

A close-up photograph of two cicadas on a large green leaf. One cicada is at the top, facing left, with its wings spread. The other is at the bottom, facing left, with its wings folded. Both have dark bodies and prominent red eyes. The background is a soft-focus green.

The Safina Center

EMERGENCE!

OUR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



WELCOMING THE BROOD X CICADAS

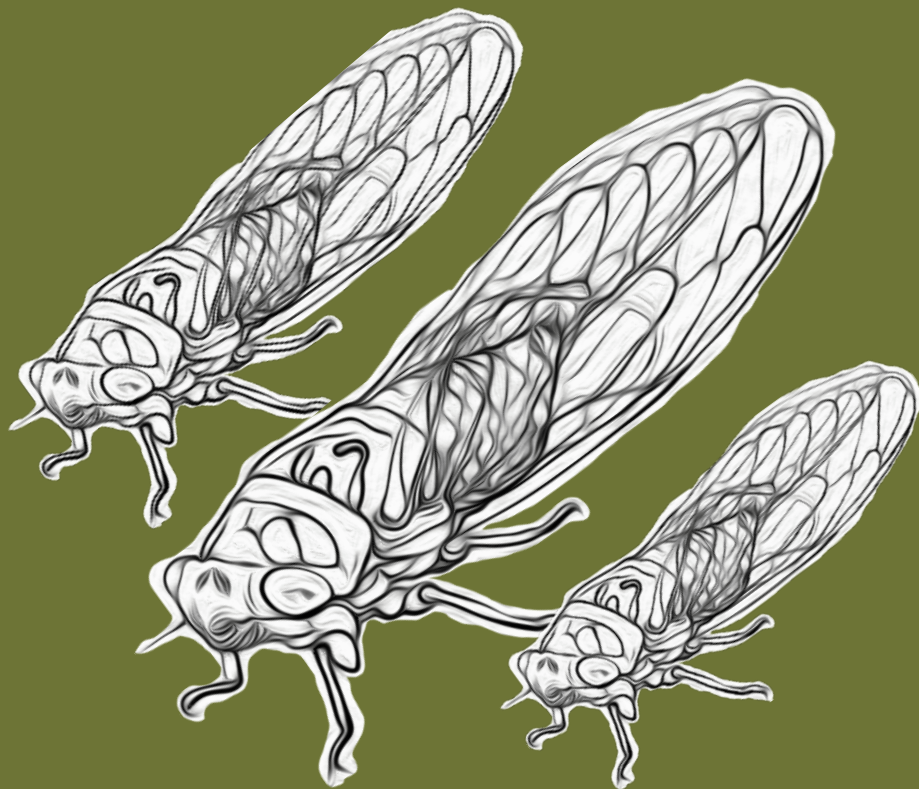
“They’re emerging after seventeen years underground, slowly preparing for those few weeks above ground to sing, fly, mate, and die. And we are emerging after seventeen months of lockdown, fear, and uncertainty, ready ourselves to celebrate once more.

I am a cicada and so are you.”

— David Rothenberg, Safina Center Fellow

From: “Brood X: This is the Real World and We Are In It,” Safina Center Blog. Read: <https://bit.ly/2TeK7eT>

Above photo: Cicada Music in Ohio, with Brood X cicadas; cover photo: Brood X cicadas. Photos by David Rothenberg



EMERGENCE!

OUR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

At the Safina Center we advance the case for life on Earth by fusing scientific understanding, emotional connection, and a moral call to action. We create an original blend of science, art, and literature in the form of award-winning books and articles, scientific research, photography, films, sound-art, and spoken words. We bear first-hand witness and then we speak up, we speak out, and we teach.

Our work is designed to inspire and engage people to devote their time and energies to conservation of wild things and wild places. Our creative works have proven their power to change people's lives and their view of the world.

The Safina Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based on Long Island, N.Y., on Setauket Land.

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FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

EMERGENCE!



This past spring, millions of 17-year cicadas emerged across the eastern and Midwest U.S. We can relate. They are a parable.

Some celebrity chefs and others were determined to eat a bunch. The big-eyed bugs are billed as tasty and “sustainable.” But a delicacy that exists for a few weeks every 17 years can only be on the menu of the most severely restrictive diets. (In fact, their long disappearance works to keep them off the regular menu of any and all predators. That way, when they emerge, their potential predators are not expecting them and don’t have the numbers to dent their millions. It has worked for them for countless millennia.)

There are also annual cicada species, and other “periodic” cicadas. This 17-year variety spends longest in its underground stage. It’s not that they do nothing during their larval quarantine. They do what it takes to eventually emerge, sing like crazy, mate, and die, leaving their bodily husks to help nourish the next generation. If there is one.

They appear to be extinct on Long Island, New York, likely victims of too-thorough a transformation to farms and then from farms to suburbs, with the plowing and digging and pesticiding that comes with both endeavors. (We often joke that insects will outlive us, but many are doing poorly. The swarm-forming Rocky Mountain locust *Melanoplus spretus* once ranged the high western plains. In 1874 one swarm covered an area larger than California, composed of an estimated 12.5 trillion insects weighing over 27 million tons. They were extinct by 1902 due to plowing in their limited breeding range. Many glaciers preserved their remains, which are themselves emerging as glaciers melt.)

The Safina Center got going right around the time the last generation of 17-year cicadas laid the eggs that became this year’s brood. We did a lot while they were underground, writing best-selling books, graduating several generations of our Fellows, and much more. But just as this past year as this brood was cranking up, we went through our own transformations—as we always do; as do we all.

Mostly, though—as you’ll see in this report—we got things done: In 2021 we completed five books that won various awards and were chosen as “books of the year” by *The New York Times* and others. We are involved in policy initiatives on climate, community, land and wildlife, and oceans. We got three opinion pieces published in *The New York Times*—a feat I believe was unmatched by any organization in our field,

perhaps by any not-for-profit. And we won an armful of awards affirming again that our work is of the highest quality. I personally was humbled to receive Defenders of Wildlife’s highest honor, their lifetime Legacy Award.

One of the most important emergences of recent years is that more people of color are emerging from too long beneath the surface of conservation and environmental justice work, coming into the light as leaders. You’ll see in these pages the terrific array of fantastic new people who’ve joined us in a diversified brood of international Fellows. They are making the Center the type of organization we strive to be—impactful and diverse.

So, back to the parable part; we are more like cicadas than we think. We had a time of quarantine too. And like cicadas, when we emerged and blinked we found a world both familiar and changed. It’s a world with no-guarantees, a world of uncertainties and too-rapid changes. And also like the cicadas, we are finding companionship and rediscovering that Life is something to sing about.

All species exist with a kind of living faith that the world will continue, and for cicadas and hibernators and migrators and Covid-quarantiners we base our periodic withdrawals in the prospect that when we emerge the world will be what we knew, what we expect, and what we need. In some ways it is; in some ways it isn’t. The ways that it isn’t, the re-balancing that are needed, propel our work. The following pages will help you understand more about what we are uniquely doing to “advance the case for Life on Earth.”

