

Master Gardener Extension Volunteers of Union and Towns Counties

NEWSLETTER

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Meetings: Unless announced otherwise, Master Gardener Extension Volunteers of Union and Towns Counties meet on the second Thursday of every month in the Fellowship Hall at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church in Young Harris, 4:00 p.m. socializing, 4:30 p.m. meeting. We do not meet if inclement weather closes Union County or Towns County schools.

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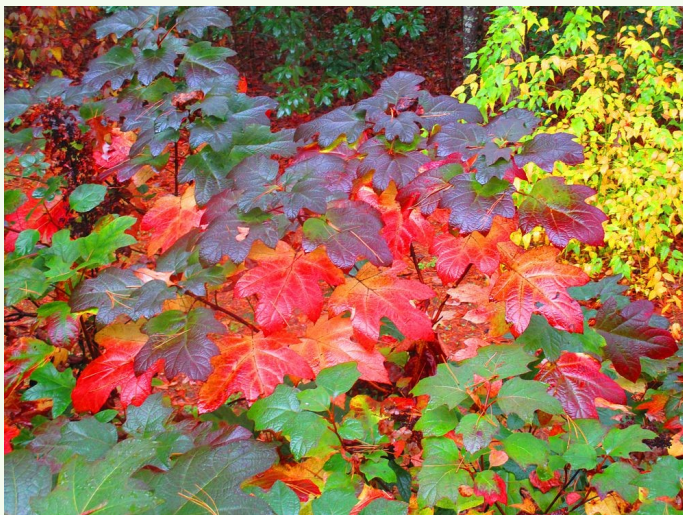
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Oakleaf Hydrangea from the garden of Henry and Tommy Westbrook

Editor's Words

WINTER. My lawn mower has been stored until next Spring and the weather, very fickle, can be springlike at times or very wintery. I wait patiently for my snowdrops and aconites to push through the soil and display their lovely little blooms. I admire the shapes of branches and trees, void of their foliage. Now bark can be appreciated—paperbark maple and crape myrtle. There is enough beauty in the garden to see me through to Spring.

Master Gardener Extension Volunteers have been busy getting gardens, like the Gold Medal Garden, ready for the winter months ahead and crafting treasures for the Kris Kringle Market that is scheduled for December 3rd.

Our featured Master Gardener Extension Volunteer for this quarter is Mark Noyd, please see pages 3– 4 and be sure to check out Grace Howard's article and photographs about the dedication of the Daffodil Garden at Lloyd's Landing, pages 11-13. And beautiful photographs are found on pages 14 -16 of plants with beautiful seasonal color.

Happy gardening,

Jo Anne

***** Winter arrives on December 21, 2022 at 4:48 p.m..*****



Frost on Winter Berry from the garden of Tom and Jo Anne Allen

Meet Mark Noyd

Our featured Master Gardener Extension Volunteer for this quarter is Mark Noyd. He completed his Master Gardener Extension Volunteer training in April of 2019 and was certified in August 2020.

Mark was born in Rapid City, South Dakota and lived in the Black Hills for the first three years of his life. After his father died, his mom moved their family to Binghamton, New York (upstate New York) where he grew up.

He attended college in the mid-west at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio where he met and later married the love of his life, Mary Joseph. Mary Joseph taught pre-kindergarten and elementary school in the Atlanta, Georgia area. They built a second home for retirement in Towns County 26 years ago where they spend about 40% of their time but have kept their home in Atlanta in the Brookhaven area to be near their two sons and five (soon to be six) grandchildren.

Mark completed his graduate work at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan and went to work for one of the "Big 8" accounting firms, KPMG as a CPA in Atlanta. After working for KPMG, Mark worked for several different companies as a financial controller or CFO, with technology being his field of expertise. After the .com bust, he worked briefly as a commercial real estate appraiser and then the last 12 years of his career he worked as a consultant helping clients with software installations. He has been fully retired for five years now.

Mark is a high energy person and after retiring, he made up a list of things he wanted to accomplish. First and foremost, after visiting Hamilton Gardens, he wanted to become a Master Gardener. Second, he wanted to learn how to make bread so he attended a course at the Campbell Folk School on bread making. Now he bakes for his children and grandchildren and they let him know when they are out of bread. Third, he was interested in music and wanted to learn how to play the piano, so he takes piano lessons and now he plays the piano. Fourth, with his financial background, he volunteered with AARP Tax Aid and along with 10 other people they go to the local library during tax season and volunteer their time preparing taxes for people for free. He is also entertaining the idea of possibly taking up pickleball in the future.

