

# Environmentally Kids Newsletter

The Newsletter About Kids Saving Nature. Year 3, Issue 1, Mar.–Apr. 2023

Hello & welcome to those who are back! We hope you enjoy this next issue.

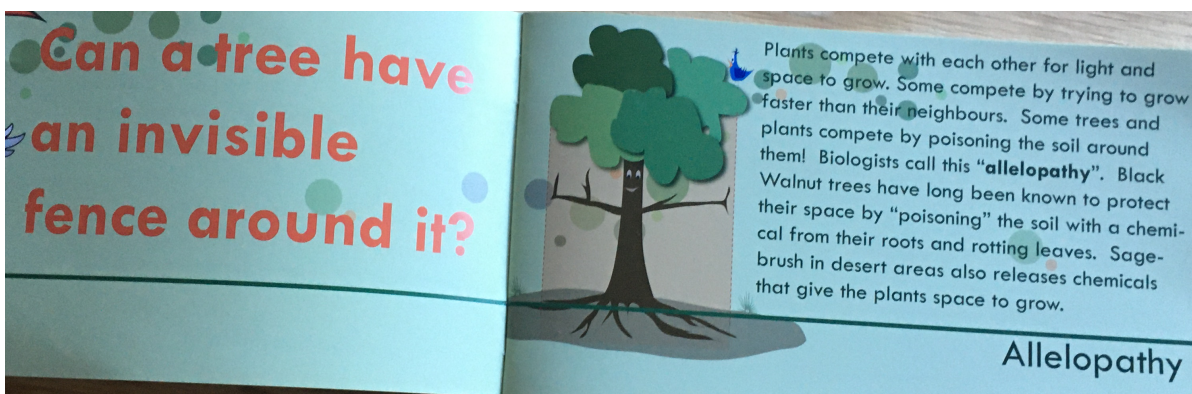


## About the Newsletter

This newsletter is for people (especially kids) who want to protect and heal Mother Nature. We really hope that this newsletter helps you start to take action in your own ways.

## Action Blurb:

We have this booklet from Mosaic Forest Management and we are going to fact check it. We encourage you to fact check our fact check.





### Fact check:

Although allelopathy is real, it is a minor part of tree communication. Trees also warn each other when they are in contact with danger (such as beetle infestations or a wildfire). They do this through mycorrhizal fungi and pheromones to warn them so that they can, for example, if there's beetles, put out sap so the beetles drown. Trees sometimes even keep a stump alive after it was cut down or fell down, which is an example of cooperation rather than competition. Forests are wonderful examples of communities. By choosing to focus on allelopathy instead of all the other things, this page is giving off the impression that trees are unintelligent, insignificant, vulnerable and evil, exactly what the logging companies want, so that logging will be justified.



**Where can you find a tasty treat in the forest?**

Licorice root fern (*Polypodium* spp.) tastes like sweet licorice, or at least some of them do. Licorice ferns are **epiphytes**; they grow up in the branches of other plants. You usually find them growing in the moss on maple and alder trees. If you chew on the root, you will find that it tastes sweet. Depending on the time of the year, and where it is growing it will also taste a little like black licorice.

**Ferns that taste like black licorice!**

Fact check:

Well, I have tasted liquorice fern root, and it does taste a bit like liquorice.

**How do you ensure worker safety in the forest?**




Working in the forest is a rewarding and exciting career opportunity! Because safety in the forest is so important, BC has an industry sponsored organization that works on behalf of the forest industry that watches over workers and monitors safe practices in the workplace. We want everyone to return safe and sound to their families at the end of their shift.

**Unsafe is Unacceptable**

Fact check:

We don't want anyone to get hurt at their work. We have some concerns about the first sentence in this answer, however. Forestry jobs are becoming fewer and fewer because equipment is becoming more efficient and it takes one person to operate a machine to cut down 20 trees, versus 10 people to cut down one. Besides, there are a lot more environmentally friendly job options with standing forests such as tourism, maintaining the forest, school tours, invasive species removal, and food harvesting (for example, maple syrup, nettles, and more). To conclude, forestry is becoming less and less of a career opportunity in general and there are many other ways to make a living working **with** the forests.

## More about forestry

The following content about advantages and disadvantages to forestry was published on <https://brainly.in/question/2617125> (by ShivaniSahgal11). I included it because I wanted to rebut some of the commonly stated “advantages” of deforestation. The content is pasted below; sentences after **But** added by me.

### List of Advantages of Deforestation

1. It produces lumber and charcoal.

Through this method, people can extract natural resources, such as timber and charcoal, which can be used to benefit industries and businesses for commercial and economic growth. **But** when we burn charcoal and wood we are making more carbon dioxide and speeding up global heating. Economic growth doesn't have to be problematic in itself, but the way it is happening spells disaster.

2. It offers job opportunities.

As deforestation increases demand from the lumber, manufacture, transportation and construction industries, more people will be needed to get the job done, thus an increase in employment opportunities. **But** with logging equipment becoming more efficient, jobs are becoming fewer and fewer.

3. It removes diseased trees.

In some cases, trees are being removed simply because of being dead or diseased. Through deforestation, these trees will be replanted with new, healthier ones. **But** the forests would naturally regenerate on their own, meaning that this logging is meaningless and harmful. When they replant, they will all be the same age and species, leaving little room for it to evolve into a thriving, diverse ecosystem. Not to mention all the chemicals that are used. Plus, any progress that has been made will likely be cut down in 20 to 50 years, all at once, leaving room for **invasive species** to take over once again. It is a vicious cycle.

