



# ECOLOGICAL LITERACY

Why your relationship with nature matters



Conservation  
**Halton**



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a circular, ribbed object, possibly a piece of paper or a small container, over a patch of green moss. The background is a dense carpet of moss in various shades of green and grey. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the textures of the moss and the hand.

# AGENDA

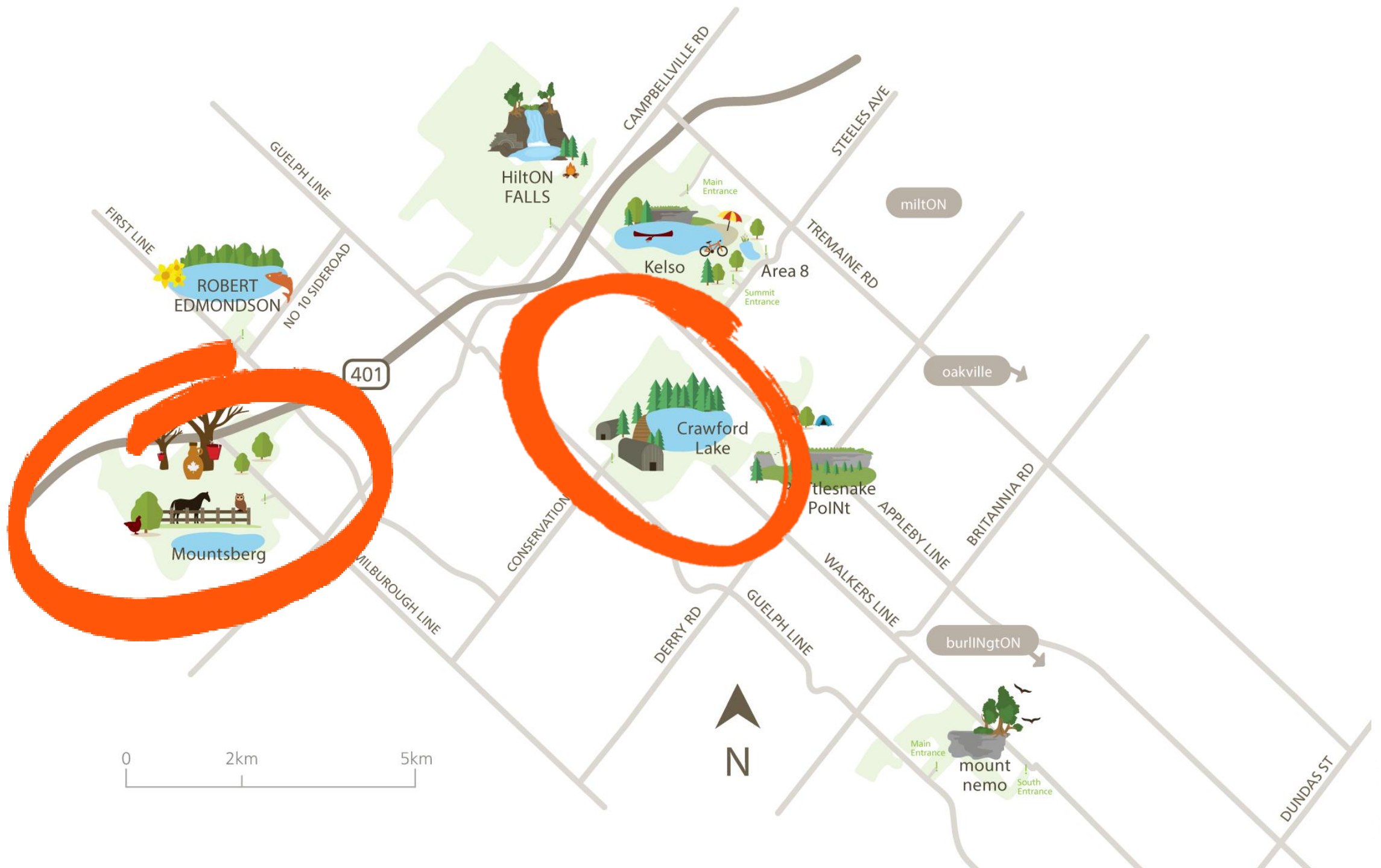
- Introduction
- What is Ecological Literacy?
- Why Ecological Literacy Matters
- Cultivating Ecological Literacy