Volunteer activities, other than the AARP Tax Aid work, included work at Hamilton Gardens until the recent leadership changes took place and currently, he volunteers at Lloyd's Landing in Hiawassee. At Lloyd's Landing, he is co-chairing the new Children's Holocaust Daffodil Garden installation and dedication and there are separate plans by the City for a board walk connecting Lloyd's Landing with the Mayor's Park. Young Harris College students made a wire sculptor of a pink elephant and named her Ellawassee and Mark's group helped with moving her to Lloyd's Landing. Mark is also active in his Church.

Favorite plants to grow include native azaleas, False Indigo (Baptisia), blueberries and Ruellia, also known as Mexican petunia, a reseeding annual. He has several native azaleas in his garden in Hiawassee that he adds to each year. Currently he does

not have a vegetable garden because of all of the deer in his area. The Canadian Azalea Society donated a number of azaleas to Hamilton Gardens as a test site and after the changes in leadership at Hamilton Gardens took place, 15 four-inch azaleas were moved to Mark's house for him to watch over and grow out with the Society's approval.

Current projects happening at both of his homes include overseeing hardwood floor installation in his Brookhaven home and tree work at his house in Towns County.

In their travels, favorite places are Scotland and Ireland and they want to cruise the Mediterranean.

Mark's favorite food is rhubarb pie and his favorite gardening activity is digging planting holes. Something that many of his friends don't know about him, other than the fact that he was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, is that his grandmother was a famous pioneer in the Klondike Gold Rush in Alaska. She had an older husband and she left him with their children and went to Alaska in search of gold. There she opened a hotel and sold food to other pioneers.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Mark better and hope you will too.

Jo Anne Allen

Master Gardener Extension Volunteer



Mark at Lloyd's Landing

December Garden Chores

Trees and Shrubs - Trees, shrubs, and perennials can still be planted or transplanted to a new location this month if the ground is not too frozen to work properly. Some trees and shrubs that will provide food for birds are dogwood, crabapple, holly, hawthorn, and pyracantha.

Continue raking leaves from your lawn and apply lime if your soil test indicates that it is needed. A hand-held shredder that acts like a vacuum is an alternative to raking. The shredded, bagged leaves can then be deposited in your garden.

If you have not already done so, mulch all trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs. A four to six-inch layer of mulch is good, placing the mulch close but not touching the stem or trunk of the plant.

Deciduous trees and shrubs can be pruned as needed when they are fully dormant.

Rake and dispose of fruit and leaves around fruit trees to help minimize over-wintering insects and diseases.

If rain and snowfall are inadequate, water all new plantings and bulb beds.

Flower Beds - Cut chrysanthemums back to about two to three inches once blooming is complete.

To keep your pansies healthy and blooming, deadhead (remove faded blooms) and fertilize, following label directions.

Spring flowering bulbs can still be planted this month.

Clean up flowerbeds and remove annuals killed by frost. Work old mulch and organic matter into beds before the soil freezes.

Apply pre-emergent herbicides to control winter weeds.

Vegetables - Plan ahead. Order gardening catalogs and start planning your spring vegetable and flower gardens.

Prepare next year's garden soil by turning it over and incorporating organic materials such as pine bark, compost, or shredded leaves.

Pull any weeds that remain in your garden.

Cut any remaining tops off of asparagus plants and add a winter dressing of aged manure to the bed.

Houseplants - Do not over water houseplants during the winter months as this could lead to root rot.

Miscellaneous - As winter approaches, take time to review your past gardening year. Look at your successes and failures and make your next year's plans and goals accordingly.

If you decorate for the holidays with a cut Christmas tree, recycle the tree by pruning off boughs for use as frost and wind protection for tender and newly planted perennials and shrubs.

Prepare your garden tools for winter storage. Clean, sharpen, and store them in a bucket filled with oiled, coarse sand. They will be ready for you when spring arrives.

If you have not already done so, shut down outdoor irrigation systems to prevent freezing and drain garden hoses and store indoors.

