

A high-speed photograph of a large splash of water, likely from a fountain or a break in a dam, set against a dramatic sunset sky. The water is captured in mid-air, creating a complex, fan-like shape with many fine droplets and streaks. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon, with some dark clouds visible. The overall scene is vibrant and energetic.

An Introduction to Watershed Discipleship

www.chedmyers.org

All that passes descends, and ascends again unseen
into the light: the river coming down from sky to hills,
from hills to sea, and carving as it moves,
to rise invisible, gathered to light, to return again.

“The river’s injury, is its shape.” I’ve learned no more.

We are what we are given and what is taken away;
blessed be the name of the giver and taker

For everything that comes is a gift,

the meaning always carried out of sight

to renew our whereabouts, always a starting place.

And every gift is perfect in its beginning, for it

is “from above, and cometh down from the father of Lights.”

Gravity is grace. All that has come to us

has come as the river comes, given in passing away.

And if our wickedness destroys the watershed,

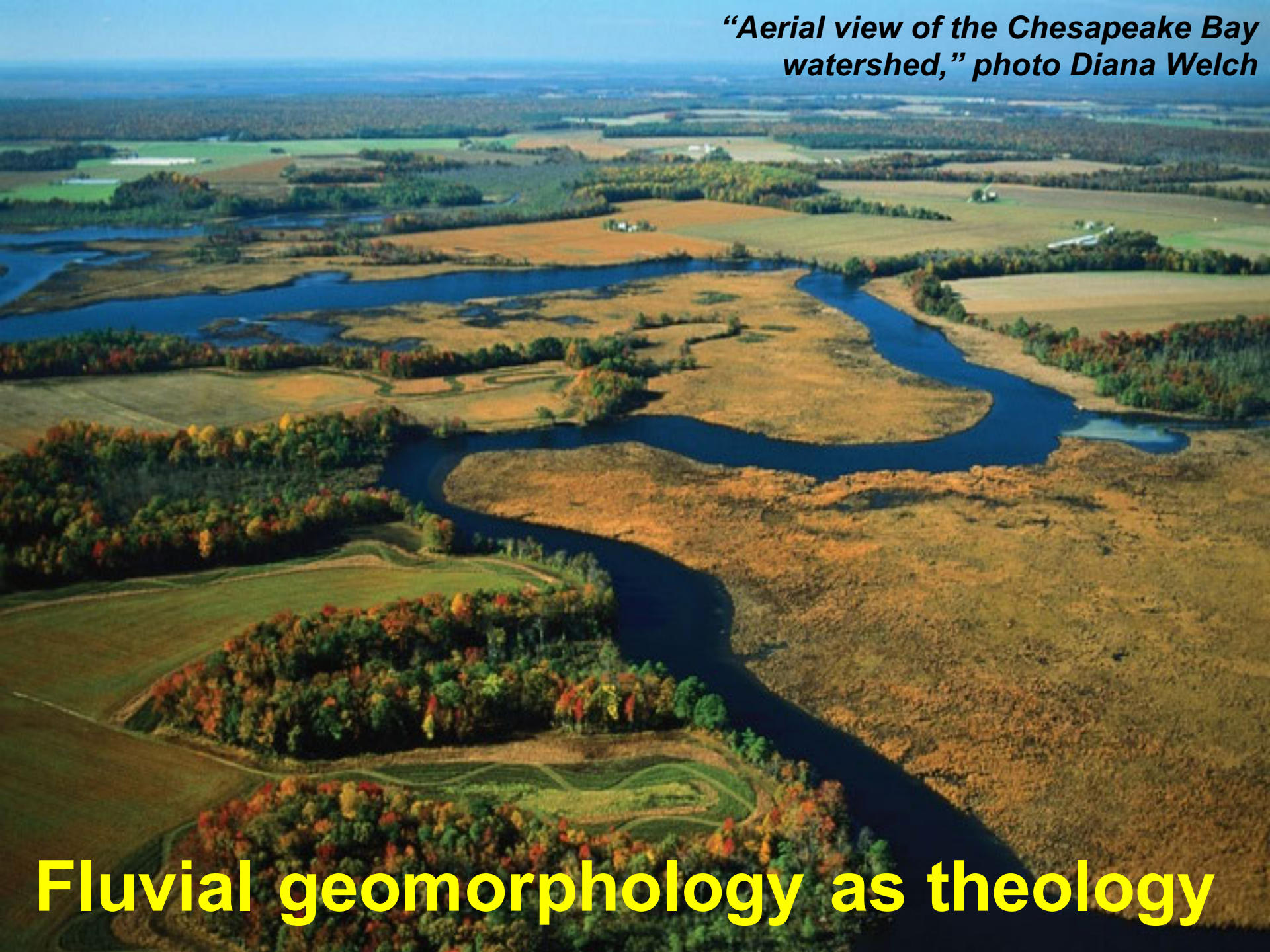
dissolves the beautiful field,

then I must grieve and learn...

