

EARTH ETHICS NEWS

EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

JUNE 2022

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2



Unchecked Development in Santa Rosa County

When my husband and I moved to the Wallace community in 1999, it was rural. We were surrounded by cotton fields. Now the five points area has exploded. A Piggly Wiggly and new school are going in at Wallace Lake Drive and Chumuckla Highway to our south. North Diamond, Foxboro Estates and Tamrell Forest subdivisions to our west, and multiple other subdivisions on Chumuckla Highway, Woodbine Road and West Spencer Field Rd. I saw a deer on my road for the first time in 23 years. The wildlife is being flushed out and forced into areas where they can be killed. The county has let all this happen well behind the infrastructure changes needed to support this growth. The roads are still two way with only turn lanes. Already the traffic increase is at least doubled or tripled. On top of all this growth that has happened in the past 10 years or so, they're moving forward with the Jubilee Project. This is a massive undertaking that was derailed during the recession. The plan includes about 260 homes on 260 acres, plus schools, shopping and dining areas and a medical park.

Local residents are pushing back, citing that the area is zoned agricultural. Right now, the phase one proposal in with the county's planning department. Traffic is bad already, and will only get worse. Local residents are frustrated and angry because most moved out here for a quiet lifestyle and lack of congestion. Many are selling and moving further north. The infrastructure here is not ready for such a massive project. If you live in the five points area, or north to Willard Norris road, call your commissioners and let them know how you feel. Those of us that have been here for years and the wildlife in this area must be considered.

Marsha King

Pace, FL

Santa Rosa County, FL | Official Website:
<https://www.santarosa.fl.gov/>

Photo: 2017 Santa Rosa County, Florida
Aerial Photography (landsat.com)

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Save Blackwater River!

As many of you might be aware of, the City of Milton owns a parcel of land located in the eastern corner of Cooper Basin. "The city plans to utilize this land to build a wastewater plant that will discharge into Cooper Basin, which flows into Blackwater River."

Not only will this proposal have adverse impacts to the land and water, but it will also cause potential harm to variety of species that inhabit the river such as the Gulf Sturgeon.

For those of you that have enjoyed the river, you know that parts of the river is home to "one of the largest contiguous longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem remaining in the world, right along our river" as well.

We shared this piece in our March Newsletter. We are lifting this up again because we need to make sure this project does NOT happen in this location. If you aren't already engaged, please get engaged now. Follow Save Blackwater River on Facebook to learn more and help!

The Poet's Corner

EARTH ETHICS
 RECOGNIZES THE
 SURROUNDING
 ENVIRONMENT AND
 OTHER SPECIES AS
 FAMILY. THEREFORE,
 THE NATURAL
 ENVIRONMENT IS HELD
 IN THE HIGHEST
 REGARD AND WITH
 GREAT RESPECT. WE
 ALSO RECOGNIZE
 THAT THE ARTS PLAY
 AN INTRINSIC ROLE IN
 RELATIONSHIPS WITH
 OURSELVES, OTHERS,
 AND THE EARTH.
 NATURE HAS LONG
 SINCE PLAYED A
 MAJOR ROLE IN THE
 WRITTEN AND SPOKEN
 WORD AS WELL AS THE
 CREATION OF
 INSTRUMENTS TO
 MIMIC THE SOUNDS OF
 NATURE.
 WE LIFT UP OUR
 EFFORTS TO PROTECT
 AND CONSERVE THE
 EARTH AND HER GIFTS
 BY INCORPORATING
 POETRY, ART, AND
 MUSIC IN OUR
 ACTIONS AS MUCH AS
 POSSIBLE.



Earth Mother

Far and away, we fly effortlessly
 across mountains of treetops,
 inhaling the sweet smell of pine
 as we flutter above
 wild, untouched streams,
 grateful for all that we see.
 Fresh, crisp air fills our lungs
 spilling into our bloodstream,
 breathing life into sleeping cells.

We are content to see no others,
 We know we are not of them.

We glide from green to blue,
 whitecapped waves signal our approach
 with swells of welcome,
 the saltwater pours into our flesh
 cleansing the sins of being human,
 grateful for the gift of rebirth.
 We soar with our brothers and sisters of the sea
 as they show us places unknown,
 delivering what it truly means to be free.

We are content to see no others,
 We know we are not of them.

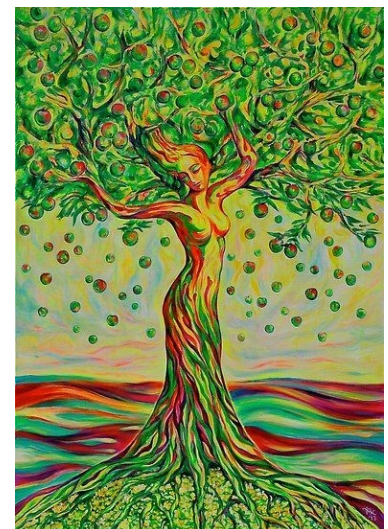
We continue windborne,
 traveling over open earth
 as she spews red flames of warmth
 the heat does not burn
 yet we rise from the ashes
 grateful to be revitalized.
 We flit with the embers
 sparking a passion that
 flows between us and mother.

