



**Entrepreneurial
Earth LLC**
Consulting ⊕ Education ⊕ Projects

References for Gaia Theory Presentations and Workshops

Martin Ogle, Entrepreneurial Earth LLC

703-798-6972 martinogle@hotmail.com / martin@EntrepreneurialEarth.com

Chief Naturalist, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (retired)

- 1) ***Reference from Lynn Margulis***, early supporter of Gaia Hypothesis/Theory, collaborating with James Lovelock beginning in the early 1970s
- 2) ***Presentations at universities***
- 3) ***Other educational settings***
- 4) ***Public presentations***
- 5) ***References from presenters at “The Gaia Theory: Model and Metaphor for the 21st Century,”*** a conference developed and led by Martin Ogle.

1) Reference from Lynn Margulis

Martin Ogle continually educates himself and the rest of us about the history and wisdom of planet Earth. Gaia, as physical and physiological system of the third planet's surface was here long before humans and will persist long after our demise. As indefatigable director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's Potomac Overlook Regional Park, Ogle astounds us with accurate description of the Washington D.C. area's majestic natural history. And, with scientific authenticity, but no compromise on emotional tone and level of concern, Ogle explains, simply and directly, the urgency, usefulness and applicability of The Gaia Hypothesis. He can and does engage children, professionals and political leaders on this and other subjects. He is not afraid to embrace scientific insights . . . and to criticize science's excess. Listen, join his conversation and be thrilled.

Lynn Margulis, Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geosciences, University of Massachusetts-Amherst. (Lynn Margulis, who passed away in November 2011, collaborated with James Lovelock beginning in the early 1970s).

2) Presentations at Universities

Martin Ogle's GAIA Theory program is provocative and thorough. I find it so valuable that I have invited him to present it to the Environmental Science classes at Marymount three times a year since 2002. He skillfully assembles and presents the growing body of scientific evidence supporting the GAIA theory. In 2005, I included his program in my new Environmental Ethics at Johns Hopkins University. His presentation followed a lecture on Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic and stimulated impassioned class discussion.

- Bonnie Burgess, Biology Professor, Marymount & Johns Hopkins Universities

EKU [Eastern Kentucky University] was pleased to have Martin Ogle's Gaia presentation as part of our "Earth Days in the Cumberlands." It served as a great non-technical introduction to current systemic thinking on planetary ecology, and also inspired much discussion among those more experienced with the subject."

- Dr. Alice Jones, Planning Prgr. Coordinator, Eastern Kentucky Univ. Dept. of Geography

Martin Ogle visited Virginia Tech during the Spring 2004 semester and presented an excellent seminar on the Gaia Theory. James Lovelock first developed his ideas for the Gaia Theory during the 1960's and in 1979, he wrote the book "Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth". Martin was able to take the basic principles of the theory plus ideas that have subsequently developed from it and present it from his perspective as a naturalist. Martin's presentation was lively and informative and very useful for university students who are beginning to develop their own ideas on how to create a more sustainable future.

Dr. Michael Rosenzweig, Director, Science Outreach Program, Biology Dept., Virginia Tech

3) Other educational settings

Martin Ogle's recent move to Colorado represents an exciting addition and resource for the local interpretive naturalist community (and all other educational institutions). Martin is a highly skilled and seasoned naturalist who has been exploring the ins and outs of the Gaia Theory for decades.

He presented the basics of the Gaia Theory to our education staff [2013]. It was fascinating, easy to understand, yet clearly complex and fully engaging. We were so inspired with the insights we gained that we asked him to train our entire interpretive team to incorporate

basic concepts of the Gaia Theory into our hikes. Martin is able to deliver the concepts of the Gaia Theory across the continuum from a basic introduction to detailed discussions about deeply provocative details at the edges of our best understanding.

Lynne Sullivan, Interpretive Naturalist, City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks

Martin Ogle delivered a lesson that was tailored to our environmental club's individual needs and tastes. We requested a balance between theory and practice and this is precisely what Ogle delivered. The first half of the program laid out the basics of Gaia Theory—the idea that the Planet acts much like a living, evolving organism instead of an inanimate, hunk of rock. He did this in an engaging and clear manner. We then proceeded to do hands-on exploration and investigation of the natural systems—trees, soil, shrubs, etc.—around our school grounds. Martin was extremely prepared and knowledgeable and he knew how to teach in a way that sparked our curiosity and engaged our students to listen and learn. I would recommend Martin Ogle to any school or group interested in learning more about the natural world.