Don't forget to feed the birds because as winter approaches, they may not be able to find an adequate supply of food. Keep fresh water out for the birds as well.

Lightly trim evergreens in your garden to use for holiday decorations. Magnolia, euonymus, boxwood, laurel, holly, cypress, and juniper all make long-lasting cut stems indoors.

Look for after Christmas sales on garden tools and equipment.

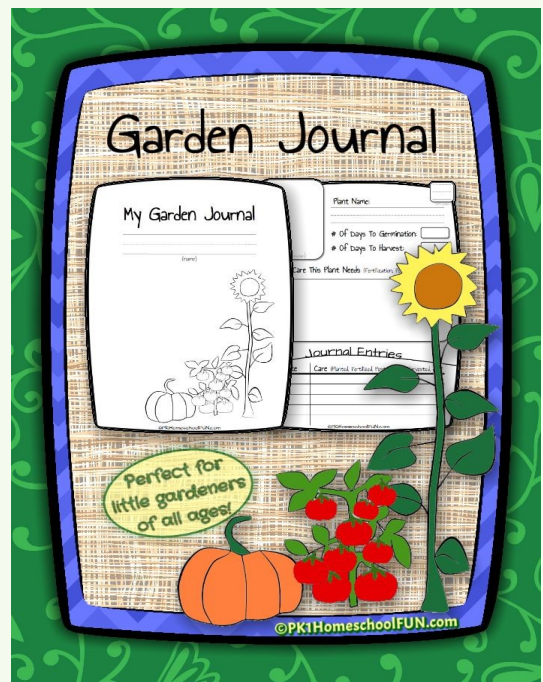
Make a wreath of dried herbs and flowers from your garden.

If you do not have a garden journal, get one and start keeping records of your garden. Record information such as future plans for design, plant and seed orders, planting schedules, insect appearances, garden highlights (like the date when you first see blooms on your spring bulbs), and more.

Celebrate the winter solstice (the arrival of winter) December 21st.



Clean and store garden tools for winter



Keep a garden journal, note past garden successes and failures and plan your future garden

January Garden Chores

Trees and Shrubs - For winter interest in your landscape, birch trees, crape myrtle, deciduous magnolia, coral bark maple, kousa and red-twig dogwood, stewartia, and trident maple all have interesting bark.

For winter blooms, plant flowering quince, witch hazel, and leatherleaf mahonia.

Prune trees and shrubs while they are dormant with the exception of those that bloom in the spring. They should be pruned just after they bloom. Evergreen shrubs can also be pruned late this month.

Be sure to water evergreens before the soil freezes if severe weather is forecast, because the roots are not able to take up water when the soil is frozen.

When pruning, make sure that your tools are sharp. For large branches, first cut through the bark on the underside of the limb to be pruned to keep it from tearing the bark. Next, cut from the top, close but not flush with the trunk. The swelling at the base of each branch is the branch collar and this should not be cut.

Plant ornamental trees and shrubs this month if the soil is not frozen.

Watch for borers, over-wintering insects, and scale on broadleaf evergreen trees, fruit trees, shrubs, roses, and perennials. Apply dormant oil spray when these pests are detected, always following label directions.

Water trees and shrubs during dry periods.

Prune nandinas any time between now and early spring by cutting out one third of the oldest canes.

Shrubs such as forsythia, spirea, and kerria can be divided now.

Flowerbeds - Watch for poison ivy when working outdoors. Even though the vine is leafless this time of the year, the branches can still cause a powerful reaction if accidentally touched.

If you have *Helleborus orientalis* (Lenten rose) planted in your garden – look for blooms beginning now to mid-spring.

To encourage new blooms, deadhead pansies (remove spent blossoms) and fertilize monthly with fertilizer that contains nitrate nitrogen (best for plants growing in cold soils).

Water outside containers planted with pansies and evergreens regularly.

Vegetables - If you have not already done so, prepare your vegetable garden area for spring planting when the ground is frost free and not soggy. Apply lime if your soil test indicates that you should. Contact your County Extension office for soil test directions.

The New Year is an exciting time to reevaluate your life and your garden. Cold days are great for sitting by a fire and planning your spring landscape changes and vegetable garden.

Request mail-order seed and plant catalogs and order seeds for starting indoors.

