



## The Nature Institute

Dear Friends,

With this issue we take you far and wide—in more than one sense. Geographically, we range from Kenya and other East African nations to South Africa to New Zealand to Boston.

Craig's feature article looks at the remarkably healthy transformation of hundreds of family farms in Kenya and elsewhere. The transformation has been brought about through the efforts of a nonprofit scientific organization, its funders, and the intense involvement of many local participants. The project combines scientific sophistication with a sensitivity to the human requirements for a renewal of agriculture. Craig finds in the effort a number of lessons for effectively bridging the gap between an initial scientific vision and the meeting of the concrete needs of actual people.

In our opening article, we take you to South Africa, where Craig and Henrike worked in the Towerland Wilderness with Allan Kaplan and Sue Davidoff of the Proteus Initiative. Here the reach was not only geographical, but also cross-disciplinary. Allan and Sue have brought their interest in Goethean methods to bear on their work as facilitators of social and entrepreneurial transformation. Our article tells the story of one participant in workshops that Allen, Sue, Craig, and Henrike conducted. This participant—Gael is her name—has been in charge of a New Zealand government program to stem the tide of domestic violence in the country. It was a problem few people close to it were willing to talk about. You will be fascinated to hear of the productive methods Gael and her team—influenced by Goethean methods—were able to employ so successfully in taking up their huge challenge.

And, with a different sort of travel, we introduce you to some of the research making headlines in the molecular biology world. In particular, the field of bioelectricity—long a topic “far, far away” relative to the biological mainstream—has received a “jolt” as a result of dramatic research being carried on by scientists at Tufts University's Center for Regenerative and Developmental Biology, near Boston. We'll give you some idea of what that's about.

All in all, an issue of rather far-flung adventures. We hope you enjoy them.

Craig Holdrege

Steve Talbott

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### *In Context*

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