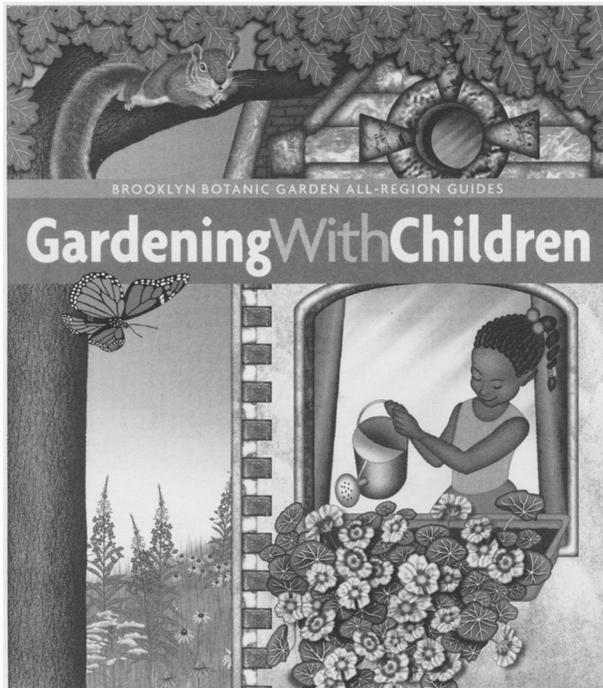


BOOK REVIEWS

ELIZABETH COWLES, DEPARTMENT EDITOR

GENERAL INTEREST



Gardening with Children. By Monika Hannemann, Patricia Hule, Brian Johnsson, Barbara Kurland, and Tracey Patterson. 2007. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Inc. (ISBN 10:-1-889538-30-2). 116 pages. Paperback. \$9.95.

Gardening with Children involves the young reader and adult gardening companion in enjoyment that will become a life practice with very little encouragement on the adult's part. The authors speak to their audience so that the food chain and soil composition are covered in clear language. Garden plans are provided as well. Root view gardens and chlorophyll prints are just two activities that add dimension to the important reality that plants are essential for life. Plant parts are explained, leading to the process of photosynthesis and the role of plants in the food chain. The book includes the water cycle and age-appropriate activities such as making a rain gauge and constructing a terrarium in a plastic container.

The child gardener itching to get hands in the soil is offered ideas such as how to make a wildlife garden and is reminded

to use native plants and include a small pond or water source for visiting wildlife. If the plan is to grow plants for food, then the knee-high garden for knee-high gardeners offers a garden for cool season vegetables as well as plants that do well in a summer garden (including a salsa recipe with ingredients from one's own garden).

Many of the plants cultivated in our gardens come from around the world and tips on saving seeds from plants that can be planted the following year are offered. Mulching, composting, and recycling are constant themes so that nutrients and water are conserved.

Teachers at the elementary level will welcome the inexpensive activities and experiments conveniently listed in the back of the book that will engage young learners. Chapter 1, "Living in a Community," presents the partnership between the people and the world in an attempt to diminish the societal trend of "plant blindness." As the authors point out at the conclusion of the book,

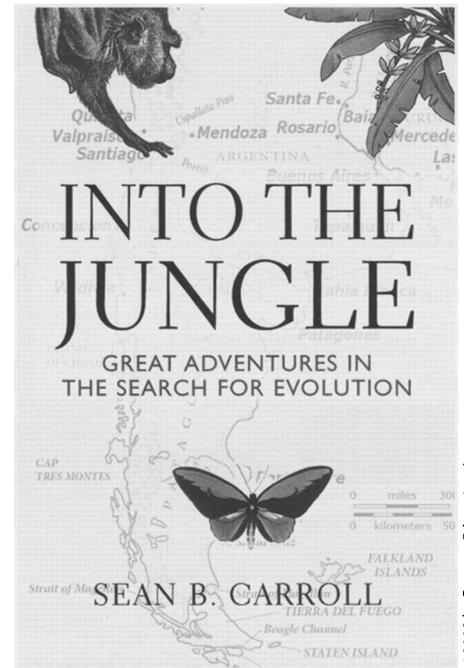
... children from all academic and economic levels of our society have lost any concept that even the food we eat is directly connected to the natural world. To many children, food comes from the grocery store and is just always there.

My guess is that the adult reader will find this gardening primer as much an incentive to grow something as it will the proud young child who has just harvested a first-grown cucumber.



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EVOLUTION



Into the Jungle: Great Adventures in the Search for Evolution. By Sean B. Carroll. 2009. Pearson Benjamin Cummings (ISBN: 0-321-55671-2). 207 pp. Paperback. \$20.00.

As you read these stories, just imagine. Imagine what it would be like, at or about your age, to travel to a far-off unexplored land. ... Imagine the joy ... (p. x)

Into the Jungle is a book about scientific high-adventure recounting the journeys and discoveries of a dozen scientists who dared storms, shipwreck, sickness, disease, headhunters, poisonous snakes, bandits, floods, animal attacks, deprivation, barren deserts, steamy rain forests, frigid arctic waters, scouring sand storms, and bloody war zones, whose passion for scientific discovery have shed light on "the mystery of mysteries." Not just a book about evolution or a collection of anecdote-filled biographies, Sean Carroll has written an exposé on how paradigm-shaping science is really done, including the important role played by luck and serendipity. He has "fleshed out" the science with the personalities and life-circumstances of the discoverers, often using diaries, personal letters, and published works.