If the ground is dry, till soil in your vegetable garden to help eliminate insects and weeds and incorporate manure or compost to get the soil in good shape for spring plantings.

Houseplants - Remove amaryllis stems with the faded blooms. Keep it indoors with your houseplants then plant it outdoors in May.

Use water at room temperature when watering houseplants. Spray houseplants with insecticidal soap if you detect spider mites, mealy bugs, or scale on the leaves, always following label directions.

Give houseplants a half turn every month so they do not become misshapen.

Repot houseplants as needed and fertilize using a water-soluble fertilizer at eight-week intervals at half the recommended strength.

Miscellaneous - Now is a good time to install edgings around flowerbeds and construct walls, terraces, and walkways, when weather permits.

Instead of salt, use sand on icy walks and driveways. Salt can damage plants and lawns.

Have your lawnmower serviced so it will be ready when you are for spring grass cutting.

Inventory your garden tools and replace or repair as necessary. Sharpen your tools and clean rust from them with steel wool. Coat blades with a light oil and rub linseed oil on wooden handles to help preserve them.

Chop unwanted bamboo and English ivy to the ground. Follow up with weed killer on the leaves in April. More than one application of weed killer may be necessary, always follow label directions.



Prune trees and shrubs while they are dormant



Order plant and seed catalogs

February Garden Chores

Trees and Shrubs - Forsythia and quince are easy to force into bloom indoors. Cut branches when the buds show a touch of color and place them in a vase of water. They should bloom within a week or so.

February is a good month to plant and transplant trees and shrubs.

Prune flowering shrubs that flower before May just after they bloom; prune those that bloom after May prior to spring growth.

Prune apple and pear trees.

Continue dormant pruning; prune out any tree branches that are crossed, broken, or diseased.

Observe Arbor Day by planting a tree on February 17th. In Georgia, Arbor Day is celebrated the third Friday in February.

Fertilize established ornamental trees and shrubs always following label directions.

Cut back butterfly bush to 12-18 inches to promote thicker growth and more blooms.

Check the mulch around your landscape plants and add some if necessary. Trees and shrubs should have about a six-inch-thick covering layer of mulch.

Prune overgrown broadleaf shrubs late this month.

Prune evergreens. Do not severely prune pines, spruce, or junipers as they are unable to generate new growth from old wood.

If necessary, prune crepe myrtle by selecting 3, 5, or 7 main stems. Prune old seed heads and twiggy growth that grows from the base of the plant.

Prune Clematis armandii immediately after it blooms.

Flowerbeds - Fertilize spring bulbs as they emerge with 10-10-10, following label directions. Note gaps in plantings and plan fall bulb order.

Prune ornamental grasses down to 12-18 inches to expose base of clump to sunshine.

Prune climbing roses after the first flush of blooms. Now is a good time to tie main canes to a support before they leaf out and remove any stray canes.

Divide ground covers that have become too thick and prune back liriopse before new spring growth begins by setting your lawn mower to its highest setting and cut.

Look for blooms on your Lenten rose (*Hellebores orientalis*).

Keep faded flowers and weak growth removed from pansies and keep them well watered and fertilized.

Soil Test - Take soil samples from your garden area in order to plan your fertilizer program. Contact your County Extension Agent for instructions on having your soil tested.

Prepare vegetable garden area for planting. Add fertilizer and lime if indicated by your soil test.

Houseplants - An occasional lukewarm bath in the sink or shower is a tonic for houseplants that overwinter in hot, dry rooms.

When the weather is extremely cold, close the window shades or place protective cardboard between houseplants and window glass to protect houseplants.

Compost - Add any remaining leaves and garden debris to your compost pile if you have one. If you do not have a compost pile, start one.

Miscellaneous - Clean out the old nesting materials in your bluebird boxes early in the month and they will be ready when the bluebirds are ready to nest.

Feed birds and provide them with a fresh supply of water.

Use cat litter or sand on icy sidewalks instead of salt. Too much salt can burn nearby plant roots.

Service your lawn mower so it will be ready when you are for spring grass cutting.



