**Conversation #3**  
**Keynote Speaker: Richard Louv**  
Our Wild Calling: Transforming our Daily Lives to Connect Children, Families and Communities to Nature

**Richard Louv Presentation**  
When Last Child in the Woods was published in 2000 – there were 60 research studies on the effects of health and getting people outdoors. Today there are over 1,000 studies completed or ongoing. Children & Nature.org.

Cities and villages that saw tremendous population growth over the 30 years are realizing the importance of nature and making great efforts to reincorporate green space in urban setting and encouraging to include from the start of planning phases. We need to set and meet goals for # pollinator gardens, Rx Nature, whatever your goal is.

Everything comes back to stories about your “special place” and the connections we make with nature. Start with this instead, especially if working in politics. Referred to as “Habitat of the Heart” – you can’t protect or love something you don’t know or haven’t established an emotion toward – not just facts – if you want to create change, stir that deep emotion in people. Avoid being trapped in dystopian trance, fixated on negative images.

Being able to recognize that we are not alone changes us. Human isolation/loneliness is at an all-time high – resulting in early deaths from suicide or disease. Need to combat this and promote healing in the outdoors. “We are surrounded by a great whisper if you just listen.” Even in a city there are birds, you’ll realize you’re not alone if you just pay attention. Recommended books by Thomas Berry – a Catholic monk, wrote about spirituality in nature.

Learn more at http://richardlouv.com/