



# RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

## MUSING ON TREES

There is an ancient Chinese proverb that expresses the belief that for a man to attain immortality he must father a son, write a book, and plant a tree. That is not such a great challenge when compared with the words of Jesus—"Come follow me".

Wendell Berry in his search for Inner Peace concludes that "As I go among the trees and sit still, all my stirring becomes quiet..."

A British Columbia scientist, Dr. Suzanne Simard, presented in convincing detail that through an elaborate system of roots, electrons, and chemical exchanges, trees do talk with one another, and often over great distances. Imagine that!

And who was it that felt that *if trees could scream no man would ever sleep again?* If there is truth in that statement no one would want to be near the Amazon Rain Forest as it is systematically cut and burned to the ground.

David George Haskell offers his views that trees do sing. Say What!

By use of sophisticated electronic gadgetry Haskell recorded the sounds trees make as the stomata on the leaves open and close to release oxygen, take in carbon dioxide, and promote passage of water and nutrients from roots to leaves. By varying the acoustical playback speed of recordings he was astounded by the **SONG OF THE TREES.**

We have trees here at Resurrection University Parish. A few. They are planted to block views, quiet noise, direct traffic, and oblige order and discipline. They don't do much to foster reflection on eco-spirituality and recognizing the wonderful gifts from God. John Engle penned a poem in Nature Magazine decades past about trees such as ours:

***"Among things that arouse my pity are trees that grow within a city. The city dwellers seem to know exactly how a tree should grow. His trees must bow unto the law..."***

### Thought For The Day

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

Joyce Kilmer

GREEN LEAF



Just to the east of Bozeman. There is the habitat that lends itself to the woodpecker named Lewis's woodpecker. The Lewis's woodpecker was first discovered and named by Meriwether Lewis during the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1806. The bird is about 10 inches long and sports a black head, bordered by a gray collar and a brilliant pink chest. Not red. Pink!

Things are about to change and one could well ask why and what's in a name?

The American Ornithological Society (AOS) recently announced that it would change the names of over 260 North and Central American birds. The decision follows recommendations from a committee of prominent birders and ornithologists that decided the protocol of naming wildlife species after an individual was problematic because the names were not descriptive and imply ownership. The discoverer's name was used as a mark of honor and distinction within the scientific committee.



Renaming of many birds in North America is well underway in the year 2024 and over the next several years will eventually reach approximately 260 species, including 45 that are common in Montana. Birds slated to be renamed are Cooper's hawk, Stellar's jay, Townsend's solitaire, Lewis woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker. Renaming animal species is not very common but not unheard of. In recent years, for instance, The blue grouse has been renamed the dusky grouse due to new genetic findings.

Name changing dates back thousands of years and was very common among the Hebrews as we saw in Abram being renamed Abraham, and more known to Christians, was Saul being renamed by Jesus to Peter. Petri or Peter meaning rock upon which Christ built his church.

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Resurrection University Parish Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) is looking for parishioners for volunteer work on the LSC.

Nothing outstanding; just simple folk that like nature, want to become involved, have some spare time and want a parish commitment that has clear goals, short term time demands (as in one year) and want to work with others of similar intent. Librarian skills, botanical skills are helpful, as are writing, photography, bird watching, planting, art work and caring for flower beds. It is basically spirituality from the ground up. Grant writers are especially needed as are bilingual speakers. MSU students are greatly welcomed.

Parishioners are invited to become part of the LSC process. The LSC believes that we are all part of a learning and teaching church. So please, come teach as well as learn.