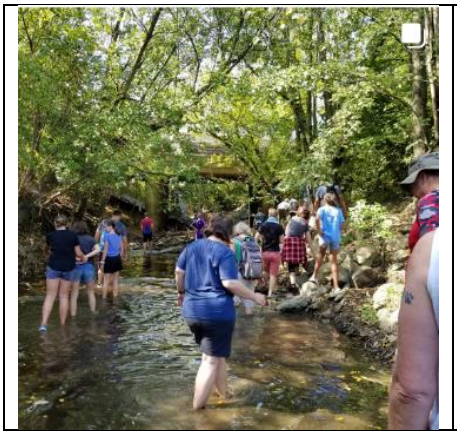
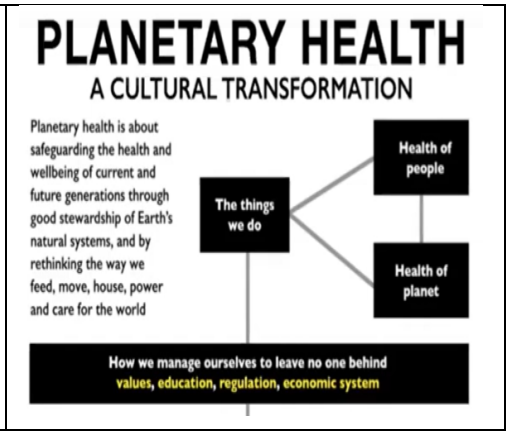
ROAR: REGIONAL OHIO ACTION FOR RESILIENCE

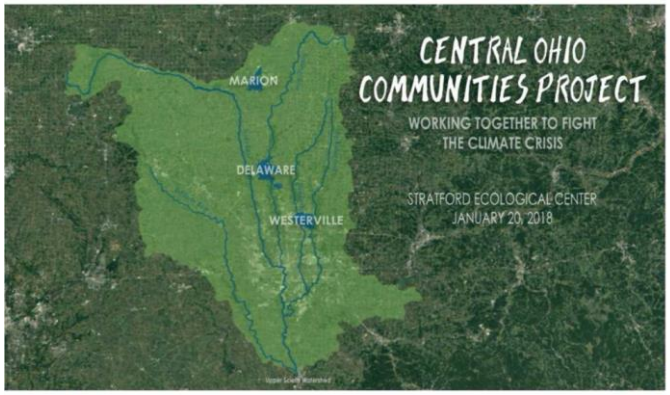
ROAR'S ROLE: ROAR functions not so much as a new organization but rather as a catalyst to spur a wide range of people, organizations, non-profits, colleges, towns, cities and communities to create specific, collaborative ventures to address the climate crisis locally, across the central Ohio region. We seek out what is possible, what is already in the works and try to expand those by encouraging cooperative action beyond typical boundaries, all with the aim of enhancing bioregional awareness and deep-level, systemic environmental change.





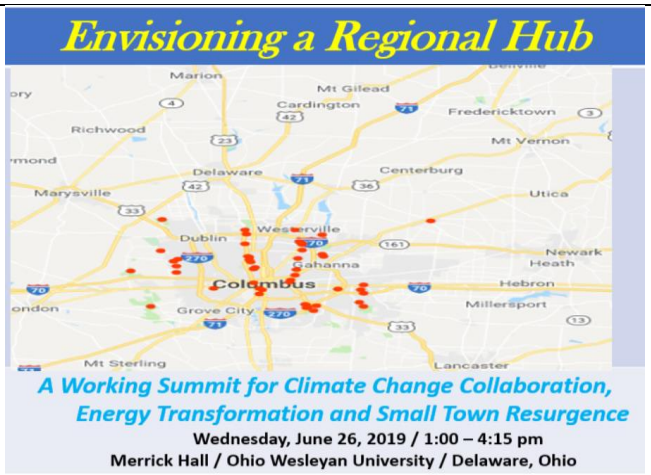
(THE ROAR OF BEES... NOT OF LIONS :)

