



## RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH

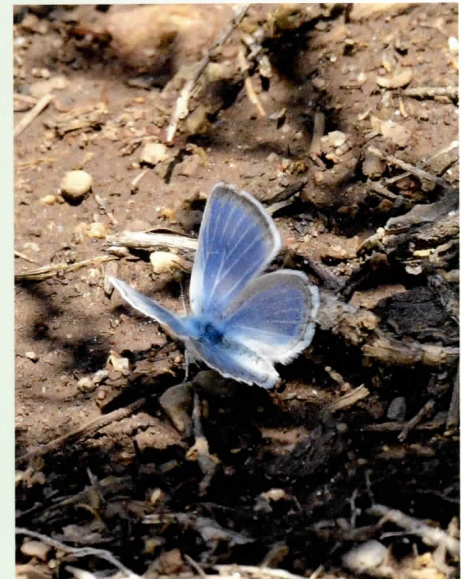
### Land Stewardship Committee

#### BLUE BUTTERFLIES

Consider the lives of Blue Butterflies. This early Spring, during a walk out in Yellowstone Park by Calcite Falls, I came upon two small silvery blue butterflies. These butterflies, commonly referred to as “blues,” are myrmecophilous—from Latin that translates as “ant-loving.”

When searching for an ideal lupine on which to lay her eggs, the mother blue locates a plant near a colony of small black ants. When the eggs hatch, the caterpillar uses its glands to emit chemical signals that broadcast its location to the nearby ant colony. Its chemical secretions pacify and appease the arriving colony of ants.

Once the ants have located the caterpillar, they set about patrolling the plant, guarding against predators and parasites. It's like a guardianship because when the caterpillar is threatened, it emits another chemical signal bringing the ant colony to another defensive state. The ants help the blue butterflies survive. Research shows that the silvery blue caterpillars, when distant from ant colonies, has a greater chance of being attacked by parasites. The silvery blue caterpillar provides to the ant colony a nutrient-dense honeydew in return for the protection the ants provide. The ants harvest this thick, carbohydrate-and amino-acid-rich honeydew from a gland in the caterpillar's abdomen, called the dorsal nectary organ or “honey gland.” The ants continue to protect the caterpillar which will shed its skin seven times until it reaches its full-grown length of three-quarters of an inch. At that time it is referred to as a pupate. The silvery blue will overwinter under rocks and leaf litter in a halted state of development called *diapause*, before emerging as an adult the following spring as a butterfly to begin the cycle anew.



*Did you ever think about ants being helpful to others? Animals can be examples to us. How are we helpful to others? How do we reach out not only to other people but to our beautiful environment full of animals. Let those who have eyes to see, see.*

GREEN LEAF

## CICERO SAYETH



Marcus Tullius Cicero said “If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.” There is limited truth in that, undoubtedly, because Cicero died before the birth of Christ. Who knows what he would say after 33 AD. But, Cicero had another great quote more relevant to today and the Yellowstone Environ: “When the world has gone mad, tis folly to be sane.”

People that peruse the internet, especially Tik-Tok in the last 90 days are aghast, maybe a few entertained, by the sheer folly and stupidity of the challenges present in Yellowstone to capture a baby bison, perhaps an elk calf, or strip off your clothes and run naked toward black bears. As Christians we have to “hold tight to the belief that God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but human beings as they are; not an ideal world, but the real world. What we find repulsive in their opposition to God, what we shrink back from with pain and hostility, namely, real human beings in the real world, this is for God the ground of unfathomable love.” Least ways that is what Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer says.

Bear encounters with humans are often signs of a conservation success story. That success story has a black down-side. Across the country, bear populations are recovering from the predator extermination campaigns of the early 20th century. Great Smoky Mountains now reports that it's home to about 1,900 black bears, more than two for every square mile of the park. Colorado's black bear population has almost doubled to around 20,000 over the last ten years. And the greater Yellowstone ecosystem—an area that encompasses both the park and surrounding protected areas—is now home to approximately 1,000 grizzlies, up from just 136 in 1975, when the species was listed as endangered.

But the more run-ins bears have with humans, the greater chances there are for something to go wrong. These encounters sometimes risk undoing the work of conservation groups. After the a fatal Yellowstone attack as well as several serious maulings some people have called to remove the grizzly from the endangered species list. This would open the door to hunting.

Although some people see killing the problem as the answer, the people who suffered the fate of bear encounters don't share the view. To them it is the way of nature and the order of things. Isn't that odd?

Ah yes, Cicero, you were ahead of your time. When the world has gone mad, it is folly to be sane.