*“Rain Clouds Over
Mountains, Denali
National Park,
Alaska,” photo
Robert Stahl*

--Wendell Berry, excerpt from “The Gift of Gravity”
New Collected Poems, 2012

“Aerial view of the Chesapeake Bay watershed,” photo Diana Welch



Fluvial geomorphology as theology



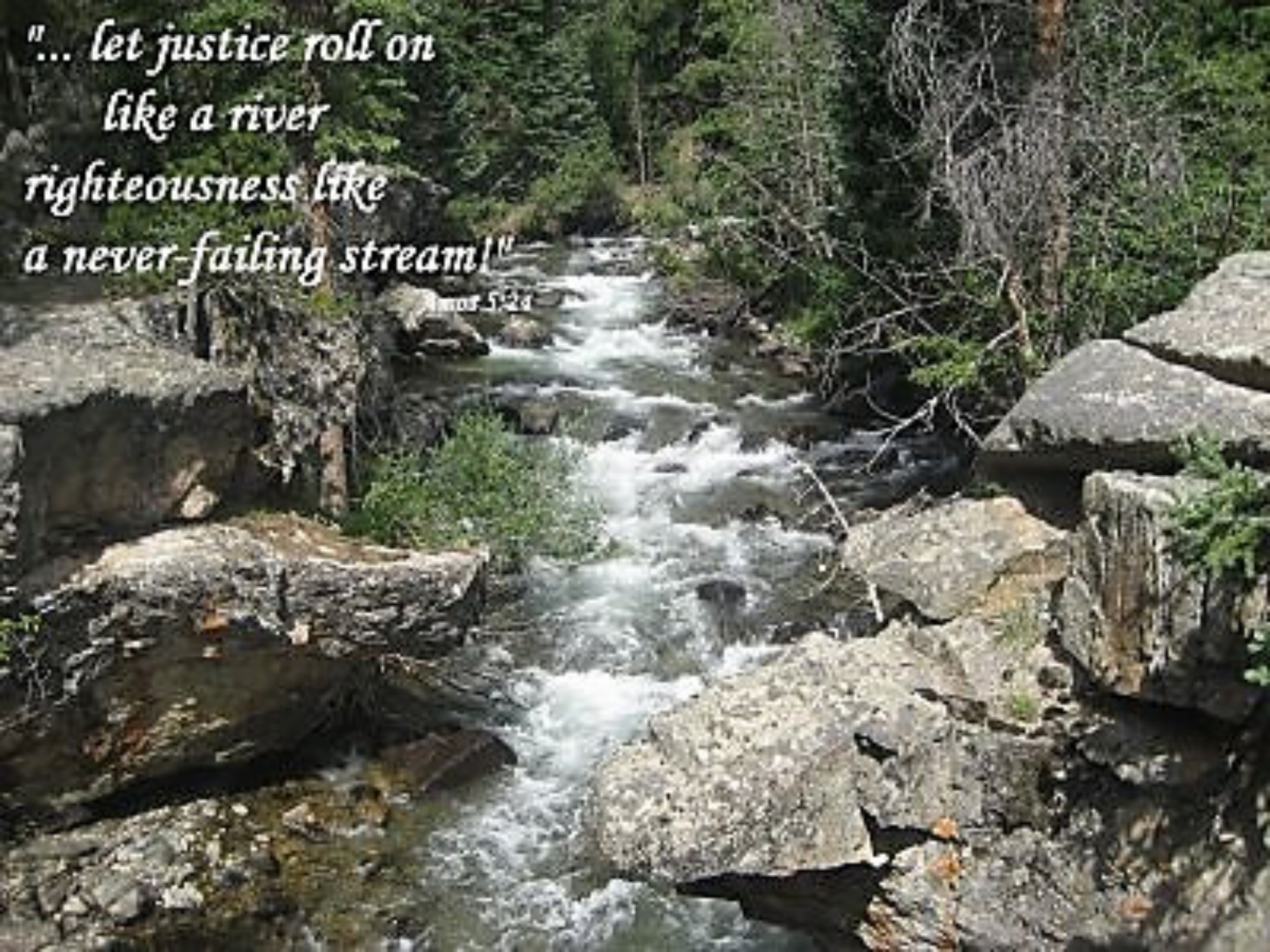
Aerial photo of the San Rafael desert near Hanksville, Utah.



Aerial view of Las Vegas, NV.

*"... let justice roll on
like a river
righteousness like
a never-failing stream!"*

