

Nurture a
deep nature
connection.



HOPS Press, LLC
www.hopspress.com

Seeking resources to inspire kids to learn about nature?



I love this game!! I've played it dozens of times now and each time I teach someone to play it they walk away and return later and tell me all about how they can't stop thinking about how everything else in nature works. They're all becoming naturalists just by playing a game. Lol."

--Chris Hyde,
Naturversity
Austin, Texas

Wildlife Web

A dynamic ecology strategy game

Eat, mate, reproduce. Avoid being eaten

Created by Thomas J. Elpel Artwork by Megan Levacy

Forage or hunt for food, find a mate, and raise young ones to ensure survival of the species... without becoming someone else's lunch. Welcome to *Wildlife Web*, a game where you participate in the web of life.

Choose whether you want to be a mountain lion, deer, or elk. This surprisingly realistic game enables players to experience life as any of 50 different animals. Each animal has a special survival rating, plus unique abilities to help when hunting or defending against predators.

Wildlife Web is an exciting, dynamic game of strategy where adventure, luck, and cunning provide hours of fun for family and friends. The game nurtures the naturalist within. It may be played within the comfort of home yet it inspires players to go outside and learn more about nature. *Wildlife Web* is recommended for ages 9 to 99.

Wildlife Web is both competitive and cooperative. The game features classic predator-prey relationships where mountain lions hunt rabbits, deer, elk, or bison with the roll of the dice.

Wildlife Web also teaches cooperation as robins warn the deer of mountain lion and other approaching predators. One robin gives a deer 2 extra defense points. Try it out... can you navigate the web of life?

2019. UPC: 860000994408. \$30.

Sample Hunt: Red-tailed Hawk hunts Yellow-bellied Marmot

Both species are diurnal (☀️), and both share ground (🌿) as a common habitat.



Buteo jamaicensis

Red-tailed Hawk

Soar or Perch: Hawks soar overhead when hunting or perch to watch for movement, then swoop down to take small game such as mice, voles, ground squirrels, and rabbits.

Size:	2
Strength:	3
Speed:	5
Agility:	3
Habitats:	3
POWER:	16

Pair Hunting: If hawk has a mate, and the first attack on a Size 1 or 2 mammal falls short, roll the dice and try again.

Swipe: Swipe a meal from any raptor, only once per game.



Hawk has power of 16 plus one dice. Marmot has power of 10 plus 5 points for defense plus one dice.



Hawk rolls a 4 for a total of 20. Marmot rolls a 5 for a total of 20. Tie. The chase is on: roll again.



Hawk rolls a 6 for a total of 22. Marmot rolls a 6 for a total of 21. Marmot is eaten and placed as food underneath hawk.



Marmota flaviventris

Yellow-bellied Marmot

Fortress: Marmots dig holes under rocks where predators cannot follow. Add 5 points for defense, except against snakes, weasels, and badgers, which may pursue marmots underground.

Size:	2
Strength:	2
Speed:	2
Agility:	2
Habitats:	2
POWER:	10

Chirp: Marmots chirp to alert others when danger approaches. Add 2 points for defense and take 2 Forage cards if marmot has a mate.



Order on-line at www.HOPSPress.com!

Want to get kids excited about plants?

Shanleya's Quest

A Botany Adventure for Kids Ages 9 to 99

By Thomas J. Elpel Illustrated by Gloria Brown

In a world where time is a liquid that falls as rain, young Shanleya paddles her canoe to the Great Tree, buried to its branch tips in an ocean of time. Each branch tip forms an island, home to a separate family of plants and an unforgettable Guardian with lessons to teach about the identification and uses of those plants. *Shanleya's Quest* is a unique educational book that presents botanical concepts and plant identification skills in an easy

and fun metaphorical format for children, as well as for adults who are young at heart. Available in English and Spanish! 32 pages. 2005.



Read the book. Play the game!

Book (English): 1-892784-16-5. \$15

Book (Spanish): 978-1-892784-38-4. \$15

Card Game: 1-892784-23-8. \$15



"I own both Shanleya's Quest and Botany in a Day and I can't say enough great things about them. I teach mostly 3rd to 8th graders, and my goal is primarily to help my students establish a relationship with plants. Your materials are incredibly supportive of that, not to mention engaging, effective and fun."

