

MHC Class of '71 50th Reunion Climate Change Panel: Some Reading Suggestions from the Committee

Wendy Hagen Bauer (Spokane WA)

professor Emerita of Astronomy at Wellesley College, recommends an American Institute of Physics (AIP) website that features a history of "how scientists came to (partly) understand what people are doing to cause climate change." Lots of info here! https://history.aip.org/climate/index.htm?fbclid=IwAR2a_aJItV02F7YbEfZA4wY449Us7WJ- David Grinspoon, who was the inaugural Chair of Astrobiology at the Library of Congress and is a friend of Wendy, wrote *Earth in Human Hands: Shaping Our Planet's Future* (2016) that's "part science, part philosophy, and well worth reading."

Barbara McClure Benedict (Tucson AZ & Charlotte VT)

recommends *The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis* by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, a book she found in stock at Barnes & Noble last month. "It's concise, clearly-written, and fairly current (2020 pre-Covid), and concludes with some concrete suggestions as to how we can begin to make a difference." See <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/623543/the-future-we-choose-by-christiana-figueres-and-tom-rivett-carnac/>. The authors produce *Outrage & Optimism*, a related weekly podcast (each varies from 20-80 minutes long) found online via Spotify. Barbara also suggests that we follow sustainability efforts at MHC via <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/mwce/sustainability-at-a-glance> and consider supporting them through gifts to The Mount Holyoke Fund (designate "Sustainability Initiatives").

Becky Ritchie Cutting (Sudbury MA)

recommends the work of Bill McKibben, founder and senior adviser emeritus of 350.org. His book, *The End of Nature* (1989), is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change. His latest book, *Falter*, "broadens the warning." He also has a byline in *The New Yorker* and you can follow his work by signing up for the [Climate Crisis newsletter](#) from *The New Yorker* magazine.

Becky sent along this clipping of good news from the current

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WORKING FOR WILDLIFE

MAJOR WIN FOR THE GREAT LAKES

An environmental threat is scheduled to end at long last

■ A "ticking time bomb" threatening wildlife in the Great Lakes is slated to be defused. In November, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered the shutdown of Line 5—an oil pipeline that runs under the Straits of Mackinac (right)—by May 12. Connecting Michigan's Lower and Upper Peninsulas, the straits have been described by scientists as "the worst possible place for an oil spill in the Great Lakes"—making its closure a major win.

Constructed in 1953, the pipeline carries more than 22 million gallons of oil and liquefied natural gas from Wisconsin to Canada every day. But it's at risk of a spill due to its age, damage from multiple anchor strikes and other factors. For years, NWF has publicly advocated for its closure, released reports about the threat it poses and even organized a dive to survey the pipeline's condition. "Seven hundred miles of Great Lakes shoreline, northern Michigan's regional tourism economy, 60,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat and irreplaceable tribal and cultural resources are at risk from a rupture from this poorly built and poorly man-



aged pipeline," says Mike Shriberg, NWF's Great Lakes regional executive director.

Gov. Whitmer revoked the easement granted to the line's owner, Enbridge Energy, after an assessment by the state's Department of Natural Resources revealed multiple easement violations, including failing to secure proper insurance in the event of a spill. Enbridge has filed a legal challenge to the governor's order, but she and the attorney general remain committed to the May 12 deadline.

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National Wildlife Federation Magazine and suggests we access as well: <https://www.audubon.org/news/harriet-tubman-unsung-naturalist-used-owl-calls-signal-underground-railroad>.

Susan Munsell Hollingshead (Walnut Creek CA)

recommends articles by Laura Helmuth, Editor in Chief of *Scientific American* (www.scientificamerican.com) and formerly Health and Science editor at *The Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), and suggests we learn about the work of David Doniger, senior strategic director of the Climate & Clean Energy Program at the [National Resources Defense Council](#) and Jessica Hellmann, director of the University of Minnesota's [Institute on the Environment](#) and the Ecolab Chair in Environmental Leadership.

Joann Otto (Bellingham WA)

recommends the NASA website on climate change (<https://climate.nasa.gov/>) as an accessible introduction, one that offers an especially good explanation of how humans have thrown the earth's energy off balance. The NASA site blog archive here may be of interest as well. She found a summary of the role land conservation plays to help the earth to stay in balance at <https://youtu.be/DCUEsJBQWWU> but cautions this "might be a little too much in the weeds for those not into land trusts."

Becky Rom (Ely MN)

returned to her hometown in 2012 to begin building what became the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters in order to protect the water, air, and forests of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from the impacts of mining. The *Minnesota Star Tribune* published a powerful article on Nov 27, 2016, that outlined her efforts to protect this huge expanse along the US-Canadian border. See <https://www.startribune.com/bwca-girl-guide-is-now-a-woman-warrior/403115576/>. Becky and others on the committee recommend the interview of Elizabeth Kolbert in *Audubon* magazine (<https://www.audubon.org/news/elizabeth-kolbert-how-were-trying-change-ways-weve-changed-nature>), a collection of Kolbert's work listed in *The New Yorker* magazine (<https://www.newyorker.com/contributors/elizabeth-kolbert>) her Pulitzer Prize winning *The Sixth Extinction* (2014), and published this year, *Under a White Sky: the Nature of the Future*.

Sallie Welles (Sonoma CA)

Serves as Membership Chair for the North Bay chapter of Fans for Climate Restoration (F4CR). She recommends <https://foundationforclimaterestoration.org> as a starting point, especially the new online lesson for kids aged 8-12 (bit.ly/restoration-lesson) "It is perfect for kids, and not too kidsy for adults." It defines Climate Restoration as restoring the climate to pre-industrial atmospheric levels of CO2. "This is not a pipe dream or a 'wouldn't it be nice if we could...' dream, rather it is what is required to have our climate support our population in the manner in which the Class of 1971 grew up. And we can do it, the financing is possible, technologies exist."

Climate Change Committee members have been inspired by a re-reading of MHC President David Truman's speech presented at our Commencement ceremony on May 30, 1971 -- "The Form of Hope." (You can find a link to his full speech on our class reunion schedule, just before the descriptions of our Saturday evening Racial Justice session and Climate Change panel. His prescient message of concern and call to action rings true today:

My hope is that you will choose none of these routes but will remain committed
to the harder path that alone can be creative, the path that seeks to reconcile
the humanity of disciplined thought with the imperatives of thoughtful action,
the dignity of individual choice with the necessities of our collective fate.
Good luck. Keep the faith.

The Climate Change Panel is our attempt to keep us striving together to this end.