of ecological indicators from pre-western times. Modern western cultures have on the whole been myopic to this wisdom with tragic consequences for forests worldwide. But out of tragedy comes reflection, and new holistic thinking of forests as complex adaptive systems has opened our minds to the science, art and meaning of forest wisdom. This new paradigm recognizes the importance of relationships, feedbacks and legacies in building and strengthening forest resilience, similar to their importance in creating and maintaining healthy social systems. In this presentation, I will give examples from my own research on networks and communication of information and energy among trees and plants that are integral to the wisdom of forests. I will then talk about a new practice of mindful forest stewardship that respects this forest wisdom. Practicing mindful forest stewardship means intentional integration of observation, learning, knowledge, understanding and monitoring to make sustainable management decisions so that forests remain adaptive and resilient in our changing climate. This type of practice is responsive to uncertainty, working with it for the flexibility and diversity it brings rather than reducing it for short-term outcomes. Within this complexity framework, the wisdom of our forests can be respected, conserved and restored.