

# CREATOR

VOLUME 13

NUMBER 2

## WINSOME PONDS

Part 2

*Delight yourself in the LORD . . . (Psalm 37:4a)*

**Cyclops** (*speaking in a thick Scottish accent*): “Aye, God be pr-r-r-aised! Thanks fir looking in—almost everyone ignores us. I’m vera eager ta introduce yoo ta all my friends here in the pond. They may seem strange ta yoo, but they’re all so excited ta show yoo *how delightful God is*. Yoo see, Jesus is the One who made the cr-r-r-eatures of this pond and we reveal His glory—all 14,355,817,248,331 of us.<sup>1</sup>

“Oh, I’m so r-r-r-ood . . . please allow me ta introduce myself. My name is Cyclops and I’m a female copepod (COPE - ah - pod).

Cr-r-r-eator Jesus has scattered us throughout the ponds and oceans of the world. Copepods are crustaceans—though not like lobsters or other ‘crabby’ cr-r-r-eatures. We’re difficult ta spot because we’re only 2-3 mm long, but yoo kin see us if yoo use a magnifying glass”<sup>2</sup>

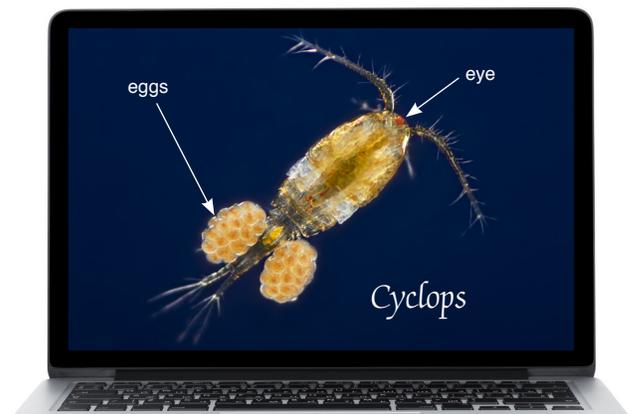
*Professor Seismo*<sup>3</sup> has designed a device that allows us to probe the hidden “nooks and crannies” of a pond in Scotland. Fifteen minutes ago, the professor gently lowered his homemade *Planktonic Explorer* into the water and began taking photos.

**Cyclops**: “Professor Seismo has done it again—he’s invented a new gadget that makes me think and sound just like a person. Now honestly, who has ever heard of an animal that kin talk?!”<sup>4</sup>

“The reason people call me ‘Cyclops’ is that God gave me a single eye r-r-r-ight smack dab in the middle of my forehead. Makes me bonny, eh?”

“I hope yoo have time ta stay fir tea and see all the snapshots the professor is taking of the wonderful underwater life surrounding me.”

*Professor Seismo starts to bring up images of pond organisms on the computer screen as Cyclops wiggles her antennae with excitement. She continues to talk.*



<sup>1</sup> More than 14 trillion organisms; Cyclops is really good at counting!

<sup>2</sup> One-tenth of an inch.

<sup>3</sup> Professor Seismo is a fictitious character.

<sup>4</sup> See Numbers 22:28-30; 2 Peter 2:16.

**Cyclops:** “What’s the first thing yoo might notice aboot pond water in the late spring or summer? It’s gr-r-r-reen, r-r-r-ight? And sometimes the surface is covered with thick mats of slimy goooo. ‘Pond scum,’ I believe yoo call it. Well, this pond scum is a huge collection of single-celled and multicellular plants called algae (AL - gee).

“Some of the most delightful plants on the face of the Airth (Earth) are also the simplest—the single-celled blue-green algae (also known as cyanobacteria).<sup>5</sup> Always cr-r-r-eative, the Lord Jesus made each with a unique shape, leading scientists ta give every blue-green algae a special name.”



