*Mixture of sounds from train, train whistle, car horn, as it is speeding by, and a boat horn*

**Katie:** Hello! I’m Katie Stevens

**Audrey:** and I’m Audrey Peterson! And we would like to welcome you to Ways to Know Nature!

**Audrey:** Katie, how many people do you think own cars?

**Katie:** I don’t know. Why do you ask?

**Audrey:** Well fun fact, the US has 204 million vehicles for it’s 191 million drivers. But anyway… I was just thinking about how our society revolves around technology.

**Katie:** Are you talking about the Internet?

**Audrey:** No, I’m talking about transportation technologies. You know cars, trains, airplanes...

**Katie:** What about them?

**Audrey:** I think that people underestimate the impact of cars and trains on our environment.

**Katie:** I think that people are finally starting to understand their impact. Haven’t you heard of Global Warming?

**Audrey:** Yes I have, but I’m not talking about that. I’m talking about how our usage of cars and trains are influencing our interactions with nature.

**Katie:** Our interactions? What do you mean?

**Audrey:** Well let’s look at trains, for example. *sound of train whistle, and then the chugging of the train behind the audio* What do you know about the railroad?

**Katie:** The railroad? It was an incredible machine. When it was first invented it redefined time and space. 150 years ago, it used to take four to five weeks to travel from New York to California. Nowadays, it takes a few hours by plane to get from one coast to another. *End of the train sounds.*

**Audrey:** But how did the railroad exactly redefine time and space?

**Katie:** Hmm. Probably because time and distance were no longer main factors in traveling. The railroad enabled people to go almost anywhere in the US.

**Audrey:** That’s right. If there was a mountain in the way, *sound of explosion* well, it’s not there anymore. We altered the geography in order to accommodate our technologies.

**Katie:** Roads have also changed the way we travel. Today, we have roads and bridges that allow us to travel over, under, and through any natural obstacles.
Audrey: Yes, but, Katie, with all of those roads and bridges, what is happening to our environment? Do you know how many roads we have?

Katie: Actually no.

Audrey: The United States has around 3,839,512 miles of roadways.

Katie: Wow

Audrey: “Wow” is a serious understatement because about 25% of those roads are near natural ecosystems. *Sounds of cars speeding down roads behind the audio.* This means that an estimated 10,000-50,000 vehicles travel down those roads, 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday causing significant damage to those natural ecosystems. That’s a lot of damage to nature.

Katie: But Audrey, think of our society without cars and trains. People depend on their cars to get to work, to live, to have order. Without them there would be chaos.

Audrey: That’s another point Katie. Order is a human ideal, not a nature one. Our society focuses on order, uniformity, efficiency, and mainly control. We are controlling nature so that it reflects these values.

Katie: So, basically saying that our technologies are controlling nature?

Audrey: Yes, that’s exactly what I’m saying. Transportation technologies are controlling nature and altering how we see it.

Katie: Wait… so not only are cars and trains controlling nature, but they are controlling how we see nature?

Audrey: YES! I’m glad we are finally starting to understand each other.

*Conductor shouting “All Aboard!”*

Audrey: Just like cameras, trains, cars, and other forms of transportation create a frame that portrays 2nd nature, the picture of nature that fits within our value system.

Katie: So this 2nd nature, it’s not real nature?

Audrey: No, it’s our view of what nature should be.

Katie: How do we change that? How do we see 1st nature again?

Audrey: That’s a difficult question to answer because no one really knows. I think that the only way to start seeing nature again is to stop using our technologies as much as we do. Instead of driving, try walking.

Katie: Will that work?

Audrey: It might, but we have relied on technology for so long that is has reshaped our human existence, which has also unknowingly reshaped nature.

Katie: I see what you mean. In the 21st century our lives are controlled by progress and efficiency.

Audrey: Yes, and if it’s not efficient, it’s not productive, which explains why no one even thinks of walking anywhere anymore.
Katie: But what’s the big difference. You said that we don’t see real nature in a car, but we walk along the same road, so even when walking we would only see 2nd nature anyway.

Audrey: You would be surprised by what people see while walking instead of driving. To prove it to you lets talk to some members of the Lafayette Crew team.

