


  
 The Charles A. and Anne Morrow
 
  
**LINDBERGH · FOUNDATION**
  
**N · E · W · S · L · E · T · T · E · R**

March/April 2009

# 2009 Lindbergh Awardees Announced

## *Lester Brown & Terry and Mary Kohler Tapped for Award*

The Lindbergh Foundation is pleased to announce that **Lester Brown**, president and founder of the Earth Policy Institute and previously the Worldwatch Institute, and **Terry and Mary Kohler** of Windway Capital Corp., in Sheboygan, Wisc., have been selected to receive 2009 Lindbergh Awards. A gala will be held at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh, Wisc., on Saturday, May 16. Mr. Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Kohler will speak at the celebration, which includes a reception, silent auction, program and dinner.

“It has crossed my mind many times lately that this is exactly what I’d hoped for back when the Foundation was just starting – a wonderful balance of the aviation world and the environmental world,” commented Lindbergh Foundation Honorary Chairman Reeve Lindbergh.

The Lindbergh Award is used to recognize individuals for their significant contributions over

many years toward improving our quality of life by balancing technology and our environment, in their work. “The Award Selection committee takes their task of finding the right person to represent the Lindbergh concept of ‘balance’ very seriously,” said Foundation Chairman John King, of Kings Schools, Inc. “The bar has been set pretty high by the prestigious list of previous Lindbergh Awardees. This year’s blend of a world-recognized environmental leader in Lester Brown, together with Terry and Mary Kohler, who have involved aviation with their personal conservation efforts, combined with the EAA AirVenture Museum, a location that represents the best of the best in general aviation and innovation, sets the stage for a superb event. I hope everyone will join us for this occasion.”



*Lester Brown, Founder and President of the Earth Policy Institute, was selected to receive a 2009 Lindbergh Award. Read about Mr. Brown on page 4.*

**Brown**, continued on page 4

## Meet Aviator/Conservationists Terry and Mary Kohler



**K**ohler, a name synonymous with the premier brand of kitchen and bathroom fixtures, is also a name that is strongly connected to conservation.

“Terry and Mary Kohler’s use of their

aircraft to reintroduce swan and crane eggs in the United States is an excellent example of the Lindbergh Foundation’s concept of balancing technology

and nature,” said John King. “Their commitment to this work is just what the Foundation seeks to honor with our Lindbergh Award.”

Terry Kohler is president and CEO of Windway Capital Corp., and Mary Kohler is vice president of the Windway Foundation. Windway Capital Corp., is the parent company of Vollrath, which manufactures commercial-grade pots and pans; and North Sails, which makes high-tech racing sails, including those used by America’s Cup winners.

It was 1989 when then-Governor Tommy Thompson asked Mr. Kohler to help with a project between the Wisconsin DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They needed to transport trum-

**Kohler**, continued on page 4

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# Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

There are many opportunities on the horizon for the Lindbergh Foundation this year, even as we face a very difficult economic climate. While funding is of paramount importance, strategic planning has become a regular feature of our board meetings. As a result, we are looking carefully at our mission and programs to make sure we are contributing to society and the environment in the most meaningful way.

Two events are coming up that I would like to personally invite you to attend. First, the Foundation is proud to be part of the Earth Day events at Sun 'n Fun this year. On April 21 at 8 p.m., we will be debuting a new documentary film entitled, "Over Africa," which chronicles the training of 12 Kenya Wildlife Service pilots who use airplanes to combat poaching. This film is a perfect example of the Foundation's mission of balancing scientific innovation with the care and protection of the environment. You can read more about this special presentation on page 3. Secondly, the 2009 Lindbergh Award Celebration will be Saturday, May 16, at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh, Wisc. This year's awardees are outstanding individuals who are not only deserving, but are sure to have fascinating presentations. You will not want to miss this event. You may register on-line at [www.lindberghfoundation.org](http://www.lindberghfoundation.org), or use the registration form on page 5. We look forward to seeing you there.

One of the most exciting things associated with this year's Award celebration is our upcoming on-line auction. Our good friends at EAA have offered rides in EAA's *Spirit of St. Louis* replica exclusively to people who attend the Lindbergh Award celebration. Find out how you can get a ride on page 7, and check our web site often for more details.

We are pleased to welcome Mark C. Ross, president of The Ross Company and a leading wildlife biologist from Kenya, to our honorary board of directors. Mark will be an outstanding addition to our already highly qualified and committed board. You'll have an opportunity to meet him in person at Sun 'n Fun and our Award Celebration in Oshkosh, Wisc.

