

NATURE, BEST QUOTES ON

When I look into the eyes of an animal, I do not see an animal. I see a living being. I see a friend. I feel a soul.

—A. D. Williams

Teach a child to play solitaire, and she'll be able to entertain herself when there's no one around. Teach her tennis, and she'll know what to do when she's on a court. But raise her to feel comfortable in nature, and the whole planet is her home.

--Joyce Maynard

One can get just as much exultation in losing oneself in a little thing as in a big one. It is nice to think how one can be recklessly lost in a daisy.

--Anne Morrow
Lindbergh

Think of the fierce energy concentrated in an acorn! You bury it in the ground, and it explodes into a giant oak! Bury a sheep, and nothing happens but decay!

--George Bernard Shaw

We have not inherited the Earth from our fathers—we are borrowing it from our children.

--Chief Seattle

The silence of the snowy aisles of the forest, the whirring flight of partridges, the impudent bark of squirrels, the quavering voices of owls and coons, the music of the winds in the high trees—all these impressions unite in my mind like parts of a woodland symphony.

--Hamlin Garland

There are many paths leading to a garden and many experiences awaiting those who venture in. No matter what your motive—whether to grow healthy, delicious food; spend time outdoors feeling more alive than your desk job allows; help save the planet; find relaxation, solace, or healing; meet your neighbors; get your hands in the sweet earth; or discover for yourself just how abundant and generous nature can be—a garden rarely disappoints. It's a magnet for life in all its quirky, beautiful forms.

—Jane Shellenberger

Whenever man comes up with a better mousetrap, nature immediately comes up with a better mouse.

—James Carswell

The way most people 'like animals' is very insulting to them. They look down upon them from the height of 'superior intelligence.' When I feel for a moment a 'superior being,' I remember the hawk's optic nerve and compare it with my own. Or I compare my powers of scent with those of the dog, or my nerve telegraphy with that of the cat, or my strength with that of almost any animal.

--Algernon S. Logan

God must have made some parts of creation for sheer fun—how else would you account for the kangaroo?

—G. K. Chesterton

I ask people why they have deer heads on their walls, and they say, 'Because it's such a beautiful animal.' There you go. Well, I think my mother's attractive, but I have photographs of her.

--Ellen DeGeneres

Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans.

—Jacques Yves Cousteau

Sunshine is a form of energy, and the winds and the tides are manifestations of energy. Do we use them? Oh, no; we burn up wood and coal, as renters burn up the front fence for fuel. We live like squatters, not as if we owned the property.

—Thomas Edison

When I was twelve, I went hunting with my father and we shot a bird. He was laying there and something struck me. Why do we call this fun to kill this creature who was as happy as I was when I woke up this morning.

—Marv Levy

Many eyes go through the meadow, but few see the flowers in it.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Earth laughs in flowers.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

A lawn is nature under totalitarian rule.

—Michael Pollan

Being a student at university, I can't afford adopting a pet from the shelter. Instead I buy plants nobody else wants from the store that are probably going to die and plant them on my terrace. Then I imagine they are happy to be alive and that makes me happy, too.

—Internet Meme

An astonishing number of birds were visible—chiefly wild duck, a few swans, and many waders—ibises, herons, spoonbills and others, but the most wonderful of all were three immensely tall white-and-rose-coloured birds, wading solemnly in a row a yard or so apart from one another some twenty yards out from the bank. I was amazed and enhanced at the sight, and my delight was intensified when the leading bird stood still and, raising his head and long neck aloft, opened and shook his wings. For the wings when open were of a glorious crimson color, and the bird was to me the most angel-like creature on earth.

—William Henry Hudson

Every rose on the little tree
 is making a different face at me.
Some look surprised when I go by;
 others droop as if they were shy...
Some have their heads thrown back to sing
 and all the buds are listening.
I wonder if the gardener knows,
 or if he calls each just a rose?

—Jamie Krause

You are made of the same minerals as the rocks--the same water as the sea. You grow in the sun. You breathe air cleansed by trees. When are you going to get the message that you're a part of Nature?

—Nancy S. Mure

One thinks of Charles Darwin as a cold scientist, but there was real passion there. He could stare for hours at an ant's nest, or a rose in a garden. In Wallerawang, he sat by himself, gazing at the dead platypus for hour after hour, thinking, 'It just doesn't make sense.' Why had God made the water rat for Europe and North America, and the platypus for Australia? It's terrifying, really.

—Chris Darwin

The true function of art is to...edit nature and so make it coherent and lovely. The artist is a sort of impassioned proofreader, blue-penciling the bad spelling of God.

--H. L. Mencken

Art reveals Nature's lack of design, her curious crudities, her absolutely unfinished condition. Nature has good intentions, but she cannot carry them out. Art is our gallant attempt to teach Nature her proper place.

--Oscar Wilde

Information overload is not the issue. If it were, you'd walk into the library and die. As soon as you connected to the Web, you'd just explode. In fact, the most information rich place in the world is the most relaxing: it's called nature. It has more varied horizons, more detail, more input of all sorts. As a matter of fact, if you want to go crazy, get rid of all your information: it's called sensory deprivation. The thing about nature is, it's information rich, but the meaningful things in nature are relatively few—berries, bears and snakes, thunderstorms, maybe poison oak.

--David Allen

If nothing else, school teaches that there is an answer to every question; only in the real world do young people discover that many aspects of life are uncertain, mysterious, and even unknowable. If you have a chance to play in nature, if you are sprayed by a beetle, if the color of a butterfly's wing comes off on your fingers, if you watch a caterpillar spin its cocoon-- you come away with a sense of mystery and uncertainty. The more you watch, the more mysterious the natural world becomes, and the more you realize how little you know. Along with its beauty, you may also come to experience its fecundity, its wastefulness, aggressiveness, ruthlessness, parasitism, and its violence. These qualities are not well-conveyed in textbooks.

—Michael Crichton

Over the sweet sea of flowers the butterflies go wavering on airy wings of white and gold, the bees hum in the Hollyhocks, and the hummingbirds glitter like jewels in the sun.

—Celia Thaxter

What a desolate place would be a world without flowers? It would be a face without a smile; a feast without a welcome.—Are not flowers the stars of the earth?—And are not our stars the flowers of heaven?

—A. J. Balfour

If God took time to create beauty, how can we be too busy to appreciate it?
—Randall B. Corbin

I wonder if anyone else has an ear so tuned and sharpened as I have, to detect the music, not of the spheres, but of earth, subtleties of major and minor chord that the wind strikes upon the tree branches. Have you ever heard the earth breathe?
—Kate Chopin

Call for the grandest of all earthly spectacles, what is that? It is the sun going to his rest.
—Thomas de Quincey

Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them.
--Bill Vaughan

There's nothing like a walk in the forest to clear my mind and get my spirit to calm down and slow down. Any time I get away from the masses of people and find a quiet, solitary spot in nature, be it in the middle of the desert, in the forest, on a beach, or even along a lonely country road, I feel myself being refreshed, revived, renewed. It's a wonderful feeling that I don't search out nearly enough.

—Tom Walsh

These little leaves are the stained windows in the cathedral of my world.
—Henry David Thoreau

We seldom see the bones of pain that hang beyond the green summer day. The woods and fields and gardens are places of endless stabbing, impaling, squashing and mangling. We see only what floats to the surface: the colour, the song, the nesting, and the feeding. I do not think we could bear a clear vision of the animal world.

--J. A. Baker

The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent upon it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do.

--Galileo Galilei

Measure your health by your sympathy with morning and Spring. If there is no response in you to the awakening of nature, if the prospect of an early morning walk does not banish sleep, if the warble of the first bluebird does not thrill you, know that the morning and spring of your life are past. Thus you may feel your pulse.

--Henry Thoreau

He who plants a tree, he plants love,
Tents of coolness spreading out above
Wayfarers he may not live to see.
Gifts that grow are best.

--Lucy Larcom

Nature does not complete things. She is chaotic. Man must finish, and he does so by making a garden and building a wall.

--Robert Frost

The sea lies all about us. The commerce of all lands must cross it. The very winds that move over the lands have been cradled on its broad expanse and seek ever to return to it. The continents themselves dissolve and pass to the sea, in grain after grain of eroded land. So the rains that rose from it return again in rivers. In its mysterious past it encompasses all the dim origins of life and receives in the end, after, it may be, many transmutations, the dead husks of that same life. For all at last returns to the sea—to Oceanus, the ocean river, like the ever-flowing stream of time, the beginning and the end.

--Rachel Louise Carson

God's little bird is free of work and care; it does not busy itself building a lasting nest, but makes do with a twig for its bed; at dawn it listens to God's voice, ruffles its feathers, and breaks forth into song.

--Aleksandr Sergeyevich
Pushkin

'Sail!' quoth the king; 'Hold!' saith the wind.

--English Proverb

Ancestral Sequoias grew here before the Sierra was uplifted. Today they look down upon the plains of men. No one has ever known a Sequoia to die a natural death. Neither insects nor fungi can corrupt them. Lightning may smite them at the crown and break it; no fire gets to the heart of them. They simply have no old age, and the only down trees are felled trees.

--Donald Culross Peattie

It seems so impossible to understand the emotional life of a bird. How, in the extreme terrors of its existence, can it sing so happily? There is no hint of fear in the song of any bird, nor does terror mar the beauty of its life. It seems able to live entirely in the moment, isolating its joys and fears.

--Clare Leighton

Flowers...have a mysterious and subtle influence upon the feelings, not unlike some strains of music. They relax the tenseness of the mind. They dissolve its rigor.

--Henry Ward Beecher

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.

--Ogden Nash

When I hear of the destruction of a species I feel as if all the works of some great writer had perished.

--Theodore Roosevelt

Flowers have an expression of countenance as much as men or animals. Some seem to smile; some have a sad expression; some are pensive and diffident; others again are plain, honest and upright, like the broad-faced sunflower and the hollyhock.

--Henry Ward Beecher

The animals prey upon each other because it is their nature to do so and because their lives depend upon it. Savages hunt because they must have food. We do not need to hunt, but, because of our higher intelligence, our hunting methods are far more destructive than are those of either animals or savages.

--Harold W. Fairbanks

The most alarming of all man's assaults upon the environment is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea...this pollution is for the most part irrecoverable.

--Rachel Carson

During a man's life only saplings can be grown, in the place of the old trees—tens of centuries old—that have been destroyed. It took more than three thousand years to make some of the trees in these Western woods—trees that are still standing in perfect strength and beauty, waving and singing in the mighty forests of the Sierra. Through all the wonderful, eventful centuries since Christ's time—and long before that—God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but He cannot save them from fools—only Uncle Sam can do that.

--John Muir

European countries...treat timber as a crop. We treat timber resources as if they were a mine.

--Franklin Delano
Roosevelt

He who plants an oak looks forward to future ages, and plants for posterity. Nothing can be less selfish than this. He cannot expect to sit in its shade nor enjoy its shelter; but he exults in the idea that the acorn which he has buried in the earth shall grow up into a lofty pile, and shall keep on flourishing and increasing, and benefiting mankind long after he shall have ceased to tread his paternal fields.

--Washington Irving

When a man wants to murder a tiger he calls it sport; when the tiger wants to murder him he calls it ferocity.

--George Bernard Shaw

When we were in the woods beyond Gowbarrow Park we saw a few daffodils close to the water-side. We fancied that the lake had floated the seeds ashore, and that the little colony had so sprung up. But as we went along there were more and yet more; and at last, under the boughs of the trees, we saw that there was a long belt of them along the shore, about the breadth of a country turnpike road. I never saw daffodils so beautiful. They grew among the mossy stones about and about them; some rested their heads upon these stones as on a pillow of weariness; and the rest tossed and reeled and danced, and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind, that blew upon them over the lake; they looked so gay, ever glancing, ever changing. This wind blew directly over the lake to them. There was here and there a little knot, and a few stragglers a few yards higher up; but they were so few as not to disturb the simplicity, unity, and life of that one busy highway.

—Dorothy Wordsworth

[Journal entry describing the episode that inspired her brother's poem, 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud.']

I WANDERED LONEY AS A CLOUD

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee:—

—William Wordsworth

Truly man is king of beasts for his brutality exceeds theirs.

--Leonardo da Vinci

The control man has secured over nature has far outrun his control over himself.

--Ernest Jones

Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed.

--Francis Bacon

Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species
—man—acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world.

--Rachel Carson

Nature never breaks her own laws.

--Leonardo da Vinci

The happiest man is he who learns from nature the lesson of worship.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.

--Stewart Udall

We declare henceforth that all animals shall enjoy these inalienable rights: The right to freedom from fear, pain and suffering—whether in the name of science or sport, fashion or food, exhibition or service. The right, if they are wild to roam free, unharried by hunters, trappers or slaughterers. If they are domestic, not to be abandoned in the city streets, by a country road, or in a cruel and inhumane pound. And finally the right, at the end, to a decent death—not (whether they are endangered or not) by a club, by a trap, by harpoon, cruel poison or man's extermination chamber. We have only one creed—to speak for those who can't.

--*The Fund for
Animals, Inc.*

I believe all animals were provided by God to help keep man alive.

--Iwao Fujita

Man is demolishing nature...We are killing things that keep us alive.

--Thor Heyerdahl

Government cannot close its eyes to the pollution of waters, to the erosion of soil, to the slashing of forests any more than it can close its eyes to the need for slum clearance and schools.

--Franklin Delano
Roosevelt

Such prosperity as we have known it up to the present is the consequence of rapidly spending the planets irreplaceable capital.

--Aldous Huxley

It is difficult to realize how great a part of all that is cheerful and delightful in the recollections of our own life is associated with trees.

--Wilson Flagg

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree...
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

--Joyce Kilmer

It is easy to say, 'It is only a poplar,' and so much harder to replace its living cone than to build a granite obelisk!

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

I hear the wind among the trees
Playing celestial symphonies;
I see the branches downward bent,
Like keys of some great instrument.

--Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

Can we conceive what humanity would be if it did not know the flowers?

--Maurice Maeterlinck

Man has done much for the animals; the animal kingdom has done a thousand times more for man. Let us not forget the debt.

--Richard C. Craven

To the great tree-loving fraternity we belong. We love trees with universal and unfeigned love, and all things that do grow under them or around them—the whole leaf and root tribe. Not alone when they are in their glory, but in whatever state they are—in leaf, or rimmed with frost, or powdered with snow, or crystal-sheathed in ice, or in severe outline stripped and bare against a November sky—we love them.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Living in the midst of abundance we have the greatest difficulty in seeing that the supply of natural wealth is limited and that the constant increase of population is destined to reduce the American standard of living unless we deal more sanely with our resources.

--W. H. Carothers

Let no one longer conceive the question of wildlife conservation to be limited to the interest of sportsmen and bird lovers. It is fundamentally economic in its major aspects and is a vital element in our existence, happiness and prosperity.

--Jay N. Darling

When you restore environment for wild life, you accomplish restoration of all the other important conservation elements: water conservation, soil conservation, forest and vegetable conservation, and every other type of resource.

--Jay N. Darling

Conservation does not mean the locking up of our resources, nor a hindrance to real progress in any direction. It means only wise, careful use.

--Mary Huston Gregory

Our wild-life resources are among our most valuable assets, and there can be no higher public duty than to aid in their preservation.

--Charles Lathrop Pack

We are beginning to realize that the conservation question is a question of right and wrong, as any question must be which may involve the difference between prosperity and poverty, health and sickness, ignorance and education, well-being and misery, to hundreds of thousands of families.

--Gifford Pinchot

When a man has pity on all living creatures then only is he noble.

--Buddha

Any interference with nature is damnable. Not only nature but also the people will suffer.

--Anahario

Never does nature say one thing and wisdom another.

--Juvenal

In wilderness is the preservation of the world.

--Henry David Thoreau

The magnificence of mountains, the serenity of nature—nothing is safe from the idiot marks of man's passing.

--Loudon Wainwright

Monotony is the law of nature. Look at the monotonous manner in which the sun rises. The monotony of necessary occupations is exhilarating and life-giving.

--Gandhi

Grass is the forgiveness of nature—her constant benediction. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal.

--Brian Ingalls

When the oak is felled the whole forest echoes with its fall, but a hundred acorns are sown in silence by an unnoticed breeze.

--Thomas Carlyle

Like a great poet, Nature is capable of producing the most stunning effects with the smallest means. Nature possessed only the sun, trees, flowers, water and love. But for him who feels no love in his heart, none of these things has any poetic value. To such an individual the sun has a diameter of a certain number of miles, the trees are good for making a fire, the flowers are divided into varieties, and water is wet.

--Heinrich Heine

The greatest joy in nature is the absence of man.

--Bliss Carman

When a man wantonly destroys a work of man we call him a vandal; when a man destroys one of the works of God, we call him a sportsman.

--Joseph Wood Krutch

Man is a complex being: he makes deserts bloom and lakes die.

--Gil Stern

The sea possesses a power over one's moods that has the effect of a will. The sea can hypnotize. Nature in general can do so.

--Henrik Ibsen

Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean—roll!
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain;
Man marks the earth with ruin—his control
Stops with the shore.

--Lord Byron

Today there breathes no man who can master more than a little portion of the plant world....Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, in his prime, could recognize on sight ten thousand species, because he had collected and identified everywhere....A fair-to-middling student is glad to recognize on sight two thousand kinds of plants, and he easily goes rusty without constant practice.

--McDonald Culross
Peattie

A man who never sees a bluebird only half lives.

--Lewis Gannett

How anyone can profess to find animal life interesting and yet take delight in reducing the wonder of any animal to a bloody mass of fur or feathers is beyond my comprehension.

--Joseph Wood Krutch

When I touch that flower, I am not merely touching that flower. I am touching infinity. That little flower existed long before there were human beings on this earth. It will contrive to exist for thousands, yes, millions of years to come.

--George Washington
Carver

A forest is more than an area covered by trees. In many ways, it is like a city—nature's city—constructed and peopled with trees, birds, insects, shrubs, mammals, herbs, snails, ferns, spiders, fungi, mosses, mites, bacteria, and a myriad of other living forms.

--Jack McCormick

In a world that seems so very puzzling is it any wonder birds have such appeal? Birds are, perhaps, the most eloquent expression of reality.

--Roger Tory Peterson

To assume that every wild beast and bird is a sacred creature, peacefully dwelling in an earthly paradise, is a mistake. They have their wisdom and their folly, their joys and their sorrows, their trials and tribulations.

--William Temple
Hornaday

The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too.