*Merismopedia*

*It’s a bit confusing, but single-celled organisms frequently join with each other forming fascinating colonies (above). But these individual cells can survive on their own. No one cell of a multicellular organism, however, can live without the help of all the other cells.*

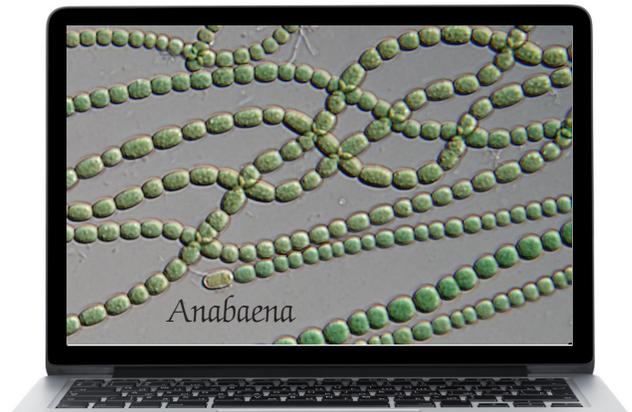
**Cyclops:** “God weaves the blue-green algae called *Merismopedia* into rectangular plates. They’re pretty small so yoo need a microscope ta study ‘em.

“The next photo shows the common blue-green algae called *Oscillatoria*. Jesus sweetly stacks its flattened cells ta form slender,

<sup>5</sup> Many scientists place algae in a class by themselves and don’t consider them plants. Scientists today also like to think of blue-green algae as bacteria. Cyanobacteria is the other name given to blue-green algae.



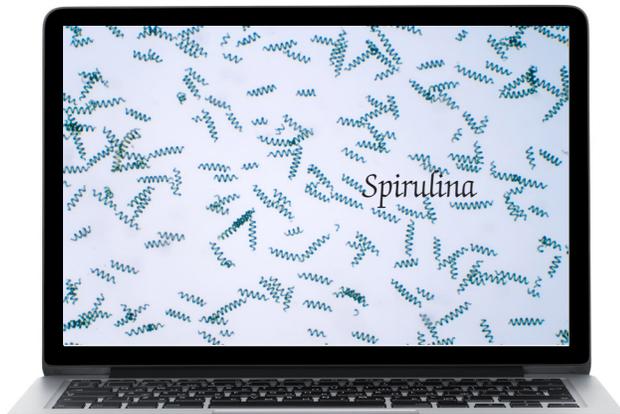
gr-r-r-reen filaments. Some *Oscillatoria* live in the scalding-hot waters of Yellowstone National Park and kin thrive in temperatures up ta 74° C (165° F)! These blue-green algae kin survive in mana environments: salt water, fresh water, hot springs, and even places containing high concentrations of sulfur, such as volcanoes. And this is the organism that gives the Red Sea its name. Cr-r-r-eator Jesus sometimes paints these blue-green algae with special pigments. Blooms of a reddish species of *Oscillatoria* stain the Red Sea’s waters crimson. I bit yoo didn’t know that!



“The cells of *Anabaena* (an - ah - BEE - nah) frequently produce chemicals that are extremely poisonous ta animals. If conditions are just r-r-r-ight, these blue-green algae kin reproduce rapidly, giving the water a bad taste and an awful smell. They make toxins

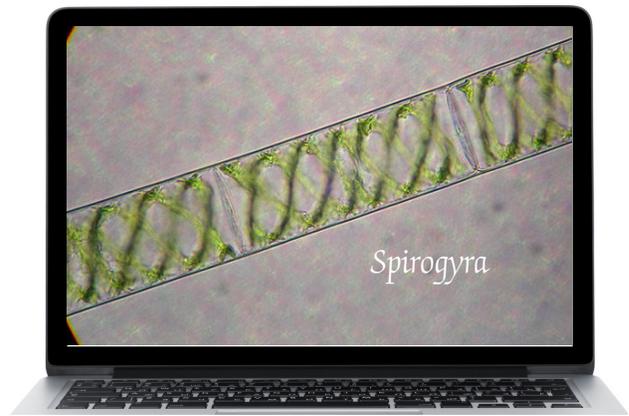
that kin cause paralysis of the respiratory muscles and suffocation within a few minutes of ingestion. These ponds have been known ta kill animals that dare ta drink from them. But we see God’s kindness being heralded in the offensive smell these ponds produce . . . ‘WARNING, DINNA DRINK!’”

