

IN THIS ISSUE

Interview: AnnaMarie Linneweber.....1

25-Year Celebration of Master Gardeners in Yellowstone County.....2

Dandelions4

Recipe: Chokecherry Syrup4

Billings Arbor Day Activity.....5

Dr. Bob on Austrees.....5

Plants from Retailers May Cause Bee Colony Collapse..6

Care of Young Trees6

My Weeding Arsenal.....7

Book Review: Buzz.....7

Pollinators8

Useful Online Links.....8

Book Review: The Spell of the Sensuous.....9

What's in a Name9

Share the Abundance.....10

AnnaMarie Linneweber Shares Her Story

by Bess Lovec

Eight yellow jackets stole AnnaMarie’s career as a professional gardener. She reached behind a railroad tie to pull weeds, and they nailed her forearm, which swelled to twice its normal circumference. The swelling even went halfway up her upper arm. If toxins had made it to her heart, she would have missed this interview and the past three years.



AnnaMarie Linneweber

She has been in and out of hospitals more than a dozen times, and even more times to emergency rooms, but not just due to the bites. AnnaMarie has suffered heat stroke twice, making her even more vulnerable to falling prey to that condition again. So she is wisely poised to give advice: “Hydrate, and take breaks, even if you don’t think you might need one. Use electrolytes. And get to medical help ASAP if you’ve been bitten by yellow jackets.” I repeat her mantras throughout the day, since the combination of medical events wiped out her immune system. She gained a close-up view of gardening’s underside that I hope my readers can avoid.

In 2014, AnnaMarie completed all three levels of Master Gardeners. She encourages everyone to take all levels for the diverse knowledge each course provides. She worked as a gardener at the Moss Mansion and for various families, plus volunteered at the Zoo and with veterans at Veteran Hall. Master Gardeners provides hope for humanity, in her eyes, and the variety

of people plus camaraderie are its biggest strengths. She thinks the focus going forward should be to teach people to garden their way, providing support for a variety of paths, with the value of sustainability.

She adores many perennials, such as gay feathers, Jupiter’s beard, and coneflowers, but she wonders about the future of

perennials in the face of climate change. Zonal maps might be outdated as soon as they’re published! AnnaMarie touts the virtues of annuals because they are easier to maintain than perennials and can be changed every year. Exactly what she loved about gardening is what she misses... the physical exercise, sweating, and dirt. Her creativity has shifted to painting and jewelry making. Her new activities help her brain heal and improve her balance and coordination.

For newcomers to gardening, AnnaMarie recommends that you buy a few good books, such as the Taylor series, and don’t get too big too fast. If you’re part of a large, commercial project, make sure an overall plan exists, both to keep volunteers engaged and to avoid waste. And catch the documentary *Wasted* by Anthony Bourdain about how indigenous peoples use what we frequently consider waste. I can’t wait to hear more great ideas from this true Master Gardener!

25-Year Celebration of Master Gardeners in Yellowstone County

Billings Montana; MetraPark, 4-H Building; May 18, 2019

by Amy Grandpre

photos by Amy Grandpre & Merita Murdock

Twenty-five years is quite the marker for an organization, and the best thing to celebrate when it involves dedicated volunteer service to our community.

The celebration was presented as a birthday party, with birthday party decorations, a **HUGE** card for all to sign, and a table filled with some 50 wrapped gifts, distributed during the event. And since it was a rainy, dreary day, a great day for gardeners to gather and enjoy an indoor BBQ potluck.

In 1994 it was a gathering of nine Billings citizens, simply interested in learning more about how to grow their yard and garden plants more successfully in our challenging Montana environment. Those students present:

- Annette Bayley
- Johanna Freivalds
- Bobbi Hylton
- Diane Kostelecky
- Joe LaRue
- Berta Morrison
- Merita Murdock
- Evelyn Popelka
- Edith Yapuncich

It was a very exciting time, as we were witnessing the beginnings of **BIG**

technology. We gathered at Eastern Montana College (now MSU Billings) to experience something called MetNet Video Teleconferencing. This was one of several sites across the state, set up to host the first Master Gardener classes. Participants watched live classes, being taught by specialists in Bozeman... and the sites also had the ability to ask live questions to the instructors. This was a big deal.