Carl Safina
Founding President

The Safina Center

Carl Safina is recipient of the Defenders of Wildlife 2021 Legacy Award “for his many years advocating for the preservation of biodiversity.”

Photo by Erica Cirino



OUR APPROACH

"Facts alone can't save the world. Hearts can. Hearts must. We're working to make sure that hearts do." – Carl Safina



Paul Greenberg at his in-person *Climate Diet* "popup" in New York City. Photo courtesy Paul Greenberg



Jasmin Graham and her organization Minorities in Shark Sciences leads a field workshop on RV Garvin, in waters off Key Biscayne, Florida. Photo by Cliff Hawkins

Of all the great conservation and environmental not-for-profits, the Safina Center is—uniquely—the creative end of the spectrum. Our creations include best-selling and award-winning books, films, visual art, educational content, sound art, spoken word, scientific research, and more.

Our purpose is nothing less than making a case for Life on Earth.



Erica Cirino at Southampton Arts Center on Long Island, New York, discussing her photographs of the plastic crisis. Photo by Daniela Kronemeyer



Alex Troutman teaches children in the Play Pan Afrikan home-school group in Georgia about our Earth. Photo by Ashley Jefferson





WHAT WE DO

People cannot engage unless they see solutions. We generate some light here; we are guides and thought-leaders. Our Fellows program supports and propels world-recognized writers, artists, and filmmakers. And perhaps more importantly our Launchpad (early-career) Fellows are—with your help—launching professional careers that will carry their important work into coming decades.

We are pleased to have a wide circle of Creative Affiliates, highly accomplished and exceptionally creative people who share and amplify one another's messages and work, and the work of the Safina Center.

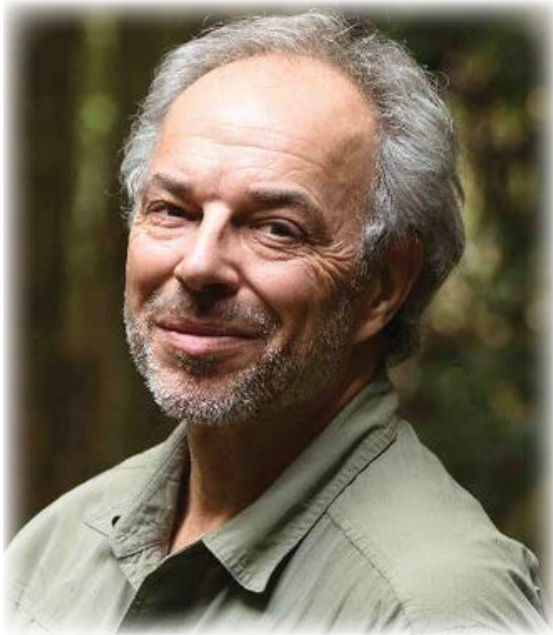
OUR FOUNDING

The Safina Center was founded by MacArthur “genius fellowship” winning ecologist and author Dr. Carl Safina in 2003. The Safina Center is affiliated with Stony Brook University, where Carl holds the inaugural Endowed Research Chair for Nature and Humanity. You can read more about Carl's work and the rest of our incredible crew throughout this report.

Elephant in Kenya. Photo by Carl Safina

WHO WE ARE

STAFF



DR. CARL SAFINA
Founding President



MAYRA MARIÑO
Business Manager



ERICA CIRINO
Media & Outreach
Manager



SYDNEY RANDALL
Social Media Intern

MID-CAREER FELLOWS

WHO WILL HELP GUIDE US TOWARD WORLD-CHANGING SOLUTIONS
TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES?

To accelerate the creation of exceptional transformative work, our **FELLOWS PROGRAM** helps support a small group of hand-picked distinctive thought leaders.

Meet our 2021 Mid-Career Fellows:



HOB OSTERLUND
Conservationist In Residence
Hawaii | USA



DR. ERIC GILMAN
Scientist In Residence
Hawaii | USA



PAUL GREENBERG
Writer In Residence
New York | USA



AMY GULICK
Photographer & Writer
Alaska & Washington State | USA



DR. J. DREW LANHAM
Author & Poet
South Carolina | USA



KIKE CALVO
Photographer & Author
USA (New York) & Colombia



DAVID ROTHENBERG
Clarinetist & Philosopher
New York | USA



JACQUELINE L. SCOTT
Writer & PhD Student
Toronto | Canada

LAUNCHPAD FELLOWS

LAUNCHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHANGE-MAKERS

Our **JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP** is designed to kick-start projects undertaken by promising young venture-level talent, helping launch the early thrust of their careers and create an affiliation of like-minded kindred spirits. The fellowship honors astronaut **Kalpana Chawla**, who had willed to the Safina Center an endowment to be used for this purpose.

Meet our 2021 Launchpad Fellows:



JASMIN GRAHAM
Shark Scientist &
Environmental Educator
Florida | USA



MADELEINE KATE MCGOWAN
Filmmaker, Writer,
Artist & Activist
Copenhagen | Denmark



BELÉN GARCIA OVIDE
Marine Scientist, Guide,
Sailor & Ocean Conservationist
Húsavík | Iceland



ALEX TROUTMAN
Wildlife Biologist, Environmental
Educator & Science Communicator
Louisiana | USA

CREATIVE AFFILIATES

We are pleased to have a wide circle of **CREATIVE AFFILIATES**, highly accomplished and exceptionally gifted creators who share and amplify one another's messages and work, and the work of the Safina Center and our Staff, Fellows, and Launchpad Fellows.

Meet our 2021 Creative Affiliates:



JANE ALEXANDER
Actress, Writer,
& Conservationist
Nova Scotia | Canada



DR. LINDA LEAR
Biographer of Rachel Carson &
Beatrix Potter,
& Environmental Historian
Maryland & South Carolina | USA



DR. LORI MARINO
Neuroscientist
& Animal Behavior Expert
Utah | USA



JON BOWERMASTER
Writer, Filmmaker, & Adventurer
New York | USA



DR. KATHLEEN DEAN MOORE
Philosopher, Environmental Advocate,
& Writer
Oregon & Alaska | USA



