



*The
Perelandra
Garden
Workbook*

MACHAELLE WRIGHT



PERELANDRA, LTD.

CENTER FOR NATURE RESEARCH
JEFFERSONTON VIRGINIA

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Chapter 23

FINAL THOUGHTS

I'M AT AN INTERESTING TIME IN MY LIFE. As I write this, I'm sixty-six years old. I'm at that amazing time when I can look back and reflect. When I was born in 1945, it was around the end of World War II, so I moved through my childhood during the 1950s and the Eisenhower era that encouraged “societal normalcy” and the rise of the middle class in the U.S. There were big changes during this time, some of which have proven to be remarkable additions to society, such as the huge wave of medical and scientific breakthroughs and the equally huge wave of innovations and inventions that have made daily life easier and more comfortable. Other developments came back to bite us in the butt, such as commercial insecticides like DDT. On paper they all looked good. In practice some wreaked havoc.

I feel that the period of societal normalcy during the 1950s gave people time to look around and think about what they saw. In general, they didn't need to be as focused on their family's survival. And for many, when they looked at the state of things in the larger picture, they didn't like what they saw. Enter the era of protest and social change in the 1960s and 70s.

During this time there were some who looked at how we were interfacing with our planet's natural resources. Scientists and environmentalists did not like what they were seeing. Based on the simple premise that Earth's resources are finite, these people began to sound the alarm about what we were putting in the soil, how we were overusing and polluting our water, what we were releasing into the air, and how it was now possible to overpopulate the planet and not be able to feed or care for everyone. A “gaggle” of books came out in the late 1960s that laid out the problems and sounded warnings that needed to be addressed right away if we were to avoid these environmental



catastrophes in the future. I clearly remember on the evening of December 31, 1969, listening to the TV newscasters and pundits talking about how 1970 was going to usher in the “era of ecology.” Many of the environmental scientists who had written books were interviewed. They talked about the need for change, how important it was to see our planet and its resources as finite, and how we needed to use these resources more carefully and more responsibly.

Well, in general, people hate change. And they don't like to be challenged around this. So right away there was a rather loud and somewhat obnoxious campaign to belittle, ridicule and question the integrity of the environmental researchers and scientists who dared go public. The underlying foundation of this fear-driven campaign was that the Earth's resources were infinite and there was no need for people to change.

After 1970, we had a chance to make changes personally and industrially so that we could avoid future problems. Some individuals and some industry did change course. Most individuals and industry held tightly to the concept of the 1950s societal normalcy and continued as usual. Overall, we as a society did not take the opportunity to make the changes that were needed to avoid serious problems in the future. For so many the notion of change was overwhelming, and they liked their lives and jobs as they were. They saw no need to throw any of that up in the air.

So here we are, here *I* am, over forty years after those early warnings. And guess what? The future is now here. As a society, as a population inhabiting the planet, we are beginning to face the real-time ramifications of those problems. We now have climate change firmly in place and a new level of intensity in weather patterns brought on by climate change. We have serious ice cap melting that is going on at a shocking rate. We have rising sea levels that are already swamping inhabited islands and coastal areas. We have the beginning of water wars between communities and nations. We have enlarging desert areas and increasing areas of extreme drought that are challenging the food supply nationally and globally.

In short, we have lost the forty plus years we had to make the changes needed to avoid the problems. Now we face a new era. Now we must navigate and survive the fallout from those problems while at the same time we must make the personal and societal changes needed to stop fueling the problems.

Over the years people have asked me why I'm so calm about what is happening environmentally. Why aren't I screaming? Marching with a sign? Protesting government and industry? Well, I look them in the eye, give them a little smile and say,



“Because I know that in the end, nature will win. Nature will survive us. We all may be long dead and gone, but nature will still be here. It will repair the damage we have done to the planet and it will flourish.”