We are content to see no others,
 We know we are not of them.

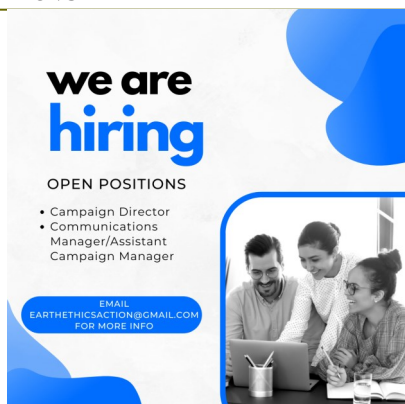
We are grounded,
 earth beneath our feet,
 the soil and grass comfort us like a warm
 blanket
 as the wind brushes our hair with her breeze,
 tree roots embrace us and fill our veins with
 their energy,
 grateful to be connected and one.
 We sing the songs of our ancestors,
 the words float on air, melding with
 an orchestra of birds and crickets.

We are content to see no others,
 We know we are not of them.

Mary Gutierrez, March 2022



Upper Photo: Earthing: The Magical Healing Art Of
 Mother Nature | Shift Frequency



Earth Ethics is looking to fill two part-time positions: Campaign Director and Communications Manager/Assistant Campaign Manager. Closing date for both positions is Friday, June 17th COB. Both positions are 20 hours a week and \$18/hour. For detailed descriptions of each position, email Mary at earthethicsaction@gmail.com

Living a Sustainable Life

Let's start easy. I'm sure most of you have heard of all of these, but have you put them into practice?

- Carry canvas bags for shopping, ALL shopping, not just grocery shopping.
- Ditch the single—use plastic bottles and get a reusable water/beverage bottle. And no, reusing a plastic bottle doesn't count.
- Lose the paper towels/napkins. Use cloth towels/napkins. They're more absorbent, washable, and sturdy.
- Grow your own produce or shop at the farmers market for locally grown produce.
- Make your own shampoo/conditioners, hand soap, toothpaste OR buy locally bar shampoo/conditioners, tablet toothpaste. Hand soap is easy to make!
- Plant a garden of native plants/flowers that attract bees, birds, and butterflies. Love our pollinators. Make sure to include a watering hole!

"If we pollute the air, water and soil that keep us alive and well, and destroy the biodiversity that allows natural systems to function, no amount of money will save us." – David Suzuki



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, June 13, 2022, 6 PM CST - Earth Ethics Environmental Education Series - Join us for a discussion on *"Pollinators: Who they are and why we need them,"* Ever'man Education Center, 327 W. Garden Street, Pensacola, FL. Our guest speaker is Beth R. Bolles, Horticulture Agent IV, UF IFAS Extension Escambia County. Be prepared to dig in with this event! We will provide a limited supply of gardening gloves, so bring your own if you have some. Yes, you will be potting some pollinator attractor plants to take home with you. We will provide you with the seeds, soil, and glass containers. Come join us for what will be an educational and fun event. Children are welcomed! Please note that we will be planting 31 seeds for the 31 lives lost in the mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde. These in memoriam plants will be seeded by participants. Each participant will be encouraged to take them home and plant in their yards to honor of each life lost. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to earthethicsaction@gmail.com so that we can make sure to have all the seeds, soil, and containers for each participant.

Monday, July 11, 2022, 5:30 PM CST – Florida's Right to Clean Water - Join us at Tryon Branch Library, Room A, 1200 Langley Avenue, as we discuss the petition and our campaign to have the Right to Clean Water as constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot. We will have blank petitions and T-shirts for those wanting to collect signatures for this important initiative.

Monday, July 18, 2022, 11:00 AM CST - Florida's Right to Clean Water— Join us at the Fort Walton Beach Public Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE 32548 as we discuss the petition and our campaign to have the Right to Clean Water as constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot. We will have blank petitions and T-shirts for those wanting to collect signatures for this important initiative.

July is our annual Plastic Free month. Stay tuned for an update on events and activities!

Stay up to date on other activities by visiting <http://earthethics.us/community-events/>.

WHO WE ARE

The **MISSION** of Earth Ethics is to educate the public and increase awareness about environmental and social issues at local, regional, and global levels in an effort to engage, empower, and encourage public involvement towards positive resolutions.

The **VISION** of Earth Ethics is to be a leader in identifying and resolving environmental and social issues while creating a positive, sustainable, and healthy way of thought and life.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING ENGAGED?

Contact us at one of the many ways listed below.

BOARD MEMBERS

Laura Jolley
Marsha King
Elizabeth MacWhinnie
Christine Thompson
Debra Stogner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Gutierrez

*As always, we will continue our fight to create a world that is just and equal
for humans and non-humans alike while protecting our Earth.*

Earth Ethics, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization created to engage, empower, & encourage public involvement towards positive resolutions with regards to environmental & social issues.
All monetary donations are welcomed.

To donate please visit: <http://earthethics.us/donations/>
Earth Action, the legislative and advocacy arm of Earth Ethics, is a 501 (c) (4) organization.



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EARTH ACTION

because the earth is not for sale

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children."

First People Proverb