*Here we observe something in Creation that is beautiful but dangerous—a reminder that we worship a God of fearful, holy splendor (1 Timothy 6:15b-16) whom we must not approach carelessly (see Leviticus 10:1-2). If the things Jesus creates are dangerous, how much more dangerous is God?! The Good News is that we may come freely before the throne of the Almighty if we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ (Isaiah 61:10; Galatians 3:26-27).*



**Cyclops:** “Unlike its deedly cousin, *Spirulina* is one of the best sources of protein of all plants and is eaten by mana people around the world. It is also rich in vitamins.

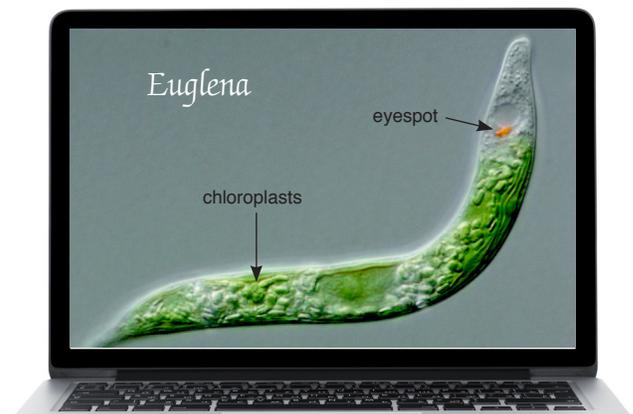
“There’s another gr-r-r-oup of pond algae—the green algae (Chlorophyta)—which are mair complex than blue-green algae. I guess green algae illustrate the auld saying: ‘dinna judge a book by its cover.’ With ponds, we shinna judge its algae by its scum. Surely the most disgusting, slimy, foul froth ever found floating on the surface of a pond is formed by one of the most fascinating plants Jesus e’er



made—*Spirogyra*. It is a common member of the pond-scum family. Under a microscope, we see that Chr-r-r-ist adorns these fine green algae with delicate, ribbons of chloroplasts<sup>6</sup> cr-r-r-eating a lovely, spiral-shaped tapestry.”

*Professor Seismo remains quiet as he busily monitors his equipment.*

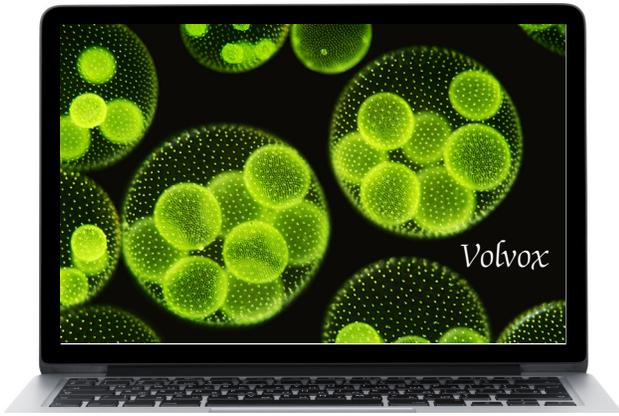
**Cyclops:** “Other delightful green algae that have also been called ‘scum’ by some are the *Euglena* (yoo - GLEE - nah). Euglena are a wee bit unusual fir plants because they have



whip-like tails and kin move about. They also feature a red eyespot, which allows them ta swim toward light. Imagine that, a plant that kin see and moovve! And some people dinna think our Cr-r-r-eator is winsome?!

<sup>6</sup> A chloroplast (KLOR - oh - plast) is the organelle of a plant cell that contains chlorophyll and is where photosynthesis takes place.