PAUL WINTER
Musician
& Musical Adventurer
New York | USA



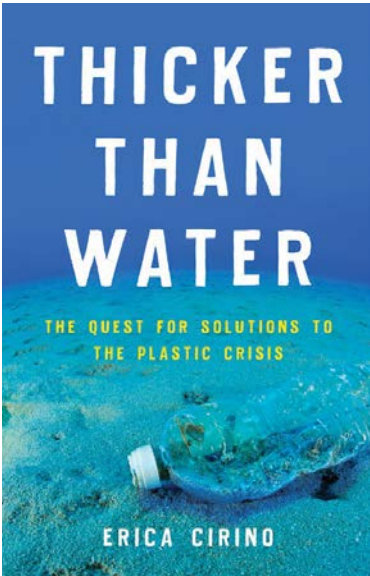
LUANNE RICE
Novelist
Connecticut | USA



ISABELLA ROSSELLINI
Model, Actress, Filmmaker,
& Farmer
New York | USA

YEAR IN REVIEW

BOOKS



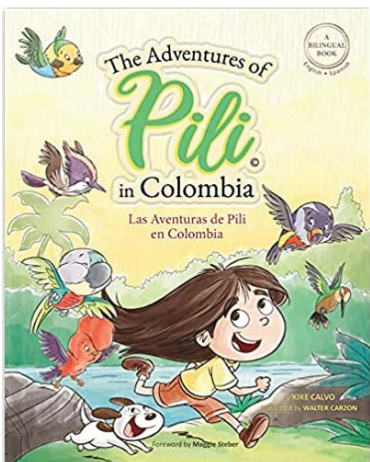
Erica Cirino's adventurous nonfiction debut highlights the important relationships between plastic and pollution, racism, biodiversity loss, the climate crisis, capitalism, overconsumption; celebrates and amplifies those people on the frontlines making the positive change we need now.

Published by Island Press, October 7, 2021.



Paul Greenberg's latest book is an informative and actionable read exploring 50 practical ways that individuals can cut their personal contributions to the climate crisis, and ideas for how to hold big polluters and our governments accountable for slowing this rapidly accelerating catastrophe.

Published by Penguin books, April 13, 2021.



Kike Calvo's newest book in his dual-language *The Adventures of Pili* series takes young readers on an exciting journey through Colombia to learn about the country's culture, nature, and unique biodiversity.

Published by Blurb, July 28, 2021.



J. Drew Lanham's next book poetically navigates his personal love of nature and his experiences in it, and engages readers in ideas and discussions of pressing environmental and social justice issues; an incredible lyrical celebration of birds, Earth, and life.

Published by Hub City Press on April 20, 2021.



Carl Safina's 2021 literary accomplishments

Becoming Wild

- Wins a **Nautilus Gold Book Award**
- Selected as a **New York Times Notable Book of the Year** and listed among the year's best books by *Christian Science Monitor*, *Mongabay*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Booklist*, & *Audubon Magazine*
- Chosen as a **New York Times Editors' Choice**
- Is published in paperback

Beyond Words

- Selected by *The Guardian* among 10 all-time best books about human consciousness

Carl Safina signs copies of *Beyond Words* and *Becoming Wild* at the Maritime Aquarium Norwalk. Photo by Patricia Paladines

EDUCATION



Jasmin Graham, Carlee Jackson, Amani Webber-Schultz, and Jaida Elcock of Minorities in Shark Sciences (MISS) created “Gill Guardians” online shark science education hub; held workshops, trainings, and the first POSea marine science conference, to pave an equitable path to shark science, encouraging participation and support of people of color in marine science.

Jasmin Graham with bonnethead shark. Photo courtesy Jasmin Graham



Kike Calvo sent packages of free dual-language children’s books and educational curriculum about culture and nature from his *The Adventures of Pili* book series to remote Indigenous communities in South America.

Student and educator at Reserva Natural Bonanza Jamundi. Photo by The Adventures of Pili



Belén Garcia Ovide and her organization Ocean Missions in Iceland established an outdoor “mini lab” at Húsavík Harbor to teach people about its many efforts to conserve life in the ocean and learn about ocean science up close.

Ocean Missions’ MiniLab. Photo by Ocean Missions

EVENTS



David Rothenberg performed pond music at the “Quarry Pool” and “Lost Pond,” located at Manitoga at The Russel Wright Design Center in Garrison, New York, in addition to playing music live with the 2021 Brood-X cicadas across their range of emergence.

David Rothenberg performs pond music. Photo by Manitoga



Madeleine Kate McGowan, composer and cellist Cæcilie Trier, and composer and vocalist Soho Rezenejad developed and performed *Solastalgia*, a 48-hour science fiction musical/performance art installation that takes audiences into “a world on the other side of a climate collapse.”

Graphic courtesy Solastalgia



Carl Safina joined Jane Goodall and others for the International Conference of Young Researchers in Russia, NEXT 75.

Screengrab of NEXT 75. Photo by Carl Safina

See more work on our website:
www.safinacenter.org

HIGHLIGHT

WE DON'T NEED MORE LIFE-CRUSHING STEEL AND CONCRETE

By Paul Greenberg and Carl Safina

Published on *The New York Times* Opinion page, April 15, 2021.

Online at: <https://nyti.ms/3BrMUSZ>

We were driving through Long Island's sprawling road system in a borrowed electric car when we heard the news about President Biden's proposed \$2 trillion infrastructure package. All around us the bric-a-brac of a fast-vanishing age littered the landscape. Gas stations, dead malls, extra lanes now emptied of shoppers and commuters. And as we took in all this ugliness, we worried about an ugliness to come. One that might lay still another life-crushing steel and concrete layer over the green and blue natural systems we hold dear.

The thing is, nature has its own infrastructure. What nature needs is for us to get out of its way and let its systems function in the manner that billions of years of evolution enabled them to do. It would be more than a shame, therefore, if Mr. Biden's infrastructure planning doesn't make that connection and instead yields to the easy justification of making long-neglected repairs.

We need a different kind of infrastructure entirely, one that accommodates the natural world and puts the long-term needs of ecosystems before the knee-jerk urges of all of us so eager to get back to life as we knew it. The Biden administration has an opportunity to meld its new infrastructure proposal with its plan to protect a third of America's lands and waters. This would improve not just infrastructure but also America's plan for what infrastructure is for — how it can serve people and the planet while improving our children's futures.

So with an eye toward that, here are a few things we wish the president would consider as we move ahead.

Precautionary road building. As we've learned from our involvements in decades of struggles to reform the commercial fishing industry in the United States, successfully managed systems set precautionary limits at the careful end of avoiding long-term damage. We need to take the same approach with road building. More than four million miles of roads and highways lace the nation. In the Lower 48, the farthest one can get from a road is about 20 miles, according to a forthcoming book by the environmental journalist Ben Goldfarb. A pigeon can fly that distance in 20 minutes. All that "infrastructure," Mr. Goldfarb adds, kills an estimated one million vertebrate animals every day.



Carl Safina and Paul Greenberg off to test drive an all-electric vehicle. Photo by Erica Cirino

So before we rush out to fix our crumbling roads, perhaps we should let a lot of them crumble. Let's favor only those roads that carry significant amounts of public bus transportation or are essential links to getting workers to and from their places of employment. Let's have more electric vehicles but also focus on making roads work better. And let's build transport that more feasibly, desirably and efficiently carries electric vehicles.