On behalf of our entire board and staff, I'd like to congratulate two board members for the special honors they received recently. Linden Blue was selected as the Aviation Entrepreneur of the Year Award by the Living Legends of Aviation and Kiddie Hawk Air Academy, and Michael Parfit received a nomination for Best Animal Film of the year for his documentary, *Saving Luna*.

We remain confident that our mission is relevant and invite you to support our efforts to bring the balance of science and the environment to the world.



## Tomatoes Grow in Iceland, cont. from back page



*Geothermal heated garden in Iceland, Feb. 22, 2008*

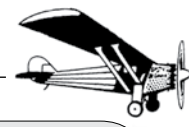
Professor Dell's project in New York City was so successful, he requested an extension so that he could bring his methods to Iceland where they could be tested further. Iceland uses geothermal hot water to heat its buildings and it is already circulated in plastic piping under driveways and sidewalks to prevent the accumulation of snow and ice. However, the resulting thermal pollution is cooled and released in the Bay of Reykjavik.

During his project in Iceland, Prof. Dell successfully used waste heat from geo-thermal sources to grow tomatoes – outside – something that has never before been accomplished. He has proven that the system works – and works well.

Prof. Dell is a Visiting Research Fellow with the University of Iceland's Research Stations. He has received \$33,000 in funding from Consolidated Edison to continue this research.

He has just been notified that the Engineering School of The University of Iceland is applying for funding to study the economics of having 25% of the homes in Reykjavik use geothermal wastewater to heat outdoor gardens using Prof. Dell's system. There is also great interest in using the system for a larger agricultural production facility at a recovery health center in Hveragerði that serves its residents organic vegetables.

Prof. Dell continues to give lectures about his work at The University of Iceland and plans to bring several students to work in Iceland this summer. Several students have worked on the project, and some have made aspects of the work the subject of their Masters Thesis.



## Flight Lines

### Lindbergh Foundation to Debut “Over Africa!” at Sun ‘n Fun on April 21

On the opening day of Sun ‘n Fun, the Lindbergh Foundation will show the premier of its new film produced by Foundation board member Miles O’Brien. Entitled, *Over Africa! Low and Slow with the Kenya Wildlife Service*, the film tells the story of the brave game wardens who fly for the Kenya Wildlife Service in small single engine airplanes over the spectacular parks of Kenya to protect their endangered inhabitants from the threat of poachers and human encroachment. Without the training we enjoy in the U.S., KWS pilots have crashed or made emergency landings with alarming frequency.



Highly acclaimed air show performer and environmentalist Patty Wagstaff has helped change that. Acting on an invitation from KWS advisor and supporter Bill Clark, Patty took her sixth trip to Kenya this year to make these pilot’s already risky business of saving the elephants, rhinos and a host of other animals on the brink of extinction, a whole lot safer.

Funded this year by the Lindbergh Foundation, with additional support provided by the David Clark Company, Patty’s expedition was the most ambitious and successful ever. In the air, she was joined by airshow performer and vintage airplane owner Rich Sugden. The airwork was complimented with intensive classes from leading ground school instructors John and Martha King, who serve as chairman and secretary of the Lindbergh Foundation, respectively.

Miles O’Brien and his wife Sandy documented this remarkable mission every step of the way. Viewers of *Over Africa!* will be treated to the remarkable stories of these determined pilots - some of them from nomadic tribes - who pursued their dream to fly against steep odds - and who consider it a great privilege to receive the best training available anywhere in the world.

The film will debut at 8 p.m., on April 21, at the outdoor pavilion. A panel discussion and Q&A will follow with Patty Wagstaff, John and Martha King, Mark Ross, a wildlife biologist from Kenya, Rich Sugden, Miles O’Brien and Knox Bridges.

### MN Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Banquet May 2

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Banquet will be held May 2, 2009, at the Ramada Hotel in Bloomington. Seven individuals will be inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2008. Among those being inducted are Foundation friend **Waldo Anderson**, former chief pilot for the University of Minnesota flight services, and **Donald Piccard** representing the Piccard ballooning family. Mr. Piccard is a cousin of 2005 Lindbergh Awardee Bertrand Piccard. The other inductees are: **Gordon Amundson**, flight instructor and mechanic instructor; **Dr. George Bolon**, professor instructor of the Winona State aviation program; the late **Gregg Nelson**, flight instructor and FBO; the late **Matthew Ryan**, FBO and Minnesota Aeronautics Dept. official; and **Oliver Rosto**, FAA official and pioneer flyer who designed and built his own airplane and flew it in Duluth in 1913.

