

lus). Taxonomic arrangements are a very useful tool for learning about the relationship between species, but only if we use them!

The book is rounded out with 32 colour plates. These include a variety of habitat, habit, and close-up photographs of Carolinian trees. Some of them are quite instructive, such as the close-ups of the bark cross-sections of red and white elm, or the collection of acorns from different oak species. Others are simply beautiful images of the authors favourite organisms. One small improvement would be the inclusion of a scale for the close up shots.

Taken as a whole, this book is an incredible resource for naturalists in southern Ontario. It will serve equally

well as an introduction to the ecology of the Carolinian forest for the general naturalist and as an idea book for restorationists and land managers. I look forward to the publication of a companion volume on the shrubs of the Carolinian forest, hinted at in the introduction.

Literature Cited

Pielou, E. C. 1991. *After the ice age: the return of life to glaciated North America*. University of Chicago, Chicago.

TYLER SMITH

5900 rue Monkland, Apartment 10, Montreal, Quebec, H4A 1G1 Canada

ENVIRONMENT

Good News for a Change: How Everyday People are Helping the Planet

David Suzuki and Holly Dressel. 2003. Greystone Books, #201 – 2323 Quebec Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V5T 4S7 Canada. 399 pages. \$24.95, U.S.\$16.95

This is a paperback re-issue of Suzuki and Dressel's 2002 book originally titled *Good News for a change: hope for a troubled planet*. Either way, the book is cleverly titled to attract readers who are tired of doom and gloom environmental books. The concept is praiseworthy: bring together in one place success stories of the many and varied ways people around the world are changing the way they do things, for the benefit of their communities, their environment and their offspring. At the same time, the authors do not shy away from the bad news. Yes there are wonderful changes taking place but they are up against very serious problems and a frightening inertia embedded in our social and economic systems.

The authors have set a tremendous challenge for themselves in tackling the full sweep of environmental problems we face and in trying to represent emerging solutions from around the planet. They organize this unwieldy subject thematically with chapters on business practices, democracy, biodiversity, water, food, forests, fisheries, and air pollution. The final chapter "Breaking out of the Box" addresses the effect of our global culture on humans as natural beings and the importance of reconnecting what we do with our deepest values. Most chapters focus on one or two case studies examined in some depth with additional examples of related projects in other parts of the world. Examples are drawn from village co-operatives, family-run businesses, multi-national corporations, farms, indigenous societies and non-profit groups from such diverse places as India, Africa, Germany, Brazil, USA, Indonesia and many others. Also included are a list of organizations to contact, detailed endnotes, a brief bibliography and a reasonably detailed index. The book is a little lax in explaining the political background to some of its examples, especially Canadian

ones, and a map plotting the locations for major examples would have been beneficial.

Throughout *Good News* there is an admirable effort to synthesize, and several key themes are followed. Aligning our activities with natural environmental systems results in double dividends – the costs are lower, the benefits are greater and extend beyond economics. A resource is used sustainably when it is managed by a stable community that is economically dependent on it and exerts local control and local ownership. Sustainable practices must be tailored to the specific situation; the people who follow them are humble and are constantly learning from their mistakes. Many small projects are more effective and more efficient than a single large one. We are all indigenous to this planet.

If I have any quibble with this book it is that there isn't enough of it. I want to know more about how Judy Wicks manages to make a living (and a rather substantial one) running a social activist restaurant. I want to understand how a small check dam on an intermittent stream in India can reverse desertification caused by forest removal. I want to hear from the efforts that haven't worked, because I don't believe as easy as the book makes it seem. There is no question we need more books like this, perhaps ones targeted at specific issues. Henry Mintzberg (1994) argues for the importance of identifying "emergent strategies" (new strategies that emerge spontaneously at any level of an organization) and helping them spread. That in essence is what Suzuki and Dressel have done.

Literature Cited:

Mintzberg, H. 1994. *The Rise and Fall of Strategic Planning*. Free Press, Simon and Schuster, New York, USA. 454 pages.

CAROLYN SEBURN

Seburn Ecological Services, 920 Mussell Road, RR 1, Oxford Mills, Ontario K0G 1S0 Canada