Amos 5:24

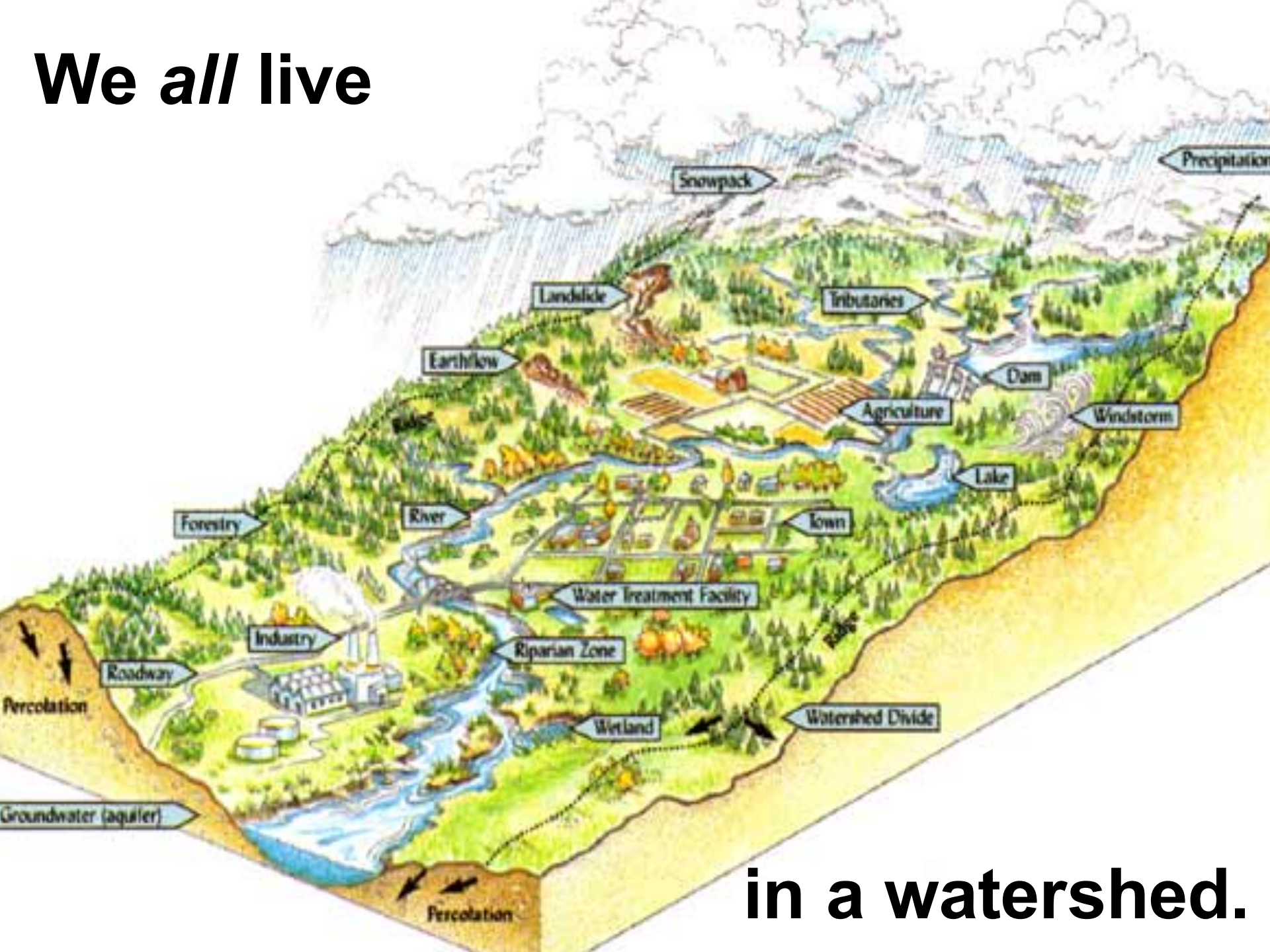




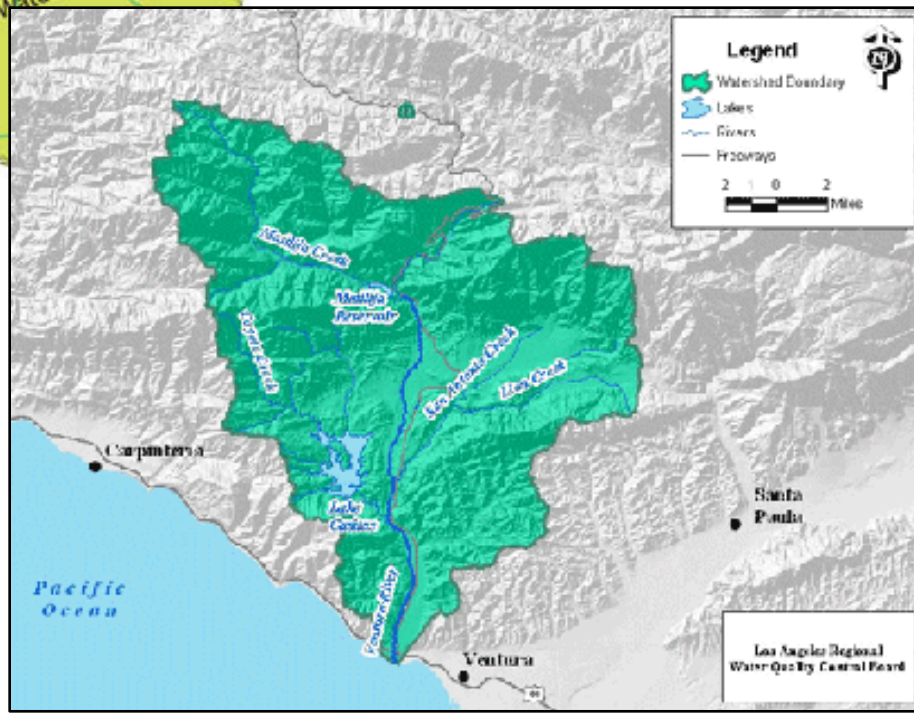
“...that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of the community.”