--Samuel Butler

The woes and worries of mankind are enough to make millions of good people wish that they could take to the woods, and live peacefully among wild animals that respect the rights of the weak and helpless, never quarrel over territory, and do not manufacture nor distribute aerial bombs or poison gas. The more we study the minds and manners of wild animals...the more do we see by contrast to admire.

--William Temple
Hornaday

Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.
--George Eliot

I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines.

--Henry David Thoreau

Nothing more beautiful under the sun than to be under the sun.

--Ingeborg Bachman

Did you ever take pencil and book to scribe down the sounds the wind makes as it sifts and sighs through trees? Each kind of tree is a sort of musical instrument: the apple a cello, the old oak a bass viol, the cypress a harp, the willow a flute, the young pine a muted violin. Put your ear close to the whispering branch and you may catch what it is saying.

--Guy Murchie, Jr.

The sun, moon and stars would have disappeared long ago had they been within the reach of predatory human hands.

--Havelock Ellis

Man is endowed with reason and creative force to increase what has been given him; but hitherto he has not created but destroyed. There are fewer and fewer forests, the rivers are drying up, the wild creatures are becoming extinct, the climate is ruined, and every day the earth is growing poorer and more hideous.

--Anton Chekhov

The opportunity to see wild geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

--Aldo Leopold

I go to Nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more.

--John Burroughs

I laughed, as a child, when I was told of a Hindu sage who had the road swept in front of him lest, inadvertently, he should destroy the life crawling there. But I never see the quick-legged caterpillar going about his business across the garden-walk without remembering that long-dead Buddhist priest.

--Ernest Dimnet

I want to go fishing! somewhere
on a stream
I want to give way to the longing
to a dream.
Away from the tumult of motor and mill
I want to be care-free; I want to be
still!
I'm weary of doing things; weary of
words.
I want to one with the blossoms
and birds.

--Edgar A. Guest

It is just like man's vanity and impertinence to call an animal dumb because it is dumb to his dull perceptions.

--Mark Twain

In the country sometimes I go about looking at horses and cattle. They eat grass, make love, work when they have to, bear their young. I am sick with envy of them.

--Sherwood Anderson

There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before.

--Robert Lynd

Were a miracle to produce in our woods some astounding orchid, a thousand hands would stretch out to tear it up, to destroy it. If the bluebird happens to fly past, every gun is sighted; and then people are amazed that it is rare!

--Andre Gide

The earth is a Paradise, the only one we will ever know. We will realize it the moment we open our eyes. We don't have to make it a Paradise—it is one. We have only to make ourselves fit to inhabit it.

--Henry Miller

Flowers are restful to look at. They have neither emotions nor conflicts.

--Sigmund Freud

The love of nature is a passion for those in whom it once lodges. It can never be quenched. It cannot change. It is a furious, burning, physical greed, as well as a state of mystical exaltation. It will have its own.

--Mary Webb

There is undoubtedly a deep affinity, probably both psychic and chemical, between every individual human being and some particular type of landscape. It is well to find out as soon as possible what kind this is; and then to get as much of it as you can.

--John Cooper Powys

Nature is an excellent sedative. It pacifies, i.e., makes a man carefree. And being carefree is of the essence in this world.

--Anton Chekhov

There is nothing human in nature. The earth, though loved so dearly, would let me perish on the ground, and neither bring forth food nor water. Burning in the sky the great sun, of whose company I have been so fond, would merely burn on and make no motion to assist me.

--Richard Jefferies

The earth we abuse and the living things we kill will, in the end, take their revenge; for in exploiting their presence we are diminishing our future.

--Marya Mannes

The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

Everything is perfect coming from the hands of the Creator; everything degenerates in the hands of man.

--Jean-Jacques Rousseau

America today stands poised on a pinnacle of wealth and power, yet we live in a land of vanishing beauty, of increasing ugliness, of shrinking open space, and of an over-all environment that is diminished daily by pollution and noise and blight.

--Stewart L. Udall

Nature is rarely allowed to enter the sacred portals of civilized society.

--Hendrik Willem Van
Loon

Those who wish to pet and baby wild animals, 'love' them. But those who respect their natures and wish to let them live normal lives, love them more.

--Edwin Way Teale

He who plants trees loves others beside himself.

--Thomas Fuller

Trees are your best antiques.

--Alexander Smith

I will be the gladdest thing under the sun!
I will touch a hundred flowers and not pick one.

--Edna St. Vincent Millay

The flower is the poetry of reproduction.

--Jean Giraudoux

The creatures that want to live a life of their own, we call wild. If wild, then no matter how harmless, we treat them as outlaws, and those of us who are specially well brought up shoot them for fun.

--Clarence Day

Man is wise and constantly in quest of more wisdom; but the ultimate wisdom, which deals with beginnings, remains locked in a seed. There it lies, the simplest fact of the universe and at the same time the one which calls forth faith rather than reason.

--Hal Borland

Man masters nature not by force but by understanding.

--Jacob Bronowski

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and Music in its roar:
I love not Man the less, but Nature more.

—Lord Byron

Nature is the art of God.

--Dante Alighieri

We talk of our mastery of nature, which sounds very grand; but the fact is we respectfully adapt ourselves, first, to her ways.

--Clarence Day

How cunningly nature hides every wrinkle of her inconceivable antiquity under roses and violets and morning dew!

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The natural world is dynamic. From the expanding universe to the hair on a baby's head, nothing is the same from now to the next moment.

--Helen Hoover

Nature, in her blind thirst for life, has filled every possible cranny of the rotting earth with some sort of fantastic creature.

--Joseph Wood Krutch

Nature, in her most dazzling aspects or stupendous parts, is but the background and theatre of the tragedy of man.

--John Morley

The day, water, sun, moon, night—I do not have to purchase these things with money.

--Plautus

Nature cares nothing for logic, our human logic; she has her own, which we do not recognize and do not acknowledge until we are crushed under its wheel.

--Ivan Turgenev

Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her.

--William Wordsworth

Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher.

--William Wordsworth

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn.

--John Muir

To enjoy scenery you should ramble amidst it; let the feelings to which it gives rise mingle with other thoughts; look round upon it in intervals of reading; and not go to it as one goes to see the lions fed at a fair. The beautiful is not to be stared at, but to be lived with.

--Thomas Babington
Macaulay

Nature is the most thrifty thing in the world; she never wastes anything; she undergoes change, but there's no annihilation, the essence remains—matter is eternal.

--Horace Binney

The peace of the forest pervades me; from its revered trees, buried in the shadows, I learn a patience unknown to mankind, and my soothed heart lives on in hope and oblivion.

--Victor de Laprade

Nature has no more care or praise for human souls than for the ants.

--Giacomo Leopardi

Nature has given the chance of happiness to all, if only they knew how to use it!

--Claudian

And the sea calmed down, just as a foaming urn subsides when the hearth cools, and withdrew its waves still smoking from the shore, as if to drop off to sleep, taking once again to its great bed.

--Alphonse de Lamartine

The sea is not like a thing or a mountain. It is a living person whom I love; who speaks to me and to whom I speak. It has feelings, passions, and knows how to laugh and to get angry. Sometimes it does not love me; it does not love anyone.

--J. M. G. Le Clezio

You will find something more in woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters.

--St. Bernard

These trees shall be my books.

--William Shakespeare

The animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.

--Henry Beston

The whole secret of the study of nature lies in learning how to use one's eyes.

--George Sand

You must not know too much, or be too precise or scientific about birds and trees and flowers and watercraft; a certain free margin, and even vagueness—perhaps ignorance, credulity—helps your enjoyment of these things.

--Walt Whitman

In God's wildness lies the hope of the world—the great fresh unblighted, unredeemed wilderness.

--John Muir

To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

--Theodore Roosevelt

How many times it thundered before Franklin took the hint! How many apples fell on Newton's head before he took the hint! Nature is always hinting at us. It hints over and over again. And suddenly we take the hint.

--Robert Frost

Nothing which we can imagine about Nature is incredible.

--Pliny the Elder

Let us permit nature to have her way: she understands her business better than we do.

--Michel de Montaigne

Never does nature say one thing and wisdom another.

--Juvenal

He that plants trees loves others besides himself.

--Thomas Fuller

The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.

--Theodore Roosevelt

The course of Nature is the art of God.

--Edward Young

No one in this world needs a mink coat but a mink.

-- Murray Banks

Pleasure for an hour, a bottle of wine; pleasure for a year, marriage; pleasure for a lifetime, a garden.

--Chinese Saying

The human landscape of the New World shows a conquest of nature by an intelligence that does not love it.

--Northrop Frye

Nature is God's art.

--P. J. Bailey

Nature does nothing in vain.

--Sir Thomas Browne

The soft south-wind, the flowers amid the grass,
The fragrant earth, the sweet sounds everywhere,
Seemed gifts too great almost for man to bear.

--William Morris

Nature seems unspeakably grand, when, plunged in a long reverie, one hears the rippling of the waters upon a solitary strand, in the calm of a night still enkindled and luminous with the setting moon.

--Etienne Pivart
de Senancour

The house is a prison, the schoolroom's a cell;
Leave study and books for the upland and dell.

--Joseph H. Green

Nature has always had more power than education.

--Voltaire

Nature is the glass reflecting God.

-- Brigham Young

It seems to me that the earth may be borrowed but not bought. It may be used, but not owned. It gives itself in response to love and tending, offers its seasonal flowering and fruiting. But we are tenants and not possessors, lovers and not masters.

--Marjorie Kinnan
Rawlings

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong we may begin to use it with love and respect.

--Aldo Leopold

Nature is neutral. Man has wrested from nature the power to make the world a desert or make deserts bloom. There is no evil in the atom: only in men's souls.

--Adlai Stevenson

To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment.

--Jane Austen

Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar.

--Bradley Miller

The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

--Gandhi

It is not true that equality is a law of nature. Nature knows no equality. Its sovereign law is subordination and dependence.

--Marquis de luc
de Vauvenargues

It is unfair to blame man too fiercely for being pugnacious; he learned the habit from Nature.

--Christopher Morley

A sportsman is a man who, every now and then, simply has to get out and kill something. Not that he's cruel. He wouldn't hurt a fly. It's not big enough.

--Stephen Leacock

The sea possesses a power over one's moods that has the effect of a will. The sea can hypnotize. Nature in general can do so.

--Henrik Ibsen

There is something haunting in the light of the moon; it has all the dispassionate-ness of a disembodied soul, and something of its inconceivable mystery.

--Joseph Conrad

In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments—there are consequences.

--Robert G. Ingersoll

Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people.

--Carl Sagan

The universe is like a safe to which there is a combination, but the combination is locked up in the safe.

--Peter de Vries

By nature's kindly disposition, most questions which it is beyond man's power to answer do not occur to him at all.

--George Santayana

The bluebird carries the sky on his back.

--Henry David Thoreau

Nature is the greatest show on earth.

--Unknown

The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life.

--Theodore Roosevelt

There can be no double standard. We cannot have peace among men whose hearts find delight in killing any living creature.

--Rachel Carson

I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we only will tune in.

--George Washington
Carver

All my life through, the new sights of Nature made me rejoice like a child.

--Marie Curie

Whether man is disposed to yield to nature or to oppose her, he cannot do without a correct understanding of her language.

--Jean Rostand

Which of us is not sometimes affected, almost to despair, by the splendid vision of earth and sky?

--John Keble

Nature seems unspeakably grand, when, plunged in a long reverie, one hears the rippling of the waters upon a solitary strand, in the calm of a night still enkindled and luminous with the setting moon.

--Etienne Pivart de
Senancour

One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.

--William Wordsworth

There is, one knows not what sweet mystery about this sea, whose gently awful stirrings seem to speak of some hidden soul beneath.

--Herman Melville

Nature is merciful and does not try her children, beyond their compass. It is only when the cruelty of man intervenes that hellish torments appear.

--Winston Churchill

It is a wholesome and necessary thing for us to turn again to the earth and in the contemplation of her beauties to know the sense of wonder and humility.

--Rachel Carson

To me the outdoors is what you must pass through in order to get from your apartment into a taxicab.

--Fran Lebowitz

In every outthrust headland, in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is a story of the earth.

--Rachel Carson

I suspect that the child plucks its first flower with an insight into its beauty and significance which the subsequent botanist never retains.

--Henry David Thoreau

Snow. Fire. Waves: the three great hypnotizers. I can sit in front of a window of falling snow for hours, just watching, or before the restless flames in the fireplace. Perhaps it is the incessant movement of each, or the deceptive domesticity beyond which, biding its time, waits danger.

--Linda Pastan

The insufferable arrogance of human beings to think that Nature was made solely for their benefit, as if it was conceivable that the sun had been set afire merely to ripen men's apples and head their cabbages.

--Cyrano de Bergerac

If dolphins tasted good, we wouldn't even know about their language.

—Lorrie Moore

Oh, the wild joy of living! the leaping from rock to rock,
The strong rending of boughs from the fir-tree, the cool silver shock
Of the plunge in a pool's living water.

--Robert Browning

It is one of the secrets of Nature in its mood of mockery that fine weather lays heavier weight on the mind and hearts of the depressed and the inwardly tormented than does a really bad day with dark rain sniveling continuously and sympathetically from a dirty sky.

--Muriel Spark

Mutual aid is as much the law of animal life as mutual struggle.

--Peter Kropotkin

No town can fail of beauty, though its walks were gutters and its houses hovels, if venerable trees make magnificent colonnades along its streets.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Why are there trees I never walk under
But large and melodious thoughts descend upon me?

--Walt Whitman

The forest is the poor man's overcoat.

--New England Proverb

The planting of trees is the least self-centered of all that we do. It is a purer act of faith than the procreation of children.

--Thornton Wilder

The whole visible world is only an imperceptible atom in the ample bosom of nature. No idea approaches it.

--Blaise Pascal

Perennials are the ones that grow like weeds, biennials are the ones that die this year instead of next and hardy annuals are the ones that never come up at all.

--Katharine Whitehorn

Did God who gave us flowers and trees,
Also provide the allergies?

--E. Y. Harburg

The fact of killing animals is not as frightening as our human tendency to justify it—to kill and not even be aware that we are taking life. It is sobering to realize that when you misuse one of the least of Nature's creatures, like the chicken, you are sowing the seeds for misusing the highest of Nature's creatures, man.

--Dick Gregory

No life can be barren which hears the whisper of the wind in the branches, or the voice of the sea as it breaks upon the shore; and no soul can lack happiness looking up to the midnight stars.

--William Winter

There are times when minds need to turn to simple things....We might do well to stay home a few days and walk over the fields, or to stand in the shelter of the barn door and reflect upon the relentless and yet benevolent forces of Mother Nature. The laws of nature are relentless. They can never be disobeyed without exacting a penalty. Yet they are benevolent, for when they are understood and obeyed, nature yields up the abundance that blesses those who understand and obey.

--Wheeler McMillen

'Nature' will not longer do the work unaided. Nature—if by that we mean blind and non-conscious forces—has, marvelously, produced man and consciousness; they must carry on the task to new results which she alone can never reach.

--Julian Huxley

The fellowship of country roads is a goodly one, and in that fellowship one can find lifelong comrades, passing acquaintances, and a wisdom that can be gained, perhaps, in no other way. It is the wisdom of fields and woods, compounded by the observing eye and the understanding heart; and it is a wisdom that does not grow old, that lasts until a man's hiking days are done, and then it brightens many a fireside hour.

--Arthur Wallace Peach

We cannot command nature except by obeying her.

--Francis Bacon

An apple tree in bloom puts to shame all the men and women that have attempted to dress since the world began.

--Henry Ward Beecher

If the Middle Ages had exploited the earth's surface as we are doing, we probably wouldn't be on it now.

--Jakob Burckhardt

All of our ideas come from the natural world: trees equal umbrellas.

--Wallace Stevens

Man begins where nature ends; nature and man can never be friends.

--Thomas Hardy

Nature is an infinite sphere whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.

--Pascal

Snowflakes would be lovely if they weren't so shovely.

--Unknown

Nothing in nature is more beautiful than a single snowflake, and nothing in nature is more rare.

--Unknown

Here in the United States we turn our rivers and streams into sewers and dumping grounds, we pollute the air, we destroy forests, and exterminate fishes, birds, and mammals—not to speak of vulgarizing charming landscapes with hideous advertisements. But at last it looks as if our people were awakening. Many leading men, Americans and Canadians, are doing all they can for the Conservation movement.

--Theodore Roosevelt

In the last few decades entire new categories of waste have come to plague and menace the American scene....Pollution is growing at a rapid rate....Pollution destroys beauty and menaces health. It cuts down on efficiency, reduces property values and raises taxes....Almost all these wastes and pollutions are the result of activities carried on for the benefit of man. A prime national goal must be an environment that is pleasing to the senses and healthy to live in. Our Government is already doing much in this field. We have made significant progress. But more must be done.

--Lyndon B. Johnson

God has lent us the earth for our life; it is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us, and whose names are already written in the book of creation, as to us; and we have no right, by anything that we do or neglect, to involve them in unnecessary penalties, or deprive them of benefits which it was in our power to bequeath.

--John Ruskin

A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

I have seen the sea lashed into fury and tossed into spray, and its grandeur moves the soul of the dullest man; but I remember that it is not the billows, but the calm level of the sea from which all heights and depths are measured.

--James A. Garfield

Nature has never read the *Declaration of Independence*. It continues to make us unequal.

--Will Durant

What a great irony it would be if, in our frantic efforts to kill insects, we eliminated man and made the world safe for bugs.

--Gaylord Nelson

Nature is what she is—amoral and persistent.

--Stephen Jay Gould

We call them dumb animals, and so they are, for they cannot tell us how they feel, but they do not suffer less because they have no words.

--Anna Sewell

The only really 'soulful' eyes in the world belong to the dog or cat who sits on your lap or at your feet commiserating when you cry.

--Liz Smith

Nightingale—Sweet poet of the woods.

--Charlotte Smith

Over increasingly large areas of the United States, spring now comes unheralded by the return of the birds, and the early mornings are strangely silent where once they were filled with the beauty of bird song.

--Rachel Carson

Few wild animals—regardless of species—ever live out their full life-spans; a violent death almost always intervenes.

--Allan W. Eckert

Since we humans have the better brain, isn't it our responsibility to protect our fellow creatures from, oddly enough, ourselves?

--Joy Adamson

The sea can swallow ships, and it can spit out whales upon the beach like watermelon seeds. It will take what it wants, and it will keep what it has taken, and you may not take away from it what it does not wish to give.

