



Workshops inspired by the “Gaia Paradigm”

For educators, students, environmental
& sustainability organizations, businesses etc.

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The Gaia Paradigm: the confluence of “cutting edge” scientific understandings of Earth as a living system with **cultural understandings** (ancient and new) of human society as a seamless continuum of Earth’s life.

Martin Ogle’s multi-media, interdisciplinary workshops elegantly weave our human nature (our stories, our beliefs . . . our minds) with Earth science and ecology. Learn how to apply these new insights to sustainability, entrepreneurship, and the health and well-being of our communities . . . **discover a new way of thinking about the world!**

Praise from presentation participants:



“My brain wants to EXPLODE from the concepts learned today . . . and that’s a wonderful thing!” - *Workshop participant, 2013*



“I recommend most enthusiastically the excellent Gaia Paradigm programs presented 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.” - *Larry Kascht, Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha County Parks, WI*



“[Martin Ogle’s] expertise on Gaia Theory combined with his passion for environmental and sustainability education truly energized us. Not only did we gain a greater understanding of how our day-to-day place-based work integrates with Gaia Theory, we made deeper connections with one another and developed creative new ideas for our educational program.” *Kim Langmaid, Founder, Vice President, and Director of Sustainability and Stewardship Programs at Walking Mountains Science Center*

“Listen, join his conversation and be thrilled.” - *Lynn Margulis, Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geosciences, Univ. of Massachusetts-Amherst.*

INFORMATION ON WORKSHOP OPTIONS AND CONTENT – NEXT PAGE

Underlying the Gaia Paradigm workshops by Martin Ogle:

The workshops, described below, cover Earth system science in some detail, but also incorporate stories, metaphors and cultural views of land and people from around the world. Gaia Theory posits that organic and inorganic parts and processes of Earth are enmeshed as a single living system that has greatly moderated global temperature, atmospheric content, ocean salinity, and other factors. Earth's living system can be thought of as analogous to an individual organism that regulates body temperature, blood salinity, etc. Human beings are a seamless continuum of the Gaian system, and our economics, energy systems, and even the ways we think and behave, are all part of Earth's ecology and evolution.

Gaia theory was developed in the late 1960's by a British scientist, Dr. James Lovelock. As part of his research with NASA in which he concluded there was no life on Mars, he came to profound new insights about the life of *Earth*. Discoveries by Lovelock and other "Gaian scientists" are now incorporated into Earth system science. Gaia Theory also provides exciting new insights into human connections to Earth's living system with implications for how we can live sustainably and well.

Sample workshop titles / optional areas of emphasis

The Gaia Paradigm: The Confluence of Earth Science and Earth Story – this workshop offers the basic elements and emphases of the Gaia Paradigm listed in this document.

Geo sapiens: The Earth-Wise Human - emphasizes the evolution of human consciousness as a key element of the evolution of Earth's living system.

Sustainability and a Living Earth - emphasizes sustainability issues in the context of human systems as a seamless continuum of Earth's living systems, and examines cultural views and wisdom of the same. Our greatest challenge – and opportunity – in the modern world may be finding understanding and synergy between Western, scientific and Indigenous ways of knowing and addressing our environmental imbalances.

Oikos, Gaia & Earth System Science; The Evolution of an Earth Ethic – an exploration of the evolution of an Earth Ethic from Aldo Leopold's "Land Ethic" and other traditions.

All workshops:

- Introduce the **science of Gaia Theory**, its history and evolution over the past few decades. Emphasis is placed on the interdisciplinary discoveries and insights that Gaia Theory has yielded and the interdisciplinary "lens" it provides.
- Explore the **history and significance of the name "Gaia"** in communicating the idea metaphorically, and also how the metaphor provides practical and profound insights into the science. This exploration includes comparing and contrasting modern and ancient viewpoints / understandings of nature and Earth.

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- Examine **implications of Gaia Theory for sustainability challenges** of our day, especially energy, agriculture and entrepreneurship.
- Include **hands-on activities, handouts, reading lists, etc.**
- Can include **significant outdoor time** (depending on time availability and access), for discovering “Gaian principles” in ecosystems near the workshop location.
- Include **discussion on how our stories, metaphors and worldviews are dominant elements of Earth’s living system.** This discussion can be expanded to explore the evolution of human awareness of time and self, a history of worldviews on nature, and other ways in which our human mind is a seamless continuum of our living planet.
- Explore how participants can view their work, research and/or other activities through a “**Gaia Paradigm lens**” yielding constructive ways to teach about, design in, and enjoy the world!
- Can be **tailored to the needs of different audiences.** For instance, delving into how Gaia Theory can be used in natural history interpretation, in schools (4th grade – college), businesses, team development, and more.

Workshops can be presented in **part-day (3-4 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.”)

Bio

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 35 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 for testimonials and references.

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