---John Wesley Powell

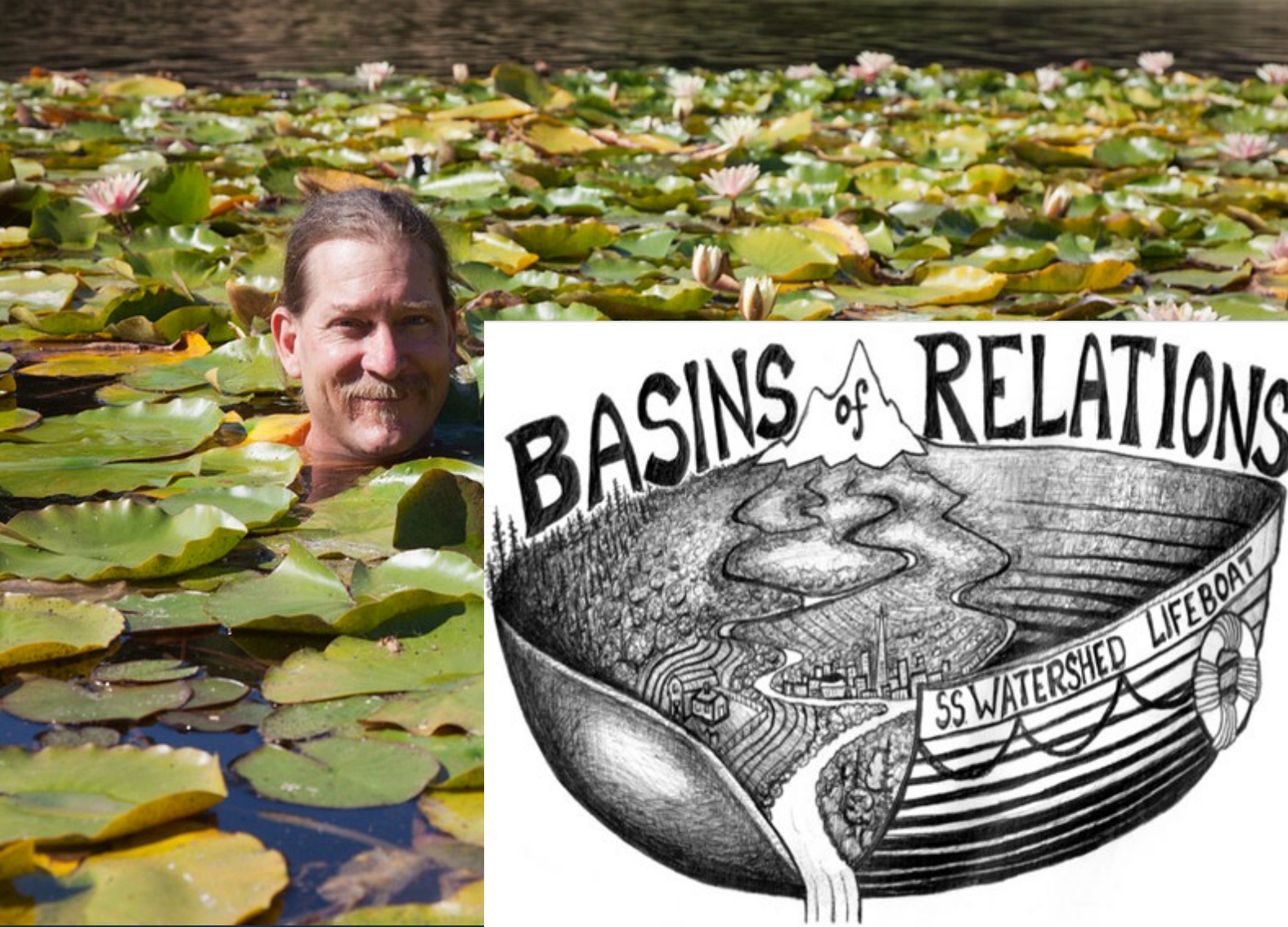
We all live



in a watershed.



Big and small: Mississippi and Ventura River watersheds.



Brock Dolman, founder of Occidental Art and Ecology Center and the Water Institute, swimming at the center's pond.

“Watersheds underlie all human endeavors and form the foundation for all future aspirations and survival. The idea is one of a cradle.”

Bio is from the Greek word for forms of life...and *region* is from the Latin *regere*, territory to be ruled...

They convey together a life-territory, a place defined by its life forms, its topography and its biota, rather than by human dictates; a region governed by nature, not legislature. And if the concept initially strikes us as strange, that may perhaps only be a measure of how distant we have become from the wisdom it conveys.

DWELLERS IN THE LAND

The Bioregional Vision

KIRKPATRICK
SALE

With a new preface by the author

"If it's radical and leading edge, Sale probably wrote about it sooner and better than anyone else."—Dun Zander

BIOREGION: An area that shares similar topography, plant and animal life and culture