In addition, the Hall of Fame will honor Foundation friend **Kathleen C. Winters** as the Minnesota Aviation Writer of the Year for her book entitled, *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: First Lady of the Air* and the late artist, **Don Carlson**, will receive an award for Best Aviation Art by a Minnesotan.

For reservation information visit their web site at [www.mnaviationhalloffame.org](http://www.mnaviationhalloffame.org)

## Notems

### Lindbergh Historic Site, Little Falls, MN

#### May 16 – The Natural Environment of Charles A. Lindbergh

Growing up along the banks of the Mississippi River, young Lindbergh played, hunted and dreamed in the natural environment. As a teenage farmer, he learned how to be a responsible steward of the land. Years later, Lindbergh raised public awareness about the need for environmental preservation. Guided nature trail walks begin at 1 and 3 p.m. A special environmental film will be shown at 2 p.m. in the historic site theater.

#### June 7 – Family Fun Day

The Lindbergh House and Visitor Center will be offering free admission and an open house. Enjoy hands-on exhibits and a movie about Little Falls’ favorite son. Noon – 5.

#### June 27 and July 25 – Living History Day

Join tenant farmer Gustav Certz and Mrs. Hannah Stevens, a friend to Charles’s mother, for stories about the Lindbergh family and life in Little Falls from 1906-1913. Visitors also may interact with a Works Projects Administration worker who is working on the Lindbergh house and property, converting the former residence into a park and tourist site. 10 – 5.

#### August 1 – Children’s Day

Sit in the replica cockpit of the *Spirit of St. Louis*. Learn to paint birds and flowers, like those found on plates and bowls of the period. Experience hands-on exhibits in the Visitor Center. 10 – 4.

## Mail Bag



Mr. and Mrs. Warren C. Brown from New York, sent us this photo from their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last year.

Warren is one of the last remaining eyewitnesses to Lindbergh’s take-off from Roosevelt Field on May 20, 1927.

Brown, continued from front page

## Lester Brown

Lester Brown has been described by the *Washington Post* as “one of the world’s most influential thinkers.” He is an award-winning environmentalist and internationally recognized author of more than 50 books on global environmental issues. “Lester Brown is an exceptional portrayal of the Lindbergh Foundation’s ideals,” said John King. “He presents a realistic view of the world, yet remains optimistic as he suggests practical solutions to many of today’s most pressing environmental issues.”

Originally a tomato farmer from New Jersey, Mr. Brown’s agricultural background has served him well. His belief that farmers are naturally interdisciplinary because they must worry about economics, soil conditions, weather, pests, and plant nutrition, has given him a broad understanding of the interconnectedness of our human and natural environments. After earning a degree in agricultural science in 1955, he lived in rural India, where he became familiar with the food/population issue. He later became an international agricultural analyst with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service, and earned master’s degrees in agricultural economics and public administration. Before starting the Earth Policy Institute in 2001, Mr. Brown founded

Kohlers, continued from front page

peter swan eggs collected from Alaska and bring them safely back to Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Zoo. Mr. Kohler jumped at the chance. That request launched a nearly decade-long commitment by Terry, Mary, and the flight crew of Windway Capital who made annual flights to Canada’s Wood Buffalo National Park to bring whooping crane eggs to the U.S., so the hatched birds could be returned to the wild. The Vollrath company even designed and built an incubator for the eggs to rest in during transport.

In 1994, the Kohlers began supporting the Milwaukee County Zoo’s annual tracking of endangered Humboldt penguins in Chile. They also helped rescue piping plover eggs in the Dakotas when floods threatened the nests. But their conservation work is not limited to birds. They also helped transport a baby orangutan from Colorado to Wisconsin and have been involved in conservation projects related to trout streams and aerial surveys of ancient coral beds in Montana, and the Wisconsin ice age trail.

Mr. Kohler also made a round-the-world flight over Russia to deliver Siberian crane eggs to Western Siberia in 1997. The trip became the first-ever flight across Russia by a private jet. It took 14 days and 39.2 hours of flight time. Nearly 13,000 miles were traveled, mostly above the Arctic Circle.