# INTRODUCTION





0 2km 5km

N

ROBERT EDMONDSON

HILTON FALLS

Kelso

Area 8

Crawford Lake

attlesnake PoINt

Mountsberg

mount nemo

milton

oakville

burlINGtON

DUNDAS ST

GUELPH LINE

CAMPBELLVILLE RD

STEELES AVE

FIRST LINE

NO 10 SIDEROAD

TREMAINE RD

401

CONSERVATION

oakville

BRITANNIA RD

MILBROUGH LINE

DERRY RD

GUELPH LINE

WALKERS LINE

APPLEBY LINE

burlINGtON

Main Entrance

South Entrance

Main Entrance

Summit Entrance

Main Entrance

South Entrance



# CRAWFORD LAKE C.A.

- 15<sup>th</sup> century reconstructed longhouse village
- Rare meromictic lake with boardwalk
- Species at Risk Trail
- Niagara Escarpment



# MOUNTSBERG C.A.

- Mountsberg Raptor Centre
- Farm animals & native snakes
- Maple Town, Christmas Town, Spooktacular, Winterlit
- 202 hectare reservoir





# OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

- Halton Children's Water Festival
- From the Ground Up
- Nature Stewards
- Corporate Greening
- Healing Projects





# LITERACY

- Competence or knowledge in a specified area
- The ability to observe and understand a set of related patterns to create meaning

Reading Financial  
Writing  
Media  
**ECOLOGICAL**  
Digital  
Scientific  
Numeracy  
Cultural





WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL LITERACY?





