



## Real Estate News You Can Use

Brought to you free by Brett Roderman

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**Because we all need to be uplifted and enjoy a good laugh...**

**She sells salvaged sea shells.** Unbeknownst to many people, sea shells are a remarkably versatile material that could in the future become a sustainable alternative to many nonbiodegradable materials. This piece by Dezeen discusses some of the many surprising uses for sea shells, including a green alternative to both cement and concrete, unique furniture, sustainable leather-like materials for clothing, and beautiful crockery. Check out the full list for a glimpse of what could be. More:

<https://tinyurl.com/uplift0423a>

**Fertilizing plants with waste water.** Nitrogen-based industrial-scale plant fertilizer accounts for a relatively huge percentage of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and is an area in which researchers are frantically seeking mass-produceable alternatives. Scientists at the Argonne National Laboratory are looking at one interesting alternative that would instead use waste water from water treatment plants, with surprisingly positive results. More: <https://tinyurl.com/uplift0423b>



**A car that runs on the sun.** In the global bid to phase out fossil fuel-emitting transport and switch to greener modes of travel, huge strides are being made in terms of personal vehicles, with electric cars becoming more and more widely available. In general, though, those currently on the market are still prohibitively expensive for many. That may change in the not-too-distant future, though, with trials currently underway for a new type of small solar-powered car designed to be more affordable for the general public. More: <https://tinyurl.com/uplift0423c>

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**Let us permit nature  
to have her way. She  
understands her  
business better than  
we do.**

**- Michel de Montaigne**

## Links You Can Use Now

### Celebrating Earth Day

Earth Day is on April 22, and here are some links to help you celebrate.

*The Old Farmer's Almanac* has all sorts of information about Earth Day 2023 as well as things you can do to support the important work activists and enthusiasts do to promote sustainability. <https://tinyurl.com/uplift04231>

This important article from *National Geographic* gives you a detailed yet easy-to-understand history of Earth Day and why it's important to acknowledge it in your calendar. A useful resource for children and adults alike.

<https://tinyurl.com/uplift04232>

As important as Earth Day is, it's also important to take the lessons and awareness from this special day and apply them to your everyday life. This article demonstrates 10 ways to help you do just that. <https://tinyurl.com/uplift04233>

Are you a parent or teacher looking for some interesting ways to get children excited about Earth Day? This PBS article has multiple fun activities to make them environmentally conscious for years to come. <https://tinyurl.com/uplift04234>



## How Bison Are Helping Britain Fight Climate Change

As rewilding movements pick up pace across the globe, many are beginning to understand and appreciate the importance of “keystone species,” certain native animal species that have a huge role to play in the grand scheme of wide-scale biodiversity and, consequently, the fight against climate change.

It's none more apparent than in Kent, England, where, for the first time in millennia, wild bison are roaming free once again. The British Isles were once home to steppe bison, but a few thousand years ago, they were hunted to extinction by humans. As part of the Wilder Blean rewilding project, which aims to return an area of Kent to the natural order of the ecosystem, three European bison have now been released into the wild to become one of these keystone species.

The European bison is the closest living relative of Britain's former native species and thus proved to be the best candidate to fulfill this role. The bison's presence is expected to have a ripple effect for the general biodiversity of the area and eventually result in helping to reduce carbon in the atmosphere. Bison's ability to trample and turn the soil, knock down trees and fertilize the ground with their nutrient-rich dung will help to create habitats and sustenance for insects, butterflies and beetles. The presence and abundance of these species will in turn help to pollinate all sorts of plant life that will then hopefully be able to thrive and, in turn, absorb more carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis.

The bison aren't the only species being reintroduced. The Wildwood Trust, one of the groups involved in the rewilding of Kent, also has plans to bring back other grazing animals, such as longhorn cattle, Exmoor ponies and Iron Age pigs, which will further contribute to the work done by the bison in naturally managing the landscape.

The Kent Wildlife Trust are keeping tabs on how things go with Wilder Blean, which, if the project is successful, could be a huge step forward for the rewilding movement.

If you know of any local families or organizations that are especially in need at this time, please give me a call at 404-229-7600 or email [br@brettroderman.com](mailto:br@brettroderman.com). I will do my best to spread the word. If there is anything I can do to support you at this time, please let me know.

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## The Artist Weaving Nearly Forgotten Landscapes into Works of Art

If you haven't yet heard of Alexandra Kehayoglou, you soon will. The Argentinian artist has been making a name for herself with her wool rugs resembling dreamy aerial views of landscapes. In fact, seeing pictures of some of her masterpieces from a distance, you'd be forgiven for thinking they were paintings.

Each rug is indeed unique. She crafts them in her studio in Buenos Aires using an extremely technical hand-tufting process that is not only time-consuming but incredibly physically demanding on the body. This is partly the point. The process is a long but mindful one and resembles the ancient family tradition of weaving by hand.

The artist has a catalog of many different landscapes, and she has many notable clients. Her repertoire includes native landscapes she has sculpted from memory, many of which are no longer in the pristine condition her artwork shows. For this reason and many others, she has become a poster child for the effects of deforestation and devastation and a call for awareness of human beings' impact on the environment. One notable piece that demonstrates this is *Santa Cruz River*, which was shown in 2017 at the NGV Triennial at The National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia, and is part of an extensive research project into the plans to dam the Santa Cruz River in the Argentinian Patagonia. This work is a warning against a future ecocide in one of the most famous and beautiful rivers in South America.

The extensive scale of her work has also made her a key collaborator in high-end design. In 2014, in collaboration with Belgian designer Dries Van Noten, Kehayoglou developed a 164-foot-long woven rug inspired by John Everett Millais's *Ophelia* and primarily used on the catwalk during Paris Fashion Week.

Kehayoglou continues to weave magical pieces that call for societal change and the fight against deforestation and climate change. See Alexandra's work at [alexandrakehayoglou.com](http://alexandrakehayoglou.com).