--Natalie Babbitt

Those who dwell...among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.

--Rachel Carson

The boughs of no two trees ever have the same arrangement. nature always produces individuals; She never produces classes.

--Lydia Maria Child

As a babe...I was warmed by the sun, rocked by the winds, and sheltered by the trees.

--Geronimo

A flower touches everyone's heart.

--Georgia O'Keeffe

To me the sea is a continual miracle,
The fishes that swim—the rocks, the motion of the waves—the ships with men in them,
What stranger miracles are there?

--Walt Whitman

We live in an environment whose principal product is garbage.

--Russell Baker

For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is now subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals, from the moment of conception until death.

--Rachel Carson

We have been massively intervening in the environment without being aware of many of the harmful consequences of our acts....We are, in effect, conducting a huge experiment on ourselves.

--Barry Commoner

None of us can do all the things that will save the planet, but each of us can do some of them, and all of that will add up and be better than nothing.

--Paula Danziger

As a people we have developed a life-style that is draining the earth of its priceless and irreplaceable resources without any regard for the future.

--Margaret Mead

Industrial vomit...fills our skies and seas.

--Alvin Toffler

You never conquer a mountain. You stand on the summit a few moments; then the wind blows your footprints away.

--Arlene Blum

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

--Shakespeare

We still do not know one-thousandth of one percent of what nature has revealed to us.

--Albert Einstein

I think this is what hooks one on gardening: it is the closest one can come to being present at creation.

--Phyllis Theroux

All my hurts
My garden spade can heal.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Yes, in the poor man's garden grow
Far more than herbs and flowers—
Kind thoughts, contentment, peace of mind,
And joy for weary hours.

--Mary Howitt

To dig one's own spade into one's one earth! Has life anything better to offer than this?

--Beverley Nichols

Every flower about a house certifies to the refinement of somebody. Every vine climbing and blossoming tells of love and joy.

--Robert G. Ingersoll

A morning-glory at my window satisfies me more than the metaphysics of books.

--Walt Whitman

I know that if odour were visible, as colour is, I'd see the summer garden in rainbow clouds.

--Robert Bridges

One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides.

--W. E. Johns

Each spring...a gardening instinct, sure as the sap rising in the trees, stirs within us. We look about and decide to tame another little bit of ground.

--Lewis Gannett

Life begins the day you start a garden.

--Chinese Proverb

One plant in a tin can may be a more helpful and inspiring garden to some mind than a whole acre of lawn and flowers may be to another.

--Liberty Hyde Bailey

Gardens are our link with the divine.

--William Howard Adams

I love old gardens best—
tired old gardens
that rest in the sun.

--Henry Bellaman

It is good to be alone in a garden at dawn or dark so that all its shy presences may haunt you and possess you in a reverie of suspended thought.

--James Douglas

When I walk out of my house into my garden I walk out of my habitual self, my every-day thoughts, my customariness of joy or sorrow by which I recognize and assure myself of my own identity. These leave behind me for a time, as the bather leaves his garments on the beach.

--Alexander Smith

I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden.

--John Erskine

The greatest gift of a garden is the restoration of the five senses.

--Hanna Rion

I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.

--Claude Monet

The scents of plants are like unseen ghosts. They sneak upon you as you round a turn in the garden, before you can see the plants from which they came.

--Barbara Damrosch

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

All through the winter I dream of my garden. On the first warm day of spring I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirits soar.

--Helen Hayes

Daffodils,
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty.

--William Shakespeare

Last night, there came a frost, which has done great damage to my garden....It is sad that Nature will play such tricks with us poor mortals, inviting us with sunny smiles to confide in her, and then, when we are entirely within her power, striking us to the heart.

--Nathaniel Hawthorne

Is there a joy except gardening that asks so much, and gives so much? I know of no other except, perhaps, the writing of a poem. They are much alike, even in the amount of waste that has to be accepted for the sake of the rare, chancy joy when all goes well.

--May Saxton

I am fully and intensely aware that plants are conscious of love and respond to it as they do to nothing else.

—Celia Thaxter

To analyze the charms of flowers is like dissecting music; it is one of those things which it is better to enjoy than to attempt to understand.

—Henry Tuckerman

Show me your garden, provided it be your own, and I will tell you what you are like. It is in middle life that the finishing touches should be put to it; and then, after that, it should remain more or less in the same condition, like oneself, growing more deep of shade, and more protected from the winds.

—Alfred Austin

Let me be dress'd fine as I will,
Flies, worms, and flowers, exceed me still.

--Isaac Watt

Neither the cry of great, green fields, nor the song of the hills, nor the glory of young birch trees bursting into life again could have surpassed the wordless and poignant glory of a single tree in a city street that Spring.

—Thomas Wolfe

Nature with her wonders blinds and binds one still. There is no escape. I love her utterly through all time and times. All over the world towns to me are prison; green fields are home.

--Marion Dudley Cran

The breath of flowers is far sweeter in the air (where it comes and goes like the warbling of music) than in the hand.

—Francis Bacon

Wonder springs from tiny seeds,
Beauty from the thorn.
So many lovely mysteries
are in a garden born.

--Unknown

The amen of Nature is always a flower.

--Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Sr.

If you would be happy all your life, plant a garden.

--Chinese Proverb

The flowers are nature's jewels, with whose wealth she decks her summer beauty.

—George Croly

To cultivate a garden is to walk with God.

--Christian Nestell Bovee

Flowers are love's truest language.

—Park Benjamin

I have had more than half a century of such happiness.
A great deal of worry and sorrow, too, but never
a worry or a sorrow that was not offset by a purple iris,
a lark, a bluebird, or a dewy morning glory.

—Mary McLeod Bethune

There is no quiet place in [your] cities, no place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insects' wings. . . . The Indians prefer the soft sound of the wind darting over the face of the pond, the smell of the wind itself cleansed by a midday rain, or scented with piñon pine. The air is precious to the Indian, for all things share the same breath—the animals, the trees, the human. Like a person who has been dying many days, a person in your city is numb to the stench.

—Chief Seattle

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

—Wendell Berry

We ought for our own good to have access to nature and knowledge of it. To my mind, it is monstrous that any child should grow up without some acquaintance with nature, and above all I would say without an opportunity for intimate knowledge of some individual plants and animals.

—J. B. S. Haldane

Contemplate the workings of this world. Study how water flows in a valley stream, smoothly and freely between the rocks. Everything--even mountains, rivers, plants and trees--should be your teacher.

—Morihei Ueshiba

Spend time in a flower garden. Stay there as long as you wish, but make sure your visit is long enough to take in the various charms that the world of blossoms and petals provides. You can sit in a chair or on the grass, lie down looking up at the flowers from below, or walk around. However you choose to spend your time, be aware that you are a guest in someone else's home—nature's—so act accordingly.

If the day is warm and sunny, savor the rays and imagine how the flowers must feel at this very moment. Look closely at the variety of blooms, at the different shapes and colors, at the way the individual blossoms grow out of their leafy sheaths. Now use your sense of smell to take in the stunning array of fragrance, all of which can be divinely overpowering.

Keep an eye out for the various animal life that also lives in the garden, the birds and squirrels, the insects that fly, the ones that crawl. Notice how intently they go about their business, how they move from place to place trying not to notice you but in fact finding that task difficult. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds of the garden, the chirping and humming, and the movement of the stems and leaves in the mild breeze.

Now see if you can transcend your individual senses and feel the presence of the garden inside you. Try to become just another flower, at home in the garden as if you were in your own house or place of worship.

—Alan Epstein

There is no trifling with nature; it is always true, dignified, and just; it is always in the right, and the faults and errors belong to us. Nature defies incompetence, but reveals its secrets to the competent, the truthful, and the pure

—Johann Wolfgang
von Goethe

If you truly love Nature, you will find beauty everywhere.

--Vincent Van Gogh

The most beautiful things in the world are the most useless; peacocks and lilies, for example.

--John Ruskin

I loved the rain as a child. I loved the sound of it on the leaves of trees and roofs and window panes and umbrellas and the feel of it on my face and bare legs. I loved the hiss of rubber tires on rainy streets and the flip-flop of windshield wipers. I loved the smell of wet grass and raincoats and the shaggy coats of dogs. A rainy day was a special day for me in a sense that no other kind of day was--a day when the ordinariness of things was suspended with ragged skies drifting to the color of pearl and dark streets turning to dark rivers of reflected light and even people transformed somehow as the rain drew them closer by giving them something to think about together, to take common shelter from, to complain of and joke about in ways that made them more like friends than it seemed to me they were on ordinary sunny days. But more than anything, I think, I loved rain for the power it had to make indoors seem snuggler and safer and a place to find refuge in from everything outdoors that was un-home, unsafe. I loved rain for making home seem home more deeply.

—Frederick Buechner

Go outside, to the fields, enjoy nature and the sunshine,
go out and try to recapture happiness in yourself and in God.
Think of all the beauty that's still left in and around you and be happy!

--Anne Frank

Believe one who has tried, you shall find a fuller satisfaction in the woods than in the books. The trees and the rocks will teach you that which you cannot hear from the masters.

—St. Bernard of
Clairvaux

Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own; and from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, is a succession of changes so gentle and easy we can scarcely mark their progress.

—Charles Dickens

I do not know when it was, nor where it was, nor how young I may have been, but I can recall...a sudden feeling of happiness at hearing the voice of the pines.

—Frank Bolles

The charm of a woodland road lies not only in its beauty but in anticipation. Around each bend may be a discovery, an adventure.

--Dale Rex Coman

Happiness held is the seed; happiness shared is the flower.

--John Harrigan

If I could put my words in song and tell what's there enjoyed, all men would to my gardens throng, and leave the cities void.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

What was paradise but a garden, an orchard of trees and herbs, full of pleasure, and nothing there but delights.

—William Lawson

We had the sky, up there, all speckled with stars, and we used to lay on our backs and look up at them, and discuss about whether they was made, or only just happened.

--Mark Twain

What greater delight is there than to behold the earth apparelled with plants as with a robe of embroidered works, set with Orient pearls and garnished with the great diversitie of rare and costly jewels. But these delights are in the outward senses. The principle delight is in the minde, singularly enriched with the knowledge of these visible things, setting forth to us the invisible wisdom and admirable workmanship of almighty God.

--John Gerard

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is a symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter. The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world...are available to anyone who will place himself under the influence of earth, sea and sky and their amazing life.

--Rachel Carson

I do not wish to die—

There is such contingent beauty in life;:

The open window on summer mornings

Looking out on gardens and green things growing,

The shadowy cups of roses flowering to themselves—

Images of time and eternity—

Silence in the garden and felt along the walls.

--A. L. Rowse

Confronted with the vision of a beautiful garden, we see something beautiful about ourselves.

--Jeff Cox

If you would have a lovely garden, you should live a lovely life.

--Shaker Saying

When I would re-create myself, I seek the darkest wood, the thickest and most interminable and to the citizen, most dismal, swamp. I enter as a sacred place, a Sanctum sanctorum. There is the strength, the marrow, of Nature.

--Henry David Thoreau

After a few hours of sweating with dirt all over me and insects buzzing around the upper half of my body, I may begin to get a sense of being in tune with nature. It's at these moments where I take note of a worm that is maneuvering its way out of the dirt or a butterfly that silently lands on a bush next to me. With subtlety and a total lack of self consciousness, I come out of myself, look around, marvel at the majesty of what I am experiencing and begin to take note that I have entered some type of altered state of consciousness.

--Fran Sorin

What I know of the divine sciences and Holy Scriptures, I learned in woods and fields. I have no other masters than the beeches and the oaks.

--Saint Bernard of
Clairvaux

The land is like poetry. It is inextricably coherent, it is transcendent in its meaning, and has the power to elevate a consideration of human life.

--Barry Lopez

Throughout history, our greatest resource has been our land—forests and plains, mountains and marshlands, rivers and lakes. Our land has sustained us. It has given us a love of freedom, a sense of security, and courage to test the unknown.

--Richard Nixon

Nature has always been for me, as long as I can remember, a source of solace, inspiration, adventure, and delight; a home, a teacher, a companion.

--Lorraine Anderson

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.

--Aldo Leopold

Only business has the technical and financial resources to clean up the environment. The environmental groups cannot solve any of these problems. Government can't do it. Corporations have to do it.

--Edward S. Woolard, Jr.

The long fight to save wild beauty represents democracy at its best. It requires citizens to practice the hardest of virtues—self-restraint.

--Edwin Way Teale

It is safe to say that the prosperity of our people depends directly on the energy and intelligence with which our natural resources are used. It is equally clear that these resources are the final basis of national power and perpetuity. Finally, it is ominously evident that these resources are in the course of rapid exhaustion.

--Theodore Roosevelt

Sooner or later, wittingly or unwittingly, we must pay for every intrusion on the natural environment.

--Barry Commoner

There are dangers in sentimentalizing nature. Most sentimental ideas imply, as bottom, a deep if unacknowledged disrespect. It is no accident that we Americans, probably the world's champion sentimentalizers about nature, are at one and the same time probably the world's most voracious and disrespectful destroyers of wild and rural countryside.

--Jane Jacobs

Perhaps nature is our best assurance of immortality.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

Nature is by and large to be found out of doors, a location where, it cannot be argued, there are never enough comfortable chairs.

--Fran Lebowitz

I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority.

--E. B. White

Nature is a patient teacher...She slowly changes...winter to summer...by proper use...of spring and fall...That's kind...of nature...Humans fear...sudden change...Hurricanes...Volcanoes...Earthquakes...Tornadoes...all are generally perceived...as aberrant...Blizzards...in winter...Electrical storms..in summer...are a part of the season...But change...both gradual...and violent...is a necessary ingredient...with Life...

--Nikki Giovanni

This we know...the Earth does not belong to man...man belongs to the Earth. All things are connected, like blood which connects one family. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the children of the Earth. Man did not weave the web of life—he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

--Chief Seattle

To see the Earth as it truly is, small and blue and beautiful in that eternal silence where it floats, is to see ourselves as riders on the Earth together. Brothers and sisters on that bright loveliness; brothers and sisters who know now they are truly Family.

--Archibald MacLeish

God is the great mysterious motivator of what we call nature, and it has often been said by philosophers, that nature is the will of God. And I prefer to say that nature is the only body of God that we shall ever see.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

I believe in God, only I spell it Nature.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

I hope that while so many people are out smelling the flowers, someone is taking the time to plant some.

--Herbert Rappaport

Stuff your eyes with wonder . . . live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds. See the Earth. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories.

--Ray Bradbury

Camping is nature's way of promoting the motel business.

--Dave Barry

Mountains are earth's undecaying monuments.

--Nathaniel Hawthorne

Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift.

--Albert Einstein

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

--Albert Einstein

Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.

--Albert Einstein

How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains!

--John Muir

God sleeps in the minerals, awakens in plants, walks in animals, and thinks in man.

--Arthur Young

We still do not know one thousandth of one percent of what nature has revealed to us.

--Albert Einstein

God is the great mysterious motivator of what we call nature, and it has often been said by philosophers, that nature is the will of God. And I prefer to say that nature is the only body of God that we shall ever see.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

Nature is my manifestation of God. I go to nature every day for inspiration in the day's work. I follow in building the principles which nature has used in its domain.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

Do you still love nature, despite what it did to you?

--Someecards.com

To lie beneath a tree and gaze up at its crown is a most wonderful way to spend an afternoon.

--J. Lenza III

To know something about trees—about even one tree—is to know something profound about the nature of the world and our place in it.

-- Gerald Jonas

As the poet said, ‘Only God can make a tree’—probably because it’s so hard to figure out how to get the bark on.

--Woody Allen

It’s great when I’m in my garden, but the minute I go out the gate I think, what the hell am I doing here?

--George Harrison

The term ‘nature-deficit disorder’ has recently entered the popular vocabulary....It was coined by the author Richard Louv to explain a wide range of behavior problems in children who spend less time outdoors but now is invoked as the root cause of an even wider range of both physical and emotional ailments in people of all ages who are disconnected from nature.

--Dr. Andrew Weil

One would like to see mankind spend the balance of the century in a total effort to clean up and groom the surface of the globe — wipe out the jungles, turn deserts and swamps into arable land, terrace barren mountains, regulate rivers, eradicate all pests, control the weather, and make the whole land mass a fit habitation for Man. The globe should be our and not nature’s home, and we no longer nature’s guests.

--Eric Hoffer

Nature has no compassion. Nature accepts no excuses and the only punishment it knows is death.

--Eric Hoffer

The forests of America, however slighted by man, must have been a great delight to God; for they were the best he ever planted. The whole continent was a garden, and from the beginning it seemed to be favored above all the other wild parks and gardens of the globe... These forests were composed of about five hundred species of trees, all of them in some way useful to man, ranging in size from twenty-five feet in height and less than one foot in diameter at the ground to four hundred feet in height and more than twenty feet in diameter—lordly monarchs proclaiming the gospel of beauty like apostles.

--John Muir

The Indians with stone axes could do them (the forests of North America) no more harm than could gnawing beavers and browsing moose. Even the fires of the Indians and the fierce shattering lightning seemed to work together only for good in clearing spots here and there for smooth garden prairies, and openings for sunflowers seeking the light. But when the steel axe of the white man rang out in the startled air their doom was sealed. Every tree heard the bodeful sound, and pillars of smoke gave the sign in the sky...

Many of nature's five hundred kinds of wild trees had to make way for orchards and cornfields. In the settlement and civilization of the country, bread more than timber or beauty was wanted; in the blindness of hunger, the early settlers, claiming Heaven as their guide, regarded God's trees as only a larger kind of pernicious weeds, extremely hard to get rid of. Accordingly, with no eye to the future, these pious destroyers waged interminable forest wars...

Every other civilized nation in the world has been compelled to care for its forests, and so must we if waste and destruction are not to go on to the bitter end... So far our government has done nothing effective with its forests, though the best in the world, but is like a rich and foolish spendthrift who has inherited a magnificent estate in perfect order, and then has left his rich fields and meadows, forests and parks, to be sold and plundered and wasted at will, depending on their inexhaustible abundance...

Emerson says things refuse to be mismanaged long. An exception it would seem to be found in the case of our forests, which have been mismanaged rather long and now become desperately near being like smashed eggs and spilt milk. Still, in the long run the world does not move backward... Light is surely coming, and the friends of destruction will preach and bewail in vain...