—Katharine K.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Shanleya's Quest 2

Botany Adventure at the Fallen Tree

By Thomas J. Elpel Illustrated by Bonnie Andrich

The adventure continues! Shanleya has grown to become a legendary botanist and a grandmother. Her grandchildren join her to explore the world that bloomed after the fall of the Great Tree. They examine old flower fossils, discover new plant families and their Guardians, and experience the wonderful world of plants.

Readers will learn essential patterns for identifying 30,000 plants to the correct families, plus the story includes an overview of the edible and medicinal properties of those plant families.

Shanleya's Quest 2 teaches readers to recognize ancestral flower traits and witness evolution in action as flower parts merge together in increasingly specialized flower forms. The book introduces college-level content in a tale of botanical adventure suitable for kids ages 9 to 99.

Shanleya and her grandchildren forage for wild edibles, start a fire by rubbing sticks together, and create a grass rope for a fun game of tug of war with the Guardians.

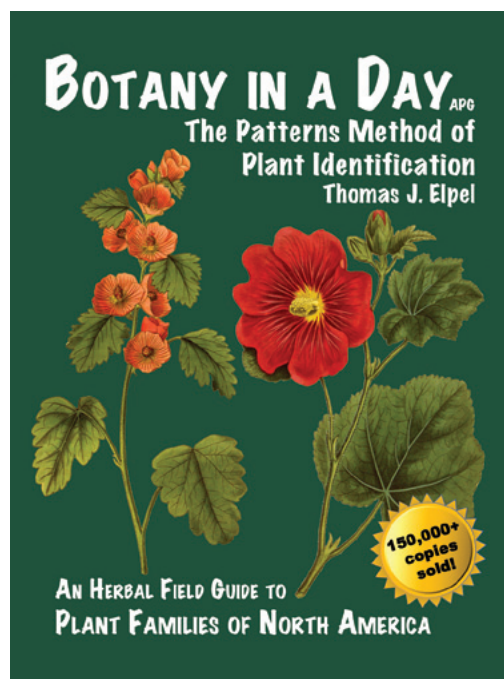
Readers are inspired to seek a deeper nature connection by exploring the plants and hands-on skills introduced in the adventure. The fun continues when readers search their own neighborhood for Mallow family plants to make authentic marshmallows! 32 pages. May 2020. \$15.

Read the book. Play the game! Book: 978-1-892784-51-3. \$15 | Game: 978-1-892784-52-0. \$15

Special offers and instant wholesale discounts available online.



Looking for an easier way to learn to identify plants?



Botany in a Day ^{APG}

The Patterns Method of Plant Identification

An Herbal Field Guide to Plant Families of North America

by Thomas J. Elpel

Why learn plants one-at-a-time when it is possible to learn them by the hundreds, based on plant family patterns? Related plants have similar characteristics and often have similar uses.

Each family of related plants has unique patterns for identification. Learn to recognize these patterns and discover them again and again in the plants you encounter. Instantly recognize a plant never before seen according to its family pattern, and in many cases, know its edible or medicinal properties on the spot—even before you have identified it down to the species!

Botany in a Day is changing the way people learn about plants. A one-day tutorial introduces eight of the world's most common plant families, applicable to more than 45,000 spe-

cies of plants. Add to your repertoire by keying out entirely unknown plants and learning additional family patterns. *Botany in a Day* is principally written for North America, but used and adored by readers all over the world. It is used as a textbook in numerous universities, high schools, and herbal schools. This book is widely used in nature programs and promoted in national parks. NOW IN COLOR!

150,000+ copies sold! 235 pages. ISBN: 978-1-892784-35-3. Edition 6.2, October 2021. 30% post-consumer recycled paper. \$36.

Tip: Use the Shanley's Quest card games to practice plant identification skills from Botany in a Day!

