

WHAT'S NEW ON EVERYTHING EARTH

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

May 2022



Water Scarcity Limits Growth

May Flowers Coast to Coast

Video: *Guess what this is!*

May Food: Accidental Vegan

DROUGHT-RAVAGED CITIES SAY NO TO DEVELOPERS

When I wrote “The Colorado: A River at Risk” 15 years ago for a respected mainstream environmental organization, its board of directors insisted that while the Colorado River was facing severe depletion, water would never limit development. There would always be ways to conserve or “create” more water.

As I repeated the company line during the following press conferences, symposiums and lobbying efforts, I had a sinking feeling that they were wrong.

They were.

Water creation schemes, from prohibitively costly desalination to desperate plans for towing massive icebergs from Antarctica, have largely gone unrealized. [California recently gave up](#) on its long hoped for \$1.4 billion desal plant citing high costs and extreme marine life

devastation from the resulting chemical-laden brine. Saudi Arabia and Africa, too, have abandoned their [iceberg hauling scheme](#).

Conservation is, however, viable for now. Large cities along the Colorado River’s seven-state journey can redirect massive amounts of water used for lawns, golf courses and agriculture to municipalities for decades before water insecurity limits growth.

Then what? Small cities are modeling the future. With no remaining water creation or conservation options, some have begun to put the brakes on development.

The small city of Oakley, Utah has declared a [moratorium on building](#)—citing water shortages; and an Ogden Valley water district decided to stop adding new water connections earlier this year when its springs hit record low levels and irrigation systems failed.

Larger cities are also beginning to limit development. In 2021, Arizona’s Pinal County, the state’s third largest population area, announced that they would [not allow any future development](#) using groundwater sources within a 4,000-square-mile management area. Marin County, California had considered banning new water hookups before caving to developers’ demands.

Oakley is hoping to drill a new well, Pinal and Marin Counties are exploring desalination and a desperately drought-stricken Cape Town still dreams of a 100-million-ton iceberg parked off its shore. These situations could be shrugged off as aberrations. Or embraced as early warning signs.

The nation’s five fastest growing states are all in the Colorado River basin where the drought is “extreme” and expected to deepen. The federal government has instituted emergency measures to keep enough water in Powell Reservoir to produce hydropower. Overarching everything, climate change will continue to diminish water supplies.



Drinking water Intake No.1 is visible above the surface of shrunken Mead reservoir which provides nearly all of Las Vegas’ water. *Photo courtesy Southern NV Water Authority*

Yet developers are poised to build millions of new homes in the driest states in the coming years. They will be long gone by the time the water runs out as will the state officials who encourage unsustainable growth for tax dollars at the expense of everything else.

According to the World Health Organization, water demand will outstrip supply by 2030. Fundamental change, at least in the United States, is driven largely by economic forces. Ironically, if drought becomes severe enough to thwart large-scale housing developments in the dry West, its rivers may recover and thrive again.

MAY'S FEATURED MEDITATION: *BLUE HERON BAY*



The Everything Earth website now includes a [Meditation Station featuring 90-second visual meditations](#). Each one is a short video of pure serenity. I hope you'll mark the spot on the website and visit often.

[Meditation Video Two](#): Nothing says focus like a great blue heron considering his world.

Namaste, my friends

VIDEO OF THE MONTH: *IS IT A ROCK?*

Take a close look at the photo. Nature is genius at disguise. Is that a tiny creature emerging from the small depression at lower left? Or perhaps the key lies in the texture or color gradient. Here are some hints:

- ⇒ There are over 200 varieties, only five of which exist in Florida
- ⇒ A group of these is known as a "fever"
- ⇒ These are often buried in the sand. Be careful where you step!
- ⇒ These range in weight from a few pounds up to 700 lbs. and in color from cobalt blue to yellow to speckled.

Watch this rare up close [one-minute video](#) with more facts about this fascinating animal, mineral or vegetable.



MAY PHOTOS: EVERYTHING'S IN BLOOM COAST TO COAST



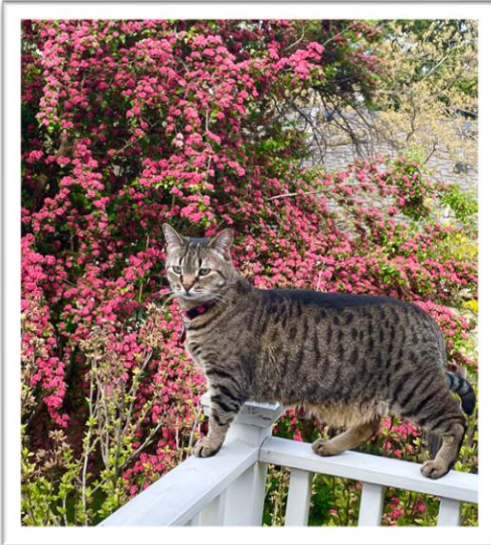
As far as nature is concerned, May is full-on summer in the southeast U.S. and barely spring in the pacific northwest where everything is just now bursting into color.