RED TRILLIUM  
STINKING BENJAMIN  
WET DOG TRILLIUM

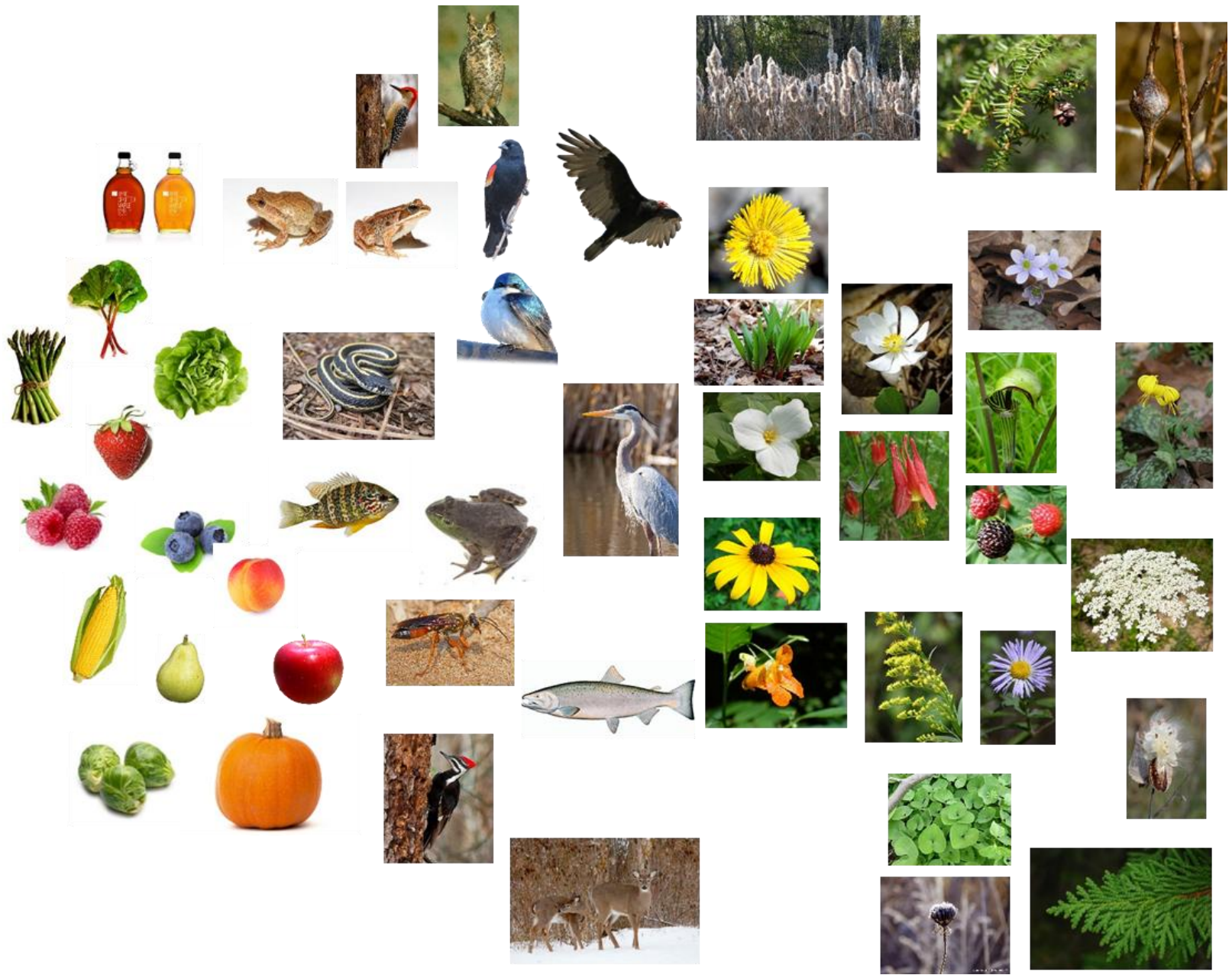




PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH



January  
February  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November  
December





# WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL LITERACY?

- Familiarity with the species that share your home
- Understanding the patterns and cycles of your local environment
- Having a relationship with nature
- Empathy for non-human life
- Seeking to create minimal negative impact (or even a positive impact)

A source of joy!







SENSORY BREAK



A woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a pink patterned skirt, is crouching on the right side of the frame. She is looking intently at something on the ground. In the center, a young girl with long, light brown hair is also crouching, looking towards the left. On the left side, a young boy with dark hair, wearing a purple t-shirt and dark shorts with red and white stripes, is crouching and looking down at the ground. They are outdoors in a wooded area with trees and green foliage in the background. The ground appears to be a mix of dirt and gravel. The text "WHY ECOLOGICAL LITERACY MATTERS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

# WHY ECOLOGICAL LITERACY MATTERS





MEANING



**AINENGM**  
**MEANING**

**ABCDEFGHIJ**  
**ACBDEFGHIJ**









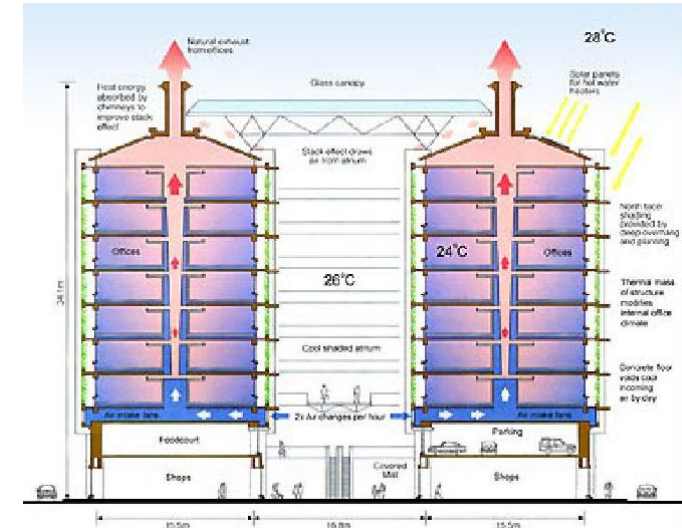
A close-up photograph of a plant structure, possibly a seed head or a flower, with numerous thin, golden-brown, needle-like or spiky protrusions radiating from a central point. The background is dark and out of focus. The word "INNOVATION" is written in white, uppercase letters in the top right corner.