Alex Garcia, Middle School Teacher, Summit Middle School, Boulder, CO

In spring 2007, Martin gave a presentation on Gaia Theory to a group of 25 people, all of whom have deep understanding and concerns about aspects of energy theory. Martin's presentation captured and educated both those (like myself) with a knowledge about Gaia Theory and those who had only the vaguest concept of it. His deep knowledge and passion combine for a compelling presentation. While truly expert in this subject, Martin presents with a humility toward the subject that fosters a richer dialogue, encouraging questions and interaction with the audience. I say this of few presentations and presenters, but this is a presentation that I would sit through multiple times, as I believe that I would learn each time and be sparked into considering issues in different ways through his presentation.

Adam Siegel, founding Board Member, The Energy Consensus, a non-profit focused on changing the dialogue on energy within the US Government.

I got to know Martin Ogle when, as Chair of the Academic Committee of the Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute (ALRI), he came highly recommended by one of our members as a possible instructor in our Fall 2003 term. I followed this lead personally, knowing nothing about Gaia theory but eager to enhance the science portion of our curriculum for the seniors who make up our well-motivated, highly educated student body.

For ALRI, he has been a real find, attracting a group of folks who wanted to broaden their science horizons, including a few who had already encountered the Gaia Theory. They got more than their money's worth in the care of someone with the instincts of a real teacher, well-thought out introductions to geology and biology and illustrations drawn from the local environment, all leading up to how they all come together in the Gaia Theory. The word got out

and his spring 2004 series drew even more enrollees. He's smart, knowledgeable, personable and has a knack for drawing listeners/students into new ways of looking at what makes the world a living organism. Conservationists should be a perfect audience for these presentations.

Robert Chatten, Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute academic committee

In July, 2011, Martin Ogle presented a one man show entitled "A Dream of Gaia" at Artisphere, Arlington County's new Art Space for Everyone. In this wonderful performance about the relationship between humanity and Earth, Ogle magnificently transformed scientific theory into enchanting stories and artistic rendition that expanded our understanding of the physical world. He employed narrative, storytelling, imagery, and music to create a fascinating presentation that engaged, entertained and challenged the audience.

Lisa Marie Thalhammer – Arlington Artisphere, Education Programs Director

"The Gaia Theory will challenge you. What you think you know, and what you never knew all become wrapped up in an expanded idea of the Earth. Our planet is not just a place that supports life, it is integral in the process of life." ***Participant in Gaia Theory course, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Graduate School.***

"I found this course to be extremely interesting and very valuable in that it helped me to put other natural history courses I have taken into a much broader context: the total living Earth as a self-regulating system." ***Participant in Gaia Theory course, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Graduate School.***

Martin Ogle presented a Smithsonian Associates course in Spring, 2001, entitled "A Walk in the Woods" that included a session on the Gaia Theory. His course – and in particular, the treatment of the Gaia Theory – was very well received by the participants. Following are just some of the positive comments that came from course participants:

"I particularly enjoyed the speaker's breadth of knowledge, from the micro to macrocosmic aspects of nature."

"Martin is wonderful. His knowledge and ability to get an enormous amount of information across in a very limited time was impressive."

". . . I loved the introduction to the Gaia Theory even though the time was insufficient to deal with the whole theory."

"The instructor was very knowledgeable and made the class fun and easily understandable."

"Excellent content. Superior presentation."

Melody Curtis, Smithsonian Associates Program Coordinator.

I attended Martin Ogle's fascinating Gaia Theory seminar at the 2004 NAAEE Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi. Although the Gaia Theory is sometimes considered controversial, this seminar revealed to me new concepts and biological systems that made great sense. Martin gives life to the Gaia Theory through specific scientific study as well as personal experience and observation. As the human role in our ever-changing world unfolds, it is more imperative than ever to view Earth as a complete and life-sustaining organism. This seminar raised my awareness and perspective; it might just change your point of view as well.

John DeFillipo, Naturalist, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

"I first heard Martin Ogle's GAIA presentation at the North American Association for Environmental Education conference and he energized the entire room with many people staying after the presentation to talk to Martin. Martin was our keynote speaker at our Earth Day fundraising dinner this year and he did a fantastic job making the complexities of the GAIA theory come alive for our audience of 75. He also created a training seminar on GAIA for my staff of 15 naturalists and during the 2 hour workshop he gave them plenty of mind expanding, spine-tingling ideas on GAIA to share with our students at the school."

Drew Dumsch, Executive Director, Ferry Beach Ecology School, Maine.

Martin spoke at the Thorne Ecological Institute in September, 2005. His talk, "The Modern Science and Ancient Myth of the Gaia Theory was exceptional." He has distilled much information into a format that is easy and informative for the lay person. His enthusiasm and interest in this important topic are evident. His use of graphics, facts, stories, and data all weave together in a way that is very effective. He is a gifted presenter- more folks need to hear this important message.

