

Suter Science Seminars 2017-18

Awakening the Sleeping Giant: Natural Climate Solutions

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4 p.m. Science Center, room 106

All nations recently agreed to limit the global average temperature rise below 2°C. How much climate mitigation can nature contribute to this goal? We quantify “natural climate solutions” – 20 conservation, restoration, and improved land management actions that increase terrestrial carbon storage and avoid greenhouse gas emissions across global forests, wetlands, grasslands and agricultural lands. We show that natural climate solutions offer a larger portion than previously recognized of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilize warming below 2°C. Re-greening the planet offers a biological bridge for our transition to a carbon neutral economy and stable climate.

Bronson Griscom directs the Carbon Science team at The Nature Conservancy. He works in research characterizing global opportunities for nature to mitigate climate change through conservation, restoration, and improved land management in forests, agricultural lands, and wetlands. He also studies specific strategies to sequester more carbon through improved management of production forests and reforestation (google “griscom cool green science” for more). Prior to joining TNC, Griscom worked at the U.S. Department of State and the Canaan Valley Institute in West Virginia, studying restoration of high elevation Appalachian forests. He completed a Ph.D. in tropical forest ecology from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 2003, and received his M.Sc. from New York University in plant genetics and conservation. His happy place is his cabin by a babbling brook in the mountains of West Virginia with family and friends.



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