Camellias, the quintessential symbol of southern grace were first brought to the southern states from Asia for their leaves. *Camellia sinensis* has been cultivated for tea in China since 2737 B.C., inspiring the first successful commercial planting of Camellia tea in the U.S. near Charleston. It is still in

production as the only commercial tea plantation in the U.S.

Of the 17 species of dogwood native to North America, the four most common are the flowering varieties: Pacific, Cornelian cherry (pictured here) and kousa.

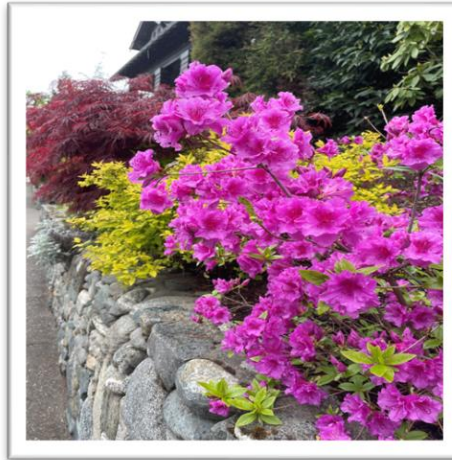
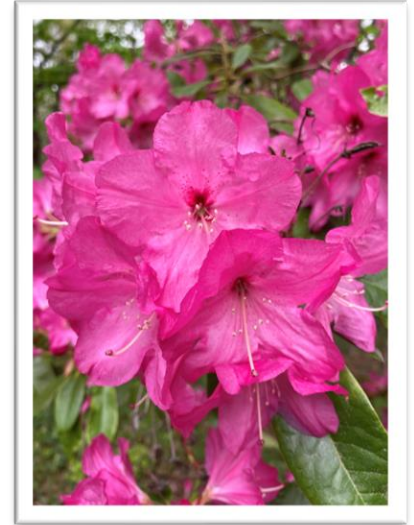




Pretty in Pink. Here are a few Spring selections from my own backyard.

The Hawthorne tree (left) bursts into the most glorious bloom top to bottom to greet the spring. The peonies, too, are startling in their proliferation, brilliance and size. Camellias grace the west and the rhododendrons fairly glow in the sunlight. Mother Nature is never more generous than with her dazzling Spring offerings.

See [May Flowers Coast to Coast](#) for more American beauties.



MAY RECIPES: ACCIDENTAL VEGAN

My friend Elaine is a fierce defender of animals and a gentle promoter of veganism. I've heard from her and so many of you that Everything Earth's recipes should be vegan. In considering this, I realized that while I consider myself a pescatarian, I often accidentally make vegan meals. No special substitutes, no learning curve about tempeh, cashew cheese or other mysterious ingredients are necessary, though I intend to explore them.

While I may still occasionally include recipes with eggs or dairy (please get these at your local farmers market), Everything Earth is going mostly vegan.

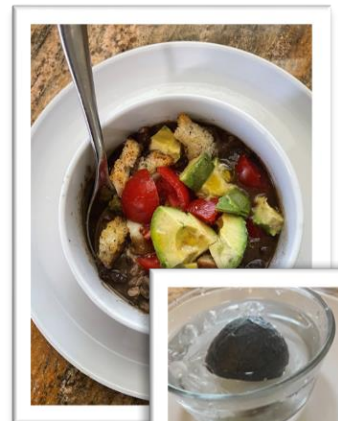


See Everything Earth's seasonal recipes for the May selections, [Maple Roasted Baby Carrots](#), [Spring Peas Please!](#) and [Asparagus with Crunchies](#). All are packed with nutrients and oh-so-simple to make.

Try to get real baby carrots, extremely plentiful at farmers markets right now, rather than big carrots cut to look like baby carrots packaged in plastic in supermarkets. The difference in tenderness and sweetness is remarkable. Plus, no plastic package – an earth-friendly bonus.

New Kitchen Hack: I'll eat avocados anytime anywhere and (rarely) there is some left over. Having searched for years for the best way to preserve that leftover half, I've found a trick that results in the best quality, color and texture and is wonderfully plastic-free.

Simply submerge the cut side down in ice water. That's it. Pop it in the frig and it is perfectly green and firm and ready when you are.



3 MINUTES TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Go vegan just one day a week. Pastas, soups, salads, Impossible Burger, Asian noodles, stir frys – the possibilities are endless. Check out Spring Peas Please!; Edible Bouquet and other Everything Earth recipes for some ideas.

“We can save the animals and the planet too!” – Elaine Sloan

STAY TUNED FOR “WHAT’S NEW ON EVERYTHING EARTH” JUNE 2022

Meanwhile check our website [EverythingEarth.net](https://www.everythingearth.net) for weekly blog posts and updates.

Please feel free to [contact us](#) with any questions, requests or to sign us for this monthly newsletter.