Jessica Feld, Executive Director, Thorne Ecological Institute, Boulder, CO

I am pleased to write this note in support of Martin Ogle. I am a high school science teacher with an avid interest in the GAIA theory (among others). I had the pleasure of taking Martin's GAIA course through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Graduate School. I came to Martin's course already having read three of James Lovelock's books, having written computer models of Daisyworld and having taught the theory myself in my own classes. Others in the class were new to the idea and came from a variety of backgrounds with regard to science but all brought with them a sincere interest and deep respect for the environment. Faced with this diverse group of students, Martin was able to teach to all. His lessons covered the entire scope of the GAIA theory from the intricate details of photosynthesis and cell respiration to its philosophical underpinnings and religious ties. There were many hands-on geological examples, demonstrations of difficult concepts and a fossil dig field trip. In all I left with a new and broader appreciation for the GAIA theory and its influence on modern environmental scientific thought.

Martin is a gifted public educator with a broad knowledge base. He is able to clearly communicate complex ideas with a contagious enthusiasm. I highly recommend Martin Ogle for your most careful consideration.

Feel free to contact me if there is anything else you wish to know.

Michael Zito, High School Biology Teacher, Arlington (VA) Public Schools

4) Public presentations

Martin has a deep and beautiful thought process that is a joy to be near. While being well read and well versed on other's theories and thoughts he most definitely has his own unique spin on the world. He has a way of seeing patterns from his experience of being alive and awake in the world which allows him to make sense of many of life's complexities. This is a rare and wonderful gift ... but it is only half of the battle.

What really works for Martin is his gentle ability to communicate with others. He is a seasoned teacher and excellent lecturer. He is always well prepared, time sensitive and fully present to his audience. Martin is the full package and I'm one lucky guy to be both his colleague and friend.

Ken Leinbach, Executive Director, Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee, WI
(Comments after June, 2013 presentation at UEC on the synergies between Gaia Theory and Aldo Leopold's "Land Ethic")

Seeing Martin Ogle speak to an audience of near capacity at the Arlington Artisphere dome theater this week, I realized that Ogle, Potomac Overlook Regional Park's Chief Naturalist, is multidimensional - transcending science, philosophy, history, visual art and music. He tells stories from the viewpoint of a Native American boy searching for his heritage and wisdom from nature. He makes music and employs rocks as props to explain geology and paleontology. He reaches into science to explain Gaia – the Greek goddess of Earth, a theme that carries the audience from the place they sit, through the universe and back and creates a context of humility and respect for our environment.

Beyond the theater and performance, to truly understand the depth of Ogle's contributions to the Arlington community, one must take a walk through Potomac Overlook Regional Park where the story lives among the trees and streams.

James A. George, Arlington Arts Examiner

Martin Ogle has consistently contributed mightily to the cause of public understanding of Gaia Theory at "Bioneers by the Bay" Conferences. He concisely and brilliantly conveys a deep understanding of Gaia Theory with slides and stories that make the subject comprehensible. The 1 1/2 hour workshop he led this past year (2009) was fascinating, incredibly informative and appreciated by all in attendance. We hope, of course, to have him continue his teaching at future conferences!

Michael Baldwin, Co-founder of the Marion Institute, chief sponsor of "Bioneers by the Bay"(annual environmental conference in New Bedford, MA)

Martin Ogle's participation as the keynote speaker at the Biosphere Conference [Nov 11 - 13, 2008 Calgary, Alberta, Canada] held at the University of Calgary was greatly anticipated. We were not disappointed. His presentation surpassed our expectations and opened new avenues of comprehension. Martin's keynote speech and workshop left us with a greater of understanding of our planet and the vital importance of Gaia Theory.

Sol Candel, Director, Gaia Theory Society of Albert, Canada

Martin Ogle presented a program on the Gaia Theory at Arlington Central Library in April, 2003. It was interesting, informative and there were about 100 people in attendance. We had many favorable comments about this program. In support of the program, the library purchased additional books on the subject and compiled a list of related web sites to spotlight the program on the library homepage. We also publicized the program with a book display. This was a good example of how the library is partnering with community organizations to co-sponsor programs, merchandising the book collection, and presenting information on our homepage.

Elizabeth Cline, Reference Librarian, Arlington Central Library

In 2006, Martin gave Arlington Library staff an excellent presentation about Gaia theory, as one of our Staff In-service Day workshops. It was a wonderfully informative opportunity for staff to learn and discuss Gaia with Martin. His presentation was both multimedia and hands-on, which resonated for staff at a personal level, and made it very understandable.

Martin has continued to collaborate with Arlington Libraries as a community partner since 2003. In April 2007, he gave an evocative presentation on Gaia theory, as part of our community wide reading event. More than 80 people of all ages came to listen to his very accessible discussion of this complex theory. Program evaluations from attendees included comments such as "Mesmerizing" and "Terrific speaker!"