Look for blooms on your Lenten Roses



Have soil tested so you can plan your fertilizer schedule

Children's Holocaust Daffodil Garden Project

The new Children's Memorial Daffodil Garden, located at Lloyd's Landing in Hiawassee, was dedicated on October 23, 2022. It is situated in a public park and offers a beautiful and peaceful vista across the east end of Lake Chatuge. This garden is part of an international initiative created by the Daffodil Project in Atlanta whose goal is to plant 1.5 million special daffodil bulbs around the world in memory of the 1.5 million children who were murdered during the Holocaust. To date, approximately 780,000 bulbs have been planted and there are over 300 new gardens scheduled for planting next year. The daffodil was selected for its bright yellow color and its six-sided petals, the color and shape of the tags all Jews were required to wear for identification. The daffodil is also resilient, just like the survivors of the Holocaust. A total of 1,000 bulbs were planted at Lloyd's Landing.

Supporting the Daffodil Project is another initiative called *Foothills of Remembrance* which maps and highlights the daffodil gardens of the Northeast Georgia Mountains. To date, gardens are located in Ellijay (in process), Blue Ridge, Blairsville, Young Harris, and Hiawassee.

The new garden is part of a new Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Project, which includes all of Lloyd's Landing; Mark Noyd is the project chairman. The other daffodil garden, which is also a TUMGA project is located in Meeks Park in Blairsville.

Grace Howard
Master Gardener Extension Volunteer
Class of 2011.



A garden is a delight to the eye and a solace for the soul.

Saadi

Daffodil Garden Dedication



Mike Weinroth (The Daffodil Project Atlanta) with Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Grace Howard



Speakers at the dedication ceremony



Daffodil Garden Dedication



Mark Noyd, Children's Holocaust Daffodil Garden Project Chairman

What's Blooming Now

(or what has just finished blooming or being beautiful)