INNOVATION

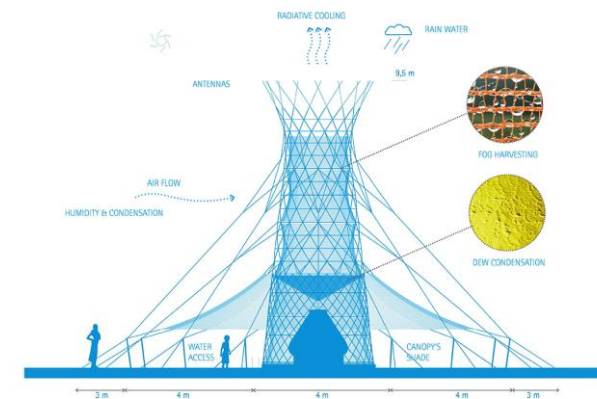


# BIOMIMICRY

Termite mound cooling =  
Eastgate Centre  
Zimbabwe



Beetle shell & spiderweb  
water collection =  
Warka Tower  
Haiti, Madagascar, Columbia,  
Brazil, India





JOY













# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE

- People who are more connected with nature are usually happier and report feeling their lives are worthwhile
- Decreased incidence of poor mental health, e.g. depression and anxiety
- Restored attention and ability to concentrate
- Increased generosity, cooperation, and sense of social connection
- Reduced symptoms of stress, e.g. heart rate







SENSORY BREAK



A woman with long brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue shirt and black gloves, is holding a large bird of prey, possibly a hawk or falcon, with its wings spread. The bird has dark brown and grey feathers. The background is a blurred green field with yellow flowers. The text "CULTIVATING ECOLOGICAL LITERACY" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

CULTIVATING ECOLOGICAL LITERACY



# RELATIONSHIP





# BUILDING CONNECTION

- Relationship with people
  - Bedtime stories: modeling is important
  - Projects in community
- Relationship with place
  - Building connection for protection
    - For us
    - For nature





IMMERSION





# EXPOSURE THERAPY

- A house full of books, nature every day
- Use all 5 senses, notice
- Extended and novel visits when you can
- Go into the detail when you can't
- Let kids be bored, let yourself be still
- Go solo





# BARRIERS





# ACCESS FOR ALL

- Nature for a fee – income barrier
- Knowledge – navigating a system
- Transportation
- Sense of belonging
- Accessibility
- More green spaces required