“Oh, I just love the next snapshot (above)! Mana scientists call it ‘the jewel of the pond.’ The genus *Volvox* defies the tendency of single-celled organisms to be loners by forming breath-taking spherical colonies. These hollow balls of green algae cooperate by moving and rotating in unison like living soap bubbles. Each green cell has a wee eyespot given to it by Jesus, *the Jewel of Heaven* (Matthew 13:45-46). Eyespots allow the *Volvox* to swim toward sunlight. These selfless colonies usually contain hundreds or even thousands of individual green algae embedded in a thin gelatinous layer.



“Nooo less winsome or beautiful is a family of one-celled green algae called diatoms.<sup>7</sup> Diatoms radiate the sweetness of our Cr-r-r-eator’s delightful character on a hale new level. The Lord Jesus carefully and

<sup>7</sup> Read more about diatoms in *HIDDEN TREASURES* Volume 1, Number 4.

skillfully fashions each from glass (known as silica). A diatom is a bonny glass box with an itsy-bitsy lid—what divine craftsmanship! And holed up inside this microscopic ‘glass hoose’ is a solitary green alga.

“God made 20 kinds of *Volvox*—though one species would have been enough to proclaim His glory! With diatoms, however, He gives us a glimpse into His *unlimited cr-r-r-eativity*: Chr-r-r-ist made more than 100,000 different kinds of diatoms—intricate glass ornaments that decorate most bodies of water on Airth (Earth). A good thing, too! Each diatom, whether freshwater or marine, is a wonder to behold. And it surely urges us to marvel at our Maker.



“The last group of green algae I will mention are the desmids (DEZ - mids). Desmids kin be quite lovely, reflecting the far-greater beauty of Chr-r-r-ist Jesus. Found only in freshwater (they dinna live in the ocean), these green algae demonstrate startling symmetry. God cr-r-r-eated them using two halves that are exact mirror images of each other.”

*Professor Seismo is mesmerized by Cyclops’ Scottish Burr as she rolls her “r’s.”*

**Cyclops:** “The next bundle of precious wee organisms I’d like to introduce yoo to is the group known as protozoa.<sup>8</sup> Mana of these

<sup>8</sup> Many scientists place algae in with the protozoa, but we have chosen to keep algae in the category of “plants.”

### SIZE OF POND CREATURES<sup>9</sup>

bacteria	2 microns
blue-green algae	100 microns
diatoms	200 microns
paramecium	300 microns
volvox	1 millimeter
<hr/>	
HEAD OF A PIN	2 millimeters
<hr/>	
water fleas	4 millimeters
hydra	30 millimeters
worms	several centimeters
crayfish	15 centimeters

lads and lassies are my friends! Protozoa are single-celled animals, and some are quite familiar ta yoo. These one-celled organisms especially hint at our Lord’s *cr-r-r-eative omnipresence*—He faithfully maintains more than 65,000 different species of protozoa all over the Airth. Scientists like Professor Seismo dinna ever need to be bored.

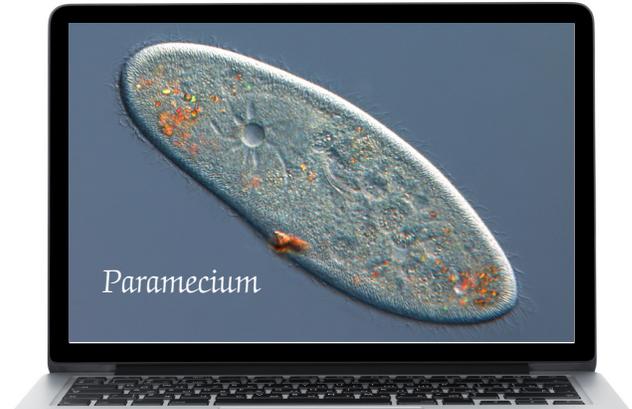
“Roughly speaking, protozoans kin be divided into three classes of one-celled animals:

- ciliates (SIL - ee - its)
- amoebas (ah - MEE - bahs)
- flagellates (FLAH - jel - ates)