--John Muir

Any fool can destroy trees. They cannot run away; and if they could, they would still be destroyed—chased and hunted down as long as fun or a dollar could be got out of their bark hides, branching horns, or magnificent bole backbones... It took more than three thousand years to make some of the trees in these Western woods—trees that are still standing in perfect strength and beauty, waving and singing in the mighty forests of the Sierra. Through all the wonderful, eventful centuries since Christ's time—and long before that—God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools—only Uncle Sam can do that.

--John Muir

A gardener is inevitably someone with humility, who sees that these trees will eventually outlive him; the gardener is generous, optimistic, nurturing, taking pleasure in the planting but also making something beautiful for others.

--Paul Theroux

Art may imitate wild nature; less often does it dare to place itself in the midst of it, and when it does, it may come out second best.

--John Hart

Mountains are the beginning and the end of all natural scenery.

--John Ruskin

Science cannot solve the ultimate mystery of nature. And that is because, in the last analysis, we ourselves are a part of the mystery that we are trying to solve.

--Max Planck

The air is precious to the red man, for all things share the same breath—the beast, the tree, the man, they all share the same breath. The white man does not seem to notice the air he breathes. Like a man dying for many days, he is numb to the stench.

--Chief Seattle

The story of civilization is, in a sense, the story of engineering—that long and arduous struggle to make the forces of nature work for man's good.

--L. Sprague de Camp

It's the Power of the Almighty, the Splendor of Nature, and then you.

--Al Franken

Calculating how much carbon is absorbed by which forests and farms is a tricky task, especially when politicians do it.

--Donella Meadows

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

--Doug Larson

It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose, and the eyes will take care of themselves.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.

--Gertrude Jekyll

I have never felt salvation in nature. I love cities above all

--Michelangelo

I never saw a discontented tree. They grip the ground as though they liked it, and though fast rooted they travel about as far as we do.

--John Muir

God's creatures, great and small... eat them one, eat them all.

--John A. Simone, Sr.

Nothing that God ever made is the same thing to more than one person.

--Zora Neale Hurston

The beet is the most intense of vegetables. The radish, admittedly, is more feverish, but the fire of the radish is a cold fire, the fire of discontent not of passion. Tomatoes are lusty enough, yet there runs through tomatoes an undercurrent of frivolity. Beets are deadly serious.

--Tom Robbins

What looks to be a wisp of cloud is actually the moon, narrow and pale like a paring snipped from a snowman's toenail.

--Tom Robbins

We are not going to be able to operate our Spaceship Earth successfully nor for much longer unless we see it as a whole spaceship and our fate as common. It has to be everybody or nobody.

--R. Buckminster Fuller

The loneliness you get by the sea is personal and alive. It doesn't subdue you and make you feel abject. It's stimulating loneliness.

--Anne Morrow
Lindbergh

The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it.

--Chief Joseph

God loved the birds and invented trees. Man loved the birds and invented cages.

--Jacques Deval

We must recognize that we're all part of a web of life around the world. Anytime you extinguish a species, the consequences are serious.

--Gaylord Nelson

Nature, whose sweet rains fall of just and unjust alike, will have clefts in the rocks where I may hide, and secret valleys in whose silence I may weep undetected. She will hang the night with stars so that I may walk abroad in the darkness without stumbling, and send the wind over my footprints so that none may track me to my hurt: she will cleanse me in great waters, and with bitter herbs make me whole.

---Oscar Wilde

Nothing can beat the smell of dew and flowers and the odor that comes out of the earth when the sun goes down.

--Ethel Waters

The sea does not reward those who are too anxious, too greedy, or too impatient. One should lie empty, open, choiceless as a beach—waiting for a gift from the sea.

--Anne Morrow
Lindbergh

Some national parks have long waiting lists for camping reservations. When you have to wait a year to sleep next to a tree, something is wrong.

--George Carlin

Art is man's nature; nature is God's art.

--Philip James Bailey

That we find a crystal or a poppy beautiful means that we are less alone, that we are more deeply inserted into existence than the course of a single life would lead us to believe.

--John Berger

The artist is the confidant of nature, flowers carry on dialogues with him through the graceful bending of their stems and the harmoniously tinted nuances of their blossoms. Every flower has a cordial word which nature directs towards him.

—Auguste Rodin

Without poets, without artists, men would soon weary of nature's monotony.
—Guillaume Apollinaire

Nature is indifferent to the survival of the human species, including Americans.
--Adlai E. Stevenson

For me nature is not landscape, but the dynamism of visual forces.
--Bridget Riley

Most of us really aren't horribly unique. There are 6 billion of us. Put 'em all in one room and very few would stand out as individuals. So maybe we ought to think of worth in terms of our ability to get along as a part of nature, rather than being the lords over nature.

--Herbert Simon

To see the world in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wildflower.

--William Blake

What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?
--Henry David Thoreau

Nature was my kindergarten.

--William Christopher
Handy

The human ethical belief that death should be postponed as long as possible does not exist in nature.

—Felipe Sierra

To the lover of wilderness, Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world.

—John Muir

In nature we never see anything isolated, but everything in connection with something else which is before it, beside it, under it and over it.

—Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

Working in the garden...gives me a profound feeling of inner peace.

—Ruth Stout

Trees love to toss and sway; they make such happy noises.

—Emily Carr

It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.

—Ansel Adams

Yosemite Valley, to me, is always a sunrise, a glitter of green and golden wonder in a vast edifice of stone and space.

—Ansel Adams

Miller owns this field, Locke that, and Manning the woodland beyond. But none of them owns the landscape. There is a property in the horizon which no man has but he whose eye can integrate all the parts, that is, the poet. This is the best part of these men's farms, yet to this their warranty-deeds give no title.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

We try to exile ourselves more and more from nature—not always consciously: We build houses; we dismiss nature; nature has to be outside, because we're inside. God forbid something like a cockroach comes inside, or some dust.

—Diane Ackerman

There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice.

—John Calvin

Children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.

—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

A hundred objective measurements didn't sum the worth of a garden, only the delight of its users did that, only the use made it mean something.

—Lois McMaster Bujold

All [zoos] actually offer to the public in return for the taxes spent upon them is a form of idle and witless amusement, compared to which a visit to a penitentiary, or even to a State legislature in session, is informing, stimulating and ennobling.

—H. L. Mencken

I am writing in the garden. To write as one should of a garden one must write not outside it or merely somewhere near it, but in the garden.

—Frances Hodgson
Burnett

The sea speaks a language polite people never repeat. It is a colossal scavenger slang and has no respect.

—Carl Sandburg

So pleased at first the towering Alps
 we try,
Mount o'er the vales, and seem to
 tread the sky,
The eternal snows appear already
 past,
And the first clouds and mountains
 seem the last;
But, those attained, we tremble to
 survey
The growing labors of the length-
 ened way,
The increasing prospect tires our
 wandering eyes,
Hills peep o'er hills, and the Alps on
 Alps arise!

—Alexander Pope

For my part I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream.

—Vincent Van Gogh

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.

—John Muir

Nothing is more beautiful than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise.

—George Washington
Carver

Nature uses as little as possible of anything.

—Johannes Kepler

The gross heathenism of civilization has generally destroyed nature, and poetry, and all that is spiritual.

—John Muir

The spruce and cedar on its shores, hung with gray lichens, looked at a distance like the ghosts of trees. Ducks were sailing here and there on its surface, and a solitary loon, like a more living wave—a vital spot on the lake's surface—laughed and frolicked, and showed its straight leg, for our amusement.

—Henry David Thoreau

What a book a devil's chaplain might write on the clumsy, wasteful, blundering, low, and horribly cruel work of nature!

—Charles Darwin

But each day brings its petty dust
Our soon-chok'd souls to fill,
And we forget because we must,
And not because we will.

—Matthew Arnold

How we treat the earth basically effects our social welfare and our national security.

—Jim Fowler

All birds are fascinating, but those that choose, like the Goshawk, to live far from human contact, in the world's wildest places, hunting and surviving by instinct and speed and daring, they're special. They make the pulse race and seize the imagination.

—Chuck Hagner

The bird has an honor that man does not have. Man lives in the traps of his abdicated laws and traditions but the birds live according to the natural law of God who causes the earth to turn around the sun.

—Kahlil Gibran

There were no temples or shrines among us save those of nature.

—Charles Eastman

We do not see nature with our eyes, but with our understandings and our hearts.

—William Hazlitt

Our understanding of its movements and habits is far from complete, and most birdwatchers get to see it only infrequently—once a winter, if they're lucky—yet Snowy Owl is one of the most recognizable owls in the world. And with good reason, because anyone who sees one never forgets it.

—Chuck Hagner

I went out to the country so I could examine the simple things in life.

—Henry David Thoreau

How beautiful the leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days.

—John Burroughs

What would the world be, once bereft of wet and wildness?
Let them be left, O let them be left, wildness and wet,
Long live the weeds and the wildness yet.

—Gerard Manley
Hopkins

To me the meanest flower that blows can give thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.

—William Wordsworth

I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.

—John Burroughs

Twilight—a time of pause when nature changes her guard. All living things would fade and die from too much light or too much dark, if twilight were not.

—Howard Thurman

To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,
One clover, and a bee,
And revery.
The revery alone will do,
If bees are few.

—Emily Dickinson

Flowers live, they are perfect and they affect us; they are God's glory, they make us know why we are alive and human, that we behold. They are beautiful, and then they die and rot and go back to the earth that gave birth to them.

—Elizabeth Alexander

Supernatural is the laziest word in the vocabulary of ignorance. Nothing is supernatural, because nothing can transcend the laws of nature.

—Louis K. Anspacher

When I see birches bent to right and left
Across the line of straighter darker trees,
I like to think some boy's been swinging them.
But swinging doesn't bend them down to stay.
Ice storms do that....

Once they are bowed.
So low for so long, they never right themselves.

—Robert Frost

Beaver do better work than the Corps of Engineers.

—Mike Todd

Like to grow a baby. You need to teach it to walk, to speak, and then they can go to school on their own. Trees are the same.

—Sebastião Salgado

The ordinary man looking at a mountain is like an illiterate person confronted with a Greek manuscript.

—Aleister Crowley

Study nature, not books.

—Louis Agassiz

When life hands us a beautiful bouquet of flowers, we stare at it in cautious expectation of a bee.

—Dean Koontz

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.

—John Muir

No departure from the truth of nature shall be discovered by the closest scrutiny.

—Henry Peach Robinson

When I feel a little confused, the only thing to do is to turn back to the study of nature before launching once again into the subjects closest to heart.

—Raoul Dufy

I am following Nature without being able to grasp her, I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.

—Claude Monet

I hope that while so many people are out smelling the flowers, someone is taking the time to plant some.

—Herbert Rappaport

I remember walking into the garden, and I immediately felt better. I just saw wealth and abundance. There was food growing, and flowers. It really helped to shift my thinking.

—J. Phoenix Smith

If you hold moist soil for 20 minutes, the soil bacteria begin elevating your mood. You have all the anti-depressant you need in the ground.

—Craig Chalquist

Trees are your best antiques.

—Alexander Smith

Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the year...for gardening begins in January, with the dream.

—Josephine Nuese

Nothing in the nature lives by itself
Flowers don't taste their own nectar
nor they spread their fragrance for themselves
Trees don't eat their own fruits
The sun doesn't shine to warm itself
The rivers don't quench their thirst
by drinking their own water
The ocean provides homes for the sea creatures
the earth, the moon, the sun and the stars
have they ever lived even once for themselves
Living for others
The rule of nature
To provide and serve...

—Unknown

The idea that nature exposure is important to human health goes way back, predating fears about iPad addiction by a few generations. In an 1862 issue of *The Atlantic*, Henry David Thoreau praised the vigor-inducing virtues of walking in nature: ‘Think of a man’s swinging dumbbells for his health, when those springs are bubbling up in far-off pastures unsought by him!’

—James Hamblin

A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.

—D. Elton Trueblood

Nearness to nature... keeps the spirit sensitive to impressions not commonly felt and in touch with the unseen powers.

—Charles Alexander
Eastman

No one flower can ever symbolize this nation. America is a bouquet.

—William Safire

I never saw a wild thing sorry for itself. A small bird will drop frozen dead from a bough without ever having felt sorry for itself.

—David Herbert
Lawrence

Colors are the smiles of nature.

—Leigh Hunt

Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.

—Walt Whitman

Every generation thinks it has the answers, and every generation is humbled by nature.

—Phillip Lubin

If you look deep enough you will see music; the heart of nature being everywhere music.

—Thomas Carlyle

The love of nature is consolation against failure.

—Berthe Morisot

Master of beauty, craftsman of the snowflake,
inimitable contriver,
endower of Earth so gorgeous & different from the boring Moon,
thank you for such as it is my gift.

—John Berryman

We can speak without voice to the trees and the clouds and the waves of the sea.
Without words they respond through the rustling of leaves and the moving of clouds
and the murmuring of the sea.

—Paul Tillich

Seattle's vision of an urban food oasis is going forward. A seven-acre plot of land in
the city's Beacon Hill neighborhood will be planted with hundreds of different kinds
of edibles: walnut and chestnut trees; blueberry and raspberry bushes; fruit trees,
including apples and pears; exotics like pineapple, yuzu citrus, guava, persimmons,
honeyberries, and lingonberries; herbs; and more. All will be available for public
plucking to anyone who wanders into the city's first food forest.

—Clare Leschin-Hoar

A tree is an incomprehensible mystery.

—Jim Woodring

It's wonderful to be back. Back among the mountains that remind us of our
vulnerability, our ultimate lack of control over the world we live in. Mountains
that demand humility, and yield so much peace in return.

—Alex Lowe

You wait a long time for spring in Montana—for the snow to be gone, for the air
to be warm and fresh and filled with the smell of evergreens; you wait for the
wildflowers to bloom, and to see white-tailed deer in the distance, walking
across the foothills, stopping to eat new grass with their young.

—William Bonham

Except during the nine months before he draws his first breath, no man manages
his affairs as well as a tree does.

—George Bernard Shaw

Laws of Nature are God's thoughts thinking themselves out in the orbits and
the tides.

—C. H. Parkhurst

I look out of this window and I think this is a cosmos, this is a huge creation, this is one small corner of it. The trees and birds and everything else and I'm part of it. I didn't ask to be put here, I've been lucky in finding myself here.

—Morris West

You ought to have seen what I saw on my way
To the village, through Mortenson's pasture to-day:
Blueberries as big as the end of your thumb,
Real sky-blue, and heavy, and ready to drum
In the cavernous pail of the first one to come!
And all ripe together, not some of them green
And some of them ripe! You ought to have seen!....
You ought to have seen how it looked in the rain,
The fruit mixed with water in layers of leaves,
Like two kinds of jewels, a vision for thieves.

—Robert Frost

It's a nice way to live,
Just taking what Nature is willing to give,
Not forcing her hand with harrow and plow.

—Robert Frost

For 2,000 years, there was an intuitive, elegant, compelling picture of how the world worked. It was called 'the ladder of nature.' In the canonical version, God was at the top, followed by angels, who were followed by humans. Then came the animals, starting with noble wild beasts and descending to domestic animals and insects. Human animals followed the scheme, too. Women ranked lower than men, and children were beneath them. The ladder of nature was a scientific picture, but it was also a moral and political one. It was only natural that creatures higher up would have dominion over those lower down.

—Alison Gopnik

The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives.

—Gertrude Jekyll

I opened the large central window of my office room to its full on the fine early May morning. Then I stood for a few moments, breathing in the soft, warm air that was charged with the scent of white lilacs below.

—Angus Wilson

I may say that the maker of the world exhausts his skill with each snowflake and dewdrop that he sends down. We think that the one mechanically coheres and that the other simply flows together and falls, but in truth they are the product of enthusiasm, the children of ecstasy, finished with the artist's utmost skill.

—Henry David Thoreau

The heavens opened for the sunset tonight. When I had thought the day folded and sealed, came a burst of heavenly bright petals. I sat behind the window, pricked with rain, and looked until that hard thing in my breast melted and broke into the smallest fountain, murmuring as aforesaid, and I drank the sky and the whisper.

—Katherine Mansfield

Sometimes I get lonesome for a storm. A full-blown storm where everything changes. The sky goes through four days in an hour, the trees wail, little animals skitter in the mud and everything gets dark and goes complete wild....perfect harmony—perfect joy.

—Joan Baez

It is raining in California, a straight rain
Cleaning the heavy oranges on the bough,
Filling the gardens till the gardens flow,
Shining the olives, tiling the gleaming tile,
Waxing the dark camellia leaves more green,
Flooding the daylong valleys like the Nile.

—Karl Shapiro

Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books.

—Sir John Lubbock

I often lay on that bench looking up into the tree, past the trunk and up into the branches. It was particularly fine at night with the stars above the tree.

—Georgia O'Keefe

Odors, when sweet violets sicken,
Live within the sense they quicken.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

If people destroy something replaceable made by mankind, they are called vandals; if they destroy something irreplaceable made by God, they are called developers.

—Joseph Wood Krutch

Of all creatures in this visible world, light is the most glorious; of all light, the light of the sun without compare excels the rest.

—William Gurnall

We shall never understand the natural environment until we see it as a living organism. Land can be healthy or sick, fertile or barren, rich or poor, lovingly nurtured or bled white. Our present attitudes and laws governing the ownership and use of land represent an abuse of the concept of private property.... Today you can murder land for private profit. You can leave the corpse for all to see and nobody calls the cops.

—Paul Brooks

Some people get angry because God put thorns on roses, while others praise him for putting roses among thorns.

—Unknown

I think it has to do with more than the beauty of flowers. I grew up on a farm, you know—rough, rough. Manure and cattle and horses. And I promise you, when I first saw primroses sprouting up out of a bit of mound of earth, all sorts of debris and mud, these primroses were like...you know the color of primroses? They're a pale yellow flower. When I saw these primroses, it was as if life itself was going to change. Not be as hard, and not be as frightening, and not be as dreary. So flowers are connected with emotion for me.

—Edna O'Brien

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.

—Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Nature has...some sort of arithmetical-geometrical coordinate system, because nature has all kinds of models. What we experience of nature is in models, and all of nature's models are so beautiful. It struck me that nature's system must be a real beauty, because in chemistry we find that the associations are always in beautiful whole numbers—there are no fractions.

—Richard Buckminster
Fuller

We are eternally linked not just to each other but to our environment.