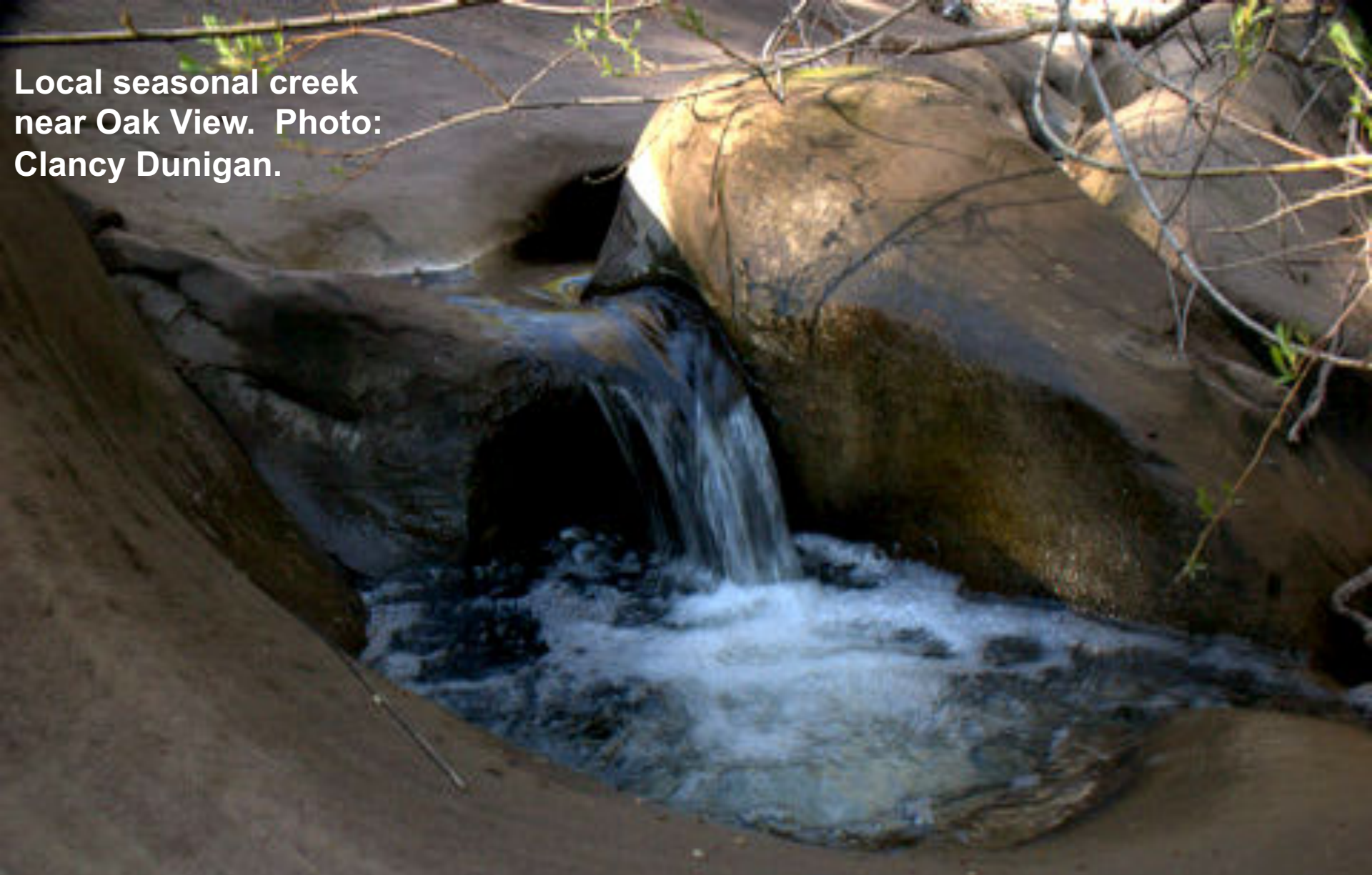


“Re-place-ment”



Near “Grandmother Oak,” close to our home in Oak View, CA. Photo by Tim Nafziger, 8/13.