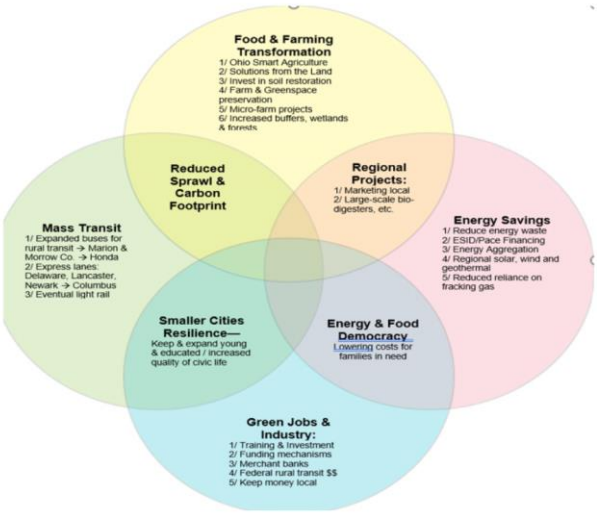
OUR HISTORY



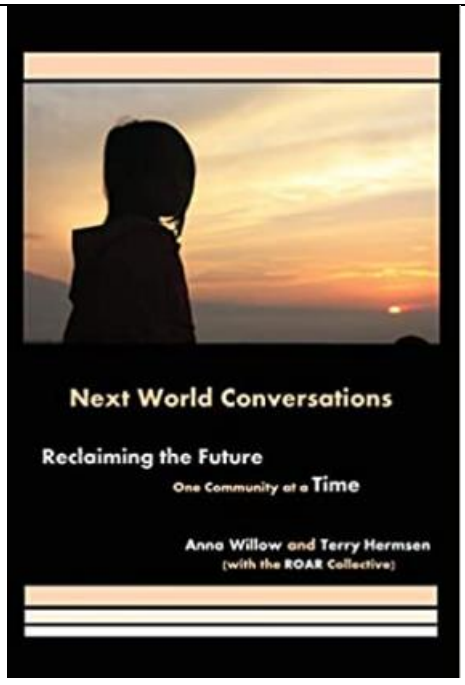
First Working Summit: January 20, 2018

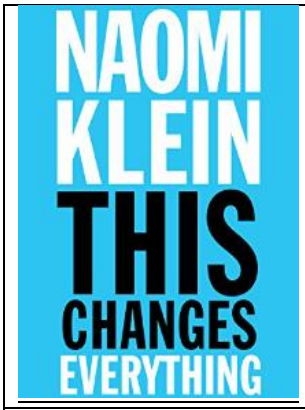
Keynote Speaker: David Orr





ROAR ACADEMY...building a cooperative bioregional regenerative vision between our colleges... with interns from Kenyon, Otterbein, Denison, OWU, and MTSO





ROAR PRINCIPLE #1: FACING WHERE WE ARE

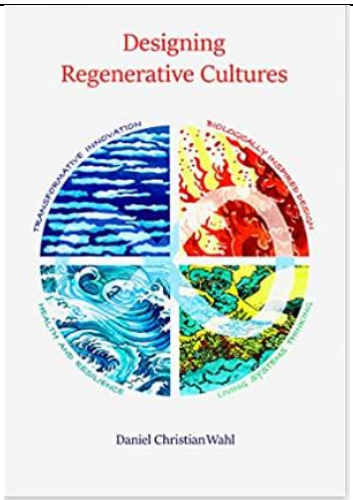
"[Here is] the real truth we have been avoiding: climate change isn't just an 'issue' to add to the list of things to worry about, next to health care and taxes. It is a civilizational wake-up call. A powerful message—spoken in the language of fires, floods, droughts, and extinctions—telling us that we need an entirely new economic model and a new way of sharing this planet. Telling us we need to evolve."

