

## Klingenthal Symposia

*Environment: An Anabaptist Perspective on a Sustainable World.* Kline says:

One's livelihood comes from the Earth – from the land, and from creation on a sensible scale, where humans are a part of the unfolding of the seasons, experience the blessings of drought-ending rains, and see God's spirit in all creation – a theology for living should be as natural as the rainbow following a summer storm (2000: 69).

Kline's first book, *Great Possessions: An Amish Farmer's Journal* (1990), is a collection of natural history essays that he wrote originally for *Family Life* magazine, an Amish journal read mainly within Amish communities. The essays, which describe wildlife on and around Kline's 120-acre farm, are grounded, he says, in a belief "in nurturing and supporting all our community – that includes people as well as land and wildlife" (xxi).

*Scratching the Woodchuck: Nature on an Amish Farm* (1997), like the earlier book, includes short essays that explore the varied life forms on the Kline farm. In addition, Kline describes the joy he finds in the shared life-work of a community made up of non-Amish neighbors as well as the families in his own congregation. The range of labor that makes possible a kind of farming that does not depend on expensive technology reminds him, he says, "of a river – serene and beautiful, yet within its gentle flow is great strength" (204).

Kline's writing examines the joys of simple living, inspired by "plain" Amish values. He joined with friends, family members, and neighbors in the spring of 2001 to edit *Farming Magazine: People, Land, and Community*, the magazine's first editorial, "Letter from Larksong," dedicated for the Kline farm, he says, "the true test of a sustainable agriculture will be whether we can romance our children into farming." To accomplish that, Kline says, farms must be profitable, farmers must not be overburdened with work, and farming must be fun. Much of his writing explores this fun, grounding his faith and hope in the songs of birds, the changing seasons, and the friendship found in work done together for a common purpose.

With his two books and *Farming Magazine's* increasing circulation, as well as increasingly frequent speaking engagements, Kline's call for a spiritually-grounded, sustainable agriculture has begun to reach well beyond Amish communities.

William Nichols

### Further Reading

David. "God's Spirit and a Theology for Living." Calvin Redekop, ed. *Creation & the Environment: An Anabaptist Perspective on a Sustainable World*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.

Kline, David. *Scratching the Woodchuck: Nature on an Amish Farm*. Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1997.

Kline, David. *Great Possessions: An Amish Farmer's Journal*. San Francisco: North Point Press, 1990.

See also: Christianity (6c3) – Anabaptist/Mennonite Traditions.

## Klingenthal Symposia

In October 1995, Pax Christi, France, through its Commission on the Protection and Management of the Creation chaired by Dr. Jean-Pierre Ribaut, also Director of the Environment Division at the Council of Europe, organized the first in a series of symposia on Ecology, Ethics and Spirituality at the Klingenthal Castle in Alsace, France. These symposia aimed for a dialogue between scientists and representatives of different spiritual and ethical approaches, and were remarkable for the breadth of different perspectives they brought together, including Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Shintoist, Bahá'í, Australian Aborigine, African Animist, Native Canadian, Brazilian and Peruvian Indian, Finish Sami, Materialistic-Universalist and Masonic. Leading scientists shared their views and explored common interests with those on the spiritual side, or sometimes combined the two. The first symposium issued the Klingenthal Appeal calling for united efforts to inspire respect for nature and sustainable management of resources, harmonizing scientific, aesthetic and spiritual approaches. This first symposium was followed by a series of more thematic Klingenthal Symposia applying the same approach, on water, source of life (1997), soil, cultures and spiritualities (1998), trees and forests (1999), and animals and fauna (2001). Each explored the environmental and scientific challenges under the theme and the perspectives and contributions that each form of spirituality could bring to those challenges. The proceedings of the symposia have been published by the Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humanity.

Arthur Dahl

### Further Reading

Bourguinat, Élisabeth and Jean-Pierre Ribaut. *L'Arbre et la Forêt: Du Symbolisme Culturel à . . . l'Agonie Programmée?* Charles Léopold Mayer, ed. *Dossiers pour un Débat No. 111*. Paris, 2000.

Caïs, Marie-France, Marie-José Del Rey and Jean-Pierre Ribaut. *L'Eau et la Vie: Enjeux, Perspectives et Visions Interculturelles*. Charles Léopold Mayer, ed. *Dossiers pour un Débat No. 97*. Paris, 1999.

Lamar, Rabah and Jean-Pierre Ribaut. *Sols et Sociétés: Regards Pluriculturels*. Charles Léopold Mayer, ed. *Dossiers pour un Débat No. 116*. Paris, 2001.

Ribaut  
U  
C  
A  
S  
N

Know

Amor

nature  
"know  
what  
ogy) a  
know,  
the ph

Rec

ogies  
nature

Religi  
the di  
son, a  
so the

ments  
"religi  
ences  
traditi

institu  
academ

momen  
ness, v  
knowle

along  
of spir  
corresp

we hur  
view h  
action

The  
the nat

in us th  
and as  
associa

the nov  
that is  
the cor

plex bu  
within  
spiritua  
an impo  
tion of  
how we  
as not  
as invec