—Herbie Hancock

A century and a half ago, city dwellers in search of fresh air and rural pastures visited graveyards. It was a bad arrangement. The processions of tombstones interfered with athletic activity, the gloom with carefree frolicking. Nor did mourners relish having to contend with the crowds of pleasure-seekers.

—Nathaniel Rich

In an entry on ‘parks’ written in 1861 for *The New American Cyclopaedia*, Olmsted [Frederick Law] explains that the earliest examples were pastures that English noblemen enclosed with fences to create deer pens. Trees were felled to create more open space, and the browsing deer served as lawn mowers, keeping the broad fields tidy.

—Nathaniel Rich

The Earth is our canvas. The question is, what kind of artists will we decide to be?...Our recent history isn’t promising. We continue to place lawns and swimming pools in deserts, skyscrapers in swamps, and mansions on beaches. In search of fuel, we decapitate mountains, turn forests into lumberyards, and break our promises to defend the sanctity of public land. We reserve our most beautiful landscapes for the wealthiest, restricting the poor to overcrowded slums or depleted agricultural zones...we tend to favor temporary effects at the expense of the future.

—Nathaniel Rich

The very act of planting a seed in the earth has in it to me something beautiful. I always do it with a joy that is largely mixed with awe.

—Celia Thaxter

To analyze the charms of flowers is like dissecting music; it is one of those things which it is better to enjoy than to attempt to understand.

—Henry Theodore
Tuckerman

Of all the wonderful things in the wonderful universe of God, nothing seems to me more surprising than the planting of a seed in the blank earth and the result thereof.

—Celia Thaxter

Every square inch of land on Earth has been altered by our presence.

—Nathaniel Rich

When I go into my garden...All the cares, perplexities, and griefs of existence, all the burdens of life slip from my shoulders and leave me with the heart of a little child that asks nothing beyond its present moment of innocent bliss.

—Celia Thaxter

The breath of flowers is far sweeter in the air (where it comes and goes like the warbling of music) than in the hand.

—Francis Bacon

I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do.

—Willa Cather

Mistress Mary always felt that however many years she lived she should never forget that first morning when her garden began to grow.

—Frances Hodgson
Burnett

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

—*Matthew* 6:28:29

More things grow in the garden than the gardener sows.

—Spanish Proverb

What was paradise but a garden, an orchard of trees and herbs, full of pleasure, and nothing there but delights.

—William Lawson

Many of the birds go south cheerfully, indifferently, but the bluebirds seem to linger sadly and lovingly, and to feel that the migration is an enforced exile from the home they love best.

—Frank Bolles

If I could put my words in song and tell what's there enjoyed, all men would to my gardens throng, and leave the cities void.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

I don't believe there is such a thing as a definitive picture of something. The land is a living, breathing thing and light changes its character every second of every day.

—Fay Godwin

A year indoors is a journey along a paper calendar; a year in outer nature is the accomplishment of a tremendous ritual.

—Henry Beston

Walked for half an hour in the garden. A fine rain was falling, and the landscape was that of autumn. The sky was hung with various shades of gray, and mists hovered about the distant mountains - a melancholy nature. The leaves were falling on all sides like the last illusions of youth under the tears of irremediable grief. A brood of chattering birds were chasing each other through the shrubberies, and playing games among the branches, like a knot of hiding schoolboys. Every landscape is, as it were, a state of the soul, and whoever penetrates into both is astonished to find how much likeness there is in each detail.

—Henri Frederic Amiel

But I do not lose patience with the birds, however sorely they try me. I love them too well. How should they know that the garden was not planted for them?

—Celia Thaxter

Earth seems to hold her breath before the expected fury. Lightening scores the sky from zenith to horizon, and across from north to south 'a fierce, vindictive scribble of fire' writes its blinding way, and the awesome silence is broken by the cracking thunder that follows every flash.

—Celia Thaxter

The goldenrod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.

—Helen Hunt
Jackson

One's whole heart rises responding to the glory and the beauty of the storm, and is grateful for the delicious refreshment of the rain. Every leaf rejoices in the lifegiving drops.

—Celia Thaxter

If we are in tune with Nature, all her music can find a way into the heart.
—Frank Bolles

Lovely flowers are the smiles of God's goodness.
—William
Wilberforce

The flowers are nature's jewels, with whose wealth she decks her summer beauty.
—George Croly

I wish I could in any words paint the hues of these splendid Delphiniums; such shades of melting blue, some light, others dark, some like the summer heaven, and dashed across their pale azure wings with delicious rose. Now is the garden at high tide of beauty.
—Celia Thaxter

To me the meanest flower that blows can give thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.
—William Wordsworth

Through the dense sparkling rain-curtain the lightning blazes now in crimson and in purple sheets of flame. Oh, but the wind is wild! Spare my treasures, oh, do not slay utterly my beautiful, beloved flowers! The tall stalks bend and strain, the Larkspurs bow. I hold my breath while the danger lasts, thinking only of the wind's power to harm the garden; for the leaping lightning and the crashing thunder I love, but the gale fills me with dread for my flowers defenseless.
—Celia Thaxter

I look upon the pleasure which we take in a garden, as one of the most innocent delights in human life.
—Joseph Addison

It is good that children go barefoot. That way they can better receive the beneficial effluvia of the planet, the vibrations of the earth. Plants and animals don't use shoes.
—Gabriel García
Márquez

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.
—Cicero

All the sounds of the earth are like music.

—Oscar Hammerstein

The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things.

—Plato

In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different.

—John Steinbeck

Wonder is the beginning of wisdom in learning from books as well as from nature.

—Mortimer J. Adler

Education has been thought of as taking place mainly within the confines of the classroom, and school buildings have been regarded as the citadels of knowledge. However, the most extensive facility imaginable for learning is our environment. It is a classroom without walls, an open university for people of all ages offering a boundless curriculum with unlimited expertise. If we can make our environment comprehensible and observable, we will have created classrooms with endless windows on the world.

--R. S. Worman

The best remedy for those who are frightened, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be alone with the sky, nature and God. For only then can you feel that everything is as it should be and that God wants people to be happy amid nature's beauty and simplicity.

—Anne Frank

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

—Nelson Henderson

The sea heaves up, hangs loaded o'er the land,
Breaks there, and buries its tumultuous strength.

—Robert Browning
Hamilton

All of our ideas come from the natural world: trees equal umbrellas.

--Wallace Stevens

A tree growing out of the ground is as wonderful today as it ever was. It does not need to adopt new and startling methods.

—Robert Henri

You must go to the school or to the books or on the field because knowledge doesn't come to you, you must go to the knowledge.

—Amit Kalantri

If you think the cost [of preserving the environment] too high, just ask your local 12-year-old—heck, our local 6-year-old. He or she already cares more than we do.

—Walter Kiechel

THE PEACE OF THE WILD THINGS

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

—Wendell Berry

The earth has music for those who listen.

—William Shakespeare

Nature satisfies by its loveliness, and without any mixture of corporeal benefit. I see the spectacle of morning from the hill-top over against my house, from day-break to sun-rise, with emotions which an angel might share. The long slender bars of cloud float like fishes in the sea of crimson light. From the earth, as a shore, I look out into that silent sea. I seem to partake its rapid transformations: the active enchantment reaches my dust, and I dilate and conspire with the morning wind. How does Nature deify us with a few and cheap elements!

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

One tree can make a million matches. One match can destroy a million trees.

—Slogan

Water covers two-thirds of the surface of the Earth, but Fresh water is 0.002% on Earth.

—Slogan

Once all the rainforests are cut down, once all the rivers have dried up, and once all the resources are diminished, we will finally realize we can't eat money.

—Slogan

Money grows on trees: Recycle paper.

—Slogan

I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of sky and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes.

—e. e. cummings

Like Confucius of old, I am so absorbed in the wonder of the earth and the life upon it, that I cannot think of heaven and the angels.

—Pearl S. Buck

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

—Chinese Proverb

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature -- the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.

—Rachel Carson

The moment a little boy is concerned with which is a jay and which is a sparrow, he can no longer see the birds or hear them sing.

—Eric Berne

Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence and nothing too much.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Caring for the garden became a kind of spiritual calling—a pursuit for which I had no aptitude or experience, but a steady surplus of time. My life disappeared into days, then years, that by any appraisal did not amount to much. And the thing is, you couldn't pay me to do anything else. (Not that anyone offered.) The benefits, like the hours, were immeasurable. So now I glory in my second act as groundskeeper. I live on garden time, which stretches out forever. Weeds summon me to my ponds and pathways in spring and summer, while fallen leaves beckon me in the autumn. For my efforts, I get nothing but a pile of rubbish. Still, the garden is an ideal workplace: quiet, patient, trusting and wildly creative. My mistakes go unremarked; given enough time, they self-correct. I have endless second chances. The hours are flexible. With no agenda or five-year plan in sight, I attend to things that lie right beneath my feet.

—Karen Maezen Miller

Even with all my inadequacies, I am indispensable. No one is plotting to replace me. Of course, every thing I do comes undone, but that's the blessing of garden time: the perennial promise of starting over. The simple labor of my days gets me going. Garden work gives me power and purpose, direction and momentum. It's a fulfillment that could never come from dreaming about what I might be doing instead.

—Karen Maezen Miller

The general wildness, the eternal labyrinths of waters and marshes, interlocked and apparently never ending; the whole surrounded by interminable swamps....Here I am then in the Floridas.

—John James Audubon

The scientist does not study nature because it is useful to do so. He studies it because he takes pleasure in it, and he takes pleasure in it because it is beautiful. If nature were not beautiful it would not be worth knowing, and life would not be worth living. I am not speaking, of course, of the beauty which strikes the senses, of the beauty of qualities and appearances. I am far from despising this, but it has nothing to do with science. What I mean is that more intimate beauty which comes from the harmonious order of its parts, and which a pure intelligence can grasp.

—Henri Poincaré

Bees...by virtue of a certain geometrical forethought...know that the hexagon is greater than the square and the triangle, and will hold more honey for the same expenditure of material.

--Pappus (A.D. 300)

I have not a single pleasant recollection in connection with my schoolboy days. The woods were full of temptations, the trees called me, the birds wanted me....It seemed cruel to be shut up. The brooks, birds, flowers, sunshine, and breezes were free; why not I?

--Henry Ward Beecher

One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the Spring.

—Aldo Leopold

Guns don't purr, of course, or lie across your belly at the end of a long day like a small, furry pillow. Then again, cats—however cute,—are lethal and heartless. That's essential to their charm, I would argue: We care about cats so much because (unlike babies) they really don't care about us. Even their purring seems to be all about them. They are egotistical and self-sufficient, and not really house pets, and we like the sense that we're more dependent on them than they are on us. Otherwise we would get dogs. To make the rest of nature pay the price for that preference, though, is an act of supreme selfishness. You might think we were spending a little too much time with our cats.

—Britt Peterson

There cannot be a language more universal and more simple, more free from errors and obscurities...more worthy to express the invariable relations of natural things (than mathematics). It interprets (all phenomena) by the same language, as if to attest the unity and simplicity of the plan of the universe, and to make still more evident that unchangeable order which presides over all natural causes.

--Joseph Fourier

Everything in nature adheres to the cone, the cylinder and the cube.

--Paul Cezanne

The profound study of nature is the most fertile source of mathematical discoveries.

--Joseph Fourier

Every artist wants his work to be permanent. But what is? The Aswan Dam covered some of the greatest art in the world. Venice is sinking. Great books and pictures were lost in the Florence floods. In the meantime we still enjoy butterflies.

--Romare Beardon

Art not only imitates nature, but also completes its deficiencies.

--Aristotle

Everyone wants to understand art. Why not try to understand the song of a bird? Why does one love the night, flowers, everything around one, without trying to understand them?

--Pablo Picasso

The whole of art is only an imitation of nature.

—Seneca

Take a quart of nature, boil it down to a pint, and the residue is art.

--Austin O'Malley

The whole of art is only an imitation of nature.

—Seneca

Nature scarcely ever gives us the very best; for that we must have recourse to art.

—Baltasar Gracian

Art may imitate wild nature; less often does it dare to place itself in the midst of it, and when it does, it may come out second best.

—John Hart

The production of a work of art throws a light upon the mystery of humanity. A work of art is an abstract or epitome of the world. It is the result or expression of nature, in miniature. For, although the works of nature are innumerable and all different, the result or the expression of them all is similar and single. Nature is a sea of forms radically alike and even unique. A leaf, a sun-beam, a landscape, the ocean, make an analogous impression on the mind. What is common to them all, — that perfectness and harmony, is beauty. The standard of beauty is the entire circuit of natural forms, — the totality of nature; which the Italians expressed by defining beauty 'il piu nell' uno.' Nothing is quite beautiful alone: nothing but is beautiful in the whole. A single object is only so far beautiful as it suggests this universal grace. The poet, the painter, the sculptor, the musician, the architect, seek each to concentrate this radiance of the world on one point, and each in his several works to satisfy the love of beauty which stimulates him to produce. Thus is Art, a nature passed through the alembic of man. Thus in art, does nature work through the will of a man filled with the beauty of her first works.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Man is the interpreter of nature—science the right interpretation.

--William Whewell

I just don't think nature is very tricky. I don't believe that one phenomenon or another is an enormous coincidence, or accident, or just happened to happen. Everything that is true is very simple, once we understand it. It's only complicated when we don't.

--Bernard Matthias

The highest object at which the natural sciences are constrained to aim, but which they will never reach, is the determination of the forces which are present in nature, and of the state of matter at any given moment—in one word, the reduction of all the phenomena of nature to mechanics.

--Gustav Robert Kirchoff

We're living beyond our means. We have developed a lifestyle that is draining the earth of its priceless and irreplaceable resources.

--Margaret Mead

You have to walk through the land leaving as little trace of yourself as possible.

--Josh Bernstein

The ultimate aim of all science is to penetrate the unknown. Do you realize we know less about the earth we live on than about the stars and the galaxies of outer space? The greatest mystery is right here, right under our feet.

--Walter Reisch

Geologists have a saying—rocks remember.

--Neil Armstrong

We have a moral responsibility to protect the earth and ensure that our children and grandchildren have a healthy and sustainable environment in which to live.

—Jim Clyburn

We manipulate nature as if we were stuffing an Alsatian goose. We create new forms of energy; we make new elements; we kill crops; we wash brains. I can hear them in the dark sharpening their lasers.

--Erwin Chargaff

Every walk to the woods is a religious rite, every bath in the stream is a saving ordinance. Communion service is at all hours, and the bread and wine are from the heart and marrow of Mother Earth.

—John Burroughs

The time will come when diligent research over long periods will bring to light things which now lie hidden. A single lifetime, even though entirely devoted to the sky, would not be enough for the investigation of so vast a subject....And so this knowledge will be unfolded only through long successive ages. There will come a time when our descendants will be amazed that we did not know things that are so plain to them...Many discoveries are reserved for ages still to come, when memory of us will have been effaced. Our universe is a sorry little affair unless it has in it something for every age to investigate...Nature does not reveal her mysteries once and for all.

--Seneca, 1st Century

There is little in the architecture of a city that is more beautifully designed than a tree.

—Jaime Lerner

What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?

—Henry David Thoreau

Through all these new, imaginative, and creative approaches to the problem of sharing our earth with other creatures there runs a constant theme, the awareness that we are dealing with life with living populations and all their pressures and counter pressures, their surges and recessions. Only by taking account of such life forces and by cautiously seeking to guide them into channels favorable to ourselves can we hope to achieve a reasonable accommodation between the insect hordes and ourselves.

The current vogue for poisons has failed utterly to take into account these most fundamental considerations. As crude a weapon as the cave man's club, the chemical barrage has been hurled against the fabric of life a fabric on the one hand delicate and destructible, on the other miraculously tough and resilient, and capable of striking back in unexpected ways. These extraordinary capacities of life have been ignored by the practitioners of chemical control who have brought to their task no high-minded orientation, no humility before the vast forces with which they tamper.

The control of nature is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man. The concepts and practices of applied entomology for the most part date from that Stone Age of science. It is our alarming misfortune that so primitive a science has armed itself with the most modern and terrible weapons, and that in turning them against the insects it has also turned them against the earth.

—Rachel Carson

Do there exist many worlds, or is there but a single world? This is one of the most noble and exalted questions in the study of Nature?

--Albertus Magnus

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

—Rachel Carson

As long as the Earth can make a spring every year, I can. As long as the Earth can flower and produce nurturing fruit, I can, because I'm the Earth. I won't give up until the Earth gives up.

—Alice Walker

Laws of Nature are God's thoughts thinking themselves out in the orbits and the tides.

—C. H. Parkhurst

The sea is not a bargain basement....The greatest resource of the ocean is not material but the boundless spring of inspiration and well-being we gain from her. Yet we risk poisoning the sea forever just when we are learning her science, art, and philosophy and how to live in her embrace.

--Jacques Cousteau

We have probed the earth, excavated it, burned it, ripped things from it, buried things in it....That does not fit my definition of a good tenant. If we were here on a month-to-month basis, we would have been evicted long ago.

--Rose Elizabeth Bird

The Earth is beautiful, and bright, and kindly, but that is not all. The Earth is also terrible, and dark, and cruel.

—Ursula K. LeGuin

Our primeval Mother Earth is an organism that no science in the world can rationalize. Everything on her that crawls and flies is dependent upon Her and all must hopelessly perish if that Earth dies that feeds us.

—Viktor Schauberg

If one is seeking for Heaven on earth, he has slept in geography class.

—Stanisław Jerzy Lec

Wherever we look the dreadful disintegration of the bridges of life, the capillaries and the bodies they have created, is evident, which has been caused by the mechanical and mindless work of man, who has torn away the soul from the Earth's blood—water. The more the engineer endeavors to channel water, of whose spirit and nature he is today still ignorant, by the shortest and straightest route to the sea, the more the flow of water weighs into the bends, the longer its path and the worse the water will become. The spreading of the most terrible disease of all, of cancer, is the necessary consequence of such unnatural regulatory works. These mistaken activities —our work—must legitimately lead to increasingly widespread unemployment, because our present methods of working, which have a purely mechanical basis, are already destroying not only all of wise Nature's formative processes, but first and foremost the growth of the vegetation itself, which is being destroyed even as it grows. The drying up of mountain springs, the change in the whole pattern of motion of the groundwater, and the disturbance in the blood circulation of the organism—Earth—is the direct result of modern forestry practices. The pulse-beat of the Earth was factually arrested by the modern timber production industry. Every economic death of a people is always preceded by the death of its forests. The forest is the habitat of water and as such the habitat of life processes too, whose quality declines as the organic development of the forest is disturbed. Ultimately, due to a law which functions with awesome constancy, it will slowly but surely come around to our turn. Our accustomed way of thinking in many ways, and perhaps even without exception, is opposed to the true workings of Nature. Our work is the embodiment of our will. The spiritual manifestation of this work is its effect.