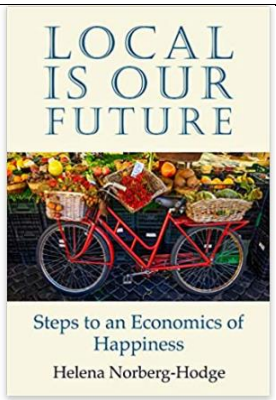
-Naomi Klein, This Changes Everything (2014)

ROAR PRINCIPLE #2: BIOREGIONAL REGENERATION

"Humanity is beginning to explore the fertile ground of creating win-win-win solutions that drive cultural, ecological and economic regeneration. Innovating integrative, whole-systems design solutions is about creating shared abundance through collaborative advantage. Such innovations optimize the system as a whole, rather than maximizing short-term economic gains for a few [...] We are collectively going through a maturation process which requires us to redefine how we understand our relationship to the rest of life on Earth."

-Daniel Wahl, Designing Regenerative Cultures (2015)





ROAR PRINCIPLE #3: FOSTERING POSITIVE, LOCAL VISIONS

"The word is getting out that our global economic system is simply not working. Around the world we are witnessing a truly positive cultural evolution. We are re-learning what ancient indigenous cultures knew: that the 'inner' and the 'outer', and the human and non-human, are inextricably intertwined."

-Helena Norberg-Hodge, Local Is Our Future: Steps to an Economics of Happiness (2019)

ROAR PRINCIPLE #4: CONNECTING COOPERATIVE DOTS

"What if ... the change we need to see in response to the biggest challenges of our time came not from government and business, but from you and me, from our communities working together? As we put it [in found Transition Towns], 'If we wait for governments, it will be too late. If we act as individuals, it will be too little. But if we act as communities, it might just be enough and it might be just in time."

"Bringing about the world we want to live in, the world we want to leave to our children is, substantially, the work of the imagination, or what the educational reformer John Dewey describes as 'the ability to look at things as they are as if they could be otherwise'. It seems a lot of other people are reaching the same conclusion. In 2009 Paolo Lugari, founder of the Columbian sustainable living experiment Las Gaviotas, wrote that 'We are not confronting an energy crisis, but one of imagination and enthusiasm'."

-Rob Hopkins, From What Is to What If: Unleashing the Power of the Imagination to Create the Future We Want (2019)

OUR PRESENT

REGIONAL OHIO ACTION FOR RESILIENCE

THE ROAR ACADEMY 2.0

A free summer bioregional credentialing program

SUMMER 2022

Seed saving at a Community Garden

Kayaking on the Kokosing River

Canning at Glass Rooster Cannery

Training & Credentialing

Participants will engage in hands-on experiences to develop a range of environmental skillsets. Possible topic areas include: environmental justice, bioregionalism, reforestation, agroforestry, urban gardening, food justice, regenerative agriculture, greenspace preservation, wildlife corridors, political advocacy, wetland restoration, and more. Preparation for each training will include contemporary readings and films, conversations with peers from **Ohio colleges and universities**, and experts in the field. Each participant who completes the academy will earn a **ROAR Academy Certificate.**

Social Outings

The academy offers numerous opportunities to engage with students who are conducting research, completing internships, or working on project teams at area campuses. Participants will join in conversations about their vision for environmental change, watch films together, and reflect on the issues raised by our exploration. Paired with trainings and excursions will be fun social outings. Slated for this summer are a **kayaking trip** on the Kokosing River, lunches and dinners at locally sourced restaurants, and an overnight **weekend retreat**.

Excursions

The academy will offer 5-6 bioregional excursions to meet area knowledge-makers and learn about local strategies for **bioregional regeneration**. Participants will explore new ideas at various sites to create healthier, less destructive, and more cooperative ways of living in harmony with the earth. From our own campuses to the foothills of the Appalachian mountains, we will examine and **support systemic ecological change** across the region. These place-based experiences will inform our larger effort to transform the region and design sustainable and regenerative means to address significant challenges.