Photographs on this page are from the garden of Henry and Tommy Westbrook



Burning Bush

Japanese Maple



What's Blooming Now
Continued



Oakleaf Hydrangea from
the garden of Henry and
Tommy Westbrook



White Nandina Berries
from the garden of Tom
and Jo Anne Allen

What's Blooming Now

Continued

This page contains photographs from the garden of Tom and Jo Anne Allen

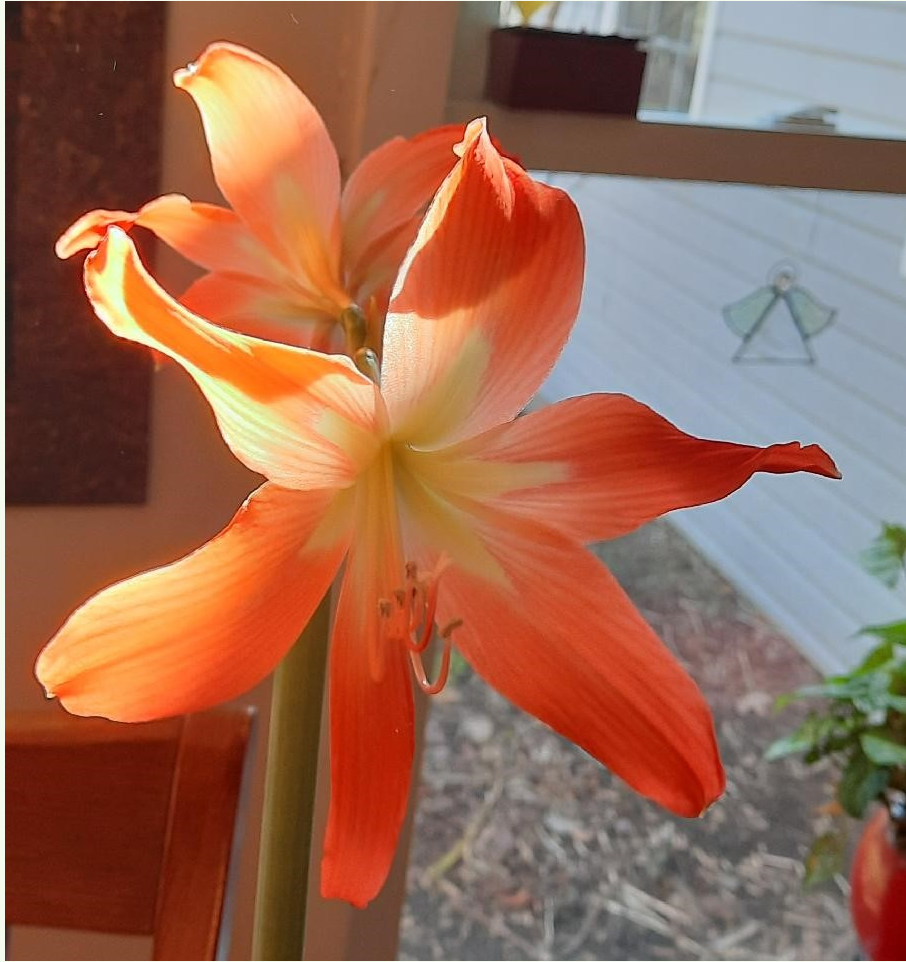


Amsonia hubrectii

Oakleaf Hydrangea



What's Blooming Now
Continued
Amaryllis submitted by Elaine Bliss



Hardiness Zone Map Shifting North

The serious gardener is aware of what a hardiness zone map is and the beginner gardener is probably familiar with the information found on plant tags that come with plants they purchase from their local garden centers.

Hardiness zone maps were first developed back in 1938, showing the average annual extreme minimum temperatures at a given location. It allows gardeners to easily identify which plants are most suited to grow well in their area based on temperature and frost.

But the zone maps are changing. According to an analysis by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the plant hardiness zones have moved over the last four decades, creeping north. I think that this may present us with the opportunity to grow things now that would not have grown well in our area in the past. Happy gardening!

Weeds I Love To Hate

Galinsoga parviflora

Quickweed or Potato Weed

Galinsoga parviflora is an annual broadleaf invasive weed in the daisy family. It comes up in early summer and if left undisturbed, it has the ability to reproduce very quickly. The tiny flower clusters that look like very small daisies (it is in the daisy family) have five white petals around a yellow center and produce a very large number of seeds that germinate almost immediately. The common weed management strategy of pulling weeds before the seeds mature and turn brown does not work here because as soon as the plant has flowered, it is already on its way to producing the next generation of weeds.

Leaves are opposite and $\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, broadly egg-shaped, blunt to pointed at the end and rounded at the base. They are mostly shallowly toothed with fine hairs around the edges. Stems are smooth and the plant is heavily branched and grows erect to sprawling.

Galinsoga is easy to pull because it has a shallow root system but to control it you must remove it from your garden before it flowers. Glyphosate (Roundup), a non-selective herbicide, can be sprayed to kill the seedlings as they emerge but be careful not to get this product on plants you want to keep and always follow application directions on the label.



Roasted Butternut Squash Tacos

Serves 4

Submitted by Grace Howard

Chipotle Lime Cream Sauce

1 cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt (mix the two if desired)
1 ½ chopped chipotle chili plus ½ TBSP sauce. Use your tolerance for heat!
½ lime, squeezed
¼ tsp cumin
1 ½ TBSP fresh cilantro
Salt to taste
Mix all in food processor. Will keep up to a week in frig.

Butternut Squash

1 small/medium butternut squash, peeled and chopped into cubes
½ TBSP olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
Salt to taste
Mix all together, roast on pan, 400 degree oven for 25-35 minutes

Black Beans

1 can black beans, drained, not rinsed
5 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp cumin
Warm very slowly, **do not burn!**

Spinach

8 oz fresh spinach. Cook in skillet, add 1-2 TBSP water, until wilted.

Assemble

Corn or flour tortilla
Beans
Spinach
Squash
Chipotle Cream Sauce as topper



Book Corner

Title: [The Hidden Life of Trees](#)

Author: Peter Wohlleben

From the library of Jo Anne Allen and she gives this book 5 green thumbs out of 5.

In *The Hidden Life of Trees*, forester and author Peter Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests, explaining the processes of life, death and regeneration he has observed in his woodland. Chapters include Friendships, The Language of Trees, Social Security, Love, The Tree Lottery, Slowly Does It, Forest Etiquette, Tree School, United We Stand, Divided We Fall, The Mysteries of Moving Water, Trees Aging Gracefully, Mighty Oak or Mighty Wimp, Specialists, Tree or Not Tree, In the Realm of Darkness, Carbon Dioxide Vacuums, Woody Climate Control, The Forest as Water Pump, Yours or Mine?, Community Housing Projects, Mother Ships of Biodiversity, Hibernation, A Sense of Time, A Question of Character and twelve more very interesting chapters.