—Viktor Schauberg

I thought how utterly we have forsaken the Earth, in the sense of excluding it from our thoughts. There are but few who consider its physical hugeness, its rough enormity. It is still a disparate monstrosity, full of solitudes, barrens, wilds. It still dwarfs, terrifies, crushes. The rivers still roar, the mountains still crash, the winds still shatter. Man is an affair of cities. His gardens, orchards and fields are mere scrapings. Somehow, however, he has managed to shut out the face of the giant from his windows. But the giant is there, nevertheless.

—Wallace Stevens

Nature, I have constantly argued in my work, is the real superpower of this godless universe. It is the ultimate disposer of human fate, randomly recarving geography over 10,000-year epochs.

—Camille Paglia

Mother Nature is relentless and forward. When we do not live according to her laws, she rewards us with disease.

—Nancy S. Mure

The inconsistencies that haunt our relationships with animals also result from the quirks of human cognition. We like to think of ourselves as the rational species. But research in cognitive psychology and behavioral economics shows that our thinking and behavior are often completely illogical. In one study, for example, groups of people were independently asked how much they would give to prevent waterfowl from being killed in polluted oil ponds. On average, the subjects said they would pay \$80 to save 2,000 birds, \$78 to save 20,000 birds, and \$88 to save 200,000 birds. Sometimes animals act more logically than people do; a recent study found that when picking a new home, the decisions of ant colonies were more rational than those of human house-hunters.

What is it about human psychology that makes it so difficult for us to think consistently about animals? The paradoxes that plague our interactions with other species are due to the fact that much of our thinking is a mire of instinct, learning, language, culture, intuition, and our reliance on mental shortcuts.

—Hal Herzog

Flowers are conscious, intelligent forces. They have been given to us for our happiness and our healing.

We can hasten our own evolution by employing the tools offered to us by a conscious, caring Mother Nature—flowers and their essences.

Flower essences allow us to see into the soul of things—into ourselves, our world, and all living beings.

Flower essences are a response to the call of an ever-awakening humanity to minister to its spiritual needs.

Mother Nature's pharmacy has long been accessible to those who have pried open her botanical medicine chest. And to those who wish to learn her language—the language of flowers—she bestows her most wonderful secrets of perfect well-being. In keeping with herbalism's ancient tradition of communing with the plant kingdom, flower essences have evolved as a natural expression of healing—in the simplest ways, through the simplest means.

(The) principle of magnetism is strongly operative in flower essences that vibrationally align us with the positive qualities that we seek to uncover within ourselves.

How, then, do flower essences work? Very well indeed.

—Lila Devi

If we begin to diligently care for the environment, it will greatly improve human health.

—Lailah Gifty Akita

Sickness — nature's vengeance for violating her laws.

—Charles Simmons
(1852)

To the artist there is never anything ugly in nature.

—Auguste Rodin

Psychologists often assume that there is a special cognitive ability—a psychological secret sauce—that makes humans different from other animals. The list of candidates is long: tool use, cultural transmission, the ability to imagine the future or to understand other minds, and so on. But every one of these abilities shows up in at least some other species in at least some form. [Frans] De Waal points out various examples, and there are many more. New Caledonian crows make elaborate tools, shaping branches into pointed, barbed termite-extraction devices. A few Japanese macaques learned to wash sweet potatoes and even to dip them in the sea to make them more salty, and passed that technique on to subsequent generations. Western scrub jays 'cache'—they hide food for later use—and studies have shown that they anticipate what they will need in the future, rather than acting on what they need now.

—Alison Gopnik

The greatest teacher in healing is nature itself. To be out in the nature is like being surrounded and embraced by love. Trees are also very beautiful people, who have their own innate wisdom and who are already in oneness with Existence. And the sky whispers its silent message that, beyond everything, there is only one sky. A female meditator describes it like there is a basic meditative quality in nature. She says: 'There is nothing in nature that questions each others existence like people do. Everything is allowed to exist and everything is allowed to be exactly as it is – and seasons come and go. It is not strange that people love to be out in nature and experiences that they come in harmony with themselves, because, in nature, there is nothing that tries to change them. There is a quality in the air, which can be called a meditative quality.'

—Swami Dhyan Giten

That a slender wooden tree twig can give birth to luscious pears, apples, peaches remains an extraordinary feat.

—Dr. SunWolf

This special feeling towards fruit, its glory and abundance, is I would say universal.... We respond to strawberry fields or cherry orchards with a delight that a cabbage patch or even an elegant vegetable garden cannot provoke.

—Jane Grigson

I can scarcely manage to scribble a tolerable English letter. I know that I am not a scholar, but meantime I am aware that no man living knows better than I do the habits of our birds.

—John James Audubon

Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.

—Henry David Thoreau

If you don't know what's meant by God, watch a forsythia branch or a lettuce leaf sprout.

—Martin H. Fischer

Our bodies run on the fresh green fuel of the land.

—Terri Guillemets

In the past, when people killed too many animals or over-harvested plants, they saw the impact on the world. But today, living apart from nature, we do not see the results of our food and energy choices.

—Richard Schiffman

Exposure to nature is good for civilization. A few days in nature yields a 50 percent improvement in creativity, increases attention span, and lessens hyperactivity and aggression. Proximity to the ocean correlates with one's happiness, and mortality rates drop in greener neighborhoods, while traffic noise increases the strain on one's heart. Put another way, our growing alienation from nature is killing us.

—Florence Williams

Studies show that staring at a photograph of a forest is better than staring at drywall, though a window with a view is better, and a walk outside is best. Gazing at a eucalyptus tree for one minute makes you more generous. Your health will be improved by just a five-minute walk in a park, though 30 minutes will work wonders. Five hours of nature a month is all you need, though, as one scientist says, 'If you can go for ten hours, you will reach a new level of feeling better and better.'

—Florence Williams

Solastalgia: a condition described by the philosopher Glenn Albrecht as a kind of existential grief for a vanished landscape, be it a swallowed coast, a field turned to desert, or a bygone geological epoch.

—Ross Andersen

Though boys throw stones at frogs in sport, the frogs do not die in sport, but in earnest.

—Bion of Borysthenes

To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.

—Helen Keller

Townfolk have no conception of the peace that mother nature bestows, and as long as that peace is unfound, the spirit must seek to quench its thirst with ephemeral novelties. And what is more natural than that of the townsman's feverish search for pleasure should mould people of unstable, hare-brained character, who think only of their personal appearance and their clothes and find momentary comfort in foolish fashions and other such worthless innovations? The countryman, on the other hand walks out into the verdant meadows, into an atmosphere clear and pure, and as he breaths it into his lungs, some unknown power streams through his limbs, invigorating body and soul. The peace in nature fills his mind with calm and cheer, the bright green grass under his feet awakens a sense of beauty, almost of reverence. In the fragrance that is borne so sweetly to his nostrils, in the quietude that broods so blissfully around him, there is comfort and rest. The hillsides, the dingles, the waterfalls, and the mountains are all friends of his childhood, and never to be forgotten.

—Halldór Laxness

The great redwoods of California are one of the beautiful natural wonders of North America. These giant evergreens can grow to a towering 300 feet tall and live for hundreds of years. For all their magnificence, one would think the redwoods would require a deep root system to keep them upright. Instead, they have roots that spread out along the surface of the forest floor to capture all the moisture possible, intertwining with the roots of other redwoods in the grove. The interlocking roots securely support and sustain these giant sequoias when storms strike and fierce winds blow. The trees' survival depends on the combined support of one another...when we stand together...support one another...encourage one another...we become strong together, and like the giant redwoods, we keep growing taller.

--*The Master Teacher*

Modern technology
Owes ecology
An apology.

—Alan M. Eddison

Courage is not the towering oak
that sees storms come and go;
It is the fragile blossom that opens
in the snow.

--Alice Mackenzie Swain

Until we can grieve for our planet we cannot love it—grieving is a sign of spiritual health. But it is not enough to weep for our lost landscapes; we have to put our hands in the earth to make ourselves whole again. Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair.

—Robin Wall Kimmerer

The creek that was once a fishery for Atlantic salmon, a swimming hole for kids, and a focal point of community life now runs as brown as chocolate milk. Allied Chemical and its successors deny any role in the formation of the mudboils. They claim it was an act of God. What kind of God would that be?

—Robin Wall Kimmerer

Every tree in the forest has a story to tell. Some of them were burnt but they endured the fire and got revived; some of them were cut, their barks injured, some people pick up their leaves to make medicines for their sicknesses, birds used their leaves to make their nests, etc. Upon all these, the tree is still a tree!

—Israelmore Ayivor

Age, that brings a dwindling to most forms of life, is at its most majestic in the trees. I have seen living olives that were planted when Caesar was in Gaul. I remember, in Illinois woods, a burr oak which was bent over as a sapling a hundred years ago, to mark an Indian portage trail, and the thews in that flexed bough were still in the prime of life. Compared to that, the strongest human sinew is feeble and quick to decay. Yet structure in both cases is cellular; life in both is protoplasmic. A tree drinks water as I do, and breathes oxygen. There is the difference that it exhales more oxygen than it consumes, so that it sweetens the air where it grows. It lays the dust and tempers the wind. Even when it is felled, it but enters on a new kind of life. Sawn and seasoned and finished, it lays bare the hidden beauty of its heart, in figures and grains more lovely than the most premeditated design. It is stronger, now, than it was in the living tree, and may bear great strains and take many shapes.

—Donald Culross Peattie

Nature has herself appointed that nothing great is to be accomplished quickly, and has ordained that difficulty should precede every work of excellence.

--Quintilian

But at some point in her passage, the trees began to change. They stretched taller, and the soft, pale bark darkened, roughened. She put her hand to a tree and touched the lichen growing dark green upon brown, and it felt like old cork, dry and crumbling. Here the sun mellowed, took on the cast of late afternoon, and the shadows seemed to fall a bit longer; the forest had sunk into a deeper silence, magnifying what sounds did arise. The sudden, quick crash of a fox bounding through the brush was as loud as the slam of a great wooden door.

—Malinda Lo

Be not wrapped up in the past, there is an actual present lying all about you; look up and behold it in its grandeur. Turn away from the broken cisterns of traditional science, and quaff the pure waters that flow sparkling and fresh forever from the unfathomable fountain of creation. Go to nature and listen to her many voices, consider her ways and learn her doings; so shall you bend her to your will. For knowledge is power.

—Francis Bacon

I loved sitting on the pile of freshly cut logs, running my hands over the different shapes and smelling their woody fragrance. To this day I think that there is nothing as interesting to look at as a heap of newly cut logs, the delicate colouring of their veined insides telling their life story, while they wait to bring warmth and comfort.

—Alice Taylor

No one should be able to enter a wilderness by mechanical means.

—Garrett Hardin

The buffalo isn't as dangerous as everyone makes him out to be. Statistics prove that in the United States more Americans are killed in automobile accidents than are killed by buffalo.

—Art Buchwald

No one will understand a Japanese garden until you've walked through one, and you hear the crunch underfoot, and you smell it, and you experience it over time. Now there's no photograph or any movie that can give you that experience.

—J. Carter Brown

We are the land. To the best of my understanding, that is the fundamental idea that permeates American Indian life.

--Paula Gunn Allen

They (Native Americans) seemed to have none of the European's desire to 'master' nature, to arrange and re-create. They spent their ingenuity in the other direction; in accommodating themselves to the scene in which they found themselves....It was as if the great country were asleep, and they wished to carry on their lives without awakening it.

--Willa Cather

Nature gives to every time and season unique beauty; from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, it's just a succession of changes so soft and comfortable that we hardly notice the progress.

—Charles Dickens

I think that to one in sympathy with nature, each season, in turn, seems the loveliest.

—Mark Twain

I sat on a hillside in the woods late in the day amid the pines and hemlocks, and heard the soft, elusive spring call of the little owl—a curious musical undertone hardly separable from the silence; a bell, muffled in feathers tolling in the twilight of the woods and discernible only to the most alert ear. But it was the voice of spring.

--John Burroughs

Hee that is in a towne in May loseth his spring.

—George Herbert

Spring shows the power and love of the earth; she can grow magnificent flowers from the dirt.

--Debasish Mridha

In November, some birds move away and some birds stay. The air is full of good-byes and well-wishes. The birds who are leaving look very serious. No silly spring chirping now. They have long journeys and must watch where they are going. The staying birds are serious, too, for cold times lie ahead. Hard times. All berries will be treasures.

--Cynthia Rylant

In November, the earth is growing quiet. It is making its bed, a winter bed for flowers and small creatures. The bed is white and silent, and much life can hide beneath its blankets.

--Cynthia Rylant

October is Nature's funeral month. Nature glories in death more than in life. The month of departure is more beautiful than the month of coming—October than May. Every green thing loves to die in bright colors.

—Henry Ward Beecher

October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came,—
The Ashes, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The sunshine spread a carpet,
And every thing was grand;
Miss Weather led the dancing;
Professor Wind, the band....
The sight was like a rainbow
New-fallen from the sky....

—George Cooper

October's poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter.

—Nova Schubert

Many of the birds go south cheerfully, indifferently, but the bluebirds seem to linger sadly and lovingly, and to feel that the migration is an enforced exile from the home they love best.

—Frank Bolles

Speaking of happiness, those distinctive moments are found outdoors—in the fall, in the winter and always in the mountains where people are few, wildlife is abundant and there is peace in the quiet.

— Donna Lynn Hope

It was one of those bitter mornings when the whole of nature is shiny, brittle, and hard, like crystal. The trees, decked out in frost, seem to have sweated ice; the earth resounds beneath one's feet; the tiniest sounds carry a long way in the dry air; the blue sky is bright as a mirror, and the sun moves through space in icy brilliance, casting on the frozen world rays which bestow no warmth upon anything.

--Guy de Maupassant

We are accustomed to consider Winter the grave of the year, but it is not so in reality. In the stripped trees, the mute birds, the disconsolate gardens, the frosty ground, there is only an apparent cessation of Nature's activities. Winter is pause in music, but during the pause the musicians are privately tuning their strings, to prepare for the coming outburst. When the curtain falls on one piece at the theatre, the people are busy behind the scenes making arrangements for that which is to follow. Winter is such pause, such fall of the curtain. Underground, beneath snow and frost, next spring and summer are secretly getting ready. The roses which young ladies will gather six months hence for hair or bosom, are already in hand. In Nature there is no such thing as paralysis. Each thing flows into the other, as movement into movement in graceful dances Nature's colours blend in imperceptible gradation all her notes are sequacious.

—Alexander Smith

This is November of the hardest kind, bare frozen ground covered with pale brown or straw-colored herbage, a strong, cold, cutting north wind.... This month taxes a walker's resources more than any other.... If you do feel any fire at this season out of doors, you may depend upon it, it is your own.... You can hardly screw up your courage to take a walk when all is thus tightly locked or frozen up, and so little is to be seen in field or wood.... Nature has herself become, like the few fruits she still affords, a very thick-shelled nut with a shrunken meat within. If I find anything to excite a warming thought abroad, it is an agreeable disappointment, for I am obliged to go willfully and against my inclination at first, the prospect looks so barren, so many springs are frozen up, not a flower, perchance, and few birds left, not a companion abroad in all these fields for me. I seem to anticipate a fruitless walk.... But then I am often unexpectedly compensated, and the thinnest yellow light of November is more warming and exhilarating than any wine they tell of.

—Henry David Thoreau

Mother Nature is not sweet.

—John Shelby Spong

It seems a token and habit of older age to feel very deeply the charm there is in every display of life: I love it yearly more and more—in the antics and questions of children, in the roaming of a baby's surprised eyes, in the sparrows (now as I write) cracking seeds on the balcony...in the white shimmer of apple-blossom I saw yesterday at Clamart, and in the garden there in the dusk, when we walked under the chestnuts.

--Stephen Mackenna

Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men.

—Gifford Pinchot

Beauty is our weapon against nature; by it we make objects, giving them limit, symmetry, proportion. Beauty halts and freezes the melting flux of nature.

—Camille Paglia

I love the sea's sounds and the way it reflects the sky. The colours that shimmer across its surface are unbelievable. This, combined with the colour of the water over white sand, surprises me every time.

—John Dyer

On no subject are our ideas more warped and pitiable than on death....Let children walk with nature, let them see the beautiful blendings and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity, as taught in woods and meadows, plains and mountains and streams of our blessed star, and they will learn that death is stingless indeed, and as beautiful as life, and that the grave has no victory, for it never fights. All is divine harmony.

--John Muir

When the flowers grow through the grass, as if laughing at the playful sunshine early on a May morning; and the little birds are singing as beautifully as then can; with what rapture then can we compare all this?

--Walther von der
Vogelweide

Let there be a cottage.... a real cottage... a white cottage, embowered with flowering shrubs, so chosen as to unfold a succession of flowers upon the walls, and clustering round the windows through all the months of spring, summer, and autumn—beginning, in fact, with May roses, and ending with jasmine. Let it, however, not be spring, nor summer, nor autumn—but winter, in his sternest shape. This is a most important point in the science of happiness. And I am surprised to see people overlook it, and think it matter of congratulation that winter is going; or, if coming, is not likely to be a severe one. On the contrary, I put up a petition annually, for as much snow, hail, frost, or storm, of one kind or other, as the skies can possibly afford us. Surely every body is aware of the divine pleasures which attend a winter fire-side: candles at four o'clock, warm hearth-rugs, tea, a fair tea-maker, shutters closed, curtains flowing in ample draperies on the floor, whilst the wind and rain are raging audibly without.

—Thomas De Quincey

A quiet secluded life in the country, with the possibility of being useful to people to whom it is easy to do good, and who are not accustomed to have it done to them; then work which one hopes may be of some use; then rest, nature, books, music, love for one's neighbor — such is my idea of happiness.

—Leo Tolstoy

Nature is not affected by finance. If someone offered you ten thousand dollars to let them touch your eyeball without blinking, you would never collect the money. At the very last moment, Nature would force you to blink your eye. Nature will protect her own.

—Dick Gregory

Wood supplies a soothing warmth that no other fuel can provide, encouraging family and friends to gather around a roaring fire for pleasant conversation. Many romances have blossomed in front of a flickering fireplace — just one more wonderful way that wood warms you.