There is no doubt in my mind about this. And in the last five years or so, scientists and filmmakers have presented this very thing. They asked the question, “What would happen if mankind no longer existed on the planet?” It is mind-boggling how quickly nature would take control and wipe out all evidence that humans were ever present. We have examples now of what can happen with nature. The demilitarized zone between North and South Korea has been uninhabited by humans since 1953 and is now considered one of the most environmentally important wildlife havens on the planet. The area surrounding the Chernobyl disaster that occurred nearly thirty years ago is completely uninhabitable by humans and will remain so long after you and I are gone. But wildlife and plant life are making interesting adjustments and thriving.

So if we're not going to destroy nature and wipe it out of existence, why would we go through the effort it takes to incorporate a co-creative partnership into our lives? Because any effort we put out toward nature is, first and foremost, not to save nature. It's to save ourselves.

As we move forward into this new era that requires us to address the fallout from the problems we have created, we must change how we live or we will die. It's that simple. We will become victims of the fallout caused by environmental catastrophe, our quality of life will disappear, and we will cease to exist.

Before you collapse in a corner from a debilitating depression caused by my less-than-upbeat review of the current and future state of the planet, let me say with equal conviction that a co-creative partnership with nature can move us through this time and these challenges. Why do I know this? How is it I can be so certain about this? I've been working with nature for over thirty-five years (since 1976), and I've experienced in the garden, in the Perelandra business and personally how deftly nature moves me through tricky minefields. In severe drought conditions, the Perelandra garden thrives without taxing our water supply. In a serious economic recession, the Perelandra business remains stabilized and strong while, at the same time, reaching out to assist our customers to get through the challenges. Personally, I work out issues and problems with my partner as they come up, and I am able to move through things that I had no clue how to get through on my own.

But it's not something that only I have experienced. People who are familiar with the Perelandra material and are functioning with their own co-creative partnerships report



how nature moved them through their minefields in ways that they could not have imagined possible. As pleasantly surprised as I've been about my personal experiences with nature, I've been equally and sometimes more surprised at how creatively others have been able to address some incredible challenges when working in their partnership.



Don't forget that the unique thing that nature brings to the table is inherent balance. No matter what variables and obstacles are involved in a situation, if we tell our partner what we want to achieve, nature will immediately give us the steps forward to meet that goal in balance. Not an airy-fairy notion of balance where we all go skipping through Shangri-La, but a balance that takes into consideration the reality we are working with and then provides the adjustments needed for us to move forward.

I'm sorry that so many people ignored the warnings and that we have all lost the opportunity to turn things around over the past forty plus years. But that's the way it goes. If you are reading this book, I imagine you took the warnings seriously and responded by changing your lifestyle. I tip my hat to you. And I say thank you. The lifestyle changes and ecological responses that you have already put into place put you ahead of the game as we continue moving through the beginning of the beginning of this new era. Unfortunately, *everyone* is now faced with the challenges resulting from serious global environmental problems, whether they made personal changes earlier or not. Responsible decisions and good behavior won't buy anyone a pass. And the environment doesn't pay any attention to national borders.

The time has passed when I could "gently" urge you to consider and explore a co-creative partnership with nature. Back in 1986, when I published the first *Perelandra Garden Workbook*, we had the illusion of time, that everyone could casually come to the conclusion that perhaps this was something to explore. I feel that with the end of the forty-plus-year period came the end of gentle prodding about nature and the partnership. Now it's about survival. Not nature's but ours. So I'd appreciate it if you'd see me as a sixty-six-year-old woman who no longer gives a damn about societal normalcy and fake social correctness. Age can remove all those obstacles. Now I am here to *urge* you in a very ungentle way to dive into *The Perelandra Garden Workbook* and learn how to work with nature in a co-creative partnership so that you will have what is needed to move through the times we are beginning to face. And I strongly suggest that as you experience the partnership and gain in confidence, you introduce the concept to those around you. It's not just your life that's at issue. It's theirs too.



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We're here to help you with any questions you might have
about establishing and working with your
co-creative partnership with nature.

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