

Our Wild Calling

Review by JD Brown

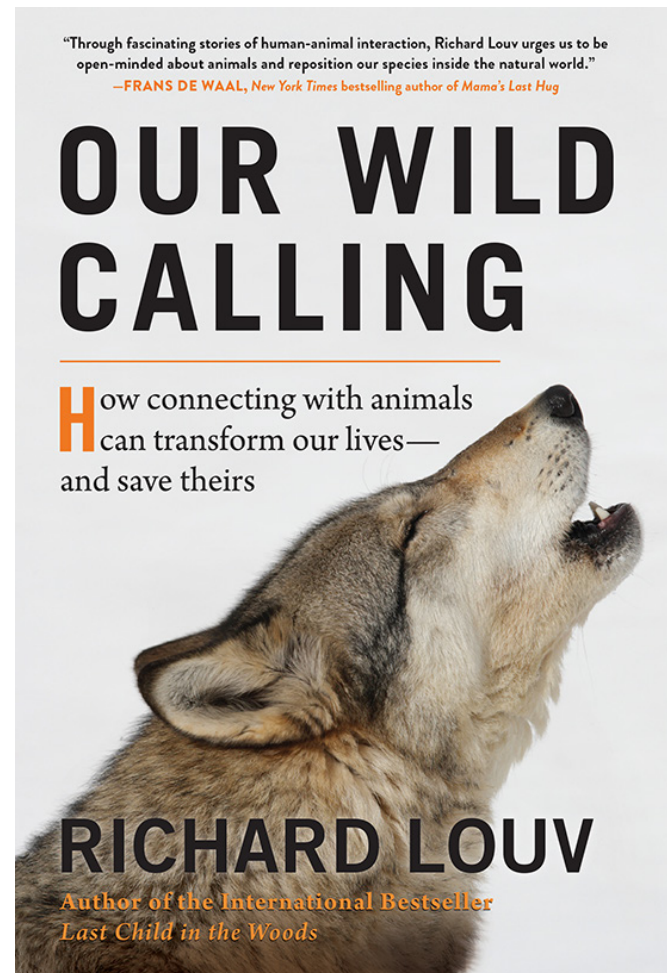
I had the opportunity to hear Rich Louv speak at a MODA Health conference in Portland, Oregon, in May 2018. He spoke in appreciation of Tim Beatley and his choice to pursue an optimistic future. Louv finds that such optimism is in too short supply; especially, for a younger generation, which has been told since day one that it is too late. In his most recent book, *Our Wild Calling*, Louv explores how our innate connection with animals, often in the wild places they call home, can provide a such a spark of promise.

At the outset, Louv sets forth two main reasons to explore our connection with animals. One is human health and well-being. The second is the accelerating state of species extinction. A challenge that requires “an inescapable network of mutuality” between humans and our wild neighbors. This mutuality, in part, is built through an appreciation of beauty and its expression through art: “To fully protect anything, we must know it, love it ...” As well, an appreciation of mystery and awe is required, which cannot be reduced to just numbers and the purely rational. It requires an understanding of “the inherent wisdom of interconnected, repeating patterns found in nature.” To the extent that we can apply this pattern language to the design of nature-friendly cities, we create the potential for cities to simultaneously provide a haven for urban biodiversity and to reduce our own species’ loneliness.

In part, this requires following the wisdom of Indigenous people that reject the dualistic understanding of nature and culture and dissolve human and non-humans into a single sphere of relationships, a process called “co-becoming.” It requires recognizing and revering the rights of nature itself. In return, from our non-human fellows, we learn pro-social behavior and form a mutual contract to co-evolve. Our connection with animals provides a strategy for positive mental

and physical health. They provide a power for optimism, which as Louv has noted is in too short supply.

Rich Louv (2019). *Our Wild Calling*. Algonquin Book. <http://richardlouv.com/books/our-wild-calling>.



The Emergence of Biophilic Design

Review by JD Brown

As part of the *Springer Cities and Nature series*, Jana Söderlund traces the roots biophilic design from its inception through its continued growth into a global movement. As biophilic design pioneer Judith Heerwagen identifies in her forward to the book, Söderlund demonstrates that “biophilia is not just a design issue. It is also a social movement built around the idea that connection to nature is a basic human need.”

Söderlund applies the framework of social movement theory to demonstrate not only the emergence of biophilic design as a movement, but also charts the course for how biophilic design can continue its trajectory into the latter stages of social movement evolution: from coalescence to mainstream. As she identifies, there are existing barriers to continued growth in the acceptance and application of these ideas, from undocumented benefits to a lack of political will and understanding. But this book documents the burgeoning global community that is building the tools and making the case to overcome those barriers.

As recounted within, Jana Söderlund has been a partner in the Biophilic Cities Network since its inception. She is building the movement in her home city of Fremantle, Australia, and building a broader coalition of regional partners through her leadership with Biophilic Cities Australia. With this book, she has also contributed to the important literature that is the foundation for this social movement.

Jana Söderlund (2019). *The Emergence of Biophilic Design*. Springer. <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030298128>.

Springer. Cities and Nature series. Peter Newman and Cheryl Deshna (Eds.). <https://www.springer.com/series/10068>.