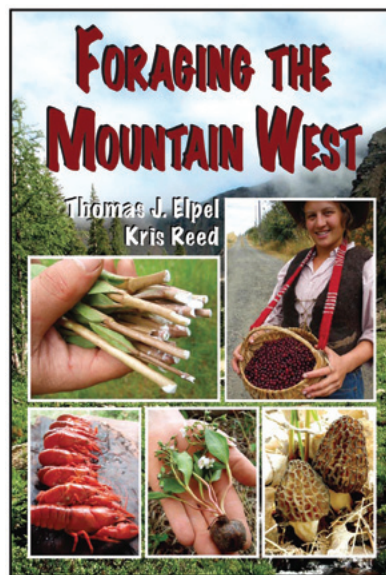
Foraging the Mountain West

Gourmet Edible Plants, Mushrooms, and Meat

By Thomas J. Elpel and Kris Reed

There's food in them thar hills! There is also food in the valleys, meadows, swamps, and all around town, too... maybe even in your own backyard. *Foraging the Mountain West* is a guide to harvesting and celebrating nature's abundance. Reach out and explore the world with your taste buds. Discover new delights you will never find at a supermarket. Connect with nature on a deeper level by meeting, greeting, and eating plants, fungi, and creatures that share your neighborhood. Become a little more self-sufficient, and a lot more aware.

Foraging the Mountain West is a hands-on manual for identifying, harvesting, and preparing real food. It is written for the backpacker who would rather bring more knowledge and fewer provisions into the wilderness. It is intended for the happy homemaker who wants to eat well and spend less. It is ideal for the creative chef who wants to explore new ingredients and impress diners with novel dishes. The authors brought together years of experience and fun to show you, the prospective forager, what, when, where, why, and how to gather wild and feral plants, mushrooms, and wayside crops. Field guide format: 6 x 9 inches. 340 pages. Color. ISBN: 978-1-892784-36-0. 2014. \$30.



Order on-line at www.HOPSPress.com!

Ever dreamed of undertaking a once-in-a-lifetime adventure?

Five Months on the Missouri River

Paddling a Dugout Canoe

By Thomas J. Elpel

Illustrated by Joanna Walitalo

"The Cascade Courier ran part of your series this summer; the fifth installment was published on August 1 under the headline "Ghosts of the Tower," and it was stupendous... You did your homework. You stopped. You saw. You read. You absorbed. You reflected, as pensive as Meriwether Lewis himself must have been in 1805 when finally reaching the Rockies. You got it, its spirit as well as its significance."

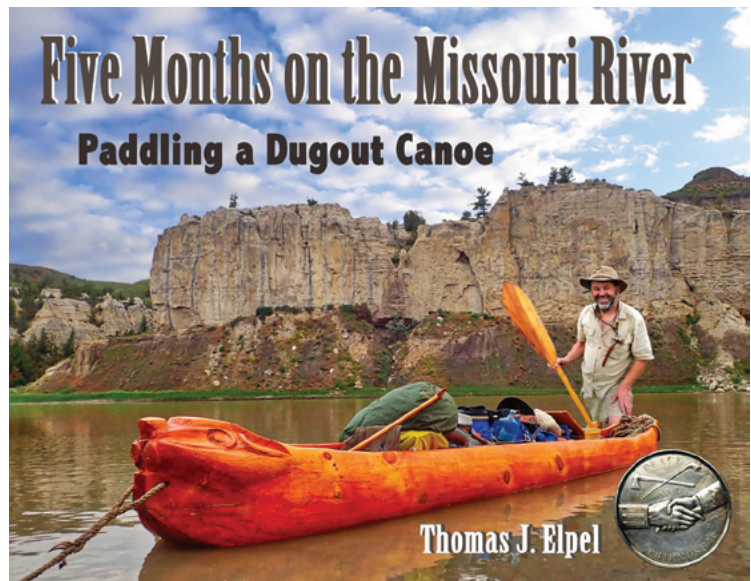
—Cheryl H. Cascade, Montana

Thomas J. Elpel was privileged to carve a dugout canoe with Churchill Clark, the great-great-great-great grandson of Captain William Clark. Together they whittled a 10,000 lb. Douglas fir log down to a 500+ lb. canoe.

Tom then led a five month "Missouri River Corps of Rediscovery" expedition with friends and former students, paddling this 2,341-mile segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from Three Forks, Montana to St. Louis, Missouri. Throughout the journey, Tom wrote a weekly column that was published by newspapers in Montana and across the Midwest. Tom's book, *Five Months on the Missouri River*, expands on the story told in the newspapers, with newly added text and hundreds of photos chronicling the adventure.

Five months on the Missouri River takes the reader on a photographic journey exploring natural history, Lewis and Clark, and the fur trade era on America's longest river. *Five months on the Missouri River* is an uplifting adventure story accompanied by beautiful photography as Tom Elpel and crew paddle through the heart of America meeting some of the nicest people on the planet.