We had a total of six classes:

- Composting by Mike Vogel
- Urban IPM by Sherry Lajeunesse
- Insect ID by Will Lanier
- Soils & Fertility by Jeff Jacobsen
- Plant Disease by Jack Riesselman (still seen on *Ag Live*)
- Horticulture Wrap-up by George Evans

We had three project/activities that year:

- Master Gardener hotline
- Plant exchange/potluck
- Garden tour featuring our own Master Gardener gardens

Total 1994 Volunteer hours = 43



In 1998, Bob Gough picked up the program and under his watch and care it exploded. This man was passionate, witty, charming and just made learning fun. There was no snoozing in his classes, as he was a master at engaging his students.

Today, our program is an active 130-participants strong with hundreds passing through our program through the years. We have 25 active projects, and in 2018, Yellowstone County Master Gardeners logged 3,000+ hours. Total hours recorded since 1994 is 50,000, which is lean, as not all our Master Gardeners log their hours.

What made this event extra special were the guests who came from our past to celebrate with us. Among the most honored and recognized were three from our original class:

- Annette Bayley
- Diane Kostelecky
- Merita Murdock (of course Merita is most active currently)





- Jane Howell (2012)
- Shirley Spildie (2013)
- Edith Yapuncich (2013)
- Julie Halverson (2019)

A chalk art contest was part of our celebration activities. Bob Wicks was able to score some

fabulous trophies for the event!

- First place went to Annette Bayley
- Second place to Linda Williams



Our celebration finished up with a long-awaited dedication of a Mock Orange tree to honor Dr. Bob Gough. The linden tree previously dedicated June 25, 2012, had perished due to a poor growing environment. Two plaques (made by Master Gardener Roy Wahl) were placed to mark the event:

Always In Our Hearts
 – Yellowstone County Master Gardeners
 Bob Gough “Dr. Bob”
 “A Most Excellent Teacher”
Philadelphus coronarius
 (Mock Orange)
 Dedicated May 18, 2019

Special thanks to Bob Wicks and Brian Godfrey for helping DJ the event, and to Merita Murdock and Debbie Wicks for making the delicious cupcakes that made the event extra special.

Master Gardeners present who have been with the program 8+ years were recognized:

- Merita Murdock, *Class of 1994*
- Mary Davis, *Class of 2002*
- Tom Kress, *Class of 2003*
- Vonnie Bell, *Class of 2003*
- Ann Guthals, *Class of 2007*
- Bob Wicks, *Class of 2007*
- Sharon Wetsch, *Class of 2007*
- Joann Glasser, *Class of 2008*
- Sheri Kisch, *Class of 2008*
- Dave Kimball, *Class of 2009*
- Joyce Hendricks, *Class of 2010*

2019 Level 1 and Level 2 graduates present were recognized, and volunteer accomplishment awards were given to:

- Sherry Doty: 400 Volunteer Hour Award
- Fay Danielson: Level 3 Certified

A moment of silence was given to honor our Master Gardeners who have passed:

- Roger Pitet (2003)
- Jackie Bradshaw (2005)
- Joe LaRue (2006)
- Berta Morrison (2007)
- Bob Gough (2011)
- Vicki Thomas (2011)



These three were gifted with Extension sun hats in appreciation.

