

Regenerative agriculture and Land Use Workshop

Thursday December 03, 2015

Ronnie Cummins

International Director of the [Organic Consumers Association \(OCA\)](#) and [Regeneration International \(RI\)](#)

Ronnie Cummins is co-founder and International Director of the Organic Consumers Association (OCA) and its Mexico affiliate Via Organica. Cummins has been active as a writer and activist since the 1960s, with extensive experience in public education, grassroots mobilization, and marketplace pressure campaigns. Over the past two decades he has served as director of US and international campaigns dealing with sustainable agriculture issues including food safety, genetic engineering, factory farming, and global warming.

Amanda Joy Ravenhill

Executive Director [Project Drawdown](#)
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Amanda Joy Ravenhill is the Executive Director and Co-founder of Project Drawdown, where she brings her passion and expertise in environmental and social justice to the organization's solution-based approach to addressing climate change. Prior to Project Drawdown, Amanda was a Professor of Sustainable Business at Presidio Graduate School, where she taught sustainability, systems thinking, and environmental and social justice to MBA and MPA candidates. Previously, she co-founded [The Hero Hatchery](#), a nationally recognized fellowship for climate activists, served as the Head of Business Partnerships at [350.org](#), served as the Executive Director of Ananay, a fair trade organization in Bolivia, and held an Americorp Fellowship. Amanda is an established expert and speaker in the fields of Systems Thinking, Climate Change, Regenerative Design, and Biochar. She received an M.B.A. in Sustainable Management from Presidio Graduate School, and received a B.A. in International Development and Social Change from Clark University.

Lauren Tucker

Program Manager [Kiss the Ground](#)

Lauren is passionate about inspiring communities to live sustainably and in harmony with the natural environment and making the transition to a sustainable future with joy and without sacrifice. She is an urban farmer, community organizer, and mother. She has studied permaculture design, biodynamic farming, and earned a B.A. in International Studies and Psychology from American University.

Andre Leu

President of [IFOAM - Organics International](#) and [Co-Founder of Regeneration International](#)

Andre Leu is the author of *The Myths of Safe Pesticides* and the President of IFOAM – Organics International. Andre has over 40 years of international experience in all areas of organic agriculture and has extensive writing and publications in many areas of organic agriculture including climate change, the environment, and the health benefits of organic agronomy. He was recently invited by the UNEP to present research findings from the organic movement at a high-level.

Hans Herren

President and CEO of the [Millennium Institute](#) and [Biovision Foundation](#) and [Co-Founder of Regeneration International](#)

Hans Herren is a Swiss entomologist, farmer and development specialist. He was the first Swiss to receive the 1995 World Food Prize and the 2013 Right Livelihood Award for leading a major biological pest management campaign in Africa, successfully fighting the Cassava mealybug and averting Africa's worst-ever food crisis. Herren is the president and CEO of the Washington-based Millennium Institute and co-founder and president of the Swiss foundation Biovision.

Precious Phiri

EarthWisdom Consulting Co., Zimbabwe and Representative for [Africa Centre for Holistic Management](#) Hub in Zimbabwe

Restoration of African rivers through livestock management

Precious Phiri is a representative for the [Africa Centre for Holistic Management](#) (ACHM) Hub in Zimbabwe. She has vast training experience working with rural villages in the Hwange Communal Lands region that are implementing restorative grazing programs using Holistic Land and Livestock Management (HLLM). These trainings help rural communities in Africa to reduce poverty, rebuild soils, and restore food and water security for people, livestock and wildlife. Holistic Land and Livestock Management has been successfully used on different landscapes in Africa and many parts of the world.

Precious was born and raised in one of the communities now implementing HLLM, and has been involved as a great influence in helping communities restore land and water, while feeding themselves. She holds a BSc degree in Geography and Geographic Information Systems from the University of Fort Hare (South Africa) and an Executive Diploma in Business Leadership (EDBL) with the Zimbabwe Institute of Management.

Dr. Thomas Goreau

President of the [Global Coral Reef Alliance](#)

Restoring water cycles or marine ecosystem restoration

Dr. Thomas Goreau, is President of the Global Coral Reef Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, protection, and sustainable management of coral reefs, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Thomas Goreau completed his Ph.D., Biogeochemistry in 1981 at Harvard University, Master of Science, Planetary Astronomy in 1972, at California Institute of Technology, and Bachelor of Science, Planetary Physics, in 1970, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While teaching at universities in the United States and Brazil, he worked on the effects of Amazon deforestation on the chemistry of the earth's atmosphere, and was Senior Scientific Affairs Officer at the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology Development. He led efforts to protect coral reefs at the negotiations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Conference on the Development of Small Island Developing States, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Dr. Goreau is a dedicated activist on environmental and global ecology issues. His research continues to focus on the effects of global warming and pollution on coral reefs, as well as application of Biorock Technologies in the interest of coral preservation and coral reef restoration.