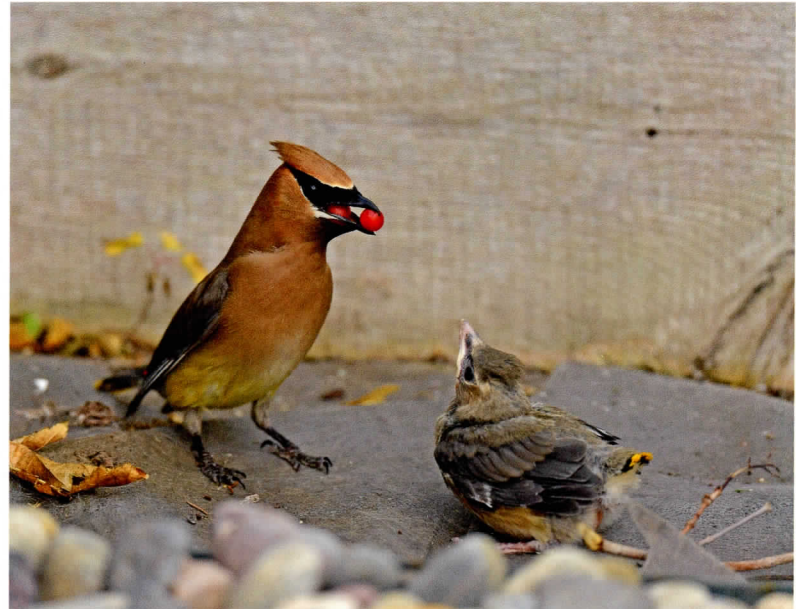
## SUMMERTIME

Summertime,  
And the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin'  
And the cotton is high

Your daddy's rich  
And your mamma's good lookin'  
So hush little baby  
Don't you cry

One of these mornings  
You're going to rise up singing  
Then you'll spread your wings  
And you'll take to the sky

But till that morning  
There's a'nothing can harm you  
With daddy and mamma standing  
by.



*(Summertime from Porgy & Bess: Picture of cedar waxwings by staff)*

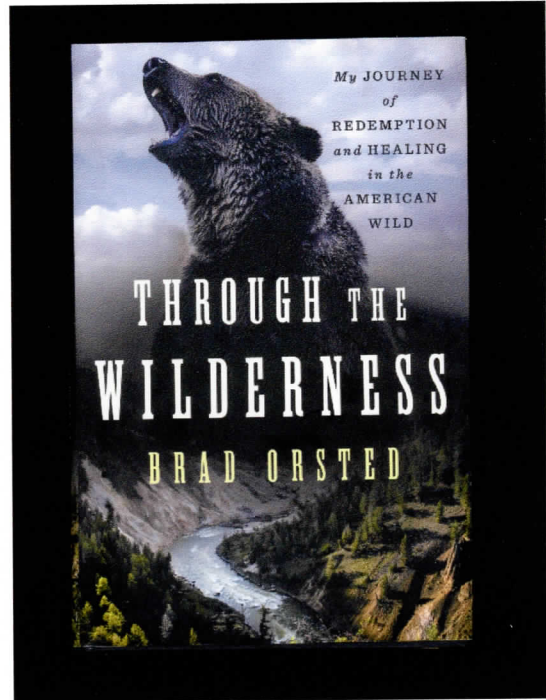
## *SUMMER STRAND*

*Robert H. Gore III, Ph.D*

For in my Paradise around me  
I shall build —  
And looking up through sylvan filigree  
Be content to gaze in quiet reverie,  
Caught and held in lacy leaf-bound trance,  
Enchanted by the Dryads twinkling dance  
And by all the stars above me  
And below.

Green Leaf is a publication of the Land Stewardship Committee of Resurrection Parish on the campus of Montana State University. It is privately funded by donations from friends, family, and charitable sources. For more information see Ellie Weber in the Parish Office or contact Paul Gore at 406-587-2001. The web page is [hoechoka.com](http://hoechoka.com).

**Brad Orsted** lives on the edge of Yellowstone wilderness. For most of his life he walked the narrow edge between beauty and madness. He was mortally wounded by the loss of a child but is slowly pulled back into the world of life and living and the human realm of living in the wilderness. For him it is a significant struggle of fall, resurrection and redemption. He finds a pair of orphaned grizzly cubs who show him how to live again. His is a story, unguarded, very human, and shares some of the life of St. Francis of Assisi and understanding how animals live, talk, and bring the “other world” into the human dimension. Many strange and wonderful things happen in the wilderness. The book is now available.



—*Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness*—

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread. Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

**Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ ”** Matthew 4:1-11

***THROUGH THE WILDERNESS*** will be the subject of a Zoom facilitated presentation by the Land Stewardship Committee in the very near future. Copies of the book will be presented free to attendees a month before time. Interested? Write to Paul Gore at [paulagore@att.com](mailto:paulagore@att.com) or see Ellie Weber at the parish office.