

# *Let's Schmooze*

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## **a Best Friend for Humanity**

We could use some "best friends!" After all, our escalating environmental problems threaten to swamp us. Consider ~

Recent reports claim that global air pollution has now been linked to a number of chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart and lung issues. The claimed linkage goes like this ~ air pollution irritates the body and causes inflammation of the organs and tissues. That irritation and inflammation cause the organs to start failing, leading to the mushrooming of the chronic diseases increasingly plaguing humanity ~ again, diabetes, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases), heart problems, etc.

Global warming and air pollution are highly pinned on increasing levels of carbon dioxide in our atmospheres, resulting from the burning of fossil fuels. There is currently no end in sight.

Some scientists are claiming that most of our climate models are failing to accurately predict future global warming. What we should expect is about twice what the current models tell us to expect. That's not good.

Here's where our best friend comes in.

Most of us think of trees as great for providing shade, edible fruits and nuts, and firewood. However, most of us have lost sight of a far more basic and essential service that trees provide to us. That's because this far more basic and essential service is invisible to the naked eye.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. That's the opposite of humans, who inhale oxygen and release carbon dioxide. Trees complement our "burning" cycle, just as we

complement their "burning" cycle. Humans and trees dance together in a tight, circular symbiosis.

Let's keep planting more trees. They are our friends. The more trees we plant, the more "best friends" we'll have. Globally, here are many tree-planting efforts going on at the moment, but we simply can't plant too many trees, given our environmental situation. We have to step up our tree planting efforts.

And, if we have to cut a tree down, let's find a way to immediately plant more trees in its place.

Our survival may just as well depend on our coming into a tight harmony with the plant world.

Remember, trees ~ because of their various gifts to us ~ are "our very best friends." Let's plant as many of these "best friends" as we can, and as quickly as we can.

~ *'til we meet again* ~