Then several of our past Program Coordinators came to celebrate and were recognized as well. These included:

- Ann Finley, *2002 Program Coordinator*
- John Levar, *2008 Program Coordinator*, and wife Nan
- Karen Lindeke & Ruth Sheller (now in her late 90s), *2004 Program Co-Coordinators*
- Ann Hillman, *2005–2014 Program Event Notification Coordinator*

Other honored guests:

- Dwayne Bondy, *Class of 2000*, was ZooMontana grounds keeper
- Rosemary Power, *Class of 2006*



Dandelions

by Elizabeth Waddington

Do you love sunflowers? Then you should embrace the pesky dandelions in your lawn since they are in the same family. Both are cheery yellow, can be used as accents in floral arrangements, especially if you have grandchildren picking the dandelions, and are attractive to pollinators for your garden and fruit trees. The family is *Asteraceae* (Asters/Sunflowers) and the Species is *Taraxacum officinale* (Common dandelion). The name (recorded from late Middle English) comes from French dent-de-lion, translation of medieval Latin dens lionis 'lion's tooth', because of the jagged shape of the leaves.

What is your tolerance level for these non-native plants, aka "weeds" in your yard? If you don't mind them, leave your dandelions to attract the pollinators who help with our neighborhood fruit and vegetable crops. You may have a good reason to not have them blooming for special events; I will be nipping off the yellow blooms when my toddler grandchildren come to visit, but otherwise leaving them until they go



artwork by Elizabeth Waddington



to seed (no, I don't want THAT many, thank you!)

But what can you do if your tolerance level is zero dandelions in your prized putting green turf? You can use a commercial weed and feed granular mixture in a drop or broadcast spreader when they are actively growing which will cover your entire lawn. You can spot treat with a weed killer that only targets broadleaf plants and will not harm the lawn (usually in a spray container with a nozzle). Or you can manually extract them with devices designed

to pry them up by the root. Note that you need the whole root in order to eradicate the plant and that is easiest after a heavy rain. The small blue and white digger is simple to use but takes skill to get deep enough to remove all of the root. The large red and silver "jumper" is like using a pogo stick on the dandelion. Or, as my husband asked, "What ARE you doing?" It does take a hunk of sod out with the weed so consider it to also be an aerating tool. You can always hire a commercial yard care company to maintain your lawn, but does that give you satisfaction?

RECIPE by Sheri Kisch

Chokecherry Syrup

Ingredients:

- 5 cups chokecherry juice
- 6 cups sugar
- 1 cup white corn syrup

Combine juice and syrup in a large pan and bring to a boil while stirring. Add the sugar and continue stirring to dissolve. Boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat, skim off any foam that has formed and pour into hot pint jars to within 1/2 inch.

Clean the rim and screw on hot lid and band to hand tight. Place in hot water canner and bring to a boil.



Reduce heat to a steady boil and process 15 minutes (or as to your elevation). Shut off heat, remove lid and let sit 5 minutes and then remove from canner. Let jars sit for 24 hours.

The biggest difference in whether you get jelly or syrup out of a recipe is the amount of water that is added to the juice (to make even cup amounts or straining the pulp again to get all the juice out).

Chokecherries have a lot of natural pectin. Pectin in fruit decreases as fruit ripens. It is good to pick 3/4 to 7/8 ripe, and 1/4 to 1/8 less ripe berries depending on whether you use dry pectin. It is not recommended to crush or grind the seeds in processing juice because they contain cyanide.

Billings Arbor Day Activity

by Elaine Allard

Again this year, Master Gardeners took an active part in the City of Billings Arbor Day activities. This year's event was held on May 2nd at Central Park.

Sharon Wetsch, Fay Danielson, Sue Weinreis, and Linda Brewer helped the City Arbor Day Committee with registration and a variety of other tasks. Charlie and Ron Hendricks helped all of us who arrived early and were scurrying to get canopies, tables, posters, and props for our educational booth set up before the fourth graders' 9 a.m. arrival.