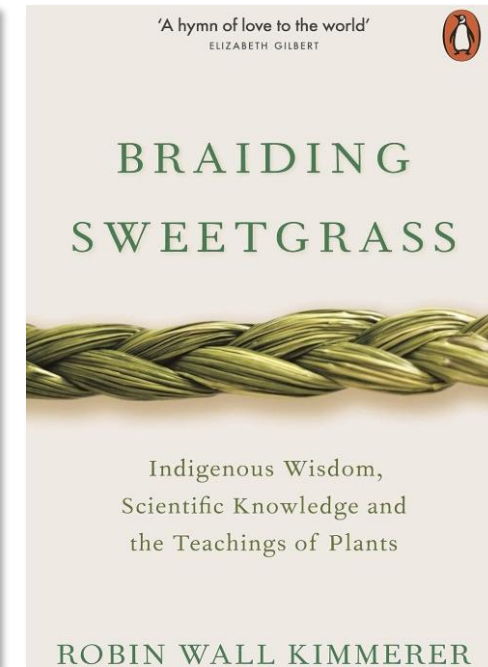
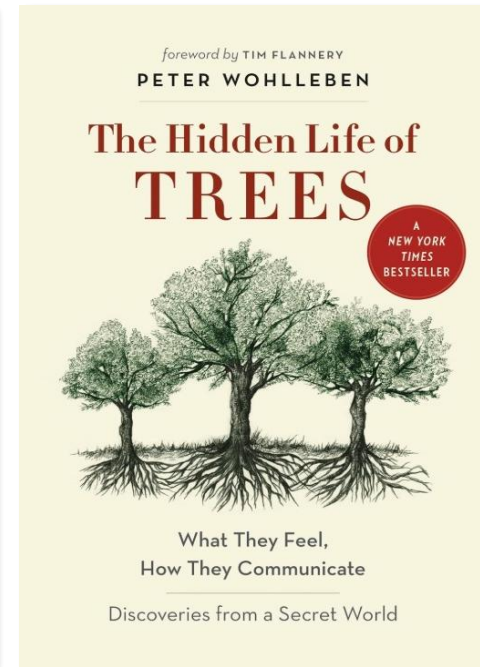
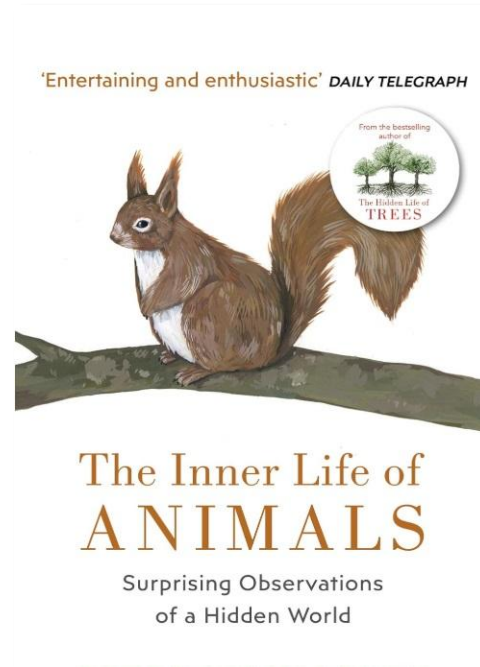
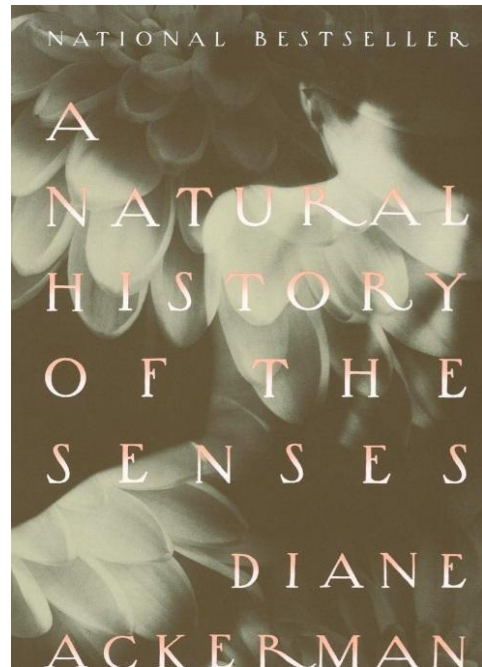
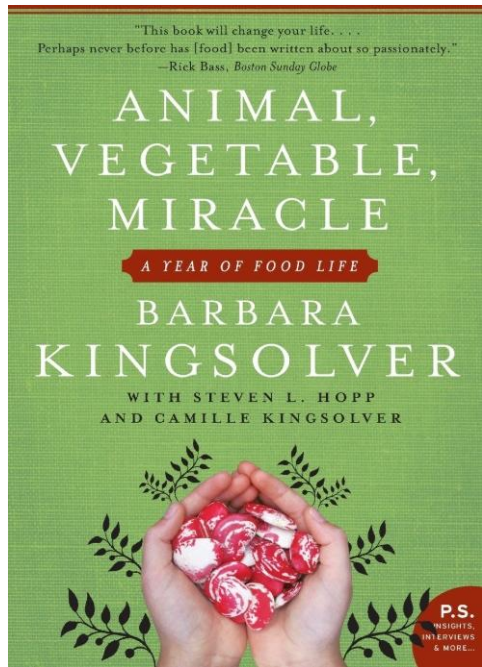


# Helpful Apps





# Delightful (& Delicious) Reads





“Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what the earth gives me daily and I must return the gift.”

Robin Wall Kimmerer







SENSORY BREAK