Worldwatch Institute and was its president for 26 years.

Top of mind for Mr. Brown these days is discovering alternative energy sources for the country and evaluating the economic impact of each. His *Plan B* series of books are aimed at this very important issue. In writing the first *Plan B* book, Lester Brown told *Grist* magazine that the goal for the book was to provide a look at what an environmentally sustainable economy looks like. “Throughout most of human history, we lived on the earth’s sustainable yield – the interest from its natural endowment. But now we are consuming the endowment itself,” says Brown. “Plan A” represents the status quo. Mr. Brown’s comprehensive “Plan B 3.0” has four goals: 1) stabilize the climate; 2) stabilize population; 3) eradicate poverty; and 4) restore the earth’s damaged ecosystems.

“Among the new sources of energy – wind, solar cells, solar thermal, geothermal, small-scale hydro, biomass – wind is emerging as a major energy source,”

continued on next page

Two years later, the Kohlers were back in the air with biologists from the United States and Canada to evaluate possible sites for a new migratory flock of whoopers and Sandhill cranes. The Necedah National Wildlife Reserve in central Wisconsin and Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Reserve in Florida were selected. By October 2000, a flock of sandhills made the first ultralight-led migration from Necedah to Chassahowitzka. This effort has been remarkably successful, with nearly all of the whoopers migrating their own way back to Necedah.

In an article in the January 2008 issue of *EAA’s Sport Aviation* magazine, Mr. Kohler said, “Working with trumpeter swans, whooping cranes and Siberian cranes is an experience that has provided almost weekly excitement in our lives for nearly 20 years.”

Terry Kohler served in the U.S. Air Force from 1955 - 1959, is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He taught at the University of Wisconsin, Appleton, and was the first Business Executive in Residence at Lakeland College in the mid 1970’s. Mary was a teacher-naturalist at Riveredge Nature Center and continues her work with the Museum of the Rockies and several board appointments in addition to her work at Windway Foundation.



## Special Offer for Gala Attendees

As an added attraction, EAA is offering flights in vintage aircraft and discount museum admission to Lindbergh Foundation gala attendees. Flights in the Ford Tri-Motor, Swallow and Travel Air will be available that weekend only for Lindbergh Foundation gala guests. For complete details and prices, visit the Lindbergh Foundation web site at [www.lindberghfoundation.org](http://www.lindberghfoundation.org) and click on the “Wind and Wings” link in the “News & Events” section of the home page or call Mary at EAA at 920-426-6880 for more information.



# Tickets & Tables



**Brown, continued from page 4**

Brown said in his 2006 book, *Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble*. "Wind energy is growing fast for six reasons," Brown explains. "It is abundant, cheap, inexhaustible, widely distributed, clean, and climate-benign. No other energy source has this combination of attributes."

In his most recent book, *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*, which came out last year, Brown said, "The challenge for our generation is to build a new economy, one that

is powered largely by renewable sources of energy, that has a highly diversified transport system, and that reuses and recycles everything. And to do it with unprecedented speed."

Brown has received numerous prizes and awards, including 23 honorary degrees, a MacArthur Fellowship, the 1987 United Nations' Environment Prize, the 1989 World Wide Fund for Nature Gold Medal, and the 1994 Blue Planet Prize. More recently, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Italy, the Borgström Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, and was appointed an honorary professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

## Lindbergh Award Event Held at EAA AirVenture Museum

"Oshkosh is all about innovation," said Elissa Lines, EAA vice president of donor and business relations. "We feel this is the perfect place for the Lindbergh Award celebration." Lindbergh Foundation President Knox Bridges added, "We couldn't agree more. The Lindbergh Foundation supports scientific and educational innovation with its research grant and award programs. What better place to honor our Awardees for their life-long dedication to environmental innovation, than EAA."

