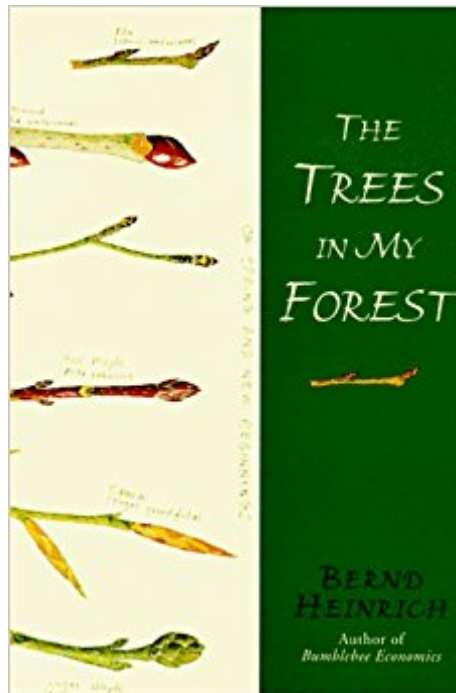




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The Trees In My Forest



Synopsis

The soaring majesty of a virgin forest and the intertwined relationships of plant, animal and man are the subject of Bernd Heinrich's lyrical elegy. Heinrich has spent a lifetime observing the natural world, and now he shares his vast knowledge and reflections on the trees of the Northeast woods and the rhythms of their seasons. From the DNA contained in an apple seed to the great choiring branches far beyond a young boy's reach, Heinrich explores a natural world in scientific and personal terms. Heinrich is a scientist, but his words speak with the power and subtle grace of a poet. He uses this gift, and his intimate knowledge of his 300 acres of Maine forest, to expose the forest's rhythms and in doing so, illustrates the vital but tenuous link among man, trees, birds, insects and all the creatures of the forest. Thanks to Bernd Heinrich, readers will finally see the forest and the trees.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Zoologist Heinrich (*A Year in the Maine Woods*, LJ 10/1/94) lives in a 300-acre Vermont forest, of which he intended to sell parcels when he bought it 20 years ago. Instead he found his old interest in forestry reawakened, and he renewed his lifelong love affair with trees. Lucky for readers that he did?this book is a gentle reminder of the grand adventure in nature, not just in exotic locales.

Heinrich creates detailed portraits of his forest's life, from sex among the trees to ants herding aphids to a history of the majestic white pine, giving readers the full view of life in a healthy forest ecosystem. Heinrich has the ability to engage the reader instantly and to transform common settings into meaningful and educational experiences. Highly recommended for all natural history

collections. Randy Dykhuis, Michigan Lib. Consortium, Lansing Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This lyrical testament to the stunning complexity of the natural world also documents one man's bid to make a difference on his own little patch of land. Heinrich (One Man's Owl, 1987, etc.) bought 300 acres of logged-over Maine woods in 1975 and set out to restore its ecological diversity. A professor of biology at the University of Vermont, he uses the farm as retreat, classroom, and research lab. Heinrich is a detective in the woods. He infers from the presence of pin cherries the location of old pastures and dates a 19th-century forest fire by examining growth rings and charcoal deposits. His scientific method is wide-ranging and inclusive, drawing on engineering, mathematics, zoology, biochemistry, forestry, and economics, encompassing both micro and macro views. For the former he scrutinizes saplings under a microscope and details the biochemical process by which trees manufacture wood. The big picture spurs musings on the vast interconnectedness of nature as he traces the mind-bogglingly complicated symbiotic relationships among plants, animals, and natural forces like wind and sunlight. Heinrich uses simple sketches to illustrate his explanations of the ingenious design, growth strategies, and reproductive methods employed by trees in their quest for survival. In his ultimate goal of creating a forest, a place of "habitat complexity" vastly different from the sterile monocultures planted by paper companies in the name of sustainable forestry, he succeeds admirably. It's a pleasant surprise, then, to learn that in the end Heinrich does well by doing good: Not only is he rewarded with a diverse plant and wildlife population, he also reaps a cash profit from responsible logging. Heinrich tells us more about trees than we'd ever dream of wondering, yet manages to transform the esoterica into a fascinating tribute to nature's superior design. -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Wonderful telling of B.H.'s woods over the years. Writes so thoughtfully about nature. Love this author.

Even though it's been several years since I've read this book, I still think of it often and treasure Bernd Heinrich's gentle lessons about the lives of trees. The thought that trees actively pursue life - and even move - was a novel idea for me. This and many of the other observations Mr. Heinrich makes in this book have made a lasting difference to me not only in the way that I see the natural world but also the way that I approach issues in my every day life. This book would make a thoughtful gift for anyone who has a love of the outdoors. It's not just about ecology or forestry - it's

not even a statement about conservation. You don't need a scientific background or an agenda to enjoy this book. You just need a love of nature and the willingness to consider life as it grows around you.

I have read nearly all of Mr. Heinrich's books and have enjoyed them all. I really didn't think a book on trees would be that interesting, but I was wrong. Like all of his books it is a good combination of science and personal experience. Highly recommended. My only regret is I didn't read it earlier.

I liked this book so much I bought another copy and donated it to our local lending library. Dr. Heinrich brings his lifetime of academic study to illuminate his loving picture of his woodlot and its natural systems. Never preachy nor inaccessible, his descriptions are rich and aimed at lay readers. If you want to learn more about Northern Appalachian mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland communities, this is an excellent source. I've lived and worked in the same ecosystem for years but learned a lot from this book.

Heinrich is a very good biologist and just as good a writer. I wish the local DNR treated the forests in their charge as well as he has his.

This book does not disappoint. It is written in Mr Heinrich's usual style which puts complex scientific information into language the average person can understand. He doesn't dumb it down; he explains how a process works by giving first hand observations and his opinions. It was as if I was sitting with him in his woods. He explained the science behind our ordinary observations-why some trees are tall and other not, how they grow from center and lateral buds and how that can show age for example. This is a very enjoyable book for the nature/outdoors reader. I learned much from it and had a good time doing it.

Again, Dr. Heinrich pulled me right out of my shoes and made me think so differently. I have always thought of a great book as one you read while losing the world around you, makes it insignificant so the book world takes over. That happened while reading this book. For me he explains the natural world; makes me see it around me. Go read this one.

Educational in a most comforting way. I will recommend this read to anyone who is interested in the meaning of Forests and Life. Mimi Gardeners

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