Katie: Why?

Audrey: Because they practice on the Lehigh River, which is about a mile and half from campus. The only way to get there is to either walk, run, or drive. Let’s interview Ben Olesky, Chris Pelland, Sam Kalra and Pat Soundy.

Katie: All right. Let’s find out what one would experience when running to practice versus driving to practice.

Interview

Audrey: Pat and Sam, what were the most pleasant and unpleasant things you saw or experienced when running to practice?

Pat: The walk down the steps by the hill, towards the spot is nice, because its wooded and open, it’s just nice, you can enjoy the walk that way and then you get into the city and its just not as nice. But, the first part by the steps, the trees and the steps are very old, and they look cool. It’s interesting.

Sam: I would also say the nature going down the steps because its very pretty, some nice trees and flowers.

Katie: Ben and Chris, what were some interesting things you noticed about your surroundings on your way to practice?

Ben: Well, running to practice, the most disturbing thing I’ve ever seen would probably be - the most unpleasant thing was a dead raccoon that had been run over and eaten a little bit, so it smelled pretty bad. That was unpleasant.

Katie: What about the most pleasant thing?

Ben: The most pleasant thing while running, I don’t know, just kind of, running with people, and enjoying….

Audrey: But would you describe it as a pleasant experience?

Ben: I would describe the motions of running themselves as pleasant.

Katie: What about you, Chris?

Chris: One of the best parts of driving down to practice is being able to see the river when you drive by it. Its kind of calming, it looks very nice, I kind of, I feel connected.

Katie: Do you think it would be a better experience if you were running or walking?

Chris: I think it would be, because you can get closer, for one, because I have to stay on the road, but if you run you can approach the river. I think also that driving allows you to explore more, a little, because the road continues past, and keeps going down the river, and if by chance you get to practice late, you can’t get a parking spot at the boathouse and the only way to turn around is to go down and turn around in a parking lot about a half mile down the road,
which provides you the opportunity of seeing more of the river. So I think they both have pros and cons, but I would say running is the best option.

**Katie:** What do you think of driving, Ben?

**Ben:** Driving…driving is kind of like, I wouldn’t say boring, but its just, it doesn’t change. Outside, the weather is always different, you have to adapt. Being in a car is always, its very controlled I guess…I think the word stagnant is the right word for it.

**Katie:** Sam what is your opinion on driving to practice?

**Sam:** Its faster, you don’t have to go through the exertion of running to practice.

**Pat:** Yeah, without the time restraints of like, having to worry about, you know, getting work done before practice and everything, then walking would definitely be more fun, more enjoyable and definitely more relaxing.

End of Interview

**Audrey:** So, what do you think now Katie?

**Katie:** You have me convinced.

**Audrey:** So I don’t have to tell you about the relationship between driving and increases in stress levels, mental and physical weariness, stiff necks, tiredness, lower back pain, difficulty in focusing, and sudden moments of anger?

**Katie:** No, because I’ve looked up some of my own facts and have found that those who walk and cycle have higher environmental awareness, do not have as many health issues, and find the act of walking and cycling to be enjoyable and relaxing. Just like Pat, Sam, Ben, and Chris said.

**Audrey:** Then you agree that by using technology everyday, we are adapting to the loss of actual nature and each generation is beginning to suffer from “environmental generational amnesia”.

**Katie:** If by “environmental generational amnesia” you mean that each generation is adapting to the new nature being displayed by technology and forgetting what nature really is, then yes, I absolutely agree with you!

**Audrey:** Good. Then lets ask our audience this, “Is technological nature as good as real nature?”

**Katie:** If you said yes, *(pause)* then we suggest you listen to this podcast one more time. If you said no, you’re a good listener and should take a walk the next time you go out. I don’t think we can stop depending on transportation technologies, but we can cut down on our dependence.

**Audrey:** And if we do cut down, *sounds of nature, like trees rustling, birds singing, behind audio* even a little bit, we can slow down the destruction of real nature, and hopefully stop 2nd nature from replacing the real deal.

**Katie:** Thanks for tuning in, I’m Katie Stevens,

**Audrey:** and I’m Audrey Peterson on Ways to Know Nature.