—Tim Clark

Summertime, oh, summertime, pattern of life indelible, the fade-proof lake, the woods unshatterable, the pasture with the sweetfern and the juniper forever and ever...the cottages with their innocent and tranquil design, their tiny docks with the flagpole and the American flag floating against the white clouds in the blue sky, the little paths over the roots of the trees leading from camp to camp. This was the American family at play, escaping the city heat.

--E. B. White

As we gather around the rough-hewn farm table made by my grandfather, I am reminded that my family has come together for generations in this same way. Summers were always our favorite times; we would eat outdoors under the shade of a tree—hand-rolled pasta with a sauce of fresh tomatoes and basil from the garden, cheese from my Aunt Carmella, olive oil sent by our cousin in Santa Margherita, and wine from our own jugs. After having our fill of food and laughter, we'd pluck ripe figs right off the trees, peel and eat them until the sun disappeared into the blue. I can still taste those summer days, and will always do everything in my power to re-create them.

--Adriana Trigiani

Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals.

—George Orwell

It was Christmas Eve. Big snowflakes fluttered slowly through the air like white feathers and made all of the Heavenly Valley smooth and white and quiet and beautiful.

Tall fir trees stood up to their knees in snow and their outstretched hands were heaped with it. Those that were bare of leaves wore soft white fur on their scrawny, reaching arms and all the stumps and low bushes had been turned into fat white cupcakes.

--Betty MacDonald

I feel persecuted by the power of mother nature, who dwarfs my farm with her unpredictable character. Yet I cling to a spirit of survival. I observe others, my family and neighbors, as we brace for the storm with a humbling humility.

--David Mas Masumoto

Ask me about my childhood, and I will tell you to walk to the edge of the woods with a choir of crickets chirping from every direction, a hot, humid breeze brushing through your hair, your feet, bare and callused. Stand there, unmoving, and watch the dance of ten thousand fireflies blinking on and off in the darkness. Inhale the scent of cured tobacco, freshly plowed southern soil, burning leaves, and honeysuckle. Swallow the taste of blackberries, picked straight from the bushes, and lick your teeth, the after-taste still sweet in your mouth. Now, stretch out on the ground and relax all your muscles. Watch nature's festival of flickering lights.

--Brenda Sutton Rose

I remember a hundred lovely lakes, and recall the fragrant breath of pine and fir and cedar and poplar trees. The trail has strung upon it, as upon a thread of silk, opalescent dawns and saffron sunsets. It has given me blessed release from care and worry and the troubled thinking of our modern day. It has been a return to the primitive and the peaceful. Whenever the pressure of our complex city life thins my blood and benumbs my brain, I seek relief in the trail; and when I hear the coyote wailing to the yellow dawn, my cares fall from me—I am happy.

—Hamlin Garland (1899)

Ants are so much like human beings as to be an embarrassment. They farm fungi, raise aphids as livestock, launch armies into war, use chemical sprays to alarm and confuse enemies, capture slaves, engage in child labour, exchange information ceaselessly. They do everything but watch television.

—Lewis Thomas

In the end, nature is inexorable: it has no reason to hurry and, sooner or later, it takes what belongs to it. Unconsciously and inflexibly obedient to its own laws, it doesn't know art, just as it doesn't know freedom, just as it doesn't know goodness.

—Ivan Turgenev

What a happy woman I am living in a garden, with books, babies, birds, and flowers, and plenty of leisure to enjoy them! Yet my town acquaintances look upon it as imprisonment, and I don't know what besides, and would rend the air with their shrieks if condemned to such a life. Sometimes I feel as if I were blest above all my fellows in being able to find my happiness so easily. I believe I should always be good if the sun always shone, and could enjoy myself very well in Siberia on a fine day. And what can life in town offer in the way of pleasure to equal the delight of any one of the calm evenings I have had this month sitting alone at the foot of the verandah steps, with the perfume of young larches all about, and the May moon hanging low over the beeches, and the beautiful silence made only more profound in its peace by the croaking of distant frogs and hooting of owls?

--Elizabeth von Arnim

Townfolk have no conception of the peace that mother nature bestows, and as long as that peace is unfound the spirit must seek to quench its thirst with ephemeral novelties. And what is more natural than that of the townsman's feverish search for pleasure should mould people of unstable, hare-brained character, who think only of their personal appearance and their clothes and find momentary comfort in foolish fashions and other such worthless innovations? The countryman, on the other hand walks out into the verdant meadows, into an atmosphere clear and pure, and as he breathes it into his lungs some unknown power streams through his limbs, invigorating body and soul. The peace in nature fills his mind with calm and cheer, the bright green grass under his feet awakens a sense of beauty, almost of reverence. In the fragrance that is borne so sweetly to his nostrils, in the quietude that broods so blissfully around him, there is comfort and rest. The hillsides, the dingles, the waterfalls, and the mountains are all friends of his childhood, and never to be forgotten.

--Halldór Laxness

The fresh and crisp air of the country reminds us that our blood surges from of the natural world and how tied we are to the sprung rhythms of earth and sky, weather and season.

--Kilroy J. Oldster

To a brain wearied by the din of the city, the clatter of wheels, the jingle of street cars, the discord of bells, the cries of venders, the ear-splitting whistles of factory and shop, how refreshing is the heavenly stillness of the country! To the soul tortured by the sight of ills it cannot cure, wrongs it cannot right, and sufferings it cannot relieve, how blessed to be alone with nature, with trees living free, unfettered lives, and flowers content each in its native spot, with brooks singing of joy and good cheer, with mountains preaching divine peace and rest!

—Olive Thorne Miller

When I... moved to the country, I felt as if I could finally exhale that little bit of breath I'd been unconsciously holding in my lungs. Time is not so relentless when it is possible to watch the sun make an uninhibited arc across the day, when the stars take up more of the night's space than the darkness, when a footprint lives for days in its moist soil bed, when the only motor to be heard is the occasional tractor several miles away.

—Cecily Schmidt

Sometimes our thoughts turn back toward a corner in a forest, or the end of a bank, or an orchard powdered with flowers, seen but a single time on some happy day, yet remaining in our hearts and leaving in soul and body an unappeased desire which is not to be forgotten, a feeling that we have just rubbed elbows with happiness.

--Guy de Maupassant

Something told the wild geese
It was time to go.
Though the fields lay golden
Something whispered, 'snow.'
Leaves were green and stirring,
Berries, luster-glossed,
But beneath warm feathers
Something cautioned, 'frost.'
All the sagging orchards
Steamed with amber spice
But each wild breast stiffened
At remembered ice.
Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly—
Summer sun was on their wings,
Winter in their cry

—Rachel Field

Is there any sign of spring quite so welcome as the glint of the first bluebird unless it is his softly whistled song? No wonder the bird has become the symbol for happiness. Before the farmer begins to plough the wet earth, often while snow is still on the ground, this hardy little minstrel is making himself very much at home in our orchards and gardens while waiting for a mate to arrive from the South.

--Neltje Blanchan

Dull indeed would be the man that did not feel the thrill awakened by the first glimpse of brilliant color in the orchard, and the cheery warbling notes borne to our ears on the first gentle breath of spring!

--Arthur Cleveland Bent

The world has enough beautiful mountains and meadows, spectacular skies and serene lakes. It has enough lush forests, flowered fields, and sandy beaches. It has plenty of stars and the promise of a new sunrise and sunset every day. What the world needs more of is people to appreciate and enjoy it.

--Michael Josephson

The rich, sweet smell of the hay-ricks rose to his chamber window; the hundred perfumes of the little flower-garden beneath scented the air around; the deep green meadows shone in the morning dew that glistened on every leaf as it trembled in the gentle air; and the birds sang as if every sparkling drop were a fountain of inspiration to them.

--Charles Dickens

I felt the bark of the trees on either side of me as I walked. It was very soothing. Here in the LBA Woods, the trees grew very close together and when I did not walk on the path, I would reach out with my fingertips and touch their bark as I passed. The skin of the trees was warm in the sunlight, and rough, and I imagined that each tree contained a soul. Like an Ent. I knew this idea was not a true thing, but still I felt good that the trees were here.

—Ned Hayes

Although I was four years at the University [of Wisconsin], I did not take the regular course of studies, but instead picked out what I thought would be most useful to me, particularly chemistry, which opened a new world, mathematics and physics, a little Greek and Latin, botany and and geology. I was far from satisfied with what I had learned, and should have stayed longer.

[Enrolled in Feb 1861, left in 1863 without completing a degree, and began his first botanical foot journey.]

— John Muir

I wandered away on a glorious botanical and geological excursion, which has lasted nearly fifty years and is not yet completed, always happy and free, poor and rich, without thought of a diploma or of making a name, urged on and on through endless, inspiring Godful beauty.

[Shortly after leaving university in 1863, without completing a degree, at age 25, he began his first botanical foot journey along the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi.]

— John Muir

Cosmic upheaval is not so moving as a little child pondering the death of a sparrow in the corner of a barn.

--Anouk Aimee

I reached down to feel the soil, and I touched the outreaching roots of the trees that bore horizontally and vertically hundreds of feet through the forest. I stroked the earth with my palm, and I could almost feel that invisible network of capillary roots that sucks moisture and nutrients out of every inch of the soil I was standing on. I breathed in and out. I was part of the forest. I was alive.

--Ned Hayes

Every living thing depends for its existence upon some other form of life—or death. Were it not for the pale, underground flowers of the soil, the bacteria, the grass could not live. If it were not for the grass, the browsing beasts of the field could not live. If it were not for the beasts of the field and the ripened seeds or roots of the grass, man could not live.

—Woods Hutchinson

How lucky country children are in these natural delights that lie ready to their hand! Every season and every plant offers changing joys. As they meander along the lane that leads to our school all kinds of natural toys present themselves for their diversion. The seedpods of stitchwort hang ready for delightful popping between thumb and finger, and later the bladder campion offers a larger, if less crisp, globe to burst. In the autumn, acorns, beechnuts, and conkers bedizen their path, with all their manifold possibilities of fun. In the summer, there is an assortment of honeys to be sucked from bindweed flowers, held fragile and fragrant to hungry lips, and the tiny funnels of honeysuckle and clover blossoms to taste.

—Miss Read

The bud itself is the miracle. To watch the upthrust of a daffodil, to see it take form as a flower-to-be, to see the bud grow and take on the warmth of color—there is the very synthesis of spring.

—Unknown

Through all the frozen winter
My nose has grown most lonely
For lovely, lovely colored smells
That come in springtime only.

--Kathryn Worth

'See,' said (Liberty Hyde) Bailey, 'how the leaves of this small plant stand forth extended to bathe themselves in the light. ... These leaves will die. They will rot. They will disappear into the universal mold. The energy that is in them will be released to reappear, the ions to act again, perhaps in the corn on the plain, perhaps in the body of a bird. The atoms and the ions remain or resurrect; the forms change and flux. We see the forms and mourn the change. We think all is lost; yet nothing is lost. The harmony of life is never ending.' The economy of nature provides that nothing be lost.

--Russell Lord

The perfect weather that had allowed us to get the oats and corn in ahead of time probably also contributed to the dearth of migrating warblers. With no storms to force the birds down, they overflowed this area on their northward journey. At least I hope that is the reason. I fear, though, that the cutting down of the tropical rain forests (the winter home for many warblers) to create ranches that will provide cheap beef for fast-food restaurants in the United States may also be partly responsible for the dearth.

--David Kline

We accept as due and right—as very meet, right, and our bounden duty—the downs and their orchids and butterflies, the woods and coppices, ash, beech, oak, and field maple, rowan, wild cherry, holly, and hazel, bluebells in their season and willow, alder, and poplar in the wetter ground. We accept as proper and unremarkable the badger and the squirrel, the roe deer and the rabbit, the fox and the pheasant, as the companions of our walks and days. We remark with pleasure, yet take as granted, the hedgerow and the garden, the riot of snowdrops, primroses, and cowslips, the bright flash of kingfishers, the dart of swallows and the peaceful homeliness of house martins, the soft nocturnal glimmer of glow worm and the silent nocturnal swoop of owl.

--G. M. W. Wemyss

When I reach the end of one row, I continue straight on away from the barn and the farm and the road. I walk until I come to a pile of hay bales and plop myself down. The sun is bright and the air is sharp. In the distance I hear the lowing of cows. It's so peaceful here.

— Lisa Ann Sandell

It'll be spring soon. And the orchards will be in blossom. And the birds will be nesting in the hazel thicket. And they'll be sowing the summer barley in the lower fields... and eating the first of the strawberries with cream.

—J. R. R. Tolkien

A cold wind raced across the surrounding fields of wild grass, turning the land into a heaving dark-green ocean. It sighed up through the branches of cherry trees and rattled the thick leaves. Sometimes a cherry would break loose, tumble in the gale, fall and split, filling the night with its fragrance. The air was iron and loam and growth.

— Charles Beaumont

Anyone who has a garden, park or orchard tree has an opportunity to ensure that it offers protection, brings beauty and bears fruit for future generations. In short, every one of us should aspire to be a forester.

--Gabriel Hemery

Five girls sat beside, and upon the branches of, the oldest apple tree in the orchard, its huge trunk making a fine seat and support; and whenever the May breeze blew, the pink blossoms tumbled down like snow, coming to rest in their hair and on their skirts. The afternoon sunlight dappled green and silver and gold through the leaves in the apple orchard.

--Neil Gaiman

Brambles, in particular, protect and nourish young fruit trees, and on farms bramble clumps (blackberry or one of its related cultivars) can be used to exclude deer and cattle from newly set trees. As the trees (apple, quince, plum, citrus, fig) age, and the brambles are shaded out, hooved animals come to eat fallen fruit, and the mature trees (7 plus years old) are sufficiently hardy to withstand browsing. Our forest ancestors may well have followed some such sequences for orchard evolution, assisted by indigenous birds and mammals.

--Bill Mollison

Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose and pine trees, and he who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it.

—Henry David Thoreau

The era of wild apples will soon be over. I wander through old orchards of great extent, now all gone to decay, all of native fruit which for the most part went to the cider mill. But since the temperance reform and the general introduction of grafted fruit, no wild apples, such as I see everywhere in deserted pastures, and where the woods have grown up among them, are set out. I fear that he who walks over these hills a century hence will not know the pleasure of knocking off wild apples.

--Henry David Thoreau

Charles Robert Darwin, the great English scientist, after years of patient study, published a book of 236 pages dealing exclusively with earthworms. In this volume, *The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Action of Worms*, he makes it clear that Nature apparently created the earthworm to be an improver of the soil and to aid the growth of plants. Indeed, he goes so far as to make this statement: 'Without the work of this humble creature, who knows nothing of the benefits he confers upon mankind, agriculture, as we know it, would be very difficult, if not wholly impossible.'

—John Edwin Hogg

What the 32-year-old Thoreau quietly did than the fall of 1849 was to set up a new and systematic daily regimen. In the afternoons, he went on long walks, equipped with an array of instruments: his hat for specimen-collecting, a heavy book to press plants, a spy glass to watch birds, his walking stick to take measurements, and small scraps of paper for jotting down notes.

—Andrea Wulf

Hope and the future for me are not in lawns and cultivated fields, not in towns and cities, but in the impervious and quaking swamps. When, formerly, I have analyzed my partiality for some farm which I had contemplated purchasing, I have frequently found that I was attracted solely by a few square rods of impermeable and unfathomable bog,—a natural sink in one corner of it. That was the jewel which dazzled me. I derive more of my subsistence from the swamps which surround my native town than from the cultivated gardens in the village. There are no richer parterres to my eyes than the dense beds of dwarf andromeda (*Cassandra calyculata*) which cover these tender places on the earth's surface. Botany cannot go farther than tell me the names of the shrubs which grow there,— the high-blueberry, panicled andromeda, lambkill, azalea, and rhodora,— all standing in the quaking sphagnum.

—Henry David Thoreau

Some keep the Sabbath going to church, I keep it staying at home, with a bobolink for a chorister, and an orchard for a dome.

--Emily Dickinson

If you violate Nature's laws you are your own prosecuting attorney, judge, jury, and hangman.

—Luther Burbank

It is remarkable that Everest did not yield to the first few attempts; it would have been surprising and not a little sad if it had, for that is not the way of great mountains.

—Jon Krakauer

The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.

—Gertrude Jekyll

Nature is relic of pre-human civilizations.

--Toba Beta

Nature is cheaper than therapy.

—M. P. Zaarella

Many people think trees grow so big from soil and water, but this is not true. Trees get their mass from the air. They gobble up airborne carbon dioxide and perform an act of chemical fission by using the energy from sunshine... Essentially, trees are made of air and sunshine.

--Ned Hayes

As in human democracies, the types of votes in animal democracies vary. When deciding where to forage, for instance, Tonkean macaques line up behind their preferred leader; the one with the most followers wins. Swans considering when to take flight bob their heads until a 'threshold of excitability' is met, at which point they collectively rise into the sky. Honey bee colonies needing a new home vote on where to go: Thomas Seeley, a Cornell biologist, has found that scout bees investigate the options and inform the other bees of potential sites through complex 'waggle dances' to convey basic information (distance, direction, overall quality). When the majority is won over by a scout's campaign, the colony heads for its new home.

—William Brennan

A woodland in full color is awesome as a forest fire, in magnitude at least, but a single tree is like a dancing tongue of flame to warm the heart.

—Hal Borland

There are 19th-century accounts of North America's only native parrot species from places as far-flung as Nebraska and Lake Erie, though even then the noisy flocks were in decline. 'In some districts, where twenty-five years ago they were plentiful, scarcely any now are to be seen,' John James Audubon warned in 1831. The last Carolina parakeet in captivity, a male named Incas, died at the Cincinnati Zoo in 1918. But the species may squawk again: Today geneticists and conservation biologists often mention the bird as a candidate for 'de-extinction,' the process of recreating a vanished species—or at least an approximation of it—from preserved genetic material. De-extinction projects are already underway for the passenger pigeon and the woolly mammoth. (The latter project of adding mammoth DNA to the Asian elephant genome is further along.)

—Ben Crair

It wasn't a really until the 1870s...that the earliest agricultural and zoological experts began championing the import of supposedly useful plants and animals as actual government policy. In so doing, those experts, with the best of intentions, created a host of problems with invasive wildlife we're still dealing with today.

