



## **The Future Starts Now**

February 26, 2022

### **44 Main Street Jackson, California**

Thanks to an extremely generous donation from a truly altruistic human The Future Starts Now is opening an exhibit at 44 Main Street in Jackson. The Exhibit will begin Friday, March 4, 2022 and include information, art and nourishment. The focus will be on Life, and our relationship to water, earth, air and fire. Pieces of the exhibit will be for sale to help cover the costs of this project and provide patrons with beautiful gifts and items for the home and garden. At the same time, we are excited to welcome Lucy's Spice Box to the space. On Fridays afternoons and Saturdays you will find her delicious nutrient dense meals, soups and desserts available for take out.

At first, the exhibit will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm, beginning March 4. The Grand Opening will be announced further into this very early spring.

### **Your Input Please!**

A timeline of pivotal events in history/prehistory will be one of the aspects of the exhibit. For this timeline we are gathering input from as many sources as possible. Please be one of those sources by taking 2 to 5 minutes right now or at your earliest convenience and replying to this email with a short list of pivotal events that comes to your mind. There are no wrong answers and we will not share your lists with anyone or publish your name. Again, we are looking for what comes to your mind very quickly, not links to internet sites or what your research produces. Please take a few minutes to participate, your input is valuable and requested.

### **Information and Technology**

I'm sending this message from The Future Starts Now via my personal email this week. Why? Because it has come to my attention that emails from [thefuturestartsnowinc@gmail.com](mailto:thefuturestartsnowinc@gmail.com) are going to many recipients spam folders. This is not surprising or necessarily unwanted activity by the technologists but it is interesting that it is happening even for those individuals who consistently open these emails.

Therefore, I am sending from palomapollinators@fastmail.es to let you know that if you haven't gotten an email from me since November and were wondering where I went, the emails of the last several months are probably in your spam folder.

I will also share that we have received some information on East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) "weather modification" program through information requests. In brief, it appears that EBMUD is contracting with PG&E to augment their cloud seeding program in our region. More on this later, but I mention it now because in order to access this information we were required to set up a

Microsoft account. The emails from that account kept going to the gmail spam folder even after they were marked "not spam" and removed from the spam folder over a dozen times.

Among the questions that this brought up are:

"Are these spam folders really helping or are they curtailing the information we receive in ways that we have little to no control over?"

"What is the impact of spam folders especially as they pertain to public officials/regulators? Are messages with encouragement, complaints, questions and/or concerns being thrown into spam by algorithms and rules set up in the halls of technological power with zero oversight?"

Finally, please, if you want to receive these emails, you may have to dig them out of your spam folders/mark [thefuturestartsnowinc@gmail.com](mailto:thefuturestartsnowinc@gmail.com) as a trusted sender in your email settings. If you don't want to receive these emails then please unsubscribe by clicking here: [unsubscribe from this list](#).

*Thank You!*

### **Motherlode Community Forum - March 9, 2022**

Please join us Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 6 pm at the Amador City Community Hall for a brief presentation on minerals in our soils and foods (spurred by the composting discussion last month) followed by a whole group brainstorming session.

The delicious nutrient rich meals of Lucy's Spice Box will be available for a \$10 donation. There is also a cost for the hall rental and preparation so if you aren't a [patreon](#) of The Future Starts Now, we will also be asking for \$7 per adult to help cover the costs. Hope to see you there on Wednesday the 9th of March.





### Beavers, our Past and Future Partners in Fire Resilient Landscaping

These warm winter days have kept my hands busy in the soil and forest, reducing the amount of time I would ordinarily spend on research. However, this week I did take time to follow the sandhill cranes north and join over fifty people to attend the Scott River Watershed Information Forum in Siskiyou County, California. Over the course of three days this event featured a wealth of information, ranging from site visits of mine tailings restoration projects and shaded fuel breaks, to presentations in the historic, and comfortable, Etna Theater.

I was particularly struck by one talk “Smokey the Beaver” by Dr. Emily Fairfax of CSU Channel Islands. Emily opened with the premise, “The Western United States used to have much more wetland area than it does today... but as it stands, beavers can create and maintain wetland habitat that persists through flood, drought and fire.”

As Emily notes, modern wetlands are a tiny fraction of what they once were. The US Geological Survey (USGS) points out that a staggering 91% of the wetlands that existed in California prior to the 1856 have been dried out and converted to other uses. So, it is no surprise that beavers, the builders of California wetlands who could once be found in nearly every stream, are now a rare sight. Emily’s work focuses on the 9% of wetlands that remain.

In 2020 Emily and her colleague Andrew Whittle published the study [“Smokey the Beaver: beaver-dammed riparian corridors stay green during wildfire throughout the western United States.”](#) They analyzed the impact of large wildfires in 5 western states on streams dammed by beaver in comparison to riparian areas uninhabited by beavers and concluded that “beaver damming plays a significant role in protecting riparian vegetation during wildfires, across all landscapes.” Their study also found that beaver complexes play an important role in providing a refuge for all types of wildlife during a fire. After all, it’s not only humans who need wildfire evacuation centers.

In the last decade we have seen the typical wildfire grow from tens of thousands of acres to hundreds of thousands of acres. Roads and rivers no longer halt the spread of today’s fires. This study provides clear evidence that beaver activity slows down water in rivers and streams, spreading it out and storing it in the landscape, which significantly reduces the spread of wildfire.

Dr. Fairfax concludes, “perhaps instead of relying solely on human engineering and management to create and maintain fire-resistant landscape patches, we could benefit from the beavers’ ecosystem engineering to achieve the same goals at a lower cost.” In the Scott River watershed, northwest of Mt. Shasta, a committed, and growing, group of people from all walks of life are doing just that. They are working to make the eco-system more friendly to the hard-working, water-loving beaver. In turn, increased beaver activity is creating

spawning habitat for salmon, keeping creeks flowing longer into the dry season and protecting homes and ecosystems from wildfire.

Here in the central Sierra, let's take a cue from our northern neighbors and start working alongside the beavers and other living creatures in our ecosystem to develop a moist, fire-resilient future. The Future Starts Now.

You can read Dr. Fairfax's paper entire

here: <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.2225>

To view beaver life in a Colorado stream through one of Emily's cameras, visit [bit.ly/FireBeavers](http://bit.ly/FireBeavers)

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The Future Starts Now is dedicated to educating on and ultimately improving the stewardship of our California home. We welcome your tax deductible donation to continue the ceaseless quest towards a healthy, joyful and

abundant future. Thank you for your consideration.

Contribute at:

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