

Fred-Talks

Volume I, Issue 4

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Introduction to this Newsletter Issue

Hello again!

Welcome to my newsletter.

I hope you enjoy it or, at least, find it amusing. Or, perhaps, even irritating?

If you do not wish to receive any more issues, please email a message to me and just say, "Discontinue".

I occasionally bring up issues that are someone else's point of view. These may or may not be my points of view, but are current points that I think should be discussed.

As such, I welcome discussion

and/or expressions of your ideas on the subject.

Should you have dissenting views, please bring them up. I would be happy to include your comments with or without your by-line in the next **Fred-Talk**.



A reader suggested that I expand my portraits of eminent scientists to include more of the scientist's life story. The two to three pages of material that I could include is too much for a Newsletter. Thus I plan to collate all this type of material into a larger tome.

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www.chemeco.com/Newsletter.htm

Potable Water Pamphlet

I have been offering a brief lecture on potable water at **Hatfield Marine Science Center** in Newport, Oregon during the past seven months. The subject examines what is potable water, why it is necessary for human life, and where it is found.

I have been handing out a one page summary of the talk to members of the audience.

During the last few months I have had requests for a copy of my pamphlet from people out of the area (WA, MN, WI, & NC).

I don't know how these people got my name or knew of my **FRED-TALKS**. Since I have received these requests, but never even wrote a pamphlet on the subject, I thought, perhaps, I should write such a pamphlet, and offer it gratis to anyone who requests it.

Just send the request to **fgduerr@gmail.com** and I will email the copy to you.

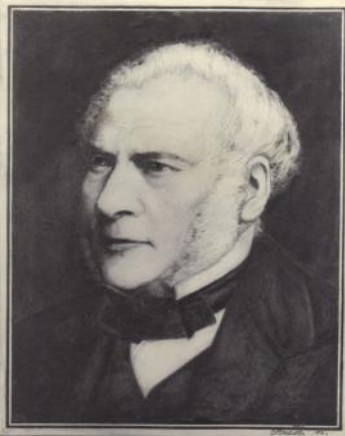
If you are at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, ask at the main desk for your free copy.

If you request, I will mail a printed copy via U.S. post for \$1. Email the request and I'll send details.

By the way, the photograph below is of my favorite biologist. The location is Last Man Lake in Northern Minnesota.



Portraits of Eminent Scientists — Jean Baptiste Joseph Dieudonne Boussingault



Jean Baptiste Boussingault

By I B Streblov

I have a personal collection of drawings of historically eminent scientists, I intend to post a drawing along with information about the scientist, on a ?-weekly basis. These pictures will become part of my book, “History of Biology”, in process.

Jean Baptist Boussingault, one of the most prominent explorers of natural science,

was born in France in 1802 and died in 1887. His knowledge and achievements stretch far beyond empirical research. The fields of geology, soil-physics, chemistry, agriculture, and the physiology of plants and animals owe him a debt of gratitude.

He influenced the understanding of the relationships between oxygen, carbon dioxide,

and water in plant metabolism. He was always interested in the substance - cycle in nature, such as changes in the atmosphere since the appearance of the first organisms, the constancy of the atmosphere since that occurred, and the transformations between atmosphere and soil

Books I Read Recently

Four Lives In Paris

There are certain times and places where talented people of every persuasion associate in fellowship. One such time and place was the twenty-year period between World War I and World War II in Paris, France.

Many theories exist about why talented people like to associate with each other. Perhaps they have the ability to appreciate artistic and scientific works of others. It may be easier for them to converse with people who have more than rudimentary knowledge. And perhaps some consider discussion of

their craft with others more important than material things.

It seems that the words starving and artist frequently go together.

Whatever the reasons, a number of Americans chose to live in Paris during the 1920's and 1930's. Some of these people are today considered literary giants. Examples are Ernest Hemmingway, Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Henry Miller.

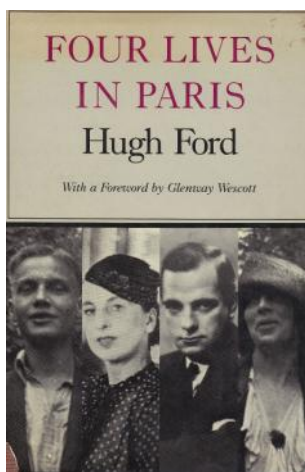
However, there are dozens of other artists, who, if not overshadowed by the list

above, can be considered excellent artists in their own right.