Using the already built environment before destroying the natural one. We have already mowed down a lot of nature to make room for our assorted stuff. (See the aforementioned dead malls, gas stations and extra lanes.) In our exuberance to build more green things, we need to focus on updating what we've already damaged. That dead mall could be a solar field. (It already has the power hookups.) That agglomeration of gas pumps could be a park-and-ride charging station for commuters traveling farther by train. We must instantly stop cutting down forests to put in vast arrays of solar panels so that utility monopolies can maintain their grasp. A forward-looking plan must heal what is broken before breaking more ground.

Creation of distributed electrical generation instead of huge centralized power stations like wind farms. Utility monopolies rightly see an existential threat in distributed energy systems that generate electricity at or near where it is consumed as a far

better generator of jobs. Rooftop solar is getting cheaper and cheaper with each passing year. For every dollar spent on a distant offshore wind farm, we'd like to see two bucks go to making cheap green power at homes everywhere.

Transportation, yes, but with wildlife corridors. Let's broaden public transportation. As others have suggested, we should vastly expand bus service and link the dispiriting fragments of short- and long-distance travel needs of millions of Americans. But even as commuting changes radically in the coming postpandemic days, we can change it in accordance with nature. As we knit together our splintered transportation networks, let's take care not to further fragment the increasingly interrupted ranges of migratory mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Let's use some of those billions of dollars targeted for rail and road to build wildlife over- and underpasses and sheath public buildings in bird-safe glass. Let's plan for frog fences and tunnels that already work to stop the roadkill slaughter where amorous amphibians remind the world what springtime is for. A lot is already possible.

An Abundant Species Act. Finally, now that we have a government that supports a return to responsible

environmental laws, let's bring those laws into the modern era by changing emphasis along with infrastructure. The Endangered Species Act sets a floor to protect at-risk plants and animals rather than a goal for them to flourish. Contrastingly, the Clean Water Act is aspirational; it set out to improve U.S. waters, with the mandate of making them "fishable and swimmable." Since passage of the Endangered Species Act, extinctions have indeed been slowed, but wild bird populations have declined by a third overall in the past half-century, and the numbers of insects that pollinate our crops, gardens and wild landscapes are plummeting. As pressures on wildlife rise, we need to protect populations before they decline. We need an Abundant Species Act, whose goal is ensuring that wildlife on the land and in the waters and skies are as visible as roads, rails or wind turbines.

Which brings us back to our initial premise. What is the point of a country with an infrastructure that seamlessly, silently and electrically flits us from place to place when those places have nothing left for us to see? The infrastructure of America — the guts, if you will — is a certain wildness that is essential to who we are. Without those guts, a new American infrastructure will be an empty package.



MAKING WAVES

THE SAFINA CENTER'S IMPACT

This past year heightened the urgent need to address broken systems driving longstanding environmental injustices and ecological disasters.

They include: record temperatures throughout much of the world's high latitudes, bleaching and death of corals globally, floods and flames and a hyperactive hurricane season, unabated accumulation of ocean plastic, and the most rapid loss of wild plant and animal species in human time.

People of color and Indigenous people continue to suffer systemic violence and racist policies, bearing the brunt of environmental degradation. Nations cannot agree to climate solutions, and the world's richest men ignore crises on Earth while competing to see whose rocket goes higher.

The people of the Safina Center respond with unique creativity. We show what's at stake in ways that deliver emotional impact. We don't just aim to inform people; we aim to transform people.

The following pages highlight some of the most consequential projects we were involved in throughout this year of emergence.

Atlantic Ocean. Photo by Erica Cirino

CREATING:

AWARD-WINNING
BOOKS & SOUND
RECORDINGS

ADVOCATING:

FOR MORE THAN 20
PRO-CONSERVATION
POLICIES &
INITIATIVES

SUPPORTING:

8 SAFINA CENTER
MID-CAREER FELLOWS
& 4 LAUNCHPAD
FELLOWS

INSPIRING:

THROUGH
EDUCATION, ART,
OUTREACH,
& ARTICLES

INITIATIVE: PROTECTING THE OCEAN

2021 ACTIVITIES:

Alex Troutman protects sea turtles and other marine and coastal animal species.

Jasmin Graham's elasmobranch (shark, skate, ray, and sawtooth) research supports marine conservation efforts.

Eric Gilman's research on fisheries bycatch and loss of fishing gear supports marine conservation efforts.

Erica Cirino informs people about ocean pollution, its causes, and solutions in her writing, art, workshops, and lectures.

Belén Garcia Ovide's Ocean Missions sails Icelandic waters studying microplastic pollution, climate change, and wildlife; educates and advocates for ocean conservation.

2021 POLICY ACTIONS:

Joins scientists' letter urging Biden to protect at least 30% of oceans around the US.

Joins letter opposing Florida's re-opening of its Goliath Grouper fishery.

Joins letter in support of the Whale Entanglement Prevention Act.

Joins letter supporting the creation of the Cocos-Galápagos Swimway.

Comments on NOAA Fisheries' reconsideration of the Spring Gulf of Mexico Monitoring Area.

Petitions the U.S. Government to ban use of chemical dispersants on oil spills.

**“Keep alive what
brings you life.”
— Belén Garcia Ovide**

INITIATIVE: FIGHTING INJUSTICE; STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

2021 ACTIVITIES:

Jacqueline L. Scott studies the perception of hiking in the Black imagination; writes, speaks about Black history and experience in nature; calls attention to racism in the outdoors.

J. Drew Lanham writes and speaks about racism, social justice, nature, and self, increasing racial inclusion, access in conservation.

Jasmin Graham brings women of color into a supportive network of marine science and shark conservation peers and mentors, with Minorities in Shark Sciences; inspires people of color to participate in marine science.

Alex Troutman highlights and celebrates diversity in nature and encourages Black individuals to pursue careers in science fields traditionally lacking diversity.

Erica Cirino identifies the plastic crisis and the environmental injustice it has fueled as an extension of systemic racism; amplifies messages from communities living on the fencelines of industrial development and along plastic's waste disposal pipeline, in her writing, lectures, art, and recent book *Thicker Than Water*.

Amy Gulick amplifies stories from Indigenous Alaska communities in writing and photography; informs people about the need to conserve wild salmon, lands, and waters to sustain people and wildlife in Alaska.

Kike Calvo sends books fostering care and knowledge of both human cultures and nature, and conservation educational materials, to remote Indigenous communities in South America; spreads ideas about global cultures and communities in his popular YouTube videos.

2021 POLICY ACTIONS:

Joins letter supporting Brookhaven Landfill Action & Remediation Group, to stand up to environmental injustice in North Bellport, NY.

Co-petitions U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to control methane and ethane emissions which cause ozone (smog) pollution.

Joins letter supporting investigations of House members who supported Trump's invalidation of the 2020 election and incited the 1/6/21 mob at the Capitol.

"Life Force": brown bear with chum salmon. Photo by Amy Gulick

INITIATIVE: CONSERVING LAND AND WILDLIFE

2021 ACTIVITIES:

Hob Osterlund protects Laysan albatross nesting sites; informs people about climate change, feral cats, and other threats to Laysan albatrosses and other native Kauai wildlife.