Sally Dewey, Library web manager

The Bowen Center for the Study of the Family was privileged to hear Martin Ogle's fascinating multimedia presentation on the Gaia Theory in October of 2005. Martin's presentation convincingly revealed the profound nature of a living system, especially how interdependent all things, organic and inorganic, really are. These ideas fit in well with ideas at the Bowen Center in that the human family, also, is seen as a system that is organized according to reciprocal relationships that are mutually interdependent and mutually influencing. The Bowen Center staff and lecture attendees were very appreciative to be introduced to the Gaia theory. We hope that we can continue to communicate with Martin about systems thinking in the future. We highly recommend his presentation.

Keo L. Miller, LCSW, Faculty, Bowen Center for the Study of the Family, Washington., D.C.

Martin Ogle's "An Introduction to the Gaia Theory" presentation drew more than 50 people on a hot August weeknight (the time of year when "everyone's out of town") at Borders Books in Baileys Crossroads, Virginia. The presentation (which included lecture, slides, music and visual aids) was engaging and thought-provoking, and sparked a very intelligent question-and-answer period afterward. Ogle's thorough knowledge of and enthusiasm for the material shine through, and enable him to effectively meet audience members at their individual levels of familiarity with the subject. Fascinating material, expertly presented.

Colleen Holt, Field National Event Specialist, Borders Books & Music, Baileys Crossroads, VA

"Martin Ogle is the ideal presenter for a topic like Gaia: he has the impressive scientific background to understand the complexities, paired with the professional communication skills and zeal to explain all in a manner that is easy for the listener to grasp. I recommend him highly as a speaker!"

Kathy Brown, Park Ranger - Interpretive Division, Rocky Mountain National Park

5) References from the conference, "The Gaia Theory: Model and Metaphor for the 21st Century," developed and led by Martin Ogle.

I would like to take this opportunity to express how impressed I was with the Gaia conference recently convened by Martin Ogle and his staff. As I said at the beginning of my talk, such a conference was long overdue, and the reason is that no one else had the energy and determination of Martin to see it through. The blend of science, conservation, and public outreach was outstanding, and created one of the more enjoyable and valuable conferences I've attended.

Lee Kump, Professor of Geosciences, Penn State University (in letter to upper management at Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority)

I wish to commend the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority for its inspired sponsorship of the “Gaia Theory” Conference . . .

It was also an extraordinary moment for science and the arts: a meeting of the minds, so to speak, for well-respected scientists, sculptors, musicians, poets, philosophers, farmers and students of all ages and backgrounds to discuss our common interest in understanding and protecting the Earth. Universities, scientific centers, governmental organizations, not-for-profits, schools, and numerous other groups shared data and observations, analyzed mathematical models, reveled in our achievements on behalf of a beleaguered planet, bemoaned our losses, and speculated about our future. In short, the conference was a splendid accomplishment for the Park Authority.

H. Bruce Rinker, Ph.D., Division Director, Environmental Lands Division, Pinellas County, Florida. (Excerpts of letter to NVRPA Executive Director)

In his communication of Gaia theory, Martin Ogle combines knowledge and passion in a way that both educates and engages his audience. He is well-versed in Earth System science (as Gaian science is also known), as well as in the history of Gaian ideas. Martin has a solid grasp of related policy and environmental issues, drawing strong connections between Gaian concepts and global ecological challenges. As chief naturalist of the Northern Virginia Regional Park, he understands how to convey complex and often controversial ideas to a broad audience of different ages and education levels. Martin is well-connected in the Gaian science and interdisciplinary community, thus continually educating himself in developments in the field and keeping up with the latest discoveries and debates. The conference he organized in October 2006, *Gaia Theory: Model and Metaphor for the Twentieth Century*, was one of the liveliest and most successful meetings I have attended.

Dr. Eileen Crist – Associate Professor of Science and Technology in Society at Virginia Tech.

As you probably know, several County co-sponsors have joined the conference including Arlington’s Department of Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, and the Public Schools. The Board agrees that hosting events like these is important to making progress on global climate and environmental issues and creates a forum for bringing some of the most creative minds together to effect positive change. I commend the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and other charter co-sponsors for their efforts to bring this conference to Arlington.

Cristopher Zimmerman, Chair, Arlington County (Virginia) Board (In July, 2006 letter in support of the conference)

As a longtime Arlington resident and a citizen concerned about the environment I want to thank you for facilitating the brilliant GAIA conference this past weekend. I was so impressed with the caliber of the presenters and their presentations and the many local groups who

sponsored this event . . . I can't say enough good things about your chief naturalist, Martin Ogle. His vision and leadership is leading the way in putting Arlington on the map as a "green" county. We are extremely fortunate to have someone with his experience and leadership.

Anne Wilson (from letter of support from Arlington Citizen sent to Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Headquarters after conference)