

ConTextual Notes *(updated 14 July 2016)*

Antecedents

¹Although the most familiar version of Constantin Brâncuși’s *Torso of a Young Man I* is the polished bronze at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington DC, the first version was carved from a forked maple branch and mounted on a limestone pedestal (in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art). There are nice parallels with the ponderosa pine growing on the limestone hoodoos at Bryce Canyon National Park.

At the Buena Vista Overlook

¹The Buena Vista Overlook is a stop on the Auto Tour Route within the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), located about 50 km south of the city of Burns, Oregon.

²The Hammonds provided the flashpoint for, but did not support, Ammon Bundy et al. to stage an anti-government, armed occupation of the Malheur NWR headquarters for 41 days in early 2016.

³Harry Reid is currently the senior senator from Nevada and one-time Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate.

Cognitive Dissonance

¹R. Carew tr. J. Huarte (1594) “Examination of Mens Wits,” xii. 181, OED Online. Oxford University Press, June 2016. Accessed 28 June 2016.

²J. Tyndall (1860) “Glaciers of Alps 1,” vii. 49,” OED Online. Oxford University Press, June 2016. Accessed 28 June 2016.

³“Disturbance” is a core research topic of the H. J. Andrews Forest Long Term Ecological Research Program: <http://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/>, Accessed 28 June 2016.

Crossing the Divide

¹Divides separate watersheds, in this case, crossing from Watershed 2 to Watershed 3 at the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest.

Double Vision

¹The Daleks are a science-fictional race of extraterrestrial cyborgs. Their conical robotic shells encase a living body. They roam the universe in small packs whose only goal is conquest and domination of anything they encounter.

Forests of the Anthropocene

¹The Anthropocene is a proposed name for the geological epoch that was initiated when humans began to have a perceptible impact on the Earth’s climate and the structure and function of its ecological systems. Geologists and ecologists so far do not agree on when the Anthropocene actually began. Some date it to the mid-20th Century and the first atomic explosions. Others date it to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th Century. Still others date it to the origins of agriculture over 12,000 years

ago. For a current discussion, see E. S. Brondizio & J. Syvitski (2016) “The anthropocene,” *Global Environmental Change* DOI: 10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2016.04.006, 6 May 2016.

Haphazard

¹The liniphyyid spiders and their sheet webs evolved nearly 100 million years ago (“Megayears”). They are one of the most diverse and successful families of spiders on the planet. Many genera of liniphyyids spin “bowl-and-dolly: webs. One of the most familiar is *Frontinella communis*, which has also an interesting social breeding system. For more on the evolution of spiders and their webs, see T. A. Blackledge *et al.* (2009) “Reconstructing web evolution and spider diversification in the molecular era,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA* 106: 5229-5234; and P. P. Sharma & G. Giribet (2014) “A revised dated phylogeny of the arachnid order Opiliones,” *Frontiers in Genetics* DOI: 10.3389/fgene.2014.00255, 28 July 2014.

In a Clearcut

This was written at one of the four focal sites for Long Term Ecological Reflections at the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest. This site, along the 1501 Road, includes a forest stand managed by the U.S. Forest Service for species and structural diversity and an adjacent privately-owned forest plantation that was cut about 10 years ago and replanted to a monoculture of fast-growing Douglas fir.

In a Splash of Purple

This was written at another of the four focal sites for Long Term Ecological Reflections at the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest. This site, along the northwest bank of Lookout Creek, is at a gravel bar deposited by an extreme flooding event in 1996. The site is now a forest of 20-year-old red alter trees with a dense understory of grasses, sedges, and forbs. Seeds of the foxglove plants (*Digitalis purpurea*) are thought to have washed into the area by the floodwaters from construction debris left on roadsides higher up the watershed.

In Memoriam

¹This was written at the end of a week in which African-American individuals were shot by police in St. Paul, Minnesota and Baton Rouge, Louisiana; five police officers were shot by a sniper in Dallas, Texas; and terrorist bombings in Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia killed hundreds of civilians. It is dedicated to all those who have lost their lives in recent days to terrorism, state-sponsored violence, and hatred, and to all who have to pick up the pieces and continue living.

²For a good introduction to the importance of the Obsidian Cliffs in the present-day Three Sisters Wilderness to trade among Native American peoples, see T. J. Connolly, C. E. Skinner, and P. W. Baxter (2015) “Ancient

trade roots for Obsidian Cliffs and Newberry Volcano toolstone in the Pacific Northwest,” Pages 180-192 in T. L. Ozburn and R. L. Adams, editors, *Toolstone Geography of the Pacific Northwest*. Archaeology Press, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada.

Opportunity

Penstemon, *Delphinium*, and *Castilleja* are three hyperdiverse genera of flowering plants that are taxonomically and phylogenetically confusing. They are common in alpine habitats throughout the western United States.

Sisters

¹The Three Sisters, originally named Faith, Hope, and Charity by the European settlers, are a set of stratovolcanoes in the High Cascades of western Oregon. The two oldest, North and Middle Sister, are dormant, but the youngest, South Sister, last erupted about 2 000 years ago and has shown signs of renewed activity in the last twenty years. The smaller stratovolcano to the south of South Sister (far right in the photograph) is Mount Bachelor.

Time

¹The northwestern twayblade (*Neottia* [formerly *Listera*] *caurina*) is a diminutive and beautiful orchid.

²The Devil’s club (aptly named *Oplopanax horridux*) is common on streamsides throughout the Pacific Northwest. It has spines almost everywhere on the plant except for on the flowers and fruits.

Tonsure

¹Tonsure is the practice of shaving the hair off the top of the scalp but leaving the sides unshorn. It originated in medieval Catholicism as a sign of religious devotion and humility, but was officially abandoned by the Church in 1972. Among non-believers, tonsure can be used as an indicator of sympathy or an indicator of mourning. In old-growth forests, it is common to see a pile of bark, needles, and decomposing duff in a ring around the bases of living and dead trees.

Wilcuma

¹In Old English, *wilcuma* referred to one whose coming is pleasing or desirable. Its origin is traced to “Me is, cwæð heo, þin cyme on midcum ðonce; & þu eart leof wilcuma” in the Venerable Bede (*ca.* 8th Century; translated 1890) *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, IV. ix. 290], OED Online, Oxford University Press, June 2016. Accessed 7 July 2016.