4. It provides residential land.

One common alternative use for cleared lands is residential development, which can contribute to the easing of house prices and more land to build on. **But** with clear cutting, it leaves no trees to provide shade for the people living there. Also, in the process, they are washing away topsoil and destabilizing the ground on which the houses are.

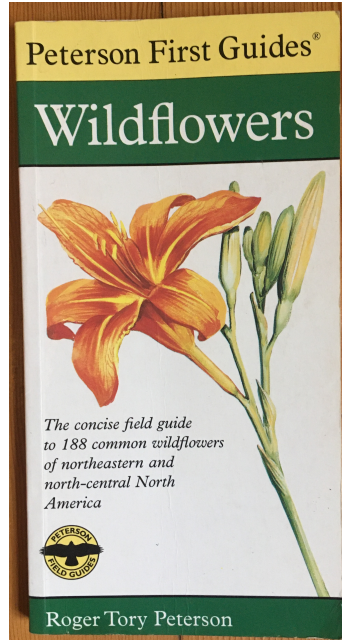
5. It allows for more agricultural land.

By clearing out a section of woodland, people will have sufficient land space for agricultural purposes, allowing for the growing of crops. This means that food output will be increased for the local area. **But** there are more problems with current agriculture practices than good, and promoting it means promoting a damaged system. Also, we are losing essential forests that are vital to survival of the planet.



## One Good Book

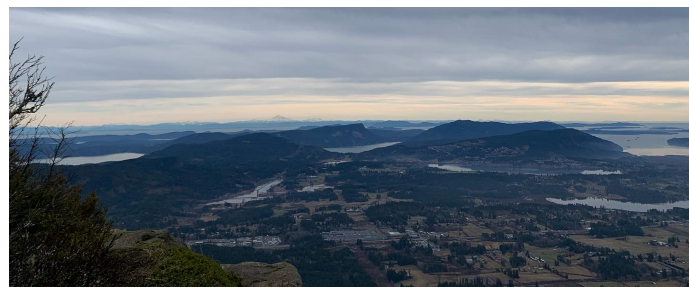
For The Birds by Peggy Thomas and Laura Jacques is about the life of Roger Tory Peterson, 1908-1996. He was an artist, bird-lover, and then, bird-saver. It talks about how he used his artistic talent to create the first bird identification guide and helped advocate to ban DDT. He lived his life "for the birds," and helped other people appreciate them as well.



One of his wildlife guides, though this one is for wildflowers instead of birds.

## News from Readers And Pet Pics

View from top of Swuq'us (right) and scotch broom under power lines (down) from the Whites



Picture by Emma Rose (right)





## Woodpecker

Little holes in the tree  
Send signals of dinner for me  
Snacks of bugs, spiders and grubs  
Bring me joy since I called dubs

from the Whites (below)



Buds (upper pic) and  
rainbow (above) from  
the Whites

Which tree do I pick  
To peck like a stick  
One which is dead  
And rotten and red

On delicious sap and seeds  
You are just what I need  
To fill my belly for the winter cold  
Spring is coming, or so I am told.

- Jenny White



## "Bee" a Contributor

We would love to hear from you! Please submit things for the newsletter (e.g. Nature related pictures, poems, stories, etc.) to: [kamillab@gmail.com](mailto:kamillab@gmail.com). We'll include them in the "News From Readers And Pet Pics" section. If you want to give a Nature-related book report with a picture for the "One Good Book" section, please email it to us.

## Important Upcoming Days/Dates and Ways to Celebrate

Come up with your own, and let us know what they are

### April

#### The 22nd is Earth Day

- Contact a local government official on an important environmental issue



## May

### The 15 is International Day of Families

- Do something for the environment with your family, like a garbage walk

### The 18th is Endangered Species Day

- Learn about endangered species at the [World Wildlife Fund](#) or [National Geographic](#)

### The 20th is World Bee Day

- Make a [Bee watering station](#)
- [Learn about bees!](#)

Keep at it! Remember, together we can make the difference!

## Extra Fun!

## Nature Bingo

Start a petition about a local environmental issue	Make a Nature collage	Avoid buying something you don't need
Free Space or Make up your own "Save Nature" activity	Build a bird house with an adult's help	Use the back of colouring sheets for drawing and/or making lists, then recycle it
Make a phone-call to your local government about an environmental issue	Bring and use re-useable bags at the store	Read a book about animals

## Glossary

**These definitions are based on our own understanding, plus research.**

**Infestations:** When something, in this case beetles, takes over in large numbers and harm the place they are taking over

**Invasive Species:** a species that has been introduced and crowds out native species which naturally grow there.

**Mycorrhizal Fungi:** the partnership of a plant root system and a fungus's mycelium; when they grow together, the mycorrhizae bring benefits to both. Also called fungus roots.

**Vulnerable:** lacking protection; exposed to risk

### **Writers and publishers:**

Alya & Kamilla Milligan, Cowichan Valley, British Columbia, Unceded Territory of the Ts'ubaa-asatx Peoples. Also thank you to Mick for assistance

Thank you for reading!