

Plant Pioneers

Human-Plant Relations Movement

by Wendy Fachon

Plant Pioneers are a group of plant lovers dedicated to raising awareness about plant consciousness and the inter-connected mutual relationships humans have with all living systems. This organization explores intelligent plant activity using an audio synthesizer that gives plants a voice, making their electrical frequencies audible to human ears through musical sounds.



The audio interface is called Music of the Plants. Two wires from a pre-programmed synthesizer are connected to a plant, one onto the plant's leaf, the other in the soil to complete the circuit. The synthesizer is similar to a biofeedback device and the sounds emitted by the synthesizer are generated by the plant's own electrical impulses. Each impulse is assigned a specific musical note, and the harmonic tones are mesmerizing.

This process of human-plant communication was developed by an international community of scientists living in the Damanhur, a federation of spiritual communities located in Italy. Damanhur has drawn the interest of scholars, educators and researchers in the fields of art, social sciences, spirituality, medicine and alternative health, economics and environmental sustainability. In addition to communicating with insects, plants appear to be responding to animals, humans and other environmental activities in ways that call for further investigation.

Bonnie Kavanagh, a second-generation nurse and community herbalist with more than 35 years' experience in health care, is a local educator for Plant Pioneers. She is a graduate of the Rosemary Gladstar Art and Science of Herbology Apprenticeship

and teaches herbal and gardening classes at Seven Arrows Farm, in Seekonk, Massachusetts.

Field and woodland explorations awaken the instinctual nature that is part of the human genetic blueprint. This blueprint holds the key for understanding nature's subtle language. The

sensory experiences of listening and feeling, taught by the Music of the Plants, enhance the sensory interactions traditionally associated with the study of herbs and healing—sight, touch, smell and taste. Observing Nature with all of the senses allows for the rediscovery of indigenous and ancient ways of interacting with the environment.

Plant Pioneers are showing people how to open their channels to listening, how to become a participant in nature's living landscape and how to do so with reciprocal dignity, integrity and respect. As stewards for the Earth's whole system, Plant Pioneers are teaching people to treat plants and trees as sentient beings that have a rightful place in the grand scheme of the world. Plants have a lot to teach to humans. Kavanagh states this clearly, "Plants are the most benevolent of beings. We cannot survive without them and they require so little back from us. People, especially children, need to be connected to the peace and healing that nature offers."

Location: 346 Oakhill Ave., Seekonk, MA. Join the movement. Sponsor a Plant Pioneer event at a farm, organization, school or home. Experience the Music of the Plants at Seven Arrows Farm. For more information on workshops and presentations, call Bonnie Kavanagh at 508-399-7860 or email kavnurse@hotmail.com. Learn more at PlantPioneers.org.