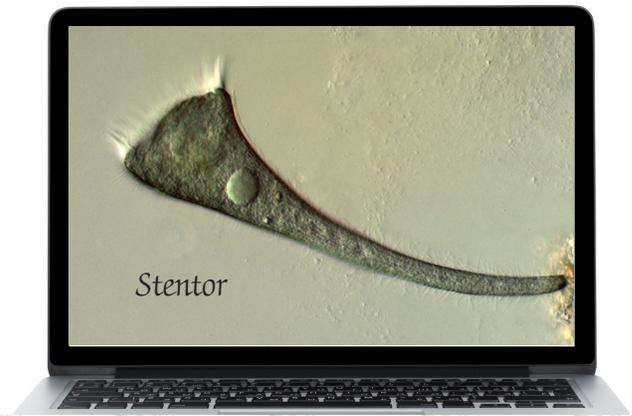
Jesus covers ciliates with cilia—thus their name. Cilia are microscopic ‘hairs’ that beat back and forth like tree limbs blowing in the wind. These hair-like paddles make ciliates superb swimmers. Yoo see, wee cr-r-r-eatures have a difficult time moving through water—they canna swim as freely as fish. The smaller the animal, the mair like thick molasses the water seems, and the harder it is ta move through it. Cilia make this task easier. These wee ‘hairs’ also help ciliates obtain food and oxygen.

“The most famous of all the ciliate animals is the *Paramecium* (pair - ah - MEE - see - um). Parameciums are really small (60-300

microns) and cute tooo! Under a microscope, they look like fast-moving, fuzzy ‘slippers.’ Yoo see, a paramecium is covered with *thousands* of cilia. In a pond, they kin be found zipping about the organic debris of the benthos (bottom). Although it’s an animal, our kindly Cr-r-r-eator also pit chloroplasts in each paramecium so it kin produce food as plants dooo.



“There are mana other kinds of ciliates in the world, but allow me ta mention just one mair—the *Stentor*. Living among a pond’s plankton,<sup>10</sup> *Stentor* kin also be found attached ta aquatic plants. They’re one of the biggest single-celled critters in the world, reaching a length of three millimeters (one-tenth of an inch). The *Stentor* resembles a wee trumpet with a ring of cilia around its ‘mooth.’”



<sup>9</sup> A millimeter is one thousand times bigger than a micron; a centimeter is ten times larger than a millimeter, and ten thousand times as big as a micron.

<sup>10</sup> Plankton is a large collection of algae and protozoa found in ponds, lakes, and the ocean.

A very large fly lands on Professor Seismo's nose. Wow, that thing is big . . . the fly, not his nose!

**Cyclops:** "Amoebas (ah - MEE - bahs) make up the second group of protozoa, and they illustrate what it means to be 'protean.'

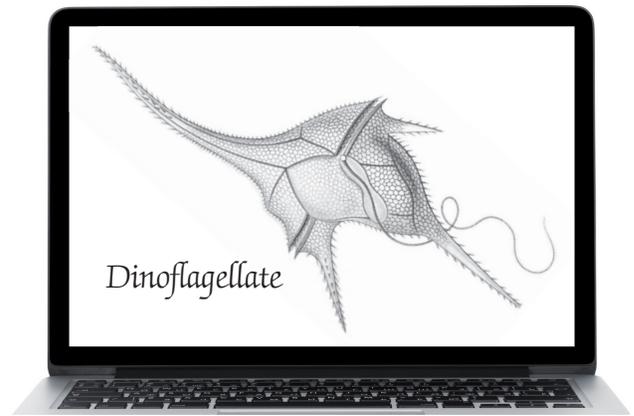


Amoebas are bags of living stuff that *constantly change their shape*. They squish and slide as they move about and frequently thrust out buds of cytoplasm, like arms of wee children reaching for candy. Scientists call these 'arms' pseudopods (false feet). Pseudopods (SUE - doe - pods) are used to grab food. The best place to find amoeba is on decaying leaves in the pond's benthos.

