

**From:** joe symons  
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**Cc:** [DL - Council](#); [Comp Plan Update](#)  
**Subject:** a metaphor for San Juan County / a thrumming conversation  
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The fundamental unit of biology is therefore not the "self," but the network.

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The colorful fungal growths swarming my Petri dishes have a lesson beyond the immediate practical benefits of managing and studying living networks. Every textbook diagram and every written metaphor shape how we imagine the world. Microbiology and genetics are calling us to expand that imaginative space. When we gaze at a maple leaf, we now see not an individual made of plant cells, but a thrumming conversation, an embodied network. The "self" is a society.

from:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2017/04/04/522011396/the-key-to-life-is-the-network>

It is our task to look deeply to noodle out and recognize the invisible connective tissues that bind us to this cluster of beautiful islands and ensure that we manage the energies of all of these tissues, many of which are not human, to ensure sustainability and a thriving, stable and resilient system.

We must indeed "expand that imaginative space."

Joe

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carpe diem