Sheri Kisch and Sherry Doty presentations on pollinators and their importance to the environment captivated the students. With some help from the students, Merita Murdock and Elaine Allard mixed clay soil, potting mix, water, and native flowering plant seeds to form a 'cookie dough' consistency mixture. Mary Davis, Vonnice Bell, Rosemary Power, Debbi Werholz, and Bess Lovec helped the 175 students that rotated through our booth use the mixture to make their own 'seed bombs' and pack them into egg cartons. At noon, after having a very fast moving and enjoyable morning, it was time to pack up, have lunch and start thinking about next year's Arbor Day.



Seed Bombs to Create Habitat for Pollinators

Presented by Yellowstone County Master Gardeners

The seed bombs contain a mix of clay soil, potting mix, water, and flower seeds which bloom at different times. The flowers will attract pollinators (bees, bats, butterflies, moths, beetles, etc.) by providing them food (nectar) and a place to live. This will help to make a better environment for humans and many animals that depend on pollination for much of their food.

Directions

1. Leave the seed bombs in the egg carton in a cool dry place for a couple of days.
2. Throw or place the seed bombs in an area where the ground has been disturbed or in a flowerbed. The seed bombs do not need to be buried.
3. Hope for good rains or help them along with a little water.

Dr. Bob on Austrees

by Corry Mordeaux

Back in the early 2000s, Dr. Bob wrote numerous articles on gardening. I saved many of them and have sent to this newsletter now and then. He has been greatly missed since he passed. He was a really great teacher.

In this particular article, he writes about Austrees. He answers the question "What is an Austree and will it grow in Montana?" His answer was: "The Austree has been heavily promoted all over the country as a "tree for all reasons", according to advertisements. But it might not be for Montana. It's not a poplar as many think, but a hybrid willow (Salix matsudana x alba). According to the advertisement, it's a sterile

male hybrid clone developed by the New Zealand Dept. of Science and Industrial Research.

One of the parents, Salix Alba, the white willow, is hardy out of state but the other, Salix matsudana, is not and is not very ornamental. In general, willows are weak-wooded, shallow-rooted, not real drought-resistant, and short-lived.

The bottom line is we haven't tested them widely or for a long enough time under Montana conditions but probably will have problems if subjected to our normal winters and/or get little watering and other care. Read the advertisement: if something is just too good to be true, it probably is."



In 1995, I planted eight Austrees at my place in Huntley.

They were super fast growers and gave me the shade I was looking for on the south side of the new house. They are now 50-60 feet tall and do a fine job with providing shade. However, because they are weak-wooded, they are really messy with twigs falling everywhere along with gobs of small leaves in the fall. A few years ago we had some really strong winds which broke many limbs. If I had to do it again, I would have planted something different.

Plants From Retailers May Cause Bee Colony Collapse

by Lori Byron

Bee Colony Collapse was first recognized as a threat in 2006 when beekeepers noticed that large numbers of adult honeybees simply disappeared from their hives, frequently at the same time; they die elsewhere. The condition is still being studied but this much is definitely known: the European Food Safety Authority discovered in 2013 that three neonicotinoid class insecticides weakened the bees' immune system.



This was confirmed in two large studies in 2017 in Canada and the EU. This affects Western honeybees and others. In 2018, University of Texas discovered that glyphosate (Roundup) is another factor weakening immunity. The bees pick up these pesticides and return to the hives with it. Their immune system is weakened, they are more susceptible to mite parasites. The hives' mortality rates increase.

Bee keepers are losing many more bees each year than they usually do. As a stopgap measure, they are breeding more bees. Bees pollinate \$125 billion worth of crops in the US every year. The price of pollination has increased which affects food prices. It also affects beef and dairy, as hay and forage crops need pollinators. The state of Maryland and the European Union have banned these

neonicotinoids, and Costco has asked its suppliers to phase out their use. Many non-profits have called for a ban on this chemical but it is still legal in most of the US. EPA is currently studying the issue but results are not public yet.

Millions of pounds of neonicotinoids are used in the US each year, as a seed treatment for soy and as a pesticide, and are on many of our foods (potatoes, spinach, lettuce, cauliflower, and cherries have the highest amounts); they cannot be washed off. There are human health concerns also, largely neurotoxic effects, that are currently being studied. (https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/ohat/neonicotinoid/nachrs_protocol_508.pdf).

