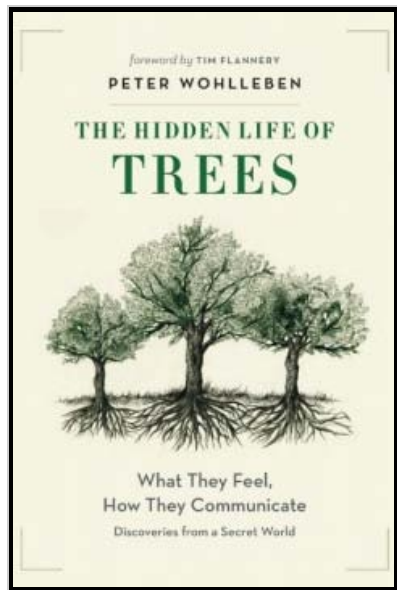




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The Hidden Life of Trees

What They Feel, How They Communicate Discoveries from a Secret World

by Peter Wohlleben, Tim Flannery

Price: \$24.95 (Hardcover)
Published: September 13, 2016

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher:

In *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Peter Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests and explains the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in the woodland and the amazing scientific processes behind the wonders of which we are blissfully unaware. Much like human families, tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, and support them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and creating an ecosystem that mitigates the impact of extremes of heat and cold for the whole group. As a result of such interactions, trees in a family or community are protected and can live to be very old. In contrast, solitary trees, like street kids, have a tough time of it and in most cases die much earlier than those in a group. Drawing on groundbreaking new discoveries, Wohlleben presents...

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About The Author

Peter Wohlleben, Tim Flannery
Peter Wohlleben spent over twenty years working for the forestry commission in Germany before leaving to put his ideas of ecology into practice. He now runs an environmentally-friendly woodland in Germany, where he is working for the return of primeval forests. He is the author of numerous books about trees.

Release Info

List Price: \$24.95 (Hardcover)
Published: September 13, 2016
Publisher: Greystone Books
Pages: 288
ISBN 10: 1771642483
ISBN 13: 9781771642484

What We Say

This charmingly discursive book by Peter Wohlleben is like wandering an old growth woods with a lovable and informed forester by your side. For Peter (I feel on a first name basis), this tree here and that root system there and the stump over yonder all prompt comments and stories. Brief chapters focus on various topics like Friendship and The Language Of Trees and Love and ...wait, what? And that mischievous description of trees in the subtitle -- what they "feel," how they "communicate?" It's not so fanciful, but apparently grounded in the latest scientific research. Trees do in fact communicate with themselves and others (via scent and electrical impulses and sound and intermediaries). They tend to their young.

They share resources with other species. Their roots are mind-blowingly extensive and along with fungi it amounts to an underground "internet" that has been dubbed the wood wide web. Scientists are just now tracing how nutrients pass back and forth among competitive trees in a dance of mutuality, to give just one tiny example from the afterword. Peter clearly and directly spells out what is going on during storms and in "plantation" forests and trees growing in urban environments, urging you to open your eyes the next time you enter a real forest and look for things like forked trunks and young beeches bidding their time in the shadow of larger species. His insights are never loaded with scientific jargon and his anthropomorphism is playful and inviting. This ramble is so plotless one should become impatient. Except every little chapter is simply bursting with fascinating detail, like the way rain water pours down the trunks of some trees and is shunted aside by the conifers of others. Or what to look for in the bark of trees and why branches rarely grow close to the ground. Trees, like ents, work on a very different time scale than us. But "slow" does not mean trees are objects, like rocks. They are more like animals than the easy categorization of "plants"and "animals" would have one believe, he says. By the end, you'll be inclined to agree a lot more than you did at the beginning. Frankly, I was relieved to be holding an e-reader -- having a print edition of this work (made out of the pulp of dead trees!) would seem almost...rude. I'm no naturist but this book is a treat. My one complaint is that it features just a few simple drawings. I wanted *hundreds* of them or preferably photographs illuminating what Peter is telling us. Already a big bestseller in Europe, I've no doubt this could capture the imagination in the US as well and a fully illustrated edition might follow. And I hope someone puts it in the hands of the team behind the documentary film "Blue Planet" and its like. As crazy as it sounds, a documentary film about trees should be just as exciting as all those nature movies where hunter stalks prey. It's eye-opening, sweet-natured (literally) and filled with information that makes you want to pause and say to the person next to you, "Hey, did you know trees can...?" -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

"The matter-of-fact Mr. Wohlleben has delighted readers and talk-show audiences alike with the news — long known to biologists — that trees in the forest are social beings." —Sally McGrane, *The New York Times*

"If you read this book, I believe that forests will become magical places for you, too." —Tim Flannery

"Peter Wohlleben is a generous and knowledgeable guide into this fascinating and complex secret world hidden in plain sight. *The Hidden Life of Trees* is a powerful reminder to slow down and tune into the language of nature." —Rachel Sussman, author of *The Oldest Living Things in the World*

"Charming, provocative, fascinating. In the tradition of Jean-Henri Fabre and other great naturalist story-tellers, Wohlleben relates imaginative, enthralling tales of ecology."—David George Haskell, author of *The Forest Unseen*, Pulitzer finalist

"Wohlleben's book is at once romantic and scientific, beautifully articulating his personal relationship with the trees he has dedicated his life to. His view of the forest calls on us all to reevaluate our relationships with the plant world." —Daniel Chamovitz,...

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