

Dear George

My criticism of Murray Bookchin in "Around the Campfire" ("I think Murray would do well to get out of his stuffy libraries and encounter the wilderness."), may have been off-hand but certainly not ad hominem — rather it is a fundamental critique of Bookchin and anyone else who relies excessively on scholarship instead of direct wilderness experience for wisdom. I think Bookchin is an important thinker for us, but in virtually every area where I disagree with him, his lack of direct wilderness experience is the key. I do not believe that anyone, no matter how learned or thoughtful, can fully understand human society or the relationship of humans to the natural world without regularly encountering the wilderness and finding instruction there.

—Dave Foreman