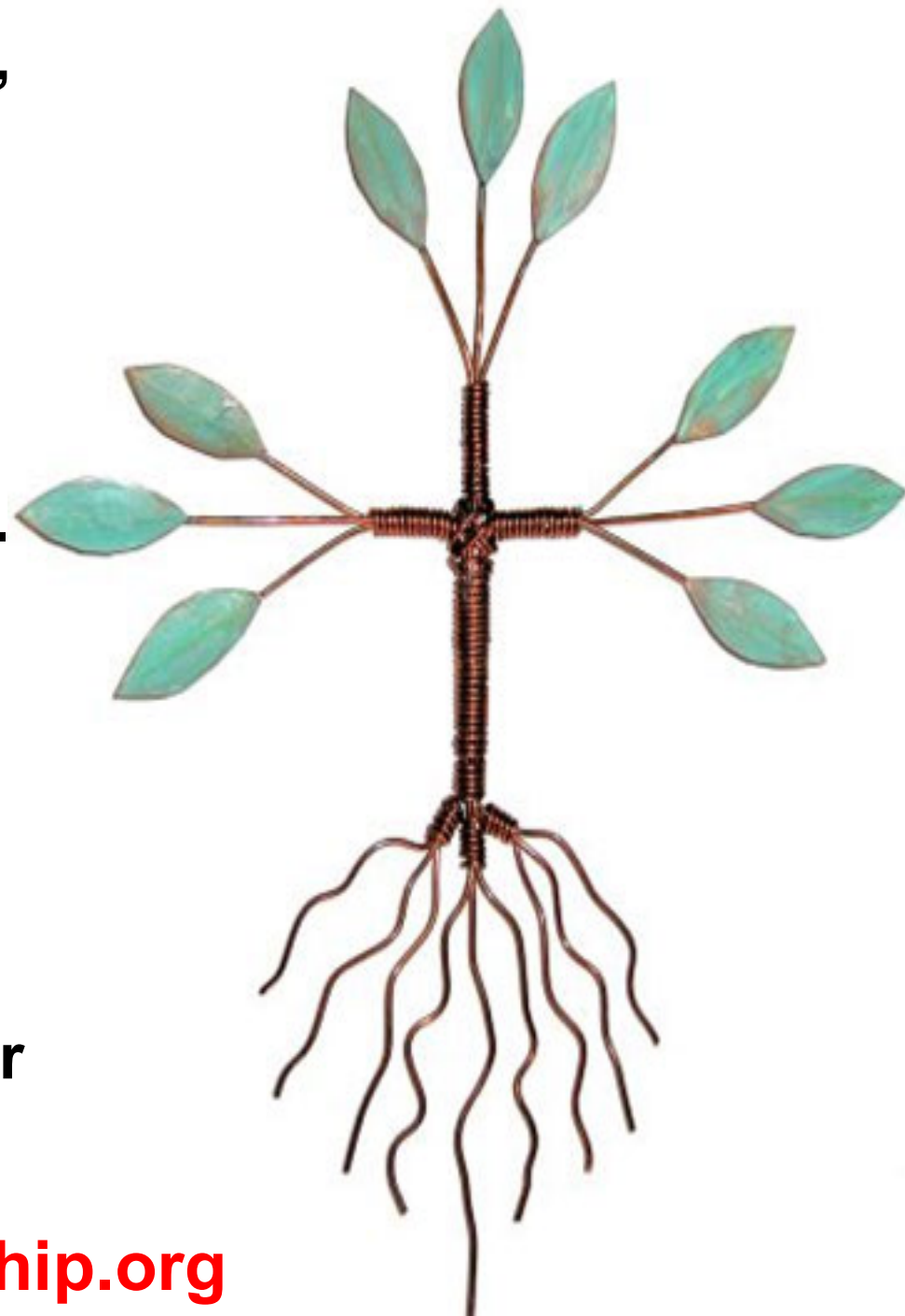
**Local seasonal creek
near Oak View. Photo:
Clancy Dunigan.**



A Call to “Watershed Discipleship”

“Watershed Discipleship” is a triple entendre:

1. It recognizes that we are in a watershed **moment** of historical social & ecological crisis.
2. It acknowledges the inescapably watershed **locus** of an incarnational following of Jesus.
3. It implies that we need to become **disciples of** our watersheds.



We won't save places we don't love.

We can't love places we don't know.

We don't know places we haven't learned.

Senegalese environmentalist
Baba Dioum



The Ventura River watershed.

We have been indoctrinated with the idea that every big problem has a big solution...

a big solution to a big problem is always dangerous... they always make trouble, and we are always surprised by the trouble they make...

The big problems we have now are going to be solved—if they are ever solved—by hundreds of people accepting local responsibilities for small problems...

--Wendell Berry

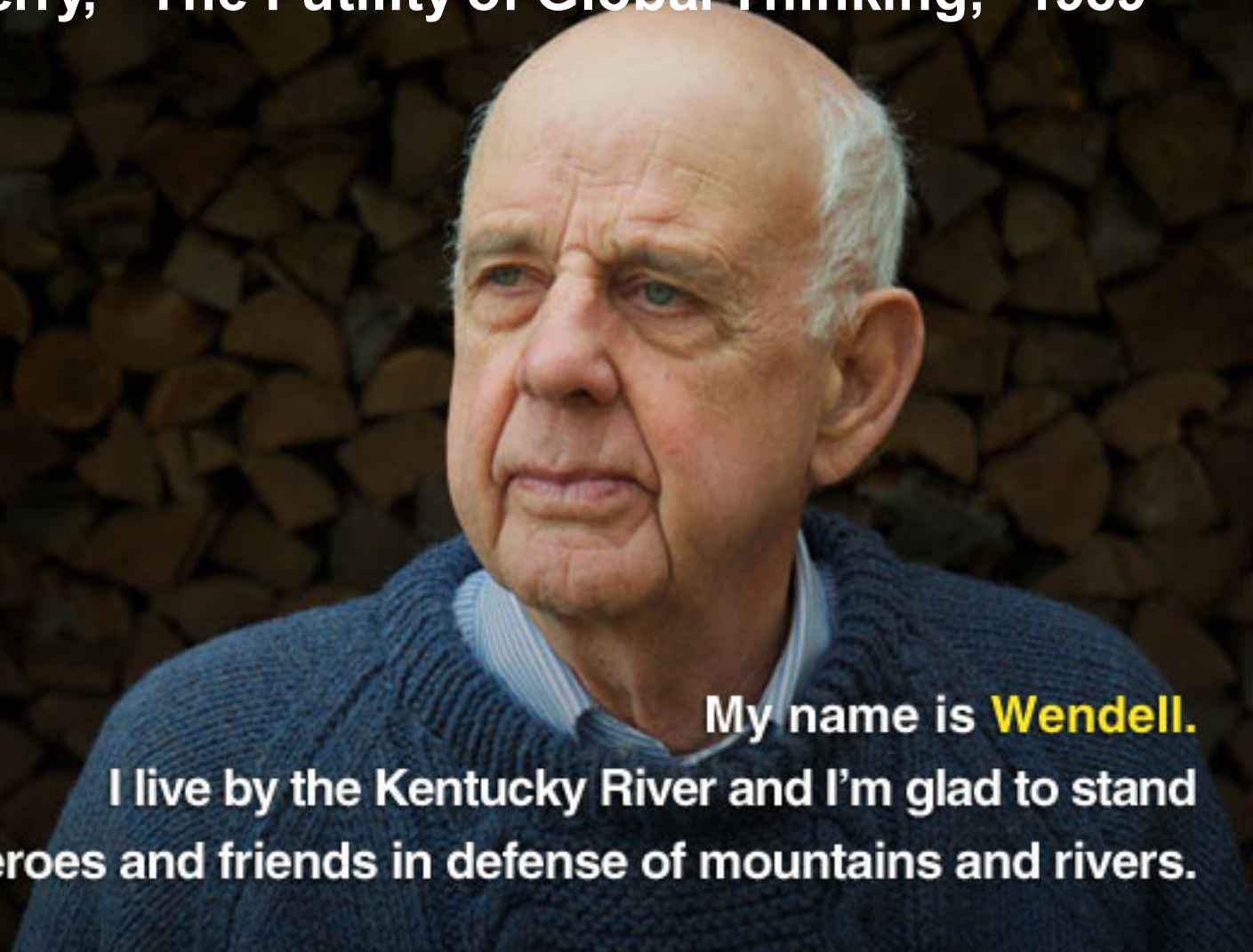
The most alarming sign of the state of our society now is that our leaders have the courage to sacrifice the lives of young people in war but have not the courage to tell us that we must be less greedy and less wasteful.

