

Thomas F. Duckwall

Tom grew up in northeast Tennessee. He graduated from college with a major in biology and a minor in psychology, and later completed a business and accounting program to earn the MBA.

His early employment included working for the Federal government (Air Force and Treasury Dept.) and computer systems. Later, he worked for an air freight company and then as business manager for a, large church in Greensboro.

As a volunteer, Tom worked with the local Audubon chapter, maintaining the membership database and serving as president and treasurer. He helped begin a study of Guilford County streams with several grants from local foundations and a corporation, which later led into a project to protect the Deep River. He also spent some time in self-directed study of environmental economics, accounting and management. Recently, Tom has been active with Emerging Ecology, a group that considers the really big picture—cosmology and the development of life and society—in order to promote an awareness of our worldview and how we can consciously enlarge and modify it.

Over the years, Tom's appreciation of the role of the natural world in the human experience has continued to increase. There is no fixed line between human, plant, animal, and earth, in the sense that all are interdependent and in fact are part and parcel of each other, over the course of time.

What we call our "economy" exists only because of the abundant resources that surround us, and if we use those without regard to the needs of others elsewhere or not yet born, we will all be the poorer for it and may even be risking our own or others' existence. Therefore, we must constantly weigh and consider the results of our actions and make certain that our way of life is one that promotes and provides for the needs of others, to sustain our planet and all its contents in a continuous cycle of life and re-creation.