"Each amoeba is a single cell. Somehow our Lord Jesus delicately packed into these wee animals all that's needed for life—the mechanisms for growth and reproduction, digestion, movement, and respiration. He's amazing!"

*The fly has finally stopped bugging Professor Seismo.*

**Cyclops:** "I'm going to talk about a third type of protozoa, the flagellates, just a bit. One group—the dinoflagellates—is a collection of microscopic, brown, one-celled cr-r-r-eatures.



God gave each dinoflagellate a flagellum that functions much like the propeller on a boat, providing it a way to move forward. It also sports a 'suit of armor' made from cellulose of all things (the same stuff wood is made of)—beautifully sculpted by *the Great Carpenter*.

"Flagellates flourish all over the world. Several thousand flagellates can be found in a teaspoonful of seawater. And you thought you were alone when you swim in the ocean.

"Apart from single-celled cr-r-r-eatures, the other large category of animals—which includes me—are the multicellular organisms. These are critters God cr-r-r-eated using mana cells. Below is a list of the different multicellular residents of a pond:

- sponges
- hydras/jellyfish
- rotifers
- bryozoans
- worms
- crustaceans
- mollusks
- vertebrates

"Sponges make up the Phylum of animals known as Porifera (poor - IF - era).<sup>11</sup> Most sponges live in the sea, but, believe it or not, some grow r-r-r-ight here in ponds. Pond sponges frequently attach themselves to underwater plants or sticks—kinda like cookie dough on a spoon.

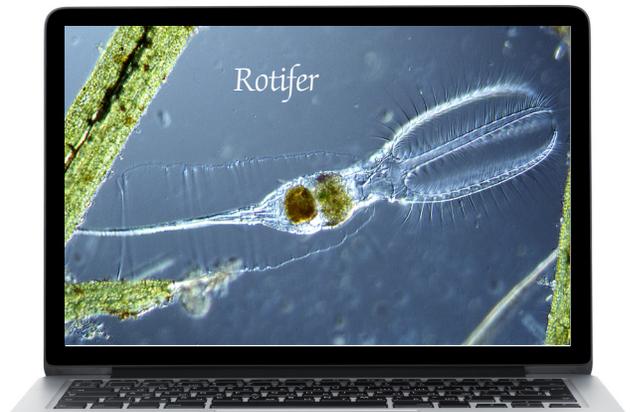
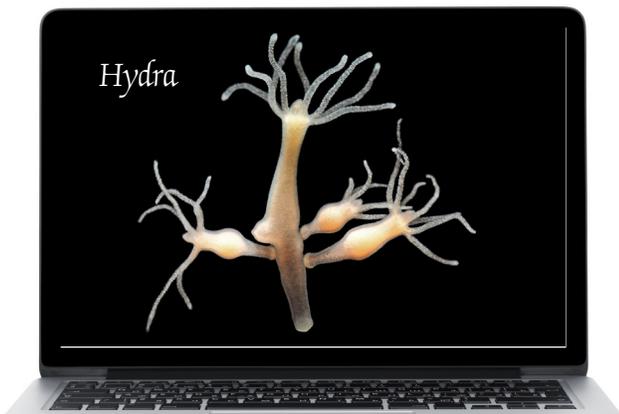
<sup>11</sup> Read about sponges in *HIDDEN TREASURES* Volume 1 Number 4.



“Hydras belong to a unique group of animals, the Coelenterates (sell - EN - tur - ates), which includes sea anemone, jellyfish, and coral. The hydra is a wee r-r-r-ascal best seen with a magnifying glass or low-power microscope.<sup>12</sup> They remind me of worms with wild hair-dooos though they’re not worms. Cr-r-r-eator Jesus graces hydras with tentacles similar to the ones jellyfish and

“The wonderful photo above shows a species of jellyfish God cr-r-r-eated that lives, not in the ocean, but in ponds. It is vera small and vera difficult ta find, but if yoo come across one yoo will be amazed that such an animal kin be found outside the sea.

