



RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC PARISH

Land Stewardship Committee

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT

There a short country road named Fowler that travels straight south from 19th. If you look carefully half way along, maybe even all the way along, if the beauty of creation doesn't distract you, you will see a barbed wire fence with a strange twist in the lines. There is also a trim out of a passage way between the ground and the second line. Long about 5:30 winter evening time there is a passage of deer traveling from the east to the west that steers directly to that --what--hole? Through that courtesy of opening the deer have learned that it is far better to stoop and walk through the opening than to leap the fence and risk entanglement and death.



Land stewardship, creation care, is not always in saving the forest of Brazil, or reducing the electricity bill at a parish. Sometimes it is as simple as enabling the "other nation" to have passage at a difficult time of the year. Courtesy, if you will, also known as land stewardship.

There is another example out on Cottonwood Road about a thousand yards from the Hyalite foothills and directly across from the Bos Dairy on Kent Spur. This particular site offers snow blower cut trails on the five acres that line out the path of the deer herd as they traffic east-to-west and reverse with the passage of the night. A bit more dramatic than the example of Fowler, perhaps even foolish? But the deer use it, the land owner enjoys it, and travelers often slow to watch the travelcade.

FEBRUARY
*And speaking of courtesy,
wear your mask!*



GREEN LEAF

SPEAKING OF LITTLE THINGS

The **emerald ash borer** (*Agrilus planipennis*), also known by the acronym **EAB**, is a green buprestid or jewel beetle native to north-eastern Asia that feeds on ash species. Females lay eggs in bark crevices on ash trees, and larvae feed underneath the bark of ash trees to emerge as adults in one to two years. In its native range, it is typically found at low densities and does not cause significant damage to trees native to the area. Outside its native range, it is an invasive species and is highly destructive to ash trees native to Europe and North America.



Green Ash? Such as the ones that line the parking lot on the north side of the parish church? Yes! The U.S. Department of Agricultural has tracked this "little gift" from China with the same attention and vigor as the Covid-19 virus invasion from China. From Concord New Hampshire to Montana, the infestation is spreading, so rapidly in fact, that Helena has a program now underway to cut down all Green Ash in the city to limit the spread and as a self defense measure since their trees, like ours, shade vehicles in parking lots as well as road ways. (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10909814>)

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NEW FROM CREATION CARE COMMITTEE

A Little Book But a Great Opportunity

The Creation Care Team will be hosting a Lenten book discussion on Wednesday, March 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. online via Webex (URL link below). Gayle Boss's new book *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing*, which examines how human grief and suffering are mirrored in the extinction of other species. The author will be attending to field questions and join the discussion. Grab a copy from your favorite bookseller and join

<https://montana.webex.com/montana/j.php?MTID=m7b575d9fa48f68db72e02fc021b4386a>

At the very bottom is some information about **Montana Interfaith Power & Light's "Faith Climate Action Week"** for late April. There may be a blessing ceremony for the solar panels now almost at one year in service. Creation Care will be discussing the possibility of our parish joining the statewide organization.

Speaking of environmental justice and advocacy, the Montana Legislature is considering a "**critical infrastructure**" bill that would criminalize our Indigenous brothers and sisters who defend their land and water from oil pipelines. The Koch-funded American Legislative Exchange Council has been pushing these laws all over the country since the Standing Rock protests. In Montana, HB 481 just passed the third reading in the House, now it goes to the Senate for debate and voting. You can message your Senator here and tell them to vote NO on HB 481:

<https://leg.mt.gov/web-messaging/?emci=751d83e2-5478-eb11-85aa-00155d43c992&emdi=deb80906-9e78-eb11-85aa-00155d43c992&ceid=16547671>

For an excellent read about the life of Hazel Johnson, a central figure in the environmental justice movement and a lifelong Catholic: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/hazel-johnson-mother-environmental-justice-was-catholic>

For more details, please contact Will Wright at willmwright1@gmail.com



About the Critters 'n Things...

THE GREAT HORNED OWL NESTS IN MARCH

*Wind singing through the larch
Intones the hymn of March.*

*The owl upon her nest
Waits with patient breast.*

*There is no sign of leaf
To foster her belief:*

*Nothing now but snow
Interminable below.*

*Minstrel winds of March
Singing through the larch:*

*Eggs within the nest
Warm beneath her breast*

Marjory Titus Greene, Nature Magazine, Vol.49, No.3, March 1956,
p.147



FEATHER



A feather is surely
A wonderful thing—
Less simple by far

Than the robes of a king:

The *shaft* of a feather

Grows on the *quill*

The *barb* the shaft—

And there's *more* to this still!—

The *barbules* sprout out

From the side of the barb—

Just think of all *this*

For a humming-bird's garb!—

And the *barbicels* grow

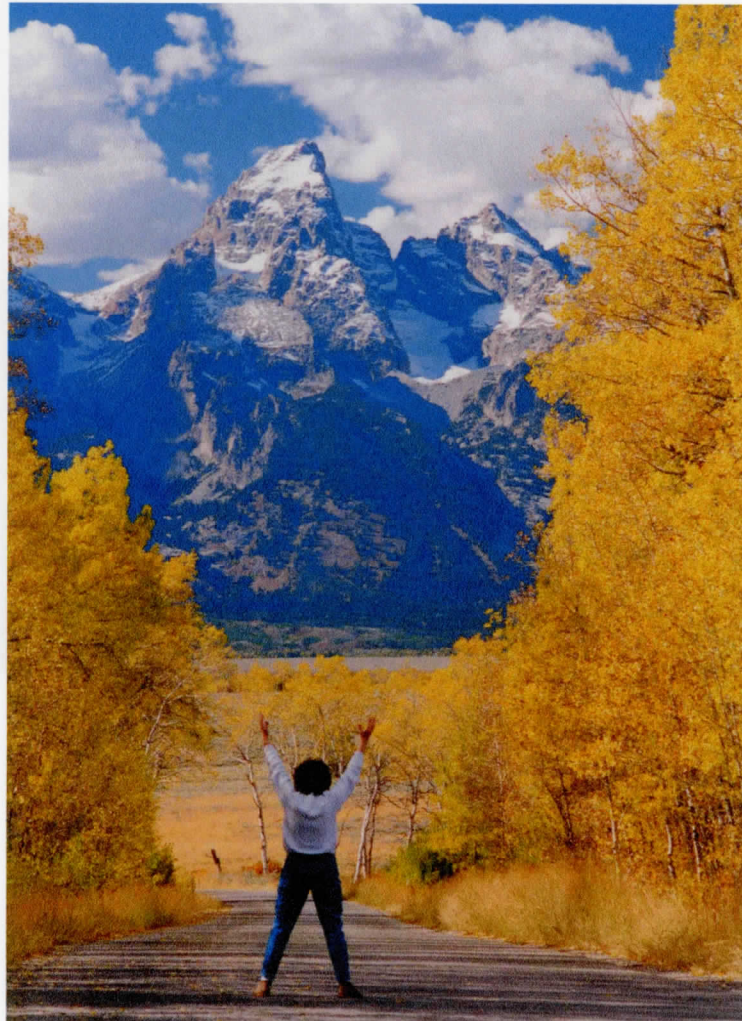
On the tiny barbules:

O Maker-of-feathers,
what were your tools?

Nature Magazine. Page 152. Mae Norton Morris

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