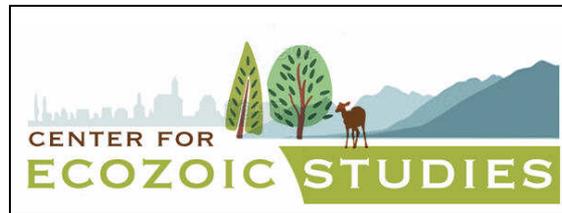


CES Monthly Musings

Issue 10, February 2008
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*Seeking integral community
in an ecological age*

“Ecozoic” means “house of life.”
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The “Ecozoic Society” means a society of life.
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**The “Ecozoic Era” is a time of mutually enhancing relationships
among humans and the larger community of life.**
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The “Great Work” is living the promise of the ecozoic.

In this issue: [“Thomas Berry’s Hip Fracture”](#) and [“Building Community: Artists and Writers for the Ecozoic \(AWE\)”](#) by Herman Greene.

Thomas Berry’s Hip Fracture

Thomas Berry suffered a severely fractured right hip occasioned by a fall around noon on Sunday, March 2, 2008. A report of yesterday said he was not doing well. He is in constant pain that is not satisfactorily relieved by pain killers and has little appetite. He has been transferred to a rehab unit and it is unlikely he will be able to return to independent living. So far, therapy has not helped him to stand or walk. You may send him a card c/o Margaret Berry at 4100 Well-Spring Drive #2319, Greensboro, NC 27410-8837. I would suggest you only send cards and not gifts. Please do not send flowers. Consider expressing your concern to his sister, Margaret Berry, as well.



Thomas Berry with Herman and Sandi Greene, Fall 2007

Building Community: Artists and Writers for the Ecozoic (AWE)

For some time now I have thought that one of the most important things CES can do is support artists and writers for the ecozoic. What does that mean? More than anything it means building community to nurture the sparks that are in us.

Over these last eight years of editing *The Ecozoic Reader* I have observed the remarkable depth and caring nature of the people who are connected through the ecozoic vision of Thomas Berry. Many of you have shared your writings and art with us and we have published them. I also have become aware of the large number of people in this network who have written books or are in the process of doing so or who, as amateurs or full time, have committed themselves to art, liturgy, meditation, teaching and dance. I smile as I remember Maria Termini's piece on "Art from Wonder" In Vol.4, No. 4 of the *Reader* . . .

My schoolhouse, deep in the forest, was the best studio I ever had for doing art. I was surrounded by endless subject matter, and so blessed by wonder, that quality of delight and mystical awe that cannot be described in words. The wonder felt good; it made me aware of the presence of God, the artist of all artists, and brought me closer to an amazing God. My forest was surely a sacred space for me and very much like a church. I needed all this wonder. Even my car proclaimed "wonder" with its Maine vanity plates.

There are those who specify outer solutions for our current environmental problems and they are important. What we are primarily about, however, is inner work. This work is the journey inward to spontaneous insight, imagination, energy, forgiveness, reconciliation and repentance. In this inner space is the dream of the Earth, of the cosmos, of God, of the Buddhist's emptiness, of the Chinese Dao, of Hinduism's Atman and Brahman, of the Great Spirit and of the place of holiness, creativity and wisdom in various spiritual traditions. From this inner space comes the vision of an ecozoic society, not as a series of technical solutions to fix our current society, but in images of beauty, home, community, work . . . to guide us.

I would like for CES to be a welcoming and nurturing home for these inner imaginings and the expression of them in writing and art, including the art of living.

On February 14-16, I attended a conference on "The Legacy and Lure of John B. Cobb, Jr." While there, I learned a lot from his students about how he built community. How many people go back to the places where they graduated to be with their teacher? John Cobb has been at Claremont School of Theology for



50 years and is considered the leading teacher of process theology. His students recounted how he had made a decision when he started the Center for Process Studies in 1973 that the best way he could make a difference was not by his own writings (which includes more than 50 books) but by building a community of scholars. So here at this conference perhaps 100 of his former students returned to be with him and honor him. His role will decline as he ages. Now, however, there are more than 100 John Cobbs around the country and in Southeast Asia who write and teach. And there is a community of perhaps a 1,000 other scholars who were not his students connected with the Center for Process Studies.

John and Jean Cobb, February 15, 2008

I believe the most important thing that CES can do is be a community for artists (including musicians, movie makers, dancers, poets, photographers, liturgists, performers and so on) and writers (including those who lecture and teach) for the ecozoic. This does not mean simply for those who publish or are professionals but for anyone who keeps a journal, arranges flowers or teaches a child to draw.

One of the ways CES can do this is by keeping in touch by those who have contributed to the *Reader* or the new *Ecozoic*. Another way is to offer assistance by those who have published or presented art to those who are just getting their feet on the ground. What other ways?

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The mission of CES is to offer a vision of an ecozoic society and contribute to its realization through research, education and the arts.

If you like to become a member of CES, you may do so by sending a letter to CES at 2516 Winingham Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 with your contact information and dues. Annual dues are US\$30 (individual or family); reduced price, US\$20; outside U.S.A., Canada and Mexico, add US\$10. Sustaining Member US\$130. Contributions are welcome.