



## **“Geo sapiens; Re-linking our community through connection to place**

**A workshop for communities (of any kind) working toward community health and sustainability**

**By Martin Ogle\* (Entrepreneurial Earth, LLC)  
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All elements of human community are seamlessly connected to each other and the places we live. Many challenges communities face can be traced to, or be exacerbated by, the many “siloes” that have arisen in modern times – we often separate our issues and concerns from each other and from the places we inhabit. The term “breakdown,” often used to describe social and environmental problems, aptly describes both root causes and symptoms.

This workshop provides new perspective, context and information for nurturing community health and sustainability. The metaphor “*Geo sapiens*” helps create a framework in which participants sense and draw upon the powerful interrelationships within our communities and the seamless connections between human systems and Earth’s living systems. The workshop consists of short talks interspersed with interactive activities and discussions. Participants discover ways to practically act upon new-found connections to make our communities healthy, fun and sustainable places to live. This experience is particularly powerful with people convened from different walks of life: people who work and/or are active in youth issues, environment, business, sustainability, education, government, health, social justice, and more.

### **Testimonials:**

*“Centered on the interrelationships between community, business, and Earth’s living systems, Martin Ogle offered his concept of ‘Geo sapiens’ in an engaging community workshop. A short overview of the Gaia Paradigm provided a grounding framework for exploring thought-provoking ideas while a diverse group of participants contributed unique insights. Martin steered a fascinating discussion with purpose toward local action. I left the event with new energy to create, do, and be in the spirit of Geo sapiens and a broader, more complete expectation of sustainability.”* **Tom Hardie, Owner, Confluence Small Business Collective, Lafayette, CO**

*“I attended a 4-hour “Geo sapiens” workshop led by Martin Ogle and was fascinated by the profusion of concepts he so entertainingly presented. Listening to Martin illustrate this holistic paradigm, I felt as though innate truths were being illuminated. Since attending the workshop, I have enthusiastically told family and friends about the workshop ideas. Four hours simply was not enough time; I could have stayed the weekend. My curiosity is sparked, my chi revived.”* **Karen Imbierowicz, Partnership Coordinator, Boulder County Parks and Open Space**

*“I recommend most enthusiastically the excellent programs resented by Martin Ogle, as a way of adding substantively to our understanding of our environment, of sustainability and quality of life . . . [He] is a most captivating and engaging speaker, able to communicate a depth of knowledge of his subject in plain and accessible language. He leaves listeners amazed, and thinking “Why haven’t I considered this perspective before? . . . “I believe [the Gaia Paradigm and Geo sapiens] concepts] will be a break-out theme for community organizations, academic departments, nature centers, activist organizations, units of government, and business groups.”* - **Larry Kascht, Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha County Parks, Wisconsin**

## Some of the topics / concepts explored in “Geo sapiens” Workshop

- **Finding relationships** - between elements of the human community and between the human community and the place it is located
- **New discoveries of humanity’s relationship to Earth.** Earth systems science and Gaia Theory
- **The Earth-Wise Human** - the evolution of human consciousness as a key element of the evolution of Earth’s living system.
- **Case studies** - of how “siloes” have helped create “un-sustainability” and how re-establishing connections between areas of life helps restore community health.
- **Energy, Sustainability and new views of Entrepreneurship**
- **Systems games and approaches**
- **Creating a “21<sup>st</sup> Century Story”**
- **Linking “Geo sapiens” principles to envisioning and creating new relationships within communities.**

Workshops can be presented in **part-day (3-5 hours), one day, or two-day durations.** Fees vary from **\$450 to \$1200 for non-profits** (slightly higher for businesses). Expenses (travel, lodging, meals) are extra for workshops outside of Boulder County, CO. (Lodging and meals can be “in-kind.”)

This workshop can include significant outdoor time (depending on time availability and access) or be held entirely indoors. In either case, room for the group to actively move around is desirable.

Martin Ogle retired in 2012 from a 27-year career as Chief Naturalist for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and founded Entrepreneurial Earth LLC as a catalyst for sustainability.



He was awarded the **2010 Krupsaw Award for Non-Traditional Teaching** for outstanding teaching in informal and non-academic settings by the Washington Academy of Sciences. In **2012**, he was **presented the Arlington Green Patriot Award** for outstanding work in sustainability by George Mason Univ., Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Arlington Dept. of Environmental Services, and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment.

Over the past 30 years, Martin has presented hundreds of lectures, courses and workshops on Gaia Theory to universities, public groups, environmental organizations, and others across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico, Canada and South Korea. In 2006, he organized a major conference on Gaia Theory in Arlington, VA, that led to publication of the book “*Gaia in Turmoil*” (MIT Press, 2009). See [www.EntrepreneurialEarth.com](http://www.EntrepreneurialEarth.com) for testimonials and references.

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