



## The Nature Institute

Dear Friends,

When we consider the contents of this issue of our newsletter, we realize how strongly we are woven into a large community. It becomes clear that we are the beneficiaries of a rich connectedness that makes our work possible.

Take, for example, the Notes on pages 3–5 regarding Jochen Bockemühl and Michael Wilson. Bockemühl, who passed away in May of this year, and Wilson, who died in 1985, were both extraordinarily devoted and faithful observers of the natural world—Bockemühl being especially known for his studies of plant life, and Wilson for his engagement with light and color phenomena. The two of them stand among the host of individuals whose undertakings during their lifetimes provide an immensely valuable foundation for the ongoing efforts of ourselves and many others to develop the skills for a vital understanding of the phenomenal world.

Then there are all the researchers contributing to the voluminous technical literature in all the sciences. Both Steve's work on genetics, epigenetics, and evolution (see his feature article on p. 18) and Gopi's work in physics (p. 8) are thoroughly dependent on this literature. We do add different perspectives, but the entire venture would be wholly impossible if the ongoing efforts by thousands of researchers were not continually being published for others to draw upon. This can vividly remind us that we are engaged in an intensely *social enterprise*.

Craig, with his strong orientation toward the living beings of nature, certainly draws on the technical literature as well. But, happily, he need only step outside his door to find himself in some of the natural environments he loves most. Going out into nature and patiently observing an animal, or a flower such as bloodroot (p. 11), one is always “in company”—some of the most profoundly instructive company available to us.

There is also, importantly, that vital sphere in which we meet and converse with colleagues (pp. 8-9), or interact with participants in courses and workshops. We think of all the students who were important for Henrike as she developed the teaching methods leading to her workbook in projective geometry (p. 9). Engaging with people who share our interests and concerns and contribute their own points of view and experiences, enriches our work.

And, of course, there is the essential supportive connection with the readers of our publications, and all the donors and foundations that financially support the Institute each year. It is impossible to imagine how our work could be effective and beneficial without this web of interconnections. We are grateful for them all.

Warm greetings,

Craig Holdrege

Steve Talbott

### STAFF

Craig Holdrege  
Henrike Holdrege  
Seth Jordan  
Elaine Khosrova  
Kristy King  
Judith Madey  
Veronica Madey  
Stephen L. Talbott  
Gopi Krishna Vijaya

### ADJUNCT RESEARCHERS/FACULTY

Bruno Follador  
Jon McAlice  
Marisha Plotnik  
Vladislav Rozentuller  
Sergio Spalter  
Nathaniel Williams  
Johannes Wirz

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Siral Crane  
Craig Holdrege  
Henrike Holdrege  
Marisha Plotnik  
Jan Kees Saltet  
Signe Schaefer  
Jeffrey Sexton  
Nathaniel Williams

### BOARD OF ADVISORS

Will Brinton  
Gertrude Reif Hughes  
Wes Jackson  
Andrew Kimbrell  
Fred Kirschenmann  
Johannes Kühl  
George Russell  
Wilfried Sommer  
Langdon Winner  
Arthur Zajonc

### *In Context*

Copyright 2020 The Nature Institute.

EDITOR: Stephen L. Talbott

LAYOUT: Mary Giddens

COVER ART: Kristelle Esterhuizen

Copies of *In Context* are free while the supply lasts. All issues are posted on the Institute website.

The Nature Institute  
20 May Hill Road  
Ghent, New York 12075  
Tel.: 518-672-0116  
Fax: 518-672-4270  
Email: [info@natureinstitute.org](mailto:info@natureinstitute.org)  
Web: <http://natureinstitute.org>

The Nature Institute, Inc.,  
is a non-profit organization  
recognized as tax-exempt by  
the IRS under section 501(c)(3).