Anyone who picks up the book will find the pictures tantalizing, quickly becoming captivated by the story to follow the expedition from the beginning to conclusion. Pick up the book and join the adventure of a lifetime! 270 pages, 700+ photos, color throughout. ISBN: 978-1-892784-50-6. March 2020. \$36.00.



Montana / July 31 / High Bluff to Agate Road

In wet or dry weather, that gumbo forms an imposing barrier between the river and land. At some campsites we slogged barefoot back and forth through fifty feet of soupy gumbo that would suck any footwear right off our feet. There is a reason the Missouri is known as the "Big Muddy."

We were pleasantly surprised that the mud largely disappeared through Fort Peck Lake where the shores consist of crumbly shale. Below the dam, the river is initially silt-free with sandy shorelines. However, it didn't take long for the river to re-assert itself and we again became creatures of the mud.



Scott and I enjoyed a scenic morning hike, here overlooking recently-harvested barley fields.

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Continuing downstream, the landscape is less dominated by badlands clay, giving way to sandy bluffs instead. As elsewhere, any topography unsuitable for farming was typically bypassed by settlers, which aids in identifying blocks of public land.

Sacagawea showed William Clark the yellow flowers of the golden currant (*Ribes aureum*) near here on April 30th, 1805. We enjoyed the fruits of those flowers on our journey of rediscovery, each day later in our summer becoming a day earlier in their spring as we travel backwards through their journals. Although known as a golden currant, this is a black-fruited subspecies, with bigger, more tasty fruits than the golden currants I know at home. At camp, I tossed driftwood onto the shallow mud to make a rare and cherished dry path to the dugout canoe.

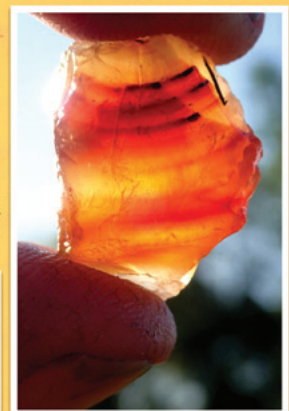
The next day we stopped for lunch at the confluence of Martha's River, now known as Big Muddy Creek, the eastern boundary of the Fort Peck Reservation. Most creeks in eastern Montana could be named either Big or Little Muddy Creek, yet here the shore was delightfully sandy.



Pelicans gather on and around a fallen tree.

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Montana / July 31 / High Bluff to Agate Road

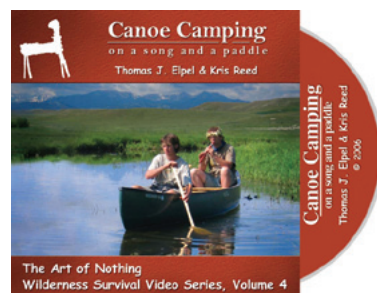
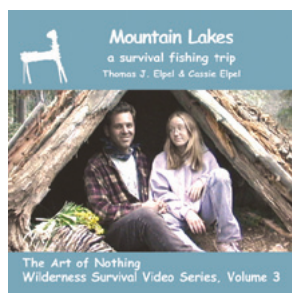


I found agates in the imported roadbed gravel.

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Special offers and instant wholesale discounts available online.

Looking to improve your competence and confidence in the outdoors?



The Art of Nothing Wilderness Survival Video Series on DVD with Thomas J. Elpel and special guests

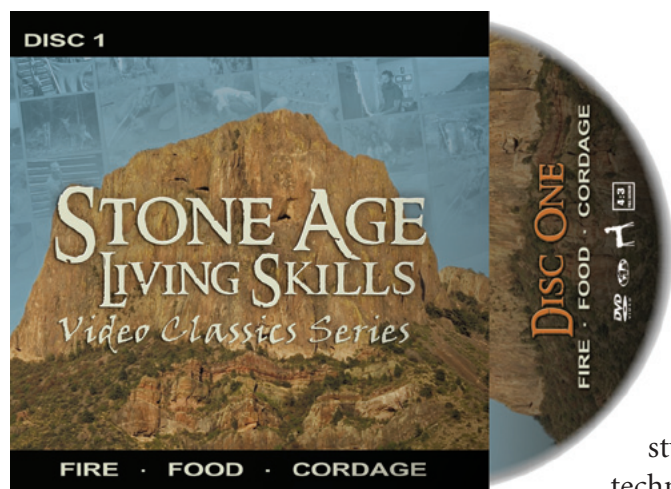
There is a big difference between learning wilderness skills in a classroom setting, versus applying them in the real world. In the *Art of Nothing Wilderness Survival Video Series*, Thomas J. Elpel and special guests journey into the woods and demonstrate all the skills needed to survive, including: making knives and tools; building shelters to stay warm without blankets or sleeping bags; primitive fire starting; water purification; plus harvesting and cooking wild plant and animal foods.

