

# Landscapes that Work for All of Life: Growing Community and Climate Resilience by Regenerating the Soil Sponge

Monday, September 20th • 5-7 PM CST

This virtual workshop, led by Didi Pershouse, will deepen each participant's understanding of whole-systems landscape function and effective land management, with a focus on water and the soil sponge. Biology creates a natural sponge in healthy soils and grasslands that slows and sinks water on a total landscape scale—providing resilience in times of flooding and drought. Many of our current economic, social, and climate concerns are due to a degradation of our country's soils, in particular its sponge-like structure or "tilth."

Contact [soilforwater@ncat.org](mailto:soilforwater@ncat.org) for more information or visit [soilforwater.org/events-calendar/](http://soilforwater.org/events-calendar/) to register



In this introductory class we will consider these questions:

- What is the soil sponge, and how is it different from soil carbon?
- Can a healthy soil sponge really address our climate, environmental and social concerns?
  - Resilience to flooding, drought and wildfires
  - Regulation of regional temperatures
  - Food and water security
  - Biodiversity
  - Health and increased immunity for all life on land
  - Local economies
  - Conflicts over resources
- How do we work with nature's essential workforce to create conditions for the soil sponge to regenerate?
- What is the role of thoughtful livestock management in regenerating the soil sponge?

Didi Pershouse is the author of *[The Ecology of Care: Medicine, Agriculture, Money, and the Quiet Power of Human and Microbial Communities](#)* and *[Understanding Soil Health and Watershed Function](#)*.

She teaches participatory workshops both in person and online, helping to show the nested relationships between soil health, human health, water cycles, and climate resiliency. She is the founder of the [Land and Leadership Initiative](#) and the Center for Sustainable Medicine, and a co-founder of the ["Can we Rehydrate California?"](#) Initiative. She is an independent trainer and curriculum developer for the UN-FAO Farmer Field School Program and the Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming Initiative in India. She was one of five speakers at the [United Nations-FAO World Soil Day](#) in 2017.



*Soil for Water, a program of the National Center for Appropriate Technology, supports an expanding network of farmers and ranchers who are taking steps to catch and hold more water in the soil. Learn more at [soilforwater.org](http://soilforwater.org)*