

John Burroughs

Quotes

Nature, Men, Thinking, Life, Country, Science, Winter, Heart, War, Inspirational, Nuclear, Summer, World, May, Air, Flower, Law, Opportunity, Mind, Weather

The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention.

~John Burroughs

A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.

~John Burroughs

For anything worth having one must pay the price; and the price is always work, patience, love, self-sacrifice - no paper currency, no promises to pay, but the gold of real service.

~John Burroughs

How beautiful the leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days.

~John Burroughs

I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see.

~John Burroughs

I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.

~John Burroughs

To learn something new, take the path that you took yesterday.

~John Burroughs

When nature made the blue-bird she wished to propitiate both the sky and the earth, so she gave him the color of the one on his back and the hue of the other on his breast.

~John Burroughs

One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: ~To rise

above little things'.

~John Burroughs

The longer I live, the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and the wonder of the world.

~John Burroughs

In winter the stars seem to have rekindled their fires, the moon achieves a fuller triumph, and the heavens wear a look of a more exalted simplicity.

~John Burroughs

The gift of perfume to a flower is a special grace like genius or like beauty, and never becomes common or cheap.

~John Burroughs

I go to books and to nature as a bee goes to the flower, for a nectar that I can make into my own honey.

~John Burroughs

O bluebird, welcome back again, Thy azure coat and ruddy vest, Are hues that April loveth best.

~John Burroughs

Travel and society polish one, but a rolling stone gathers no moss, and a little moss is a good thing on a man.

~John Burroughs

A somebody was once a nobody who wanted to and did.

~John Burroughs

Love is the measure of life; only so far as we love do we really live.

~John Burroughs

It is the life of the crystal, the architect of the flake, the fire of the frost, the soul of the sunbeam. This crisp winter air is full of it.

~John Burroughs

We are made strong by what we overcome.

~John Burroughs

Science has done more for the development of western civilization in one hundred years than Christianity did in eighteen hundred years.

~John Burroughs

He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter.

~John Burroughs

Joy in the universe, and keen curiosity about it all - that has been my religion.

~John Burroughs

Do not despise your own place and hour. Every place is under the stars, every place is the center of the world.

~John Burroughs

If you want to see birds, you must have birds in your heart.

~John Burroughs

Serene, I fold my hands and wait, Nor care for wind, nor tide, nor sea; I rave no more 'gainst time or fate, For lo! my own shall come to me.

~John Burroughs

Nature is not benevolent; Nature is just, gives pound for pound, measure for measure, makes no exceptions, never tempers her decrees with mercy, or winks at any infringement of her laws.

~John Burroughs

If I were to name the three most precious resources of life, I should say books, friends, and nature.

~John Burroughs

Nothing relieves and ventilates the mind like a resolution.

~John Burroughs

The secret of happiness is something to do.

~John Burroughs

Every walk to the woods is a religious rite, every bath in the stream is a saving ordinance. Communion service is at all hours, and the bread and wine are from the heart and marrow of Mother Earth.

~John Burroughs

The Kingdom of Heaven is not a place, but a state of mind.

~John Burroughs

A man's life may stagnate as literally as water may stagnate, and just as motion and direction are the remedy for one, so purpose and activity are the remedy for the other.

~John Burroughs

What a severe yet master artist old Winter is... No longer the canvas and the pigments, but the marble and the chisel.

~John Burroughs

The tendinous part of the mind, so to speak, is more developed in winter; the fleshy, in summer. I should say winter had given the bone and sinew to literature, summer the tissues and the blood.

~John Burroughs

We can outrun the wind and the storm, but we cannot outrun the demon of hurry.

~John Burroughs

If you think you can do it, you can.

~John Burroughs

When you bait your hook with your heart, the fish always bite.

~John Burroughs

How readily the bluebirds become our friends and neighbors when we offer them suitable nesting retreats!

~John Burroughs

The spirit of man can endure only so much and when it is broken only a miracle can mend it.

~John Burroughs

I have discovered the secret of happiness - it is work, either with the hands or the head. The moment I have something to do, the draughts are open and my chimney draws, and I am happy.

~John Burroughs

Oh, Spring is surely coming, Her couriers fill the air; Each morn are new arrivals, Each night her ways prepare; I scent her fragrant garments, Her foot is on the stair.

~John Burroughs

Nature teaches more than she preaches. There are no sermons in stones. It is easier to get a spark out of a stone than a moral.