Hugh Ford, himself an artist, has explored the lives of four contemporaries of these literary giants:

George Antheil - Composer
Kay Boyle - author
Harold Stearns - critic
Margaret Anderson - editor.

When I read this book, I became so fascinated with the time, place, and characters, that I acquired a small library on the subject. And I am not done, yet!



ISBN 0865472505

Food For Thought

Are You Living?

An article in Wikipedia states that “Defining life is difficult—in part—because life is a process, not a pure substance.” And yet, most readers can readily differentiate between most forms of life and non-life (rock, water, light, etc.). Even so, there is still discussion on whether or not virus, prions, and self-replicating molecules are forms of life.

Defining a “living creature” is somewhat easier. Living creatures are specifically characterized as having the ability to regulate internal environment (homeostasis), metabolism, and reproduction. Living organisms have the ability to maintain corporal integrity. They must have metabolic mechanisms, directly or indirectly, to convert sunlight or minerals to their own chemical and physical structures. And without means of reproduction, there would be no continuation of life.

Other characteristics sometimes used to describe a living creature include a response to stimuli, adaption, growth, and presence of cell structure. I leave these characteristics out of this discussion because inanimate materials can also show some or all of them. Rocks, for example, show crystal growth, response to gravity, and can adapt to pressure. I mentioned viruses and prions above. Do they have cell structure? Are they animate or inanimate?

I find it easier and more convenient to describe the requisites need to “live”. There are four things living organisms need to maintain life.

1. They must have food.
2. They must be able to eliminate waste products resulting from their life processes.
3. They must have a place in which to live.
4. They must have a means of reproducing themselves.

This means, of course, that those organ-

isms that cannot directly convert sunlight to usable energy must live off other organisms or molecules that do.

I will discuss each of these in detail in later blogs, or, if pressed, write a book on the subject.

“Just because you cannot hear a lettuce cell scream means it enjoys being eaten!” Dr. Weird



Free Book on Dehydrating Foods

I have several dozen copies of Una Jean W. Peterson’s book “Dehydrating for Food and Fun”. These are my own personal copies, and I am willing to give these books away. The books are 100 pages long and are 5 1/4 inches wide and 8 1/4 inches long. They are paperbacks.

This is a “How-To-Do-It” type

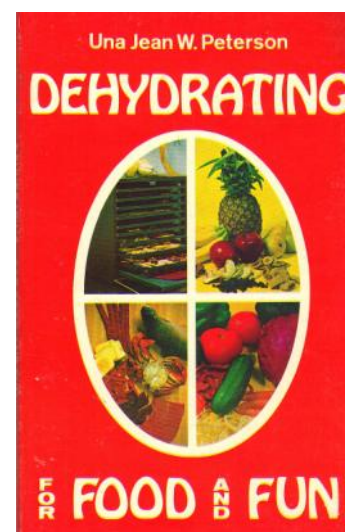
of book, and has several recipes. The bindings are fragile.

Send me an email, and you can pick up a free copy from me (when I am on duty) at Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC).

These books are free, but if I mail one to you, the postage and wrapping is \$3.96. Send me an email for details.

Enjoy the book, and while you are at it, enjoy HMSC.

Fred G. Duerr, Ph.D.



Whales

Twice a year Grey Whales migrate past Newport, Oregon. They migrate to Southern California in late fall, and to Alaska in the spring.

The Hatfield Marine Science Center hosts a series of talks on whales during these migrations.

several lectures on whales at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. If you are interested, send me an email notice and I will return information to you via email.

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This spring, I will be offering



Humpback Whale

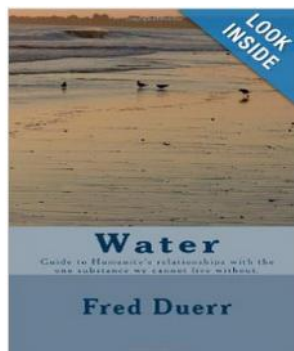
I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.

Groucho Marx

Crass Commercials



My wife, Diana, and I have somehow acquired several thousand books on various subjects. Click on the image at left to take you to our website, where you can search our inventory of books for sale at Biblio.com.



I have written a small, 54 page primer on water. It is designed to give basic information to the general public.

It is available as a paperback book (Water, by

Fred Duerr), ISBN 1482773872, and as a Kindle, ASIN B0OCMI3K5A from Amazon.

Amazon has various pro-

motions to adjust the price to as low as \$0.99 in certain cases.

Click on the book image to take you to its page on Amazon.com.