Also included in the videos are wild mushrooms, wilderness cooking techniques, unique tools, great scenery and wildlife footage.

Each video documents completely different skills to meet the same basic needs for shelter, fire, water, and food, as well as wilderness philosophy and conservation.

- 1 - Three Days at the River: 1-892784-20-3
- 2 - Mountain Meadows: 1-892784-21-1
- 3 - Mountain Lakes: 1-892784-22-X
- 4 - Canoe Camping: 978-1-892784-24-7

DVDs are \$25 each or buy all four for \$75 (save \$25).



Stone Age Living Skills Video Classics Series on DVD

The *Stone Age Living Skills Video Classic Series* brings back to life on DVD some of the best primitive skills videos ever produced on VHS video. Our first three discs in this series feature seven great movies from four top instructors: Jim Riggs, Brian James, Robert Earthworm, and Melvin Beattie. Topics covered include: friction fire with the handdrill and bowdrill, plant fiber cordage, the primitive lifestyle, hide tanning with both wet-scrape and dry-scrape techniques, plus knapping arrowheads and making primitive arrows. 2007.

Disc One—Fire, Food, Cordage: 978-1-892784-25-4

Disc Two—Hide Tanning: 978-1-892784-26-1

Disc Three—Arrows of the Stone Age: 978-1-892784-27-8

DVDs are \$25 each or buy all three for \$50 (save \$25).

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Want to reconnect with nature?

Participating in Nature

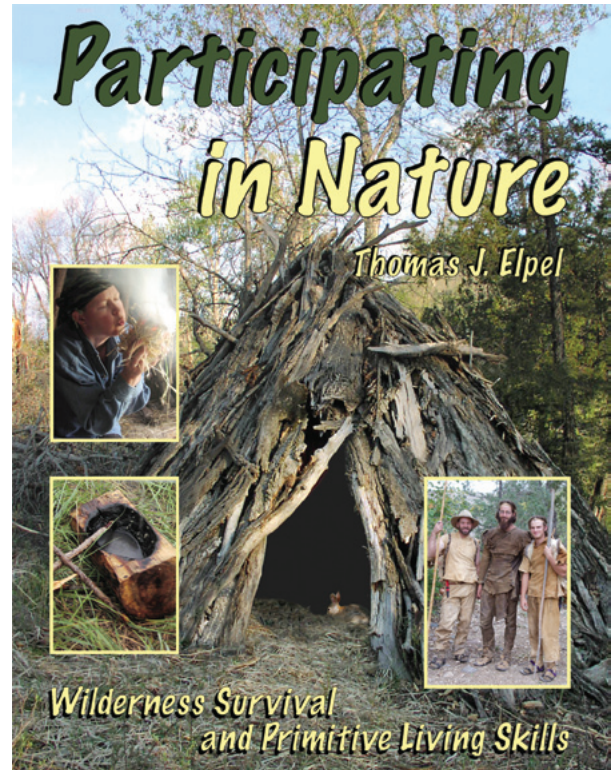
Wilderness Survival and Primitive Living Skills

by Thomas J. Elpel

Get in touch with your wild side! Primitive living is a way of learning about nature by participating in it. Instead of merely camping in the wilderness or passing through it, you become part of the process. Learn about nature by using it to meet your needs for shelter, fire, water, and food. Set aside the trappings of modern culture and step directly into nature with little or nothing to experience nature on its own terms.

This book is the source for in-depth coverage of primitive shelters, butchering roadkill deer, making braintan buckskin, tire sandals, bedroll packs and pack frames, felting with wool, quick bows and bone arrowheads, sinews, hide glue, wild edible plants, cooking methods, fishing by hand, water purification, primitive pottery, wooden containers, hollow log drums, basketry, cordage, twig deer, stalking skills, simple knives, flint & steel, bowdrill and handdrill fire-starting, and much more.