Wendell Berry

“Wendell Berry,” by Robert Shetterly, “Americans Who Tell the Truth” series.

"The question that must be addressed is not how to care for the planet, but how to care for each of the planet's millions of human and natural neighborhoods... each one of which is in some precious way different from all the others."

--Berry, "The Futility of Global Thinking," 1989



My name is **Wendell**.

I live by the Kentucky River and I'm glad to stand with my heroes and friends in defense of mountains and rivers.



THE TRANSITION HANDBOOK

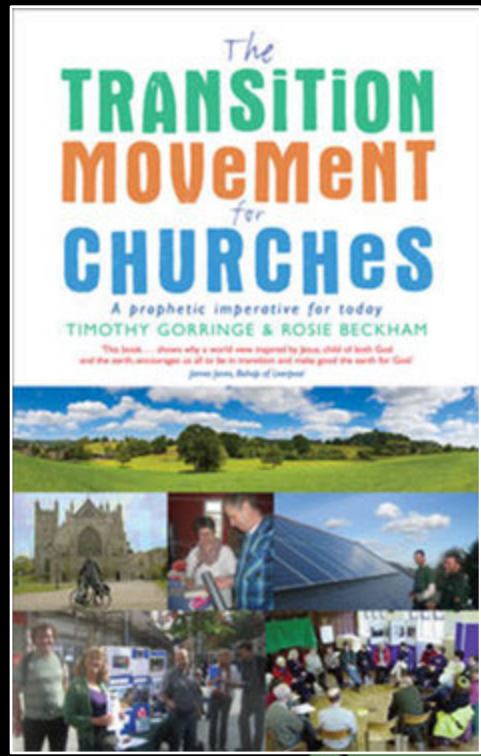
From oil dependency to local resilience



Rob Hopkins

Founder of the Transition movement

"If your town is not yet a Transition Town, here is the guidance I
We have little time, and much to accomplish." — Richard Heinberg, at