Student VOICES

"This experience allowed me to see my political work through the lens of bioregionalism and local decision-making, which has emerged as a crucial takeaway from my work this summer." - **Denison Intern at OEC**

"The people were intoxicating! I learned more about nature and sustainable processes than I ever could have thought." **-Intern at the Kenyon Farm**

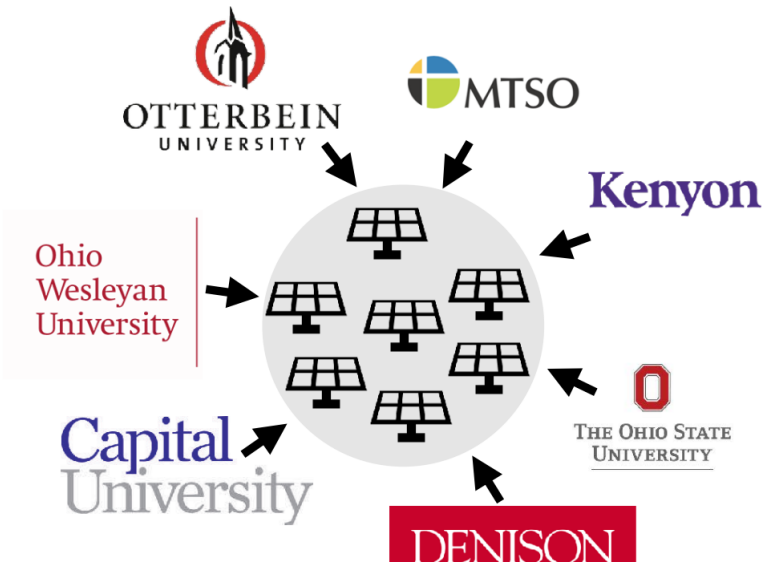
"One major take-away is that we are much more powerful and impactful when working together!" **- Intern at the Otterbein Community Garden**

"The connections between people stood out to me. It's all just people who were open to opportunities and willing to put in a lot of work [...] It doesn't take many people initially to start something that has a huge impact, ecologically and socially." **-Intern at MTSO (Methodist Theological School)**

BioRegional Stewards

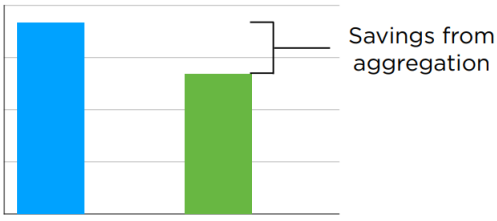
- **Stratford Ecological Center:** ecological strategies
- **The Kenyon Farm:** agricultural practices
- **Environmental Professionals Network:** mentoring
- **Otterbein Community Garden:** food justice
- **Rural Action:** regional cooperation
- **Denison Edge:** career exploration
- **Ohio Environmental Council:** political action
- **MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm:** eco-theology
- **Mad Scientist & Associates:** wetland restoration
- **Glass Rooster Cannery:** locally sourced food
- **Franklinton Farms:** urban farming
- **Ohio Wesleyan University:** sustainable practices

"I heard the magical sound of a swarm. It can wash over a meadow and through the trees with an oceanic roar." - Miriam Darlington, *The Times*



SCE will advise a group of universities on how to coordinate a single procurement across the group, rather than multiple individual projects. This will require intense facilitating and consulting to define goals, create a plan, and implement projects to achieve the defined goals. However, this economies of scale will reduce the cost of onsite solar and renewable energy procurement substantially.

COSTS



The Initiative for Collective Application of Funds from the Inflation Reduction Act / Fall 2022

Purpose: Seeking ways that we as higher education institutions in central Ohio can spark efforts to channel funds from the IRA which can engage individuals, small businesses, and our own institutions (collaboratively and individually) to create substantial long- and short-term projects, cross-campus and cross-regionally, with educational, environmental and economic benefits for all.