Plants sold at many stores contain this pesticide. Some stores require suppliers to label plants treated with neonicotinoids, some of which are sold as "bee friendly", yet they continue to sell the plants! In fact, half of commercial nursery plants contain these pesticides. Others do not list the treatments to the plants, so ask them!

Just another good reason to grow our own seedlings! If anyone finds local sellers that have 'clean' plants, please let us know!

Care of Young Trees

by Elizabeth Waddington

Did you plant a twig for Arbor Day in hopes of swinging in a hammock a few summers from now? The first five years of care are crucial for developing a healthy mature tree.

Year 1: Three days after planting, fill the watering basin three times using a total of 15–20 gallons of water. This initial watering is very important as roots are the most sensitive right after planting. For the next three weeks, fill the watering basin once a week with 5–10 gallons of water. For the next six months, fill it every week or every other week with 10–15 gallons of water. For the remainder of the first year, water every other week

with 10–15 gallons in the absence of soaking rain. Roots need oxygen just as much as they need water.

Year 2: In late spring, when rain is scarce (really?), begin watering every two to four weeks with 15–20 gallons of water. Deeper, less frequent watering will lead to resilient trees. Maintain the watering basin so it continues to hold water and spread it out to hold more water over time.

Years 3–5: Water at least once a month with 20–30 gallons of water.



Monthly soaking should maximize growth while conserving water. You may be able to set your irrigation timer for monthly watering. Experiment with decreasing frequency and increasing duration and coverage. Watch for signs of drought stress – are leaves wilting, yellowing, curling or browning at the edges? Lawn irrigation alone is not enough to develop and maintain strong tree roots.

Ongoing care: Protect your tree from weedwhackers or lawn mowers. If the cambium layer, just behind the tree bark is cut, the transport of water and nutrients to the rest of the tree can permanently be interrupted

continued on page 7

My Weeding Arsenal

by Suri Lunde

I don't like weeding, I dread it. It can be hard work, time-consuming and back-breaking. However, when you make a commitment to have a garden, you have to at least make it look decent. So you weed.

I prefer to spend my time enjoying rather than toiling in my garden, so I try to be as efficient as possible when I do this particular gardening chore. From experience, I have narrowed my arsenal of weeding tools to four items for the attack.

1. Hand Hoe

This is a very versatile gardening tool: it is lightweight, has a pointy edge and a flat edge. The flat edge slices through soil easily and cuts weeds at soil level while the pointy edge loosens the soil and helps lift weeds up for pulling. It is small enough to get in and around anything. The unique shape allows you to do a multitude of gardening tasks, from weeding to digging rows for planting



seeds. A hand hoe digs, scrapes, cultivates and cuts, and best of all, it looks like a lethal superhero weapon.

2. Soil Knife

An invaluable gardening tool, the soil knife is based on the design of the traditional Japanese hori hori knife. It has a serrated edge on one side and a sharp edge on the other side, and it's pointed at the end, shaped like a thin trowel. Dig down into the soil to pop out roots of the weed; stubborn weeds get cut off by the serrated side. It also comes with depth markers along the side to aid planting depth. Due to its design, this multipurpose tool can be used for not only for digging but also cutting roots, dividing, planting, and aeration.



3. Garden Pruner

An indispensable must-have gardening tool. Enough said.



4. Hula Hoe (a.k.a. Loop Hoe/Stirrup Hoe/Scuffle Hoe)

For a larger area infested with weeds, a hula hoe is the best tool for the job. Cutting in both backward and forward directions, the sharp blade skims below the surface and slices through the roots. If your soil is not too compacted, it also can be used as a cultivator. If you prefer to stand rather than be on your knees, the hula hoe has a version with a long handle.