“Rotifers are vera strange cr-r-r-eatures that dimly echo a description of cherubim in the Bible (read Ezekiel 10:1-17). They are the smallest multicellular animals in the world but come in an amazing variety of shapes.



anemones have. These tentacles possess special cells called nematocysts (knee - MAT - oh - sists), or stinging cells, which kin paralyze their prey with poison. Hydras are carnivores and eat several kinds of wee pond animals, like me. They’re fun ta observe because they roll along the stems and leaves of aquatic plants, performing ‘somersaults’ as they go. But I need ta watch from a safe distance.

The head of a rotifer sports jaws made of chitin<sup>13</sup> and a crown of cilia that rotates ‘round and ‘round like the wheel of a bicycle. Rotifers are found throughout the pond: attached ta stanes<sup>14</sup> and aquatic plants, living in mud and as members of the plankton.”

<sup>12</sup> Read more about hydras in the *CREATOR Journal* Volume 22 Number 1.

<sup>13</sup> Chitin (KI - tin) is a hard substance Jesus uses to construct the exoskeleton of insects and spiders.

<sup>14</sup> “Stanes” is Scottish for “stones.”



**Cyclops:** “The best way ta describe a bryozoan (bry - oh - ZO - an) is ta have Professor Seismo show yoo one (above)—after all, a picture is worth a thousand wirds. The other name fir bryozoans is pond fairies. Kin yoo see why they’re called that?”

“Now some people may not want ta admit it, but the Lord Jesus also cr-r-r-eated worms and ponds are full of them. He handcrafted three basic types of worms:

- flatworms
- segmented worms
- roundworms



Flatworms are also knoon as Platyhelminthes (plah - tee - hel - MIN - theeZ) . . . that’s a mouthful! Covered with wee cilia, flatworms glide slowly through water like butter over hot toast. In ponds, the Turbellaria are the

most common of flatworms. They have two or mair eyespots, a vera ‘simple’ nervous system, and a one-way gut (excrement goes out the same way food goes in).

“Segmented worms or annelids (ANN - eh - lids) include airthworms and leeches. Their chief means of getting around in a pond is by wiggling—kinda like fidgety toddlers. God populated the world with over 22,000 species of annelids.

“Lastly, there are the roundworms or nematodes (KNEE - mah - toads). They are known for their frantic, S-shaped movements. Roundworms are important decomposers living in the bottom mud of ponds. Most nematodes are quite small fir worms (0.2 - 10 mm) and are transparent.

“The nixt group of animals I’ll mention include the crustaceans. A majority of crustaceans live in the ocean (lobsters, crabs, and shrimp), but crayfish and freshwater shrimp kin be found in ponds.

“There are mana kinds of microscopic crustaceans as well, including copepods and water fleas. Copepods (COPE - eh - pods) like myself are numerous in fresh and salt water. We are found among the open-water plankton of ponds and in the pond shallows. We’ll eat just about ana-thing smaller than us if it’s yummy!

“A water flea is a crustacean—and not a flea—and it goes by the name *Daphnia*. *Daphnia* are vera plentiful in healthy ponds



and make good fish food. They move around in a jerky way using their large antennae. If yoo spot a water flea, take it home and pretend ta be a ‘pond zoo vet.’ Carefully observe your *Daphnia* under a microscope. Yoo should be able ta see its internal organs, including the beating of its heart.

“I need ta get back ta my family because they’re waiting fir me. But before I go, I would like ta mention one mair group of animals God placed in oceans and ponds—mollusks. Mollusks include slugs,



octopi, squids, snails, clams, and mussels. Fortunately fir us, there are nooo squid or octopi in ponds, but snails, clams, and mussels are quite common.

“Ta tell yoo the truth, Professor Seismo and I have only touched on a few of the countless plants and animals that call the pond their home. Our sweet Cr-r-r-eator, Jesus Chr-r-r-ist, has such a vast and winsome mind—I’m not sure ana-one will ever figure out just how mana delightful things He has made!”