Jeremy King
Denison University

- Solar cooperative for residential & small business solar
- Land "Green" bank
- **Large-scale greenspace and watershed conversation/restoration & expansion**
  - ➔ **Working with TNC & others to preserve large swaths of forest & farmland in the wake of the INTEL microchip factory Ohio**
- Community solar on brownfields
  1. Power to low income homes
  2. SRECS to bigger orgs/businesses

Kristy Meyer, Zach McGuire
Smart Columbus

- American Edition Neighborhood Project. Lead = Sustainable Columbus
- **Columbus Regional Green Fund.** Lead = Clean Energy Partners
- Micro-grids in low-income neighborhoods. Interest – Smart Columbus
- **Energy Efficiency & renewable energy for business**
- High School Student Energy Auditor Training Program. Lead = ImPact / MORPC
- Corridor Safety Improvements. Lead = City Public Service

Shelly Douglas, Julie Smiley
Green Columbus

- Tree seedling & pollinator plant distribution for community groups
- Expand urban forestry
- **Southside canopy restoration** Private property/landlords e.g. Church for All People

- Solar Recycling Research. Lead = SWACO/Rumpke
- LinkUS. Lead = COTA, Public Service
- Solar & Energy Efficiency at Columbus Schools / Lead = MORPC
- EV promotion. Interest – Smart Columbus
- E-bike rental from Library. Lead = MORPC or Smart Columbus
- Community Charging Infrastructure. Lead = Clean Fuels Ohio, Smart Cbus, Dept. of Public Service.

Jennifer Fish
Franklin County Soil and Water

- Stormwater infrastructure updates
- SW basins need help – not enough $
- Water quality monitoring
- Funding for rain gardens & native plant projects & incentives on residential & business property
- **Funding for conservation projects including stream restoration, floodplain establishment, wetlands**

Laurie Anderson
Denison University

My work supports projects by engaging students and a network of partners in **data collection in service of the project focus. For example, a tree-planting initiative in low income neighborhoods could involve student workers in labor, data collection, pre- and post-planting, and data analysis.**
I am very interested in replicating these efforts across institutions, sites and communities.

Our Future: Fostering Cooperative Action for Facing the Climate Emergency in Central Ohio

Higher Education Collaborative: A Blueprint for Action

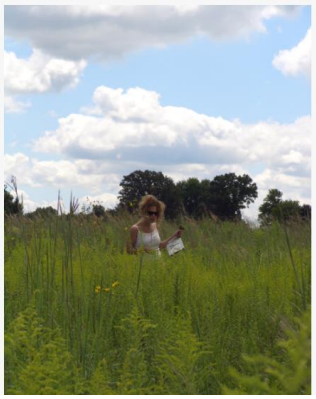
The HEC will serve the following functions:

1. **Clearinghouse:** Clarify and make more visible/ available what we're already doing.
    a. Gather data, resources, and models to serve regional cooperation.
    b. Track our collective carbon footprint; sharing methods for reduction.
    c. Provide contacts with farmers and others in regional food production.
    d. Produce an "internship bank" for coordination between area institutions.
    e. Seek curricular exchange, tracking expertise across our campuses.
2. **Connector:** Vet, coordinate and promote dynamic, forward-thinking solutions.
    a. Apply clearinghouse resources for developing projects between entities that already exist, asking, "Who is doing what and how can we build on this regionally?"
3. **Catalyst:** Establish new ventures, collective grants, on-going projects
    a. Grow the scale and effectiveness of our efforts to address the climate crisis and reshape the regional economy.
4. **Calling Card:** Establish central Ohio as a center for bioregional regeneration between small-sized cities, colleges, businesses and non-profits.
    a. Take on Daniel Wahl's call for colleges becoming "bioregional learning and innovation centers."
    b. In an era of climate crisis, shrinking budgets and a smaller traditional student population, drawing on a wider base for regeneration and visionary change. What is "next version of college"?