I use these four tools because they are practical, effective, and suitable solutions for the type of soil and worrisome weeds I encounter in my flower beds. I am sure other gardeners have their own ideal weapon of choice like tine rake, cultivator, weed puller, etc. to help banish weeds. I suggest trying out a few and see which types empower your own weeding task.

BOOK REVIEW by Ann McKean

Buzz

Thor Hanson, a conservation biologist and author of *Feathers*, *The Impenetrable Forest*, and *The Triumph of Seeds*, leads us through the history of bees and reveals their fascinating evolution and their present plight with just enough science to make his writing informative yet approachable. While some of what we learn is alarming, this is not a book of gloom and doom, but a story which fills us with curiosity, hope and fresh motivation to make our world a better place by starting in our own back yard. His engaging writing propels us through natural history and into an uncertain future, and gently reminds us that life as we know it depends on the small creatures all around us that we take for granted.



CARE OF YOUNG TREES *continued from page 6*

and expose the tree needlessly to infection from pests and diseases. Better yet, keep the base of the tree free from weeds or grass which compete for water and nutrients. You can add mulch around young trees to suppress weeds, conserve moisture, and protect roots from drying out. Be wary of pesticides and herbicides which can burn or damage a young tree's roots and leaves. Prune with care as the cuts you make early on will affect the tree for its lifetime. Watch for signs of infection and remove damaged branches as well as any for maintaining the tree's natural shape.

Enjoy watching your tree mature from sapling to shade tree and provide a green spot in your yard, neighborhood, city, and planet Earth.

Information excerpted from Yellowstone Conservation District Arbor Day flyer.

Pollinators

by Ann McKean



As people become more aware of the vital role of pollinators in the web of life on planet earth, they want to know how they can help. There are many ways we can support pollinators from choosing food that is sustainably grown to planting a few plants in our garden. We don't have to overhaul our landscaping to make a difference.

Apart from some specialized native species, most pollinators are generalist feeders and are healthier with a varied diet just like people are. They also fare better if they don't have to travel too far to find it. The food that pollinators need comes in the form of pollen and nectar which are produced by flowers. Fortunately, we are hardwired to appreciate the beauty of flowers and therefore motivated to plant them wherever we can. When choosing plants for your garden and its pollinators, there are three key principles to keep in mind.

The first thing to consider is bloom time. Some birds, butterflies and bees are up and about with the first hint of spring. Monarch butterflies migrate north in spring and back south in fall. Migrating birds, especially hummingbirds, burn a lot of calories and need a constant and ready supply of food. Bumblebees are the first bees out in the spring and fly when temperatures are too cool for other bees. They can do this because they have evolved the ability to warm themselves by shivering in cold weather. Bumblebee queens are up as early as March preparing their nests for the season. Hungry honeybees venture out when the thermometer hits 57 degrees. Planting spring bulbs and early flowering trees and shrubs such as willows and maples brings early spring cheer for us and much needed forage for the bees. At the other end of the season, there are more migrating birds and bees still gathering food for the cold winter ahead. Late blooming flowers like *Solidago* (goldenrod), *Ericameria nauseosa* (rubber

rabbitbrush) and asters are three plants which bloom until the bitter end. Starting our succession of blooms early and progressing through until late season is a lovely pleasure for us and a lifesaver for our pollinators.

The second principle to follow when planting for pollinators is planting multiples of the same plant. Not only are plants easier to spot if there is a large group of the same thing, but it is also more energy efficient for pollinators to hop from one flower to the next in a patch of blooms rather than to have a few nibbles and then have to go looking again. Following this idea through on the community level, we can all consciously choose a few plants to include for pollinators. If everyone planted just a few pollinator plants, together we would create corridors for our pollinators that stretch across our town; how cool is that?

The third principle is avoiding chemicals. There is mounting evidence that herbicides and pesticides are dangerous for humans as well as pollinators. I know it's tempting to grab the chemicals for a quick fix (I'm certainly not throwing any stones here), but every little bit we can do to move toward a chemical-free garden is a step in the right direction.