J. Drew Lanham makes a case for bird conservation and appreciation, in his 2021 book *Sparrow Envy*.

Alex Troutman teaches and brings young people of color into nature; works directly on conservation projects as a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana.

David Rothenberg studies and celebrates the differences in interspecies songs, plays music with mockingbirds, Brood X cicadas, and pond organisms to call attention to other species' musical abilities.

Carl Safina makes a case for saving species in articles across popular media and also in his book *Becoming Wild* (published in paperback in 2021).

Amy Gulick, Carl Safina, and Paul Greenberg write about the importance of protecting Bristol Bay, Alaska, for people and wildlife, by blocking the Pebble Mine Project.

2021 POLICY ACTIONS:

Joins letter asking Biden Administration to tighten pesticide regulations in the US.

Joins letter supporting the end of cage farming in the European Union.

Joins letter supporting US Wildlife Recovery and Public Lands Restoration Stimulus.

Joins scientists' letter supporting restoration of the Lower Snake River through dam removal.

Joins letter urging Congress to increase funding for monarch butterfly conservation.

Joins letter urging increase in funding for the US Endangered Species Act in FY22.

Joins letter supporting improvements to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA).

“Connecting to our true nature makes us whole.”
— Amy Gulick

INITIATIVE: ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

2021 ACTIVITIES:

J. Drew Lanham discusses the disproportionate effects COVID and climate change have on communities of color, on NOVA on *PBS*.

Paul Greenberg publishes *The Climate Diet*, offering readers many actionable ways to personally address the climate crisis.

Madeleine Kate McGowan's immersive video installations, performances, and films illuminate the lives of people affected by climate change globally.

Carl Safina warned of a ghastly future in *YaleE360* and wrote of hyperactive storms for *CNN*.


Western Jutland, Denmark. Photo by Erica Cirino

2021 POLICY ACTIONS:

Joins joint position statement on dietary change—reduction of meat and dairy consumption—for COP26.

Joins legal petition demanding President Biden stop approving fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

Joins letter calling on world leaders to include ocean protection as central part of climate policy.



“As long as I have breath,
am able to inhale and
exhale, I’m hopeful.”

— J. Drew Lanham

PRAISE FOR CARL SAFINA & THE SAFINA CENTER



A small sample of many affirmations received:

“In a rapidly changing world where reliable and trustworthy information is very difficult to find, and it’s easy to get lost and confused at times – the Safina Center is like a tall lighthouse in dense fog shining a bright light that lets us know where the safe harbor of good information is at all times.”

– *Sean Barrett, Dock-to-Dish & Montauk Seaweed Supply Company*

“Their respect and devotion to natural habitats is a beacon for young people. There is so much we all can do without giving up. We can clean up beaches or learn about habitats or protect wildlife.”

– *Catherine Gropper, Playwright & Artist*

“Your words about altruism truly expand my understanding and begin to recast my frame of reference.”

– *Evan Harris, Amagansett Free Library* (on BECOMING WILD)

“...Simply the most compelling discussion I have ever read on anything.”

– *Hiram* (on the discussion of beauty in BECOMING WILD)

“When I started reading the book, my heart started racing and I got goosebumps. It was a lightbulb moment for me and then I raced through the book. For me the most important piece was about culture. Biggest thank you for opening my eyes even further and for putting your thoughts and reasons into a beautiful, lyrical tome of work.”

– *Roxy* (on BECOMING WILD)



HIGHLIGHT

Q & A WITH SHARK SCIENTISTS JASMIN GRAHAM AND ANEYSA MORENO

Launchpad Fellow Jasmin Graham co-founded Minorities in Shark Sciences (MISS), an organization dedicated to supporting women of color in shark sciences. Moreno participated in the MISS 2021 Workshops.

In 2020, Florida-based shark scientist and environmental educator Jasmin Graham worked as an organizer for “Black in Marine Science Week,” a week in June selected “to highlight and amplify Black voices in the field and encourage younger generations, while also shedding light on the lack of diversity in marine science.” It comes the same year as Black birder Christian Cooper was harassed in Central Park, NYC, and the “Black Birders Week” social media campaign began to bring visibility and recognize Black people enjoying and studying nature. The creation of Black in Marine Science Week was sparked by a tweet by Dr. Tiara Moore, postdoctoral scholar at the University of Washington and The Nature Conservancy of Seattle. It quickly expanded into a team of organizers putting together an online event called #BlackinMarineScienceWeek.

From there, Jasmin collaborated with Amani Webber-Schultz, Carlee Jackson, and Jaida Elcock, who would become, with her, the founding members of an organization called Minorities in Shark Sciences (MISS). MISS promotes diversity and inclusion in shark science by encouraging, training, and supporting women of color to break barriers and contribute knowledge to marine science—and ultimately oust the system that has historically excluded minority women to create an equitable path to shark science. MISS offers amazing opportunities to study sharks up close, under expert guidance, through workshops, internships, and mentorships!

We recently asked Jasmin a few questions about MISS, and asked marine biology student Aneysa Moreno to tell us about her experiences and goals participating in a MISS Workshop this year.

Q: MISS was first conceptualized in June 2020, and in less than a year you have already accomplished so much! Can you tell me a little more about how you and Amani, Carlee, and Jaida used social media to establish your organization and connect to other women of color who study sharks?

Jasmin Graham: We first met on Twitter, in fact we didn't all meet in person until we had our first workshops nine months after our founding. We announced our launch and fundraising campaign on social media and were able to fund our first year of fellowships and workshops purely off of donations from that social media campaign. We raised \$25,000 in our first two weeks and discovered the



Working up a smalltooth sawfish in the Florida Keys. Research conducted under ESA Permit 17787. Photo by Chelle Blais

true power of social media. Most of what we did on our first year—recruiting members, friends of MISS, fellowship applicants and workshop participants—has been the result of social media.

Q: How has/does systemic racism affected/continue to affect representation of women of color in shark sciences, and how does MISS combat it?

JG: There are a lot of factors including lack of mentorship, biases in the hiring/graduate student selection process and micro- as well as macro-aggressions that make the field unbearable for many people of color. Stack that on top of sexism and sexual harassment women face in the field and it is a huge double whammy for women of color. We provide mentorship for our members and connect our members with a network of allies who will support them. We also offer ally training for shark scientists.

Q: Why do you personally study sharks (and other kinds of elasmobranch), and why do you feel it is important to do?

JG: I study sharks because they are very misunderstood and face a lot of environmental (mostly man-made) threats.

Q: What's a typical day like aboard RV Garvin during a MISS workshop, and what do you do with the data you collect?

JG: We fish with both longlines and drum lines. Participants learn about all of the gear we use and how to deploy it. We spend 2 days on the water where they can apply these skills. We also teach them how to tag sharks, take genetics samples (fin clips) and muscle biopsy. We also show them how we process blood to get stress physiology data by measuring stress hormones.

Q: What's your favorite MISS workshop highlight?