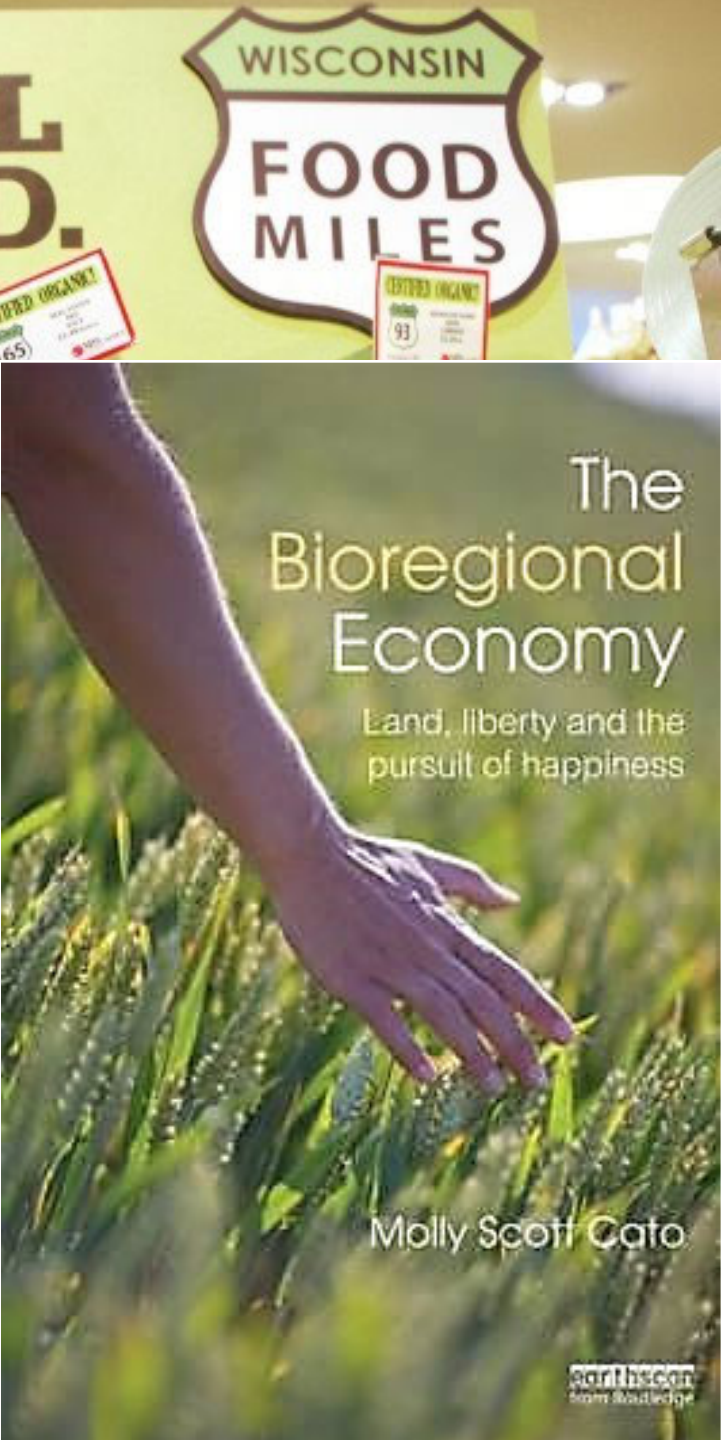
START WHERE YOU ARE.

USE WHAT YOU HAVE.

DO WHAT YOU CAN.

-Arthur Ashe





Economics

Politics

February 2015, Final Draft
Ventura River Watershed Council
**Ventura River
Watershed
Management Plan**



A New Vision
for Governing
the West

This Sovereign Land

DANIEL KEMMIS



Art and Culture



A steel and living wall art piece in Toronto depicts an aerial view of the Don river valley.

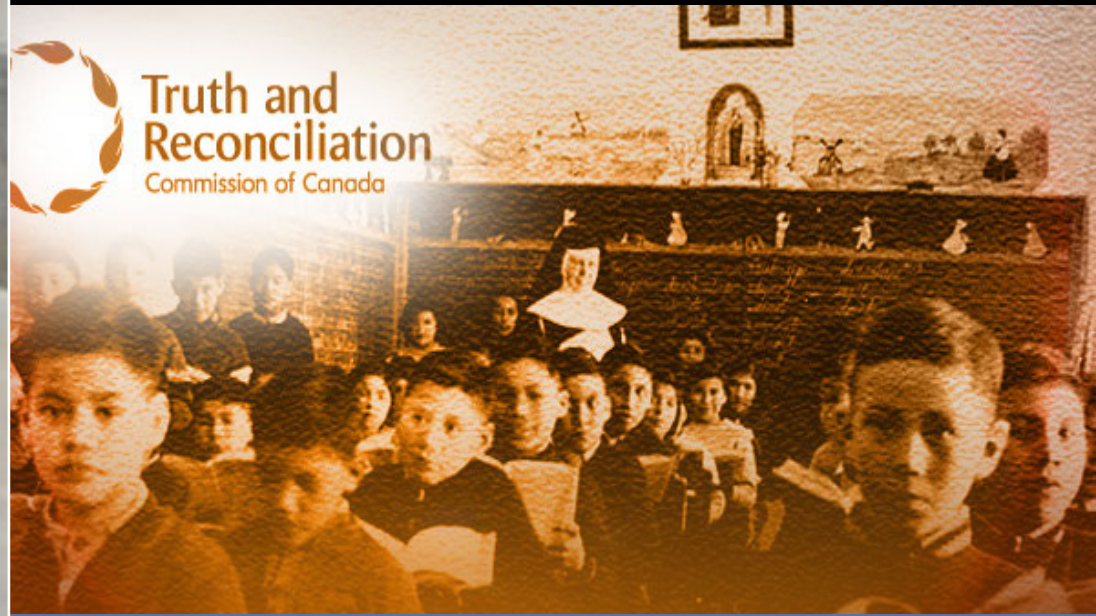
Restorative Justice



Above: Endangered Steelhead trout.
Left: Farmworkers in Ventura.



Below left: Water justice activists in Detroit, MI.
Bottom Right: Canadian TRC Commission.



1. Ecological Theology and Hermeneutics
2. “Re-placed” Liturgy and Spirituality
3. Practices of Watershed Ecclesiology

<http://watersheddiscipleship.org>

www.facebook.com/groups/watersheddiscipleship



“Let us
strive to
build a new
world in the
shell of the
old...”

--Dorothy
Day

*Summer Solstice liturgy,
Casa Anna Schulz, 2013*



Community garden plots at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC



Community Roots Garden, North Oxnard Methodist Church, CA





Ojibwe Elder Sharon Day and the Mother Earth Water Walkers