

[Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review](#) is back with its fifth installment. Join us as we journey from the cold depths of a northern German lake to the warm dunes of southern Portugal.

When author Jessica Lee travels to the German village of Neuglobsow in "[The Magic Mirror: Legends, Limnology, and Nuclear Power on Lake Stechlin](#)," she uncovers a region shaped by the intangible legends of ferocious red roosters, waterspouts, and geysers, as well as by the tangible impact of a nuclear power plant nearby.

How do we talk about fungi in the English language? The illustrated essay by ecologist and photographer Alison Pouliot, "[Talking Fungus: Finding Language for a Troubled Kingdom](#)," contends that a new, re-enchanting vocabulary for the misunderstood kingdom of fungi is the first step toward a broader recognition of mushrooms as a vital part of our ecology.

RCC Director Christof Mauch sits down with filmmaker and anthropologist Martin Saxer to discuss what makes contemporary foraging different from the foraging of hunter-gatherers. "[Seeing with a Forager's Eye: A Conversation with Martin Saxer](#)" investigates both how and why this spatially unconfined practice happens in places as rural as the Siberian-Chinese border and as urban as Munich's own English Garden.

Ever since an open-pit mine became a Liberian nature reserve in the Nimba mountain range, the region has attracted various actors seeking to rethink the value of an area recognized as a hotspot of biodiversity—and, potentially, of infectious diseases. In "[The Value of Fragments: Making a Hotspot in Mount Nimba, Liberia](#)," anthropologist Emmanuelle Roth and historian Gregg Mitman follow a local park ranger through the reserve, investigating how the region's complex history has altered relations among its living and nonliving occupants.

Writer and historian Beth LaDow regales us with a story of the quirky relationship between humans and beavers as it unfolds around a small pond in Maine each year. LaDow's "[Beavering](#)" gives us a unique and local glimpse into the everyday life of this species and the carbon-sequestering, water-regulating, and species-diversifying wetlands they create.

Among the shifting slopes of southern Portugal's human-shaped shoreline, Joana Gaspar de Freitas' personal history and professional research collide. As the environmental historian reckons with her self-professed muses, the sand dunes, "[The Poetics of Dunes](#)" shows how these transitory formations defy our normal modes of understanding and inspire new and imaginative ways of thinking.

Beyond these exciting new articles, *Springs* continues its efforts to champion writing from other open-access RCC publications. In addition to the curated collection of pieces from [RCC Perspectives](#) (2010-20) and the peer-reviewed online journal [Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History](#), our *Springs* [archive](#) is now proud to include publications from the RCC's recently revived multi-genre blog, [Seeing the Woods](#).