

Workshop Option A: Returning creatures – the new folklore

These points came from group discussion after Kenny Taylor's presentation

Key point:

- We need a genuine relationship with nature (eg. as when solo in the wild. Is this how our ancestors always experienced life?)
- and a fusion of left and right brain thinking and activity is essential

Discussion:

- We need to be making NEW stories (Ed Bangs quote), creating and telling new stories about the creatures we want to bring back – ie. re-create the POWER of the old stories
- and much of that power is in understanding our relationship to nature
- and shamanic consciousness – such as the power of totem animals in tribal cultures such as the American Indians.
- We have lost the knowledge of how shamanic journeys and the power and presence of animals can help us get round obstacles ie. the limitations of old style conservation thinking.
- A signpost example is Jerome Bernstein's book *Living in the Borderlands, The Evolution of Consciousness and the Challenge of Healing Trauma* <http://www.borderlanders.com/index.html> about the cultural issue and loss of experience
- and the work of people like Mary Jayne Rust
- and another example is the taking of people into the wild / wilderness for experience.
- It is a bigger experience if solo
- and if there are animals out there that can kill you.
- Therefore we must understand that eco-restoration sites can be healing for us as well as healing for the earth.
- We need more cross over between the 'felt experience and science/facts – this should be what environmental education does
- To do this we need the right images and cultural engagement
- and to engage children
- but children are already engaged, it is we (grown ups) who don't realize this is going on.
- We should create a prize for a children's story which explores a positive / mysterious / respectful / magic relationship with nature – the Good Wolf Prize (ie. not the big bad wolf again)