JG: Reading our reflection book at the end of the workshop. We had all of the women write a short note in the book to reflect on their experiences and after the workshops the founders got together and read their comments. A few tears were shed.

TSC: Lastly, how can one donate to MISS?

JG: www.misselasmoo.org/donate



Left to right: Jasmin Graham, Aneysa Moreno and Remie Loudy at MISS' Science By the Sea program for middle schoolers. Photo by Tonya Wiley

Aneysa Moreno is a third-year biology student at Texas State University who spent the summer at New College of Florida to tag sharks. She participated in MISS's 2021 on-the-water workshops. We asked her a few questions about her experience and her aspirations as a shark scientist.

Q: How did you find out about MISS, and what or who first interested you in their workshops?

Aneysa Moreno: One of my Instagram friends shared their page with me sometime last fall. It really inspired me and made me feel less alone in the science community. I immediately started following the MISS journey and it hasn't been anything short of amazing.

Q: Why do you personally choose to study sharks, and why do you feel it is important to do?

AM: Sharks are deeply misunderstood and the only way to get people to care is by changing their perspective. Sharks are a large part of the ocean ecosystem and need to be seen as such. Its up to us to really drive home why they are crucial to us.

Q: Why is it important to increase representation of women of color in science, especially shark science?

AM: Growing up I spent countless hours watching *The Discovery Channel*, dreaming of someday being the "expert" that they follow or interview. It seemed like nothing more than a dream to me, after countless years of talking to my teachers and parents and being told science wasn't a field you could really succeed in. Not only did people tell me this but it was visually apparent, I rarely saw women on these shows. It was even more rare to see a woman of color in any science show or documentary. REPRESENTATION matters!

Q: What's the most exciting or important new thing you learned at MISS's workshop?

AM: Obviously, I was really excited to get hands on shark experience, but the real experience was being around women like me sharing a passion for the ocean, science, and sharks. I learned about so much more than just sharks.

Q: How and where will you apply the skills and knowledge that you learned at MISS's workshop—what are your elasmobranch-research goals as part of your career?

AM: I'm already applying the skills I learned at the workshop. Jasmin knew of an internship I could apply for and somehow I scored it. So I'm spending my summer tagging sharks and learning to track them with acoustic telemetry. As far as my long term goals, I'm still narrowing down what I'm specifically interested in. I live in Texas and right now all I can really think of is the effects of recreational fishing on estuaries along the coast. It would be amazing to tag and survey that area so that I could create a plan with the local fishermen to protect or responsibly handle sharks when fishing.

HELP US DO WHAT WE DO

"DIRECT COMPASSION AND HEART-FILLED WORK TOWARD THE LIVING CREATURES OF THIS PLANET." —DR. ERIC GILCHRIST

In 2011, we established an endowment fund to honor the memory of our dear friend & board member, Dr. Eric Gilchrist. His steady support for The Safina Center has continued beyond his passing through a bequest that now serves as the seed for our endowment.

His generosity continues to inspire us.

FOUR WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SAFINA CENTER:

1. ONLINE

Visit: <http://safinacenter.org/donate>

2. TELEPHONE

Call: +1-631-675-1984

3. MAIL

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80 North Country Road
Setauket, NY 11733

Please make your check payable to:
"The Safina Center"

4. TO THE SAFINA CENTER ENDOWMENT FUND

Please contact Mayra Mariño,
Business Manager:

by phone: +1-631-675-1984

or via email: mmarino@safinacenter.org

Blue and yellow macaws in Peru. Photo by Carl Safina

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	As of May 31, 2021
Current Assets:	
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 289,508
Investments	1,192,365
Promises to give	25,146
Prepaid expenses & other current assets	4,756
Total current assets	1,511,775
Property & equipment, net	435,766
Total Assets	\$1,947,541

Liabilities and net assets

Liabilities:	
Accrued expenses	\$ 16,919
Fiscal sponsorship	9,363
Total liabilities	26,282
Net assets:	
Without donor restrictions	1,790,259
With donor restrictions	131,000
Total net assets	1,921,259
Total liabilities & net assets	\$ 1,947,541

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

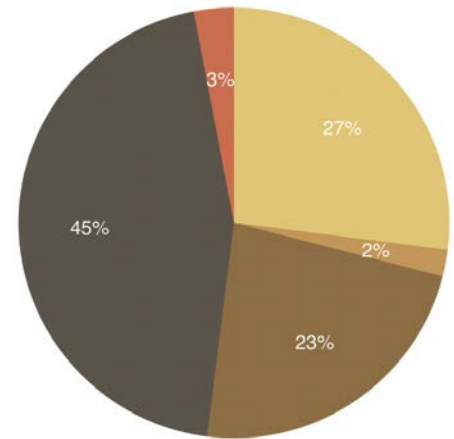
Public support and revenue

	Year ended May 31, 2021		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Public support:			
Contributions	\$ 276,065	\$ ---	\$ 276,065
Event income	201,258	---	201,258
In-kind contributions	32,450	---	32,450
Total public support	509,773	---	509,773
Investment return, net	431,364	---	431,364
Total public support & revenue	941,137	---	941,137
Net assets released from restrictions	84,342	(84,342)	---
Total public support & revenue including net assets released from restrictions	1,025,479	(84,342)	941,137

Expenses

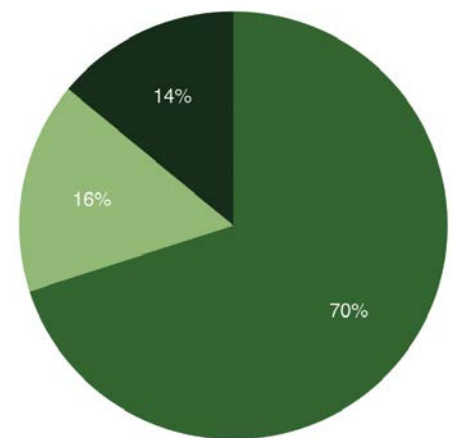
Program services:			
Wildlife conservation advocacy	322,279	---	322,279
Total program services	322,279	---	322,279
Supporting services:			
Management & general	75,240	---	75,240
Fund-raising	65,150	---	65,150
Total supporting services	140,390	---	140,390
Total expenses	462,669	---	462,669
Increase (decrease) in net assets	562,810	(84,342)	478,468
Net assets — beginning of year	1,227,449	215,342	1,442,791
Net assets — end of year	\$1,790,259	\$131,000	\$1,921,259

Operating Revenue



- Corporations
- In-kind donations
- Foundations
- Events & individuals
- Interest & investment return

Fiscal Year 2021 Total Expenses



- Fund-raising
- Management & general
- Program services

The Safina Center's complete audited financial statement may be obtained by writing to:

Mayra Mariño,
Business Manager
The Safina Center
80 North Country Road
Setauket, NY 11733 USA

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Baltimore Oriole in
Cape May, New Jersey.
Photo by Carl Safina

HIGHLIGHT

INSPIRING THOUGHTFUL TRAVEL & TRAVELING TO INSPIRE THOUGHT

A chat with Safina Center supporter Julia Hubbel, adventure traveler and award-winning author



In Mongolia with camel. Photo courtesy Julia Hubbel

There's an important thing to know about adventure traveler and award-winning author Julia Hubbel, and that thing is, she doesn't stop. She built a fast-paced, successful career in professional speaking, business consulting and adventure travel, as well as a communications training program—after she worked in journalism and logistics for the US Army. Most recently, she's created the adventure travel and writing platform "Walkabout Saga," where she publishes articles on traveling, staying fit, diversity in the outdoors, and "aging vibrantly."

