

May - Week 1

Small Wonders, Endless Surprises

This is a time of year when many things are happening in nature, both large changes and small treasures! Jim Gilbert's nature notes state that the month of May brings small wonders, simple gifts, and endless surprises to those who observe nature, using their senses while wandering outside.

This week, take yourself and your journal outdoors to a local park, nature area, schoolyard, or your own yard. Wander around, looking carefully at many natural things, both large and small. Feel the bark on a tree. Notice any scents around you. What cloud formations are in the sky? Observe a tiny plant or flower closely, noticing details. What is the soil like today? Do you see any tracks, nests, or other evidence of animals? What insects are active around you?

Add the date and your location to the top of your journal page. Make a list of things you noticed or observed more carefully than normal. What drew you in to pause and take a closer look? Make time to sketch a plant or other natural item that you noticed in detail. Finish your journal page with any questions or surprises that arose as you observed nature in detail.

Writing about and drawing our nature observations greatly sharpens our ability to see.

