

iFAST: The International Forum on Advanced Environmental Sciences and Technology

A series of distinguished seminars by eminent scientists

8 p.m. CDT; 9 p.m. EDT; 1 a.m. GMT (April 8); 9 a.m. Beijing (April 8)

Wednesday, April 7, 2021



Terry Chapin
University of Alaska at
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<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/f-stuart-chapin-iii-terry/>

F. Stuart Chapin III, known to his friends as “Terry,” is an Alaskan ecologist whose research has addressed the effects of changes in climate and wildfire on Alaskan ecology and rural communities. He explores ways that communities and agencies can increase sustainability of ecosystems and human communities over the long term despite rapid climatic and social changes. In this way, society can proactively shape changes toward a more sustainable future. He pursues this internationally through the Resilience Alliance, nationally through the Ecological Society of America, and in Alaska through partnerships with rural indigenous communities. He has written leading textbooks in ecosystem stewardship, ecosystem ecology and plant physiological ecology. Based on his stewardship work, for which he was awarded the 2019 Volvo Environment Prize, he recently published *Grassroots Stewardship: Sustainability Within Our Reach* to explore stewardship with a general audience. This book presents a positive and pragmatic strategy by which individual citizens can shape a more sustainable future for nature and society.

Earth Stewardship: A pragmatic agenda for transformation

Stewardship is a framework for transformation to address the major environmental and social problems of our time. Regardless of the level at which it is implemented, transformation of social-ecological systems requires actions by individual citizens and institutions, including government, business and organizations. I will describe an approach that empowers a spectrum of solutions appropriate to people and institutions with different interests, skills, political persuasions and level of environmental and social commitment. This involves a four-tiered stewardship strategy to transform our communities, nations and planet. Key elements of this strategy are (1) individual actions that link people with nature and reduce human impacts on the planet, (2) effective communication to reduce political polarization and share solutions, (3) collaborations that integrate actions of multiple groups and (4) political engagement to trigger institutional change. This approach assumes that people vary in their visions and goals for the future of ecosystems and society. These goals might include concern for the future of our children and grandchildren, a spiritual commitment to care for Creation and vulnerable people, a desire to sustain the best of nature and of cultures, and a concern about the security and well-being of our families, communities, nations and the world. This is not a strategy about what should be done. Instead, it addresses what has been and can be done and provides a pragmatic strategy for tangible progress.



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**Organizing Committee Chair: Jizhong Zhou (University of Oklahoma, USA; <https://www.ou.edu/ieg>)
Xueduan Liu (Central South University, China)**