Hubbel is also a long and generous supporter of the Safina Center. The connection was made several years ago. As Hubbel remembers,

"A dear friend and I were wandering a bookstore in Nelson, British Columbia. I spotted *Beyond Words*, and knew from the cover I'd be sold. I was. Not long afterwards I was recovering from a broken back sustained while on adventure travel in Kazakhstan. I chanced writing Dr. Safina a story from my travels about massaging an elephant in Myanmar. To my delight he wrote me back, and we've exchanged emails since. We also exchanged books, and he was kind enough to send me copies of his library, which I am working my way through. Deeply painful at times, given our current situation, and as I listen to news of the fires which ravage the very forests which spell the death not only of salmon but also orcas, it's very hard to read about the intransigence of those who cannot see how their actions have huge impacts on our world for generations to come."

Hubbel says she's been deeply affected by Carl's books, and it turns out she's traveled to many of the same locations he has while researching his books—from the Amazon to the Arctic. Reading Carl's writing has required her to see these places through different lenses, which, while sometimes emotionally difficult, Hubbel acknowledges, is also

than how it is marketed." Hubbel has a strong connection with the nonhuman world, the kind of person who feels more at home in nature, isolated, than in bustling cities. She grew up on a farm in Central Florida, enveloped by deep long-needle pine forests, near a lake and an array of wild creatures. Since childhood, she's traveled all over the world, connecting with people, cultures, wildlife, and places. Her favorite? Iceland's Ring Road. "It isn't just the remoteness. I stopped the car en route to Ísafjörður to photograph some hills. The silence was so profound it had a shimmering quality. I have never been in a place so perfectly still, so perfectly beautiful."



In Iceland. Photo courtesy Julia Hubbel

Everywhere Hubbel travels, she tries to tread as lightly as possible. As she says, "Sustainable travel begins with me." After choosing where to go, she says her next step is to check that there are eco-friendly accommodations in the region, and then research your choices. "Not all which claim to be [eco-friendly], actually are." She also advises hiring local operators who pay fair wages and belong to organizations that protect employee rights.

"At 68, my interest is in getting people off the couch and into the world but in a responsible way," says Hubbel, who points out there is a lot more to see—and understand—about a travel destination than is advertised in brochures. "There is a criminal dearth of understanding of what's happening to the animals we take for granted. We cannot. So I write and work to inspire people to travel, but to travel to observe, see and be transformed. An educated and informed mind makes very different choices."

We couldn't agree more. Thank you, Julia Hubbel, for your kind support!

YEAR IN REVIEW

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"While 2020's challenges didn't stop come January 1st of this year, in 2021 we're beginning to see the fruitful outcomes and steady progress of efforts born as the result of collective desire for change—and active steps taken to make the changes we need now. I am proud of the Safina Center's Staff and Fellows, who each play an important role in taking these necessary steps forward for humanity.

In the past year, the Safina Center's global collective of thought leaders and change makers strove to illuminate and address key issues such as racism, climate change, deforestation, access to an outdoor education, extinction, pollution, conflict, and much more.

Facing the challenges, the Safina Center holds a space for a dialogue about today's key issues, adding depth through knowledge and perspective, and helps us imagine solutions, communicating through original creative works capable of changing minds, hearts and values—for the better.

The Safina Center inspires humanity to care and take meaningful action like no other organization does today."

— *B. Eric Graham*

Chairman of the Board
The Safina Center



Photo courtesy B. Eric Graham

BEHIND THE SCENES

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REMEMBERING

MERCEDES LEE AND JEFF RIZZO

Mercedes Lee was a close friend and comrade with whom Carl Safina worked for over two decades. She was an initial staffer of Carl's Living Oceans Program in the early '90s and, along with Carl Safina, Mayra Mariño, and Carrie Brownstein, was a co-founder of our Blue Ocean Institute, now called The Safina Center.

"Well, it's easy to turn a deaf ear to constant bad news. But I've come to understand (perhaps it's a matter of personal survival) that outrage is not the only way to motivate. Simple necessity and inspiration can be at the heart of change. I took on the challenge to create a campaign that translates confusing and depressing information about the oceans into something that would attract people, resonate with them, draw them into wanting to learn more, and help them take simple actions that make a big difference. I figured that if I wasn't inspired by the work I was doing, no one else would be either."

— Mercedes Lee, writing about National Audubon Society's Living Oceans Program, *Grist*, 2001