**Individual Sponsor – \$150**  
Admission to the private Chairman's Reception preceding the event  
Preferred seating  
Acknowledgment in printed program  
Includes one-year Associates Membership to the Lindbergh Foundation  
*\$90 is tax-deductible*

**Bronze Table Sponsorship – \$800**  
One table of eight (8) for the 2009 Lindbergh Award Celebration  
Acknowledgment in printed program plus your name or logo on-screen during the event  
Reserved table with Placard  
*\$400 is tax-deductible*

**Silver Table Sponsorship – \$1,250**  
*In addition to Bronze Table benefits:*  
Airplane ride for two (2) individuals in either the Ford Tri-Motor, Travel Air, or Swallow offered by EAA AirVenture Museum's Pioneer Airport on May 16 or 17 (weather permitting)  
Admission for your group to the private Chairman's Reception  
Preferred table seating  
Acknowledgement on Foundation web site and on-line registration page  
*\$650 is tax-deductible*

**Gold Table Sponsorship – \$1,750**  
*In addition to Silver Table benefits:*  
Airplane ride for an additional 2 individuals for a total of 4 rides in either the Ford Tri-Motor, Travel Air, or Swallow offered by EAA AirVenture Museum's Pioneer Airport on May 16 or 17 (weather permitting)  
Podium acknowledgment  
"Special Thanks" acknowledgment in printed program plus top sponsor acknowledgement on Foundation web site and on-line registration page  
*\$1,030 is tax-deductible*

### 2009 LINDBERGH AWARD CELEBRATION RESERVATION

Please reserve individual ticket(s)/tables:

- \_\_\_ **Individual\*** \$80 ea.      \_\_\_ **Bronze Table** \$800 ea.
- (\$30 is tax-deductible)*      \_\_\_ **Silver Table** \$1,250 ea.
- \_\_\_ **Individual Sponsor** \$150 ea.      \_\_\_ **Gold Table** \$ 1,750 ea.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My guest(s) will be: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

My **CHECK** for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to the Lindbergh Foundation.

Please **CHARGE** my reservation to:     Visa     Mastercard

CardNumber \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend but please accept \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a fully tax-deductible contribution to the Lindbergh Foundation.

\*Price reflects a \$10 discount for Lindbergh Foundation Associates.

Reservations may be made either on-line at [www.lindberghfoundation.org](http://www.lindberghfoundation.org) or by sending this form and your payment by mail to our office located at 2150 Third Avenue No., Suite 310, Anoka, MN 55303.

The Lindbergh Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to the Foundation support its grants, educational and award programs and are tax-deductible as stated above.

# Honor Roll: November 8, 2008 - March 23, 2009

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## UNRESTRICTED

Mr. Daniel Bennett, San Antonio, TX

## RESTRICTED

Ms. Reeve Lindbergh, St. Johnsbury, VT  
Mr. Miles O'Brien, New York, NY

## AVIATION GREEN INVESTMENT PROGRAM

King Schools, Inc., San Diego, CA

## ASSOCIATE 1000

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Stokes, Jr., Newtown, PA  
In honor of Virgil Kauffman

## SPONSORING ASSOCIATE

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Mr. Shawn Dorsch, Charlotte, NC  
Sally Knight and Roger Brower, Santa Paula, CA  
Mr. David Morphy, Erie, PA  
Mr. John Nance, Bexley, OH  
Mr. Steven "Rusty" Whitley, Fort Meyers, FL

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Ms. Louise Knight, Mifflinburg, PA  
Mr. Richard Korn, Greenport, NY  
Mr. John Parks, Snohomish, WA  
Mr. Donald Swanson, Wayzata, MN

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In memory of B. Theodore Turnbach, USAF Strategic Air Command

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In memory of Clyde H. Beyer

Ms. Kristina Janor Owens, Annapolis, MD

Mr. Chris Fenger, Windermere, FL

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In honor of Louis Doering and Jill Padley

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## YEAREND HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

Mr. Edward F. Martin, New Orleans, LA

In honor of Scott Lindbergh

Thank  
You  
Donors!

## Current Associates Gifts

### Individual/Family/Sustaining Associates \$35-\$100

Gift: *Lindbergh Grant Projects Around the World.*

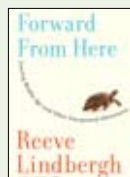


Note cards feature field photos from Lindbergh Grant projects that have touched the far reaches of the world.

The Lindbergh Foundation is a public 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation. All gifts are fully tax-deductible, except as noted.

### Partnering Associate \$250

Gift: *Forward from Here.*



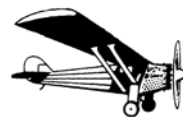
Autographed copy of Reeve Lindbergh's newest book about family and growing older. (Contribution is 90% tax-deductible.)

### Sponsoring Associate \$500

Gift: *The Flight.*



Limited edition lithographs numbered and signed by Master Painter Charles Kapsner. (Contribution is 90% tax-deductible.)