Chris Kerston

Director of Marketing and Communication for [Savory USA](#)
Reversing desertification through livestock management

Chris Kerston has been grazing cattle for over a decade. With a longstanding passion for alternative agricultural models, Chris has dedicated much of his life to helping connect ranchers with consumers in ways that create real value for both parties. With formal training and instinctive talent, Chris utilizes social media in concert with traditional marketing techniques to help ranchers share their stories and build long lasting relationships with partners based upon common goals.

For 6 years Chris co-managed a 2,000 acre diversified farm based on holistic grazing and permaculture in the Sacramento Valley. The farm is comprised of old growth olive orchards, heirloom stonefruits and citrus groves, and also raises grassfed cattle, sheep, goats, and pasture-raised chickens for both meat and eggs. Through creative positioning, the farm quickly attracted national notoriety and the attention from public figures such as Joel Salatin and Michael Pollan. Chris has also been recognized as a leader in the emerging agri-tourism market and he facilitated a partnership with a European-based hospitality company and the farm he managed. The resulting farmstays provided urban dwellers a recreational, but also educational, outlet to see first-hand how food could be produced in abundance outside the realm of conventional industrial systems.

Chris has become a recognized public speaker championing for stronger connections between grower and eater and providing training to help build those connections. He has been on the forefront of the collaborative process with state and federal regulators, advocating for the recognition of alternative agricultural models as well as the consumers' right to access healthy local foods. Chris is also very enthusiastic about developing opportunities for young ranchers. Fostering creative solutions to removing barriers of available land and capital will ultimately help cultivate the next generation of holistic land stewards.

Calla Rose Ostrander

Independent Consultant, Climate Change Science, Policy and Education for [Kiss the Ground](#)

Calla Rose Ostrander was born in Tucson, Arizona and lived in New Mexico, Montana, Oaxaca, Mexico and Adelaide, Australia before her family settled outside of Boulder, Colorado. A product of the Waldorf education system, she attended the University of Puget Sound on a music scholarship and graduated with a BA in International Political Economy and a focus in Environmental Studies. She has worked in support of, or directly for local government in the sustainability field for 10 years. She was a research associate at the ecosystem services consulting firm Earth Economics in Seattle, Washington, and a Fellow with the Snowmass-based Rocky Mountain Institute before going to work for the City of Aspen's Global Warming Office in 2006. During her time on the Western slope of Colorado, Calla Rose worked for the nonprofit group the Community Office for Resource Efficiency, was co-chair of the Environmental Board for the Town of Carbondale, was involved in local radio and taught fundamentals of climate change in local middle and high schools. She moved to the Bay Area at the end of 2008 to work for the San Francisco Department of Environment where she started the Department Climate Action Plan program, manages the San Francisco Carbon Fund and led the update to the San Francisco Community Climate Action Strategy. In 2012 Calla

Rose co-founded the nonprofit Resilience Fund, which works to support farmers through the transitions caused by climate change.

Kevin Bayuk

Financial Analysis for [Project Drawdown](#)

Kevin Bayuk works at the intersection of ecology and economy where permaculture design meets cooperative organizations intent on meeting human needs while enhancing the conditions conducive to all life. He is a partner with [LIFT Economy](#) - accelerating social enterprises and facilitating investment into highly beneficial impact organizations. He also frequently facilitates classes, workshops, speaks and provides one-on-one mentoring as a founding partner of the Urban Permaculture Institute San Francisco. Kevin's clients include industry leaders and startups in conservation hydrology landscape stewardship, bioplastics, compost, urban planning, diversified renewable energy, energy efficiency and early-stage impact investment. Having co-founded projects as diverse as enterprise communications management software to urban farming food security gardens, makes Kevin as fluent with information technology as with perennial polyculture agroforestry.