In addition to stretching the bloom season with a variety of plants, planting in groups and following IPM principles, adding a water source to a garden that also has cover and places to raise young qualifies a garden as a wildlife habitat. If your garden meets these requirements, please register it with the National Wildlife Federation (<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife>). By doing this, not only will we help get Billings on the map as a Wildlife Habitat Community, we will also help raise public awareness that these simple but vital steps will help our pollinators survive in an increasingly challenging environment.

Useful Online Links



MASTER GARDENER

Yard and Garden MontGuides <https://store.msuextension.org/Departments/MontGuides-by-Category/AG/Yard-and-Garden.aspx>

Submission of Samples http://diagnostics.montana.edu/physical_sample_submission.html

Montana State Master Gardener Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MTMastergardener>

Yellowstone MG Newsletter Blog www.yellowstonemastergardenernewsletter.wordpress.com

Ask An Expert <https://www.msuextension.org/>

Yellowstone MG Newsletter Submissions ymastergardener@gmail.com

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ycmga>

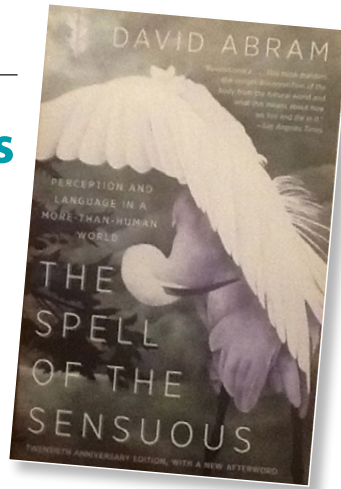
Website <http://www.ycmgamt.com/>

For information on the Association, Master Gardener projects and volunteer activities, calendar of upcoming events, minutes of past Board meetings, etc.

Amazon purchases: *By using the portal below, and then typing in Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association, 0.5% of purchases made through this portal will be donated to the Association. You can even have an app link to connect you instantly to the sign-in page. Please use this link when making Amazon purchases!* <https://smile.amazon.com/>

The Spell of the Sensuous

If you want a deep dive into a philosophical treatise of the environmental movement, no better place can be found than in *The Spell of the Sensuous* by David Abram. Even though written in 1996, his theories promote some basic justifications in our quest to get in touch with the Earth. Plus more recent editions contain an afterword by the same author.



His basic theory is that, since Sumerians switched letters from pictorial to pure symbolism, about 3,000 years ago, people have continued to become more and more disconnected from the physical world. Just realizing how many of us, with me included right now, spend hours viewing screens might help you to grasp the concept. The Greeks took written symbolism to great intensities so that thinking in and of itself can build huge constructs. Abram takes on heavyweight philosophers in his discourse, from Plato, Aquinas, Descartes, Einstein, and many I had never heard of. If you feel dizzy right now, well, so did I! I could only read this book in fits and starts in an effort to grasp its meanings.

Yet I really enjoyed it, and found his forays into many cultural beliefs from around the world fascinating. He often explores views of the cosmos from indigenous peoples, Judaism, and Christianity. Then he doubles back on how and why some groups of folks evolved in their beliefs.

being in the past and future, while oral traditions express being in the present. Implications of his observations range beyond my imagination.

He suggests that we observe interconnectedness of the biological world. Usually scientists examine one theory as true or false, whereas events may occur due to a multitude of factors; for example, certain bird sounds signal oncoming weather, or water levels indicate which insects will appear. Gladly the book does not present a world full of doom. Perhaps he speaks to us, Master Gardeners as well as environmentalists, the next generation, to anyone who will listen: “As their compassion for the land deepens, they choose to resist the contemporary tendency to move always elsewhere for a better job or more affluent lifestyle, and resolve instead to dedicate themselves to the terrain that has claimed them, to meet the generosity of the land with a kind of wild faithfulness.”