*... and He will give you the desires of your heart.  
Psalm 37:46*

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## A Phonetic Guide to Scottish Burr

about = about	knoon = known
Airth = Earth	lads = boys
ana-one = anyone	lassies = girls
ana-thing = anything	mair = more
auld = old	mana = many
bit = bet	mooth = mouth
bonny = pretty	nixt = next
braith = breath	pit = put
canna = cannot	r-r-r-ood = rude
deedly = deadly	shinna = shouldn't
dinna = don't	stanes = stones
e'er = ever	ta = to
fir = for	toost = toast
hale = whole	vera = very
hoose = house	wee = tiny
inta = into	wirds = words
kin = can	yoo = you

This is an unofficial guide to Scottish pronunciation. This list is not meant to be an all-encompassing presentation of the truly wonderful Burr accent.



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# DELIGHTFULNESS

*How lovely are Your dwelling places,  
O LORD of hosts (Psalm 84:1)!*

If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation (holiday), where would you go? And why would you want to travel there? Many people dream of visiting far-off places. They often seek rest and relaxation, fun, or escape from stress. The truth is, we don't have to venture far to find a delightful spot to enjoy. Some people have discovered this secret simply by looking out their bedroom window.

The God who made the world that surrounds us is a *delightful Creator*. And His winsomeness is woven into His Creation everywhere! Yet, we must stop long enough, concentrate hard enough, and humble ourselves enough to experience this delightfulness.

Even in winter, when the trees have lost their leaves and the birds are relatively quiet, we can be blessed. It is then that we can savor the character of Jesus in the subtle things He has fashioned. The jubilee of flowers, insects, and songbirds is gone. Instead, we experience a wonderful palette of subtle pastels in the many dried grasses autumn leaves behind. We can also marvel at the stunning silhouettes of barren trees during the dusk and dawn hours.

The winsomeness of our Creator shines 365 days a year. We need not sail to a tropical island to appreciate *this attribute of God*. We do need to set aside a few quiet moments each day, casting our anxieties upon our compassionate Lord. It is only then that we'll be free to bask in the sunshine of our Creator's glory. Let's lay aside our distractions and worries to be still in our hearts, knowing that Jesus reigns over all things for He is God (Psalm 46:10).

Oh, yes, *Jesus is God* (Hebrews 1:8-9)! "Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:6-7). He

did this for the glory of His Father. And it is the Father's revealed perfections—seen in Christ—that create delight in us.

God's holiness, however, also shines a bright light on the foulness of our sins. This is the problem of all humanity; we are sinners before God and there is nothing we can do about it. A day rapidly approaches when all that is not holy and perfect will be destroyed by Christ's terrifying anger (2 Peter 3:10-12; Revelation 19:11-21). "Perfect, how can anyone be perfect?" some might protest. Yet this is God's standard (Matthew 5:48).

There is Good News. God knew before the beginning of time that we would rebel against Him. Sadly, this cosmic treason set mankind on a road of enmity with his Creator. Yet our infinitely gracious God provided a single way to drive away this hatred from our hearts and make us perfect before Himself. This solitary way provides the only safe path for us to take, and it goes straight through Christ's Cross (John 14:6).

Jesus came to Earth, took on human flesh, and died on a cross for the sins of His people. He was spotless and had done nothing wrong, yet for our sakes God "made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus endured the punishment for our sins, which included our hatred of His Father. Why? Because Christ loves those who are His own and He knows we are helpless to save ourselves. He nailed our guilt to the Cross (Colossians 2:14) and freely gave us faith to believe in Him. And He rose from the dead so we would have eternal life.

Heaven is uncomplicated delight because our God is infinitely satisfying and infinitely able to share His unbounded joy with us. Jesus is more wonderful than all the vacations and holidays that all the people on Earth have ever taken. Heaven is delightful, not only because it is beautiful, but because Jesus, our living God, is the Source of Delightfulness . . . *He is Heaven!*

*Whom have I in heaven but You?  
And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.  
Psalm 73:25*

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