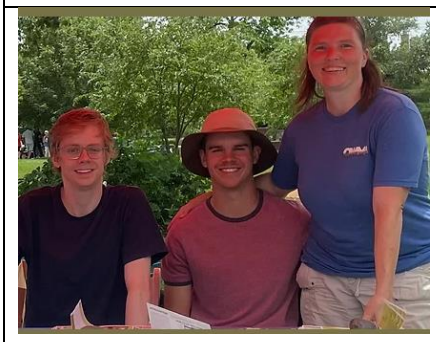
Example : Central Ohio Collaborative Prairie Corridor

Linking Campuses, Non-Profits, Area Schools, Government Agencies,
Metro Parks, Churches and Individual Landowners

1. Colleges take the lead to unite prairie projects across the region and foster new ones
2. Form a central office to help schools, churches and others shift "beyond the lawn"
3. Hire a "roving prairie team" to spread expertise across the region, educate public, etc.
4. Track research on regional transformation, in the facing of massive suburban sprawl, including carbon sequestration, habitat restoration, wildlife preservation
5. Include wetland and reforestation components
6. Establish internships between our colleges for "person power" to clear invasives, establish new areas, conduct research, share expertise between schools
7. Do outreach education, tapping into Doug Tallamy & the Home-Grown National Park
8. Provide "centers for land preservation" in the midst of one of the fastest growing areas in the country → providing a model for shaping less random growth
9. Draw in expertise from the Land Institute, Wes Jackson and others on alternative methods of food production
10. Demonstrate "bioregional regeneration" in action!!



Ohio State University-Marion Campus Prairie (since 1977)



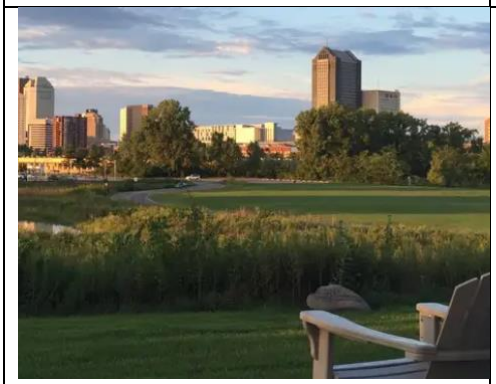
Partnering with:

- Green Columbus
- ODNR State Parks
- Ohio Wildlife Management
- Grange Audubon Center
- Scioto Valley Beekeepers

Recordings of dry, dormant prairie seeds… turned into suminagashi

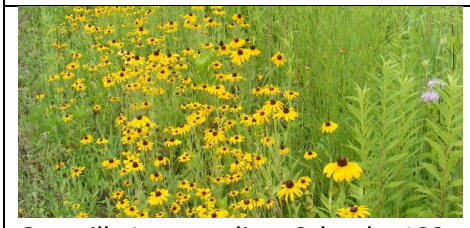
Frank Museum of Art – Otterbein Univ.
Artist: Cadine Navarro

Gatherings, listening to prairie seeds, the art in the floor



Grange Insurance Audubon Center – Urban prairie in the center of Columbus

Prairie education excursions at Grange Audubon Center



Granville Intermediate School – 100 acre restored prairie land lab

Kenyon College – Three prairies at the Brown Family Environmental Center

Other potential partners:
Methodist Theological School (MTSO) → Turn lawn into prairie
DELCO Water → turning mown grass into prairie
American Electric Power → power of prairies movement
Franklin & Delaware Metroparks

So, given these "givens," if you were to use this as a test case for bioregional regeneration efforts led (or supported) by a range of colleges, what would you do…

A. Three questions →
   1. What are the advantages of working collectively on this?
      a. What might be our colleges' role?

   2. What questions/roadblocks/challenges might you face?

   3. How might you begin to address those challenges by applying bioregional regeneration principles?