Beware that his notions might threaten previous beliefs you hold dear. For example, if you agree that humanity’s job is to dominate other species, due to superiority, well, consider what might evolve after a few millennia.

Along the way, I learned ample compelling trivia that implies we are not necessarily the only sophisticated species on this planet. Did you know that bees’ flight patterns communicate to other bees where food sources are? Consider that written language promotes

What’s in a Name?

by Donna Canino

One of the perks to breeding your own tomatoes is getting to name them. While most tomato names are self-explanatory like the German pink, black cherry, yellow pear and the Berkeley tie dye, there are some varieties that leave you wondering how it came by its name.

The “Arkansas Traveler”, a Polish tomato is rumored to have a seed sent on the back of a stamp. The “Brandywine” is named for the Amish farmers near the Brandywine creek in Chester County, PA. “Radiator Charlie’s Mortgage Lifter,” later shorten to “Mortgage Lifter” is perhaps the most notable tomato

with an interesting history.

In the 1940s, MC Byles of Logan, West Virginia, owned and operated a small repair shop with high traffic due to it being located at the bottom of a steep road. Byles started to sell his tomato seedlings, which he had been developing to be heavy producers with large fruits that could feed families, for \$1 each to all of the customers in need of repairs. Byles’ tomato seedlings became so popular he quickly sold enough to pay off his mortgage of \$6,000.

Tomatoes have a rich history, from being referred to as love apples



(thought to be an aphrodisiac) to being poisonous (it comes from the nightshade family). The tomato’s history has also seen this fruit classified as a vegetable so it could be taxed in 1883. Whatever its history is we are happy this beloved plant has found its way in to our gardens and on to our plates.

Share the Abundance

by Ann Guthals

If all the stars (including our sun) and the weather are aligned, we just may have lots of extra produce in our vegetable gardens this year. Several years ago, the Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association compiled a list of organizations in our community that will accept extra garden produce. Here is an updated version of that list in case you have extra to share.

Food Bank

The Billings Food Bank is more than happy to take any and all extra produce you may have. They are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed at noon but can be reached through their café) and have refrigeration.

In addition, they were maintaining their own vegetable garden at Oscar's Dreamland – that is now going to be a gravel pit! To replace this, the Food Bank is tearing down an old building at N. 16th and 3rd Ave. N. to make room for a new garden. They will welcome Master Gardener volunteers when they get this garden going, so check with the Food Bank periodically if you are interested in helping them with this new garden.

Adult Alliance Resource

This organization prepares food for Senior Citizen's Centers in Billings and for Meals on Wheels. They can accept garden produce (except sprouts) and have refrigeration. The office is located at 1505 Ave. D and they are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

Riverstone Health

Here is a description of the “second” Farmer's Market run by Riverstone Health:

The Healthy By Design Gardeners' Market is looking for vendors to sell their locally grown produce and eggs! There is no fee or long term commitment to vend at the market. Enjoy South Park while making extra money and meeting new people. To learn more visit www.hbdyc.org/market or call 406.651.6403. The Gardeners' Market runs



weekly, June 13 through October 3 (with the exception of July 4th), Thursdays, 4:30–6:30 p.m. at South Park. Contact: Maia Dickerson, *Prevention Health Specialist*

Master Gardeners have a booth at Healthy by Design and can gain volunteer hours by helping at the booth or they can drop off produce to sell at the booth.

Other Recipients

The YCMGA list from 2012 also listed the following organizations that accepted food at that time. This writer was unable to reach these organizations by phone, so please call them before assuming they still accept produce donations: Family Services, Salvation Army, Montana Rescue Mission, and Montana Women's and Family Shelter. There is a good chance these organizations still accept produce, so please check with them if they are groups you would like to support.

Also, there was an idea floated out a few years ago that neighborhoods where lots of residents garden could create their own mini-farmer's market where neighbors could meet to swap extra produce. If you live in such a neighborhood, please consider creating such an opportunity.

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