Mercedes Lee. Photo by Carl Safina



Jeff Rizzo. Photo by Mia Levitt-Rizzo

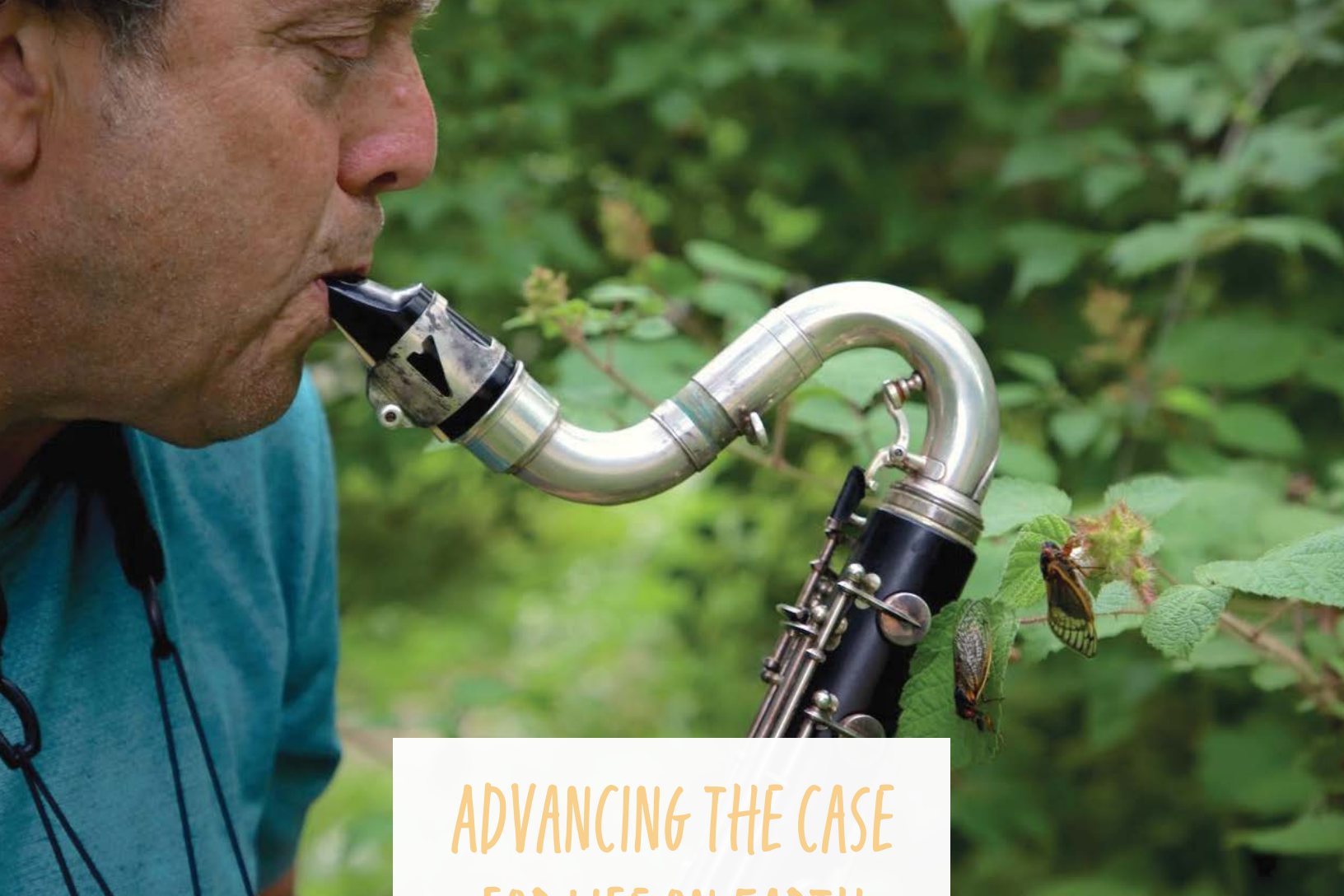
Jeff Rizzo was the Safina Center's long-serving treasurer, having served on the organization's board since 2006. He was always so enthusiastic, and, as treasurer, always so impressed with our efficiency compared to larger organizations he was part of, and equally impressed with our fiscally conservative approach to budgeting and income flow. He truly seemed to love our organization, and the feeling was mutual.

"I have a deep and profound passion for [the Safina Center's] mission... As important, on a personal level, I have learned that the best remedy for anyone who is unhappy, lonely or afraid is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet and surrounded by nature and the heavens. Only then does one feel that all is as it should be, where people are happy amidst the awesome beauty of nature...none more powerful than the mighty ocean in all its glory and majesty."

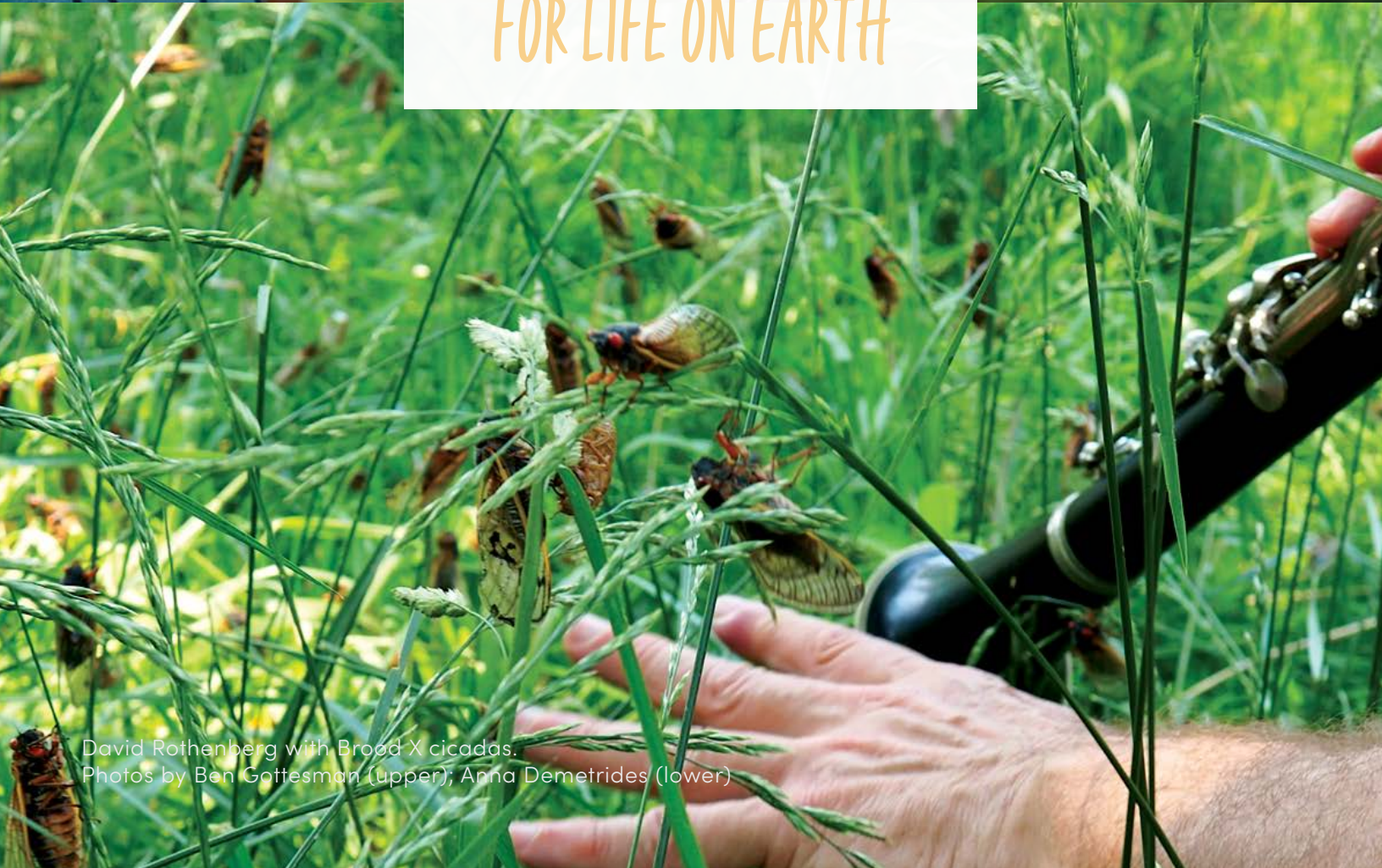
— Jeff Rizzo, 2012 Safina Center Annual Report



Hiking in Vancouver, Canada. Photo by Erica Cirino



ADVANCING THE CASE
FOR LIFE ON EARTH



David Rothenberg with Brood X cicadas.
Photos by Ben Gottesman (upper); Anna Demetrides (lower)