# LINDBERGH FOUNDATION

## Announcing ...

### Spirit of St. Louis Rides Available Only for 2009 Lindbergh Award Gala Attendees

Thanks to a very generous offer by our friends at EAA, their *Spirit of St. Louis* replica is going to make a rare appearance during the

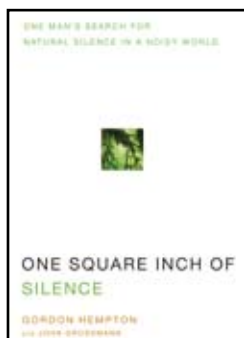


weekend of the Lindbergh Foundation's 2009 Lindbergh Award celebration. **Only 12 rides in this airplane will be available on May 15-17**, weather permitting. Flights will be sold via on-line

auction starting in April. This airplane will not make another public appearance until 2011, so this is a fabulous opportunity for aviation and history buffs alike to experience the vantage point of Charles Lindbergh. For more information about this very special aircraft, visit our web site at [www.lindberghfoundation.org](http://www.lindberghfoundation.org). To receive an announcement of the official launch of this auction, sign up to receive our e-newsletter the *Lindbergh Flyer*.

## One Square Inch of Silence

1989 Lindbergh Grant Recipient Gordon Hempton has published a book entitled, "ONE SQUARE INCH OF SILENCE: *One Man's Search for Natural Silence in a Noisy World*." With co-author John Grossmann, Hempton tells the tale of a man on a mission to preserve natural silence amid the encroachment of jet planes, trains, cars, and all sorts of man-made noises that threaten to devastate our natural environment. "We've reached a time in human history when our global environment crisis requires that we make permanent lifestyle changes," Hempton writes. "More than ever before, we need to fall back in love with the land. Silence is our meeting place."



The United States is home to the only non-tropical rain forest in the world—a part of Olympic National Park in Washington State. Here, in arguably the quietest place in the country, One Square Inch is physically located. Emmy Award-winning sound ecologist Gordon Hempton hopes to protect that location from noise pollution along with a much larger area of the park. The One Square Inch initiative took Hempton on a cross-country journey from Washington State to Washington, DC, in his '64 VW bus (Charles Lindbergh drove his '59 VW bug 130,000 miles across four continents), as he sought out the sounds of our nation's natural habitats. Alarming, natural silence can only be found in fewer than a dozen remote locations.

"I am deeply indebted to the Lindbergh Foundation. At the time of the grant award in 1989, my day job was a downtown Seattle bike messenger and a lot of grant sources could not see past this — the Lindbergh Foundation did," Hempton said recently. "That grant started the ball rolling for more funding and recognition ... and now, perhaps, the world's first quiet place."

*One Square Inch of Silence* is on sale now, wherever books are sold. March 2009

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## **Balance In Action — Tomatoes Grow in Iceland**



*Professor Robert Dell, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art*

In New York City, where Professor Robert Dell originally conducted his 2006 research project entitled, *“Harvesting and Re-circulating Surplus Heat to Warm the Soil of Small Urban Gardens to Accelerate Plant Growth and Extend the Growing Season,”* the municipal steam distribution system used for heating buildings and other commercial purposes did not have a recirculation system. This means that not all of the heat that was generated could be used. As a result, thermal pollution is created in the form of wasted hot water or steam condensate. Thermal pollution is often disposed of by mixing it with municipal water to cool it. Finding a purpose for thermal pollution decreases the waste of potable water.

Prof. Dell believes a great deal of energy has been spent on large-scale solutions for addressing the energy crisis. He feels a better approach is to target micro-solutions to optimize current energy usage. Capturing and using waste heat (thermal pollution) to warm the soil of small urban gardens accelerates plant growth and prolongs the growing season. This technique can also be used to extend the growing period of food crops in harsh climates, like Iceland.

Dell points out that heated soil agriculture, although experimental, has been proven to be successful, however it is often impractical because of the high costs of energy, materials and labor, not to mention the pollution from producing the necessary energy. This research addresses the cost factor by re-purposing and reusing a resource previously considered waste.

Prof. Dell’s research has confirmed that thermal pollution can be used to heat the soil of green roofs. This allows a further reduction in the carbon dioxide levels in urban environments, especially as more green roofs are put into use. When thermal pollution is used to support small urban and roof-top gardens, the environmental benefit increases further because the plants can help reduce the heat island effect that makes cities hotter in the summer.



*Flowers flourish outside the Cooper Union in Winter 2006 from waste steam heat in NYC.*

