

get a sense that forest managers must slavishly follow natural patterns and processes. Emulation of natural disturbance provides a sensible guide to sustainable forest management. It cannot, however, be carved in stone. The dynamic nature of forests, the existence of multiple successional pathways in response to disturbance and the even more dynamic needs and values of human societies would prevent that. The last lines of the book say as much: "Over the long term, the ultimate success of the approach will be determined by the answers to the questions of whether it is ecologically superior to other forest management paradigms, economically feasible for forestry practitioners, and socially acceptable." (page 274)

The editors consider the book well suited to all forestry professionals including practitioners, policy makers

and researchers. To this list I would add conservation biologists, environmentalists and even environmental philosophers. The book deals not only with the conceptual and practical considerations of the emulation of natural disturbance, but helps to raise broader questions about biodiversity conservation in dynamic forests subject to both natural and human-induced change. This book should stimulate those philosophical questions, but you will have to resort to other works for the beginnings of a response.

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MISCELLANEOUS

The Nature Journal: A Handbook

By Frederick W. Schueler and Aleta Karstad. 2004. Bishops Mills Natural History Centre, RR 2, Oxford Station, Ontario K0G 1T0 and Little Ray's Reptile Zoo, 5305 Bank Street, Ottawa Ontario K1X 1H2 [www.thenaturejournal.ca]. \$40.00

For any naturalist, whether professional or hobbyist, some form of notes are an essential reference to past observations. At one level they can serve for comparison with new observations or as reminders of where and when to look for certain species or seasonal phenomena. At another, they can be the basis for preparation of accurate published accounts. How to format and organize them for permanence and accessibility has more solutions than observers as even individual systems evolve over time. For those just starting to keep records or dissatisfied with previous efforts, Fred and Aleta Schueler offer a solution.

Since the 1960s, one or both have been observers and commentators of nature, collectors of biological specimens for museums, and writers and illustrators of both popular accounts and scientific papers. They have recorded their raw field data in a variety of journal and data formats. Here, they attempt to standardize this experience and outline a universal system that will produce notes not only of use to observers themselves but also serve as a permanent record of value for others. The Schueler's rightly regard leaving a useable record for future naturalists as a prime responsibility of us all.

What is outlined here is partly adapted from the once widely used system credited to Joseph Grinnell, Curator of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, California, in the first half of the 20th century. It also draws on field data entry sheets developed

at the National Museum of Canada (now the Canadian Museum of Nature) in ichthyology and herpetology in the 1960s and 1970s.

A sturdy seven-ring binder is prefixed with 37 pages of instruction including: The role of archival naturalists, What needs study? What should I look for? What should I record? What if I do not know its name? Who is interested in what I observe? and explanation: The pages, Archival materials, Fine tuning accounts, Interpreting the datasheet, The Grinnell System: a brief history, Notes on journal-keeping, Acknowledgments, and Resources. An irritation is that an included reprinting of an unpublished report with three references has no documentation for these.

The *Nature Journal* contains acid-free archival paper of 50% cotton (Ernscliffe Linen Bond): 30 lined journal pages, 15 pocket pages, 15 "catalog" pages, 15 species account pages, 15 datasheets, 30 blank pages for drawings, 2 heavy acid-free pages for watercolour or labels, 4 acid-free separators. Also included is one archival ink "Pigma" felt tip pen and a ruled plastic page finder. An enthusiastic field-naturalist would soon use up the initial stock but additional pages are available from the authors.

In promised progress is an electronic data base for field notes. Although, as is pointed out here, this is far easier to search later but can be more time-consuming than written notes. The web address www.thenaturejournal.ca will provide updates.

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