Participating in Nature includes dozens of innovative skills and an incredible 350 pictures and illustrations plus a thoughtful philosophy. This book is the culmination of Tom's extensive experiential research, emphasizing new information that is not found in any other source. 202 pages. 6th Edition, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-892784-30-8. 100% recycled paper. \$30.



Special offers and instant wholesale discounts available online.

Have you dreamed of building a low-cost, energy-efficient home?

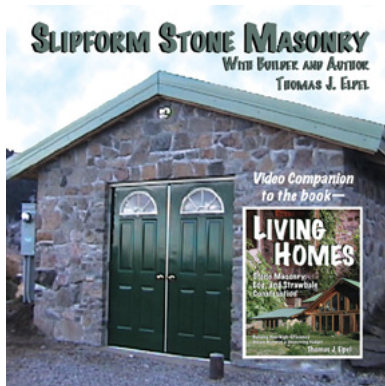
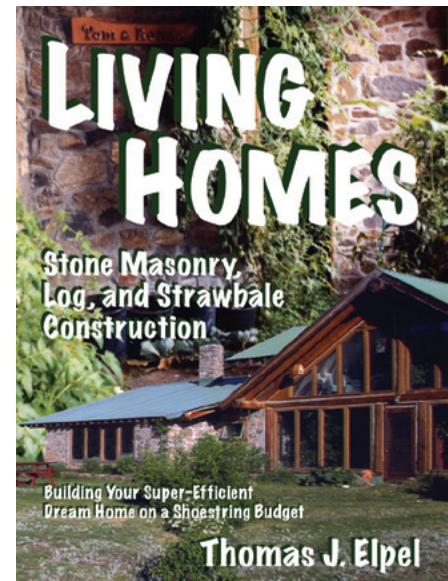
Living Homes

Stone Masonry, Log, and Strawbale Construction
Building Your Super-Efficient Dream Home on a Shoestring Budget
by Thomas J. Elpel

The house of your Dreams does not have to be expensive. The key is all in the planning. How much a house costs, how it looks, how comfortable it is, how energy-efficient it is—all these things occur on paper before picking up even one tool. A little extra time in the planning process can save you tens of thousands of dollars in construction and maintenance. That is time well spent!

Living Homes takes you through the planning process to design an energy- and resource-efficient home that won't break the bank. This book guides you through the nuts and bolts of construction from the footings to the roof. You will learn how to do slipform stone masonry, log home construction, building with strawbales, making your own "terra tile" floors, concrete countertops, windows and doors, solar water heaters, masonry fireplaces, framing, plumbing, greywater, septic systems, swamp filters, painting, and more!

This revised and expanded sixth edition includes new material gleaned from Tom's latest building projects, emphasizing updates to passive solar theory, use of insulation, roof designs, and solar water heaters. 240 pages, with 300+ drawings and photos. Edition 6.1, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-892784-32-2. 100% recycled paper. \$30.



Slipform Stone Masonry DVD

With Builder and Author Thomas J. Elpel

Slipform Stone Masonry brings to life the nuts-and-bolts of the slipforming process featured in *Living Homes*. In this unique video, Thomas J. Elpel and Robert Taylor build an insulated workshop of stone, demonstrating the building process from site excavation right through to putting the roof on and finishing the inside. This video is intended as a companion to *Living Homes*.

Principles of design and construction are outlined in the book, enabling the reader to create dwellings customized to their own unique situations. In this video Elpel demonstrates principals from *Living Homes* by building a slipform stone masonry workshop from start to finish. DVD. ISBN: 1-892784-17-3. 2001. 1 hr. 50 min. \$25.

Build Your Own Masonry Fireplace DVD

With Builder and Author Thomas J. Elpel

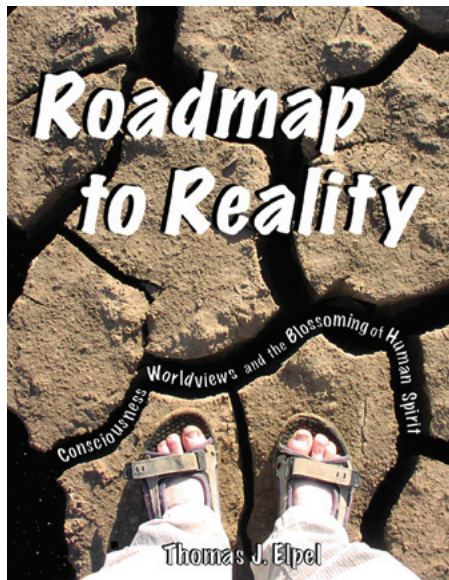
Build an authentic masonry fireplace with the efficiency of a masonry stove! The baffle system in this fireplace extracts heat from the exhaust, warming up the thermal mass of brick and rock. The masonry fireplace can radiate gentle heat for three days after the fire is out!