Dr. Jay Hasty

Director of Product Support for [All Power Labs](#)

Nitrogen and Carbon Cycles

Julia Hasty's interest in renewable energy and clean technology started early from witnessing the negative health and environmental impacts in her community caused by mountain top removal coal mining and coal utilization in Virginia. Since, she is dedicated to a career in environmentally responsible, low-carbon energy technologies that address climate change. After obtaining a B.S. in Chemistry at Radford University in Virginia, her early-stage participation in three clean technology startup companies gives her a broad experience in business development along with all stages of technology development and commercialization. Her experience includes directing the development, design, construction and operation of a 1 million gallon per year waste vegetable oil to bio-diesel plant in Portland, Oregon. She currently works for ALL Power Labs, Inc (www.allpowerlabs.com) which conducts research in gasification and manufactures mobile 10-250 kWe CHP biomass gasifier systems at which she played many major roles in starting the company in 2008. Typical at many start-ups, Julia was responsible for laying the foundation in development and running various departments in the company including sales, marketing and manufacturing with a very small team. For the majority of her time at ALL Power Labs as the Director of Customer and Technical Support, she has overseen the research, design and installation of grid tied and off-grid biomass gasification systems supporting over 600 systems in over 35 countries while also responsible for operator training, education, technical writing and feedstock quality control & supply management. Her continued interest clean fuels from sustainable resources lead her to work with Dr. Devinder Mahajan as a graduate student at the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (www.aertc.org) at Stony Brook University. During this time she worked on a novel slurried nanocatalyst technology for the production of mixed alcohols from biomass derived synthesis gas and obtained her doctorate in Material Science Engineering with a concentration in Chemical Engineering.

Eric Toensmeier

Land Use Solutions for [Project Drawdown](#)

Carbon Farming

Eric Toensmeier is the award-winning author of *Paradise Lot and Perennial Vegetables*, and the co-author of *Edible Forest Gardens*. Eric is an appointed lecturer at Yale University, a Senior Biosequestration Fellow with Project Drawdown, and an international trainer. He presents in English, Spanish, and botanical Latin throughout the Americas and beyond. Eric has studied useful perennial plants and their roles in agroforestry systems for over two decades. He is the author of the forthcoming *The Carbon Farming Solution: A Global Toolkit of Perennial Crops and Regenerative Agricultural Practices for Climate Change Mitigation and Food Security*.

Pedro Diniz

Board of Director at [Food Tank](#) and [Conservation International](#), Founder [Fazenda de Toca](#) and co-founder of [Greentech Capital](#)
Agroforestry

Pedro Paulo Diniz is a Brazilian businessman and former racing driver. Diniz began karting at the age of eighteen and achieved minor success, before progressing to car racing in the Brazilian Formula Ford Championship and the British Formula Three Championship. He first drove in Formula One with Forti for the 1995 season. The following year he switched to Ligier and moved to Arrows for 1997. In 1998, he finished 14th in the Drivers' Championship, and subsequently moved to Sauber for 1999. He left Sauber after the 2000 season and brought a share in the Prost team, which folded a year later.

Since leaving motorsport, Diniz founded the Formula Renault 2.0 Brazil Championship which he ran from 2002 and 2006, later becoming a partner in the Pão de Açúcar and operates a 2,300 hectare organic produce and dairy farm, Fazenda da Toca, alongside his wife Tatiana Diniz. The large-scale family-owned organic farm in Brazil's São Paulo state is changing the future of ecological agriculture. Diniz has transformed his family's land into one of Brazil's leading producers of organic eggs, dairy, and fruit while honoring his environmental conscience. Moreover, Fazenda de Toca works to revolutionize agriculture in Brazil and around the world by educating others in sustainable cultivation at its on-farm learning center, Instituto Toca.

Diniz serves as a board member of Food Tank, as well as Conservation International Brazil and Península (Diniz Family investment firm). He previously served as a board member of Grupo Pão de Açúcar for ten years and he is the co-founder of Greentech Capital, which focuses on investments in sustainability projects.

Dayana Andrade

Founder of [Agenda Gotsch](#)
Agroforestry

Dayana Andrade has a bachelor's degree in Communications and masters degree in Literary Studies from São Paulo State University (UNESP). Dayana has taken her years of experience working as screenwriter and video editor for corporations and TV companies, to help her craft engaging audiovisual narratives to educate audiences about the importance of agroecology and agroforestry in Brazil. In 2011 while finishing her Doctorate in Environmental Sciences and Conservation at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Dayana founded the Agenda Gotsch project, to create a series of short films documenting the work of Ernst Götsch, an innovator in regenerative analog agroforestry working in the Bahia region of Brazil. This year for the COP21, she will be debuting her latest short film "Life in Syntropy."

she Dayana specializes in crafting stories through a variety of audioaudiovisual techniques she saw a way to combine Journalism and narrative studies, discovering a powerful language to popularize information. She's

been working as a screenwriter and video editor for corporations and TV companies for 6 years. In 2011, she conceived the idea for Agenda Gotsch and nowadays divides her time between the project, growing her own food and a doctorate in Environmental Sciences and Conservation at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).