One of those annoying groups, a private one, was the *American Acclimatization Society*. Under the leadership of New York pharmacist Eugene Schieffelin, the society reportedly decided it would be a wonderful cultural idea to introduce every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's plays into North America. As a result, today we can thank those cranks for the pestiferous starlings and English sparrows that are so annoying.

—Roger Matile

An understanding of the natural world and what's in it is a source of not only a great curiosity but great fulfillment.

—David Attenborough

Trees look like people. They are social creatures, caring for one another, communicating, learning, trading goods and services; despite lacking a brain, trees are 'aware.' After borers attack a sugar maple, it emits insecticides that warn its neighbors, which respond by intensifying their own defenses. When the roots of two Douglas firs meet underground, they fuse, joining vascular systems; if one tree gets ill, the other cares for it. The chopping down of a tree causes those surrounding it to weaken, as if in mourning.

—Patricia Westerford

There are trees that flower and fruit directly from the trunk. Bizarre kapoks forty feet around with the branches that run from spiky to shiny to smooth, all from the same trunk. Myrtles scattered throughout the forest that all flower on a single day. Bertholletia that grow piñata cannonballs filled with nuts. Trees that make rain, tell time, that predict the weather. Seeds in obscene shapes and colors. Pods like daggers and scimitars. Stilt roots and snaking roots and buttresses like sculpture and roots that breathe air. Solutions run amok. The biomass is mad.

—Patricia Westerford

Nature is the most thrifty thing in the world; she never wastes anything; she undergoes change, but there is no annihilation, the essence remains—matter is eternal.

—Horace Binney

Man is nature's sole mistake.

—William Gilbert

The lionfish is one of the most beautiful animals alive. With its bold stripes and extravagant fins, it's regal bearing and magisterial stillness, every lionfish is a hand-lacquered 11th-century Japanese fan. It is a diva, glamourpuss, a showoff. If you ran a hedge fund in Greenwich or Geneva or Tokyo, the first fish you'd buy for that 100,000 gallon aquarium in your lobby would be a lionfish.

—Jeff MacGregor

Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men.

—Gifford Pinchot

My father considered a walk among the mountains as the equivalent of churchgoing.

—Aldous Huxley

Nothing in the nature around us is evil. This needs to be repeated since one of the human ways of talking oneself into inhuman acts is to cite the supposed cruelty of nature.

—John Berger

Few things are as democratic as a snowstorm.

—Bern Williams

I have nature and art and poetry, and if that is not enough, what is enough?
—Vincent van Gogh

Perfumes are the feelings of flowers.
—Heinrich Heine

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man.
—William Wordsworth

I love to feel the temperature drop and the wind increase just before a thunder-
storm. Then I climb in bed with the thunder.
—Amanda Mosher

Of the many forms that silence takes, the most memorable is the dry husk of the
cicada.
—Jon Davis

The night sky is only a sort of carbon paper,
Blueblack, with the much-poked periods of stars
Letting in the light, peephole after peephole---
A bonewhite light, like death, behind all things.
—Sylvia Plath

In sunlight their (ravens) dark feathers shine with the iridescence of oil on water.
They can be friendly, curious, even loving. In the wild they'll take turns sliding
down snowbanks and make toys out of sticks....they gently preen each other's nape
feathers, murmuring in their soft raven idiolect—but you might also see them gang
up to ambush a pigeon and eat it alive.
—Helen Macdonald

A wealth of knowledge is openly accessible in nature. Our ancestors knew this and
embraced the natural cures found in the bosoms of the earth. Their classroom was
nature. They studied the lessons to be learned from animals, knowing that much of
human behavior can be explained by watching the wild beasts around us. Animals
are constantly teaching us things about ourselves and the way of the universe, but
most people are too blind to watch and listen.
—Suzy Kassem

The winds, the sea, and the moving tides are what they are. If there is wonder and beauty and majesty in them, science will discover these qualities... If there is poetry in my book about the sea, it is not because I deliberately put it there, but because no one could write truthfully about the sea and leave out the poetry.

—Rachel Carson

Phone down. Eyes up. Breath deep.

—Bianca Bosker

Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit.

—Edward Abbey

Oh, give me a home where the Buffalo roam
Where the deer and the Antelope play;
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

—Dr. Brewster Highley,
(1873)

Migration is an energy-intensive endeavor; when geese fly together, each one cuts air resistance for the ones behind it. Flying point requires more energy—the heart rate of trailing birds is about 15 percent slower—so the birds take turns doing it. By switching frequently between leading and trailing positions, the birds get where there're going more quickly.

—Autumn-Lynn
Harrison

I am in awe of flowers.
Not because of their colors,
but because even though they
have dirt in their roots,
they still grow.
They still bloom.

—D. Antoinette Foy

The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has started to understand the meaning of life.

—Internet Meme

Once destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price.

—Ansel Adams

Gardening is the slowest of the performing arts.

—*gardeningsoul.com*

Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky.

—Kahlil Gibran

We like to romanticize people who live in the wilderness. But when I lived in Concord, Massachusetts, people like to tell me there was a footpath between Walden Pond and Concord because Henry David Thoreau often went into town to have tea with friends. He didn't want to sit alone in his cabin all the time. He wanted to interact with other people, to hear new stories and expand his world.

—Minik Rosing

The sea is everything...It is an immense desert, where man is never lonely, for he feels life stirring on all sides. The sea is only the embodiment of a supernatural and wonderful existence. It is nothing but love and emotion; it is the 'Living Infinite.'

—Jules Verne

The greatest threat to our environment is the belief that someone else will save it.

—Robert Swan

We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us.

—Jenny Uglow

Few are altogether deaf to the preaching of pine trees. Their sermons on the mountains go to our hearts; and if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish.

—John Muir

A hump-back whale...which is far from being the largest of its kind, needs a ton of herring in its stomach to feel comfortably full—as many as five thousand individual fish. Each herring, in turn, may well have six or seven thousand small crustaceans in its own stomach, each of which contains as many as one hundred and thirty thousand diatoms. In other words, some four hundred billion yellow-green diatoms sustain a single medium-sized whale for a few hours at at the most.

—N. J. Berrill

How is it possible that the most intellectual creature to ever walk the planet Earth is destroying its only home?

—Jane Goodall

The seas are mankind's last frontier on this planet. For ages, islanders that we are, we have treated the great waters as little more than hunting grounds for fishermen, highways for ships. Now we are awakening to see that invisible beneath the waves lies a vast, virgin territory every bit as challenging as outer space and infinitely more promising of economic reward. Man at last has the scientific capability and technical mastery to meet the challenge, and his growing need for food, water, minerals, power and weather control gives him solid reasons for doing so.

—Leonard Engel

Knowledge of the oceans is more than a matter of curiosity. Our very survival may hinge on it.

—John F. Kennedy

THE GREAT MOSQUITO FESTIVAL OF 1992

They're little bugs I know.
But, oh, they love me so.
The fest convenes just once a year.
So many come from far and near.
The bravest to the woods do get
To find out who can get most bit.
I emerged with thirty-one.
A lucky day for me...I won!

—Dan L. Miller

FRANCIS LOVED FROGS

Francis was fond of frogs.
In fact, Francis loved frogs.
She'd sit for hours on the bank of Sawyer's crick,
Watching, studying, smiling at the green,
Spotted skin stretched tight over two bulging eyes
And small, pointed, protruding bones.
Francis loved to eye the frogs plopping,
Slopping, clopping through the shallows.

Rising slowly from the bank and easing into the
Brook, Francis squished the silken, slimy, silt
Between her toes and then sank ankle-deep
Into the goop to await her moment.
She thrust a length before the leaping
Frog to clutch him in mid-air.

Francis loved to view the frogs with their
Bony backs and soft, bloated bellies, their
Eyes bulging as their throats swelled
With deep, mellow burps.
The legs slapped Francis' arms as she
Held her captor with both hands and
Kissed him on the nose.

But then, big, bad, Granddaddy frog stole up behind Francis,
Hunched, lunged, and slurped her up.

He didn't know—
That Francis loved frogs.

—Dan L. Miller

A picture of a Dove that does not make that bird appear tender and loving, is a fall reproduction. If a study of a Jay does not prove the fact that it is quarrelsome and obtrusive it is useless, no matter how fine the pose or portrayal of markings....A dusky Falcon is beautiful and most intelligent, but who is going to believe it if you illustrate the statement with a sullen, sleepy bird?

—Gene Stratton-Porter
(1907)

I often find ornithologists killing and dissecting birds, botanists uprooting and classifying flowers, and lepidopterists running pins through moths yet struggling. Whenever I come across a scientist plying his trade I am always so happy and content to be merely a nature-lover, satisfied with what I can see, hear, and record with my cameras.

—Gene Stratton-Porter
(1910)

It was Thoreau who in writing of the destruction of the forests exclaimed, 'Thank heaven they cannot cut down the clouds.' Aye, but they can!...If men in their greed cut forests that preserve and distill moisture, clear fields, take the shelter of trees from creeks and rivers until they evaporate, and drain the water from swamps so that they can be cleared and cultivated, they prevent vapor from rising. And if it does not rise, it cannot fall. Man can change and is changing the forces of nature. Man can cut down the clouds.

—Gene Stratton-Porter
(1910)

There is language going on out there—the language of the wild. Roars, snorts, trumpets, squeals, whoops, and chirps all have meaning derived over eons of expression... We have yet to become fluent in the language—and music—of the wild.

—Boyd Norton

I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery—air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'This is what it is to be happy.'

—Sylvia Plath

We need invertebrates but they don't need us. If human beings were to disappear tomorrow, the world would go on with little change....But if invertebrates were to disappear, I doubt that the human species could last more than a few months. Most of the fishes, amphibians, birds and mammals would crash to extinction about the same time. Next would go the bulk of the flowering plants and with them the physical structure of the majority of forests and other terrestrial habitats of the world. The earth would rot.

—Edward O. Wilson

It's pretty nice in the tropics—North American songbirds warm up down there, eating fruits, berries and nectar. But they get the urge to migrate back for one reason: insects, which provide essential protein to newly hatched chicks. The densely populated tropics don't have enough insects to feed both the year-round species and the migratory birds. Northbound songbirds time their return to coincide with an explosion of food resources back home....In northern forests, the birds face less competition and use the long summer days to gather food for their chicks.

—Anna Diamond

Birds...process images more than twice as fast as humans do....birds have learned to use human civilization for food and shelter (for example, memorizing the schedule of garbage trucks).

—Jenny Odell

From Jennifer Ackerman's *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think*, I learned that birds such as the vinous-throated parrot-bill and the black Jacobin hummingbird make sounds beyond our range of hearing, while the mating displays of male black manakins feature a 'high-speed somersault' so fast that humans can see it only in slowed-down video. Birds see colors that we never will, and distinguish among colors that look the same to us. Writing about how they interpret a wall of foliage as 'a detailed three-dimensional world of highly-contrasting individual leaves,' Ackerman laments that she has tried to see what birds see, but humans just can't differentiate among the greens.

—Jenny Odell

Ackerman [Jennifer] writes that veeries, a type of North American thrush, can anticipate hurricanes months in advance, adjusting their nesting and migration schedules accordingly—but the way they do it is a 'deep mystery.'

—Jenny Odell

Scrub jays are nesting five to 12 days earlier than they did 100 years ago, probably to align with plant and insect cycles affected by climate change. Some birds in urban areas have ramped up nighttime singing in response to increased daytime noise, and birds living in loud places have shifted the pitch of their songs higher in order to be heard. Of course, behavioral flexibility can go only so far. In September 2019, Science published findings that North America had lost close to a third of its birds in the past 50 years. One of birds' broadest responses to human behavior, it turns out, has been to vanish.

—Jenny Odell

Incorporating *gökotta* into your life helps you once again see why the Swedes are among the happiest people in the world. I mean, start your morning by practicing *gökotta* and then try not to be happy for the rest of the day—it's impossible. So what does it mean? *Gökotta* is an untranslatable Swedish word, which essentially means 'to rise at dawn in order to go out and listen to the birds sing'.

—Nesi Zelenkova

Never be within doors when you can rightly be without.

—Charlotte Mason

How is it that animals understand things I do not know, but it is certain that they do understand. Perhaps there is a language which is not made of words and everything in the world understands it. Perhaps there is a soul hidden in everything and it can always speak, without even making a sound, to another soul.

—Frances Hodgson
Burnett

Down on the mile-deep floor of the Grand Canyon, the stillness allows the subtlest natural sounds to emerge, from the call of a peregrine falcon overhead to the scamper of a scorpion underfoot. Rock layers tell their own story, revealing nearly two billion years of geology.

—Pete McBride

People tend to think of elephants, with their enormous bulk and trumpetlike calls, as loud beasts. In fact, their footsteps are surprisingly stealthy, and their habitats reverberate with sounds unheard by us. Much of their communication takes place between 1 and 20 hertz, low frequencies out of range of the human ear. But those signals help herds keep in touch with each other over distances as great as six miles. Elephants perceive these vibrations not through the air but through the soles of their padded feet.

—Pete McBride

A natural silence longer than 15 minutes is rare in the United States and all but gone in Europe. Even remote wilderness areas and national parks are frequently crisscrossed by jets, shrinking the average noise-free interval to less than five minutes during daylight hours.

This noise pollution is harming animals. A study last fall at Queens University Belfast found that human-made sounds threaten the feeding, migration and communication of more than 100 species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. But noise pollution is also bad for our own health. It can lead to high blood pressure, heart disease, heart attacks, stress and insomnia. In 2011, the World Health Organization concluded that 340 million Western Europeans (roughly equivalent to the U.S. population) lost at least one million years of healthy life each year because of traffic-related noise.

—Pete McBride

In the wild, ghost bats favor the flesh of the native budgerigar, an endearing parakeet that many households keep as a pet. After one fatal bite to the bird's neck while it sleeps in a tree, the bat will carry it off to eat—starting with the head—as it hangs by its claws from a rock face. And perhaps it is this very invertedness—the silver bat in the black night, returning to its stony underworld to chew on feathers upside down—that makes you believe, however fleetingly, that every animal in the world might be accompanied by its own, bespoke devil. The colorful, trilling budgie above. Belowground, a ghost bat. Looking to nature, who doesn't begin compiling these sorts of binaries? Here, the hunted; there, the hunters. Animals that fear; animals to be feared. Serendipitous symbols partitioned from cursed ones.

—Rebecca Giggs

Prairie dog language is complex. They don't just have a call for 'danger': their calls differentiate human, hawk, domesticated dog, coyote etc. and specify size & color. One study found that they can communicate 'Here comes the short human in the yellow' (vs the tall human in blue) to each other.

—*theChive*

When animals do something noble we say they are behaving 'like humans'. When humans do something disgusting we say they are behaving 'like animals'. Clumsy use of the English language perpetuates the myth that animals are inferior and disposable beings.

—Phillip Wollen

Seagrasses are the forgotten ecosystem. Swaying gently beneath the surface of the ocean, seagrasses are too often out of sight and out of mind, overshadowed by colorful coral reefs and mighty mangroves. But they are among the most productive natural habitats on land or sea.

—Ronald Jumeau

Multiple studies have shown that providing children with nature-based experiences reduces the frequency of ADHD symptoms in both the immediate and longer terms. Another study found that children who received science instruction outdoors learned more than those who received it only in a classroom. Yet despite what we know about nature's positive impact on mental health, attention span, academic outcomes, physical fitness, and self-regulation, outdoor time is too often seen as a quirky and marginal add-on, rather than as central to the learning process itself.

—Erika Christakis

Cats are intended to teach us that not everything in nature has a purpose.

—Garrison Keillor

In some Native languages the term for plants translates to 'those who take care of us.'

—Robin Wall Kimmerer

There's so much humanity in a love of trees, so much nostalgia for our first sense of wonder, so much power in just feeling our own insignificance when we are surrounded by nature...yes, that's it: just thinking about trees and their indifferent majesty and our love for them teaches us how ridiculous we are—vile parasites squirming on the surface of the earth—and at the same time how deserving of life we can be, when we can honor this beauty that owes us nothing.

—Muriel Barbery

This is really why I made my daughters learn to garden—so they would always have a mother to love them, long after I am gone.

—Robin Wall Kimmerer

The Forest Service had once implemented a plan to reduce the population of bark beetles with pesticide—only to find that the pesticide killed off the beetles’ predators even more effectively than it killed the beetles. The intervention resulted in more beetles than before.

—Peter Turchin

We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world. We need to restore honor to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don’t have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgment of the rest of the earth’s beings.

—Robin Wall Kimmerer

The big myth about Yellowstone is that it’s a pristine wilderness untouched by humanity. Native Americans were hunting and gathering here for at least 11,000 years. They were pushed out by the government after the park was established. The Army was brought in to keep them out, and the public was told that Native Americans were never here in the first place because they were afraid of the geysers....Humans have been in Yellowstone since the time of mammoths and mastodons.

—Doug MacDonald

Creating a massive park [Yellowstone] in tribal lands was a distinct political act and it happened under a president who was fervently against native peoples. The park also represents the idea in Western philosophy that people are separate from nature, whereas Native American philosophy sees them as deeply intertwined.

—Matthew Sanger

The universe is one great kindergarten. Everything that exists has brought with it its own peculiar lesson. The mountain teaches stability and grandeur; the ocean immensity and change. Forests, lakes, and rivers, clouds and winds, stars and flowers, stupendous glaciers and crystal snowflakes every form of animate or inanimate existence, leaves its impress upon our soul.

—Orison Swett Marden

Think about this. All the little animals of your youth are long dead.

—Charles Portis

We need the tonic of wildness...At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be indefinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature.

—Henry David Thoreau

As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm, and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can .

—John Muir

She liked being reminded of butterflies. She remembered being six or seven and crying over the fates of the butterflies in her yard after learning that they lived for only a few days. Her mother had comforted her and told her not to be sad for the butterflies, that just because their lives were short didn't mean they were tragic. Watching them flying in the warm sun among the daisies in their garden, her mother had said to her, see, they have a beautiful life. Alice liked remembering that.

—Lisa Genova

When I heard the learn'd astronomer;
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me;
When I was shown the charts and the diagrams, to add, divide, and measure them;
When I, sitting, heard the astronomer, where he lectured with much applause in the lecture-room,
How soon, unaccountable, I became tired and sick;
Till rising and gliding out, I wander'd off by myself,
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.

—Walt Whitman

A garden should make you feel you've entered privileged space—a place not just set apart but reverberant—and it seems to me that, to achieve this, the gardener must put some kind of twist on the existing landscape, turn its prose into something nearer poetry.

—Michael Pollan