In this instructional video, Thomas J. Elpel demonstrates the step-by-step process of building a masonry fireplace, starting from the foundation and ending with the chimney. DVD. 2012. ISBN: 978-1-892784-34-6. 108 minutes. \$25.



Order on-line at www.HOPSPress.com!

Looking for a satisfying and prosperous life experience?



Roadmap to Reality

Consciousness, Worldviews and the Blossoming of Human Spirit

by Thomas J. Elpel

Illustrated by Bonnie Andrich

What if our entire experience of reality were based on a false assumption? In *Roadmap to Reality*, Thomas J. Elpel tests the assumption that we are a sentient (self-aware) species, and finds evidence suggesting otherwise. Like automatons, we copy beliefs and behaviors from generation to generation without consciously evaluating why we do what we do. We absorb a definition of reality and act on it without ever questioning the source of that definition. In short, *we don't act; we react.*

Roadmap to Reality is the quest to unravel illusions and find out what reality really is. The journey follows links between technology and thought, showing that hunter-gatherer, agricultural, industrial, and informational societies define reality in predictable ways. Production technology dictates our perceptions of cause and effect, how we solve problems, and our approach to parenting and governing. *Roadmap to Reality* sequentially follows logic and observation to reveal that consciousness and worldviews evolve in layers over time.

With an educated but casual writing style, this quest takes the reader to the ends of the universe and back, peeling away layers of consciousness to discover the nature of reality. This book will change your perspective of history and world events, and it will change you. *Roadmap to Reality* enables you to let go of preconceived notions about reality to discover a more holistic, more satisfying life experience. 260 pages complimented by the artwork of Bonnie Andrich. May 2008. ISBN: 978-1-892784-29-2. Printed on 100% recycled paper. \$30.

Green Prosperity

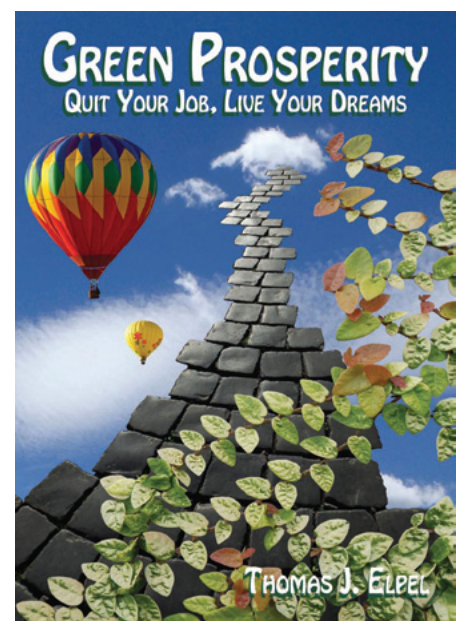
Quit Your Job, Live Your Dreams

by Thomas J. Elpel

Little actual work is required to provide for most human needs such as shelter, clothing, warmth, food, and water, and even new necessities, such as mobile phones and transportation.

However, surplus time and idle hands represent a fundamental threat to society. Occupying people with meaningless work is a mechanism of control implemented throughout history. Due to population growth and technological development, unnecessary work now consumes our resource base at an unsustainable rate and threatens all life on earth.

The solution? Quit your job. *Green Prosperity* is a manual to sidestep meaningless work and break free from the treadmill to nowhere, including concrete steps to take control of your life and live your own Dreams. 6 x 9 inches. 340 pages. June 2018. ISBN: 978-1-892784-41-4. \$30.



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	Build Your Own Masonry Fireplace DVD (108 min.)	\$25.00	
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	Shanleya's Quest 2: Patterns in Plants Card Game	\$15.00	
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	Vol. 3: Mountain Lakes—a survival fishing trip (95 min.)	\$25.00	
	Vol. 4: Canoe Camping—on a song and a paddle (95 min.)	\$25.00	
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Stone Age Living Skills Video Classics Series on DVD			
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