~John Burroughs

I seldom go into a natural history museum without feeling as if I were attending a funeral.

~John Burroughs

I think rain is as necessary to the mind as to vegetation. My very thoughts become thirsty, and crave the moisture.

~John Burroughs

The place to observe nature is where you are.

~John Burroughs

The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The great opportunity is where you are.

~John Burroughs

The floating vapour is just as true an illustration of the law of gravity as the falling avalanche.

~John Burroughs

[T]he cold warms meâ€”after a different fashion from that of the kitchen stove.

~John Burroughs

The lesson which life repeats and constantly enforces is 'look under foot.' You are always nearer the divine and the true sources of your power than you think.

~John Burroughs

Close scrutiny of an object in nature will nearly always yield some significant fact.

~John Burroughs

The only countries that are outside of [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] are Israel, Pakistan, India, and North Korea withdrew in the last few years.

~John Burroughs

Literature is an investment of genius which pays dividends to all

subsequent times.

~John Burroughs

Some men are like nails, very easily drawn; others however are more like rivets never drawn at all.

~John Burroughs

Blessed is the man who has some congenial work, some occupation in which he can put his heart, and which affords a complete outlet to all the forces there are in him.

~John Burroughs

I still find each day too short.

~John Burroughs

The art of nature is all in the direction of concealment.

~John Burroughs

Time does not become sacred to us until we have lived it.

~John Burroughs

To see Earth fully we already need to love it

~John Burroughs

I am in love with this world. It has been my home. It has been my point of outlook into the universe. I have never bruised myself against it nor tried to use it ignobly.

~John Burroughs

One can only learn his powers of action by action, and his powers of thought by thinking

~John Burroughs

It is always easier to believe than to deny. Our minds are naturally

affirmative.

~John Burroughs

If we take science as our sole guide, if we accept and hold fast that alone which is verifiable, the old theology must go.

~John Burroughs

One may summon his philosophy when they are beaten in battle, not till then.

~John Burroughs

There is hardly a man on earth who will take advice unless he is certain that it is positively bad.

~John Burroughs

[Invading Iraq] is not the best way to make a safer world in which the United States would be a responsible partner, but it also goes against the role of law in the United States.

~John Burroughs

Life is a struggle, but not a warfare.

~John Burroughs

That which distinguishes this day from all others is that then both orators and artillerymen shoot blank cartridges.

~John Burroughs

I was born with a chronic anxiety about the weather.

~John Burroughs

One is tempted to say that the most human plants, after all, are the weeds.

~John Burroughs

Culture means the perfect and equal development of man on all sides.

~John Burroughs

The fuel in the earth will be exhausted in a thousand or more years, and its mineral wealth, but man will find substitutes for these in the winds, the waves, the sun's heat, and so forth.

~John Burroughs

Man is, and always has been, a maker of gods. It has been the most serious and significant occupation of his sojourn in the world.

~John Burroughs

We cannot walk through life on mountain peaks.

~John Burroughs

Unfortunately, nuclear weapons have become identified with state power.

~John Burroughs

Nature comes home to one most when one is at home. The stranger and traveler finds her a stranger and traveler also.

~John Burroughs

Now is the time of the illuminated woods ... when every leaf glows like a tiny lamp.

~John Burroughs

The life of nature we must meet halfway; it is shy, withdrawn, and blends itself with a vast neutral background. We must be initiated; it is an order the secrets of which are well guarded.

~John Burroughs

Science makes no claim to infallibility; it leaves that claim to be made by theologians.

~John Burroughs

Without death and decay, how could life go on?

~John Burroughs

The deeper our insight into the methods of nature . . . the more incredible the popular Christianity seems to us.

~John Burroughs

The atmosphere of our time is fast being cleared of the fumes and deadly gases that arose during the carboniferous age of theology.

~John Burroughs

We have produced some good walkers and saunterers, and some noted climbers; but as a staple recreation, as a daily practice, the mass of the people dislike and despise walking.

~John Burroughs

One can return to their place of birth, but one cannot go back to your youth.

~John Burroughs

In fact, the United States is building up its trident nuclear sub fleet in the Pacific, based at Bangor, Washington to build up its capabilities to wage nuclear war.

~John Burroughs

The overall quantity of nuclear weapons in the world continues to decline slowly.

~John Burroughs

There is an international treaty framework for this. It's the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Most countries in the world are members of the treaty.

~John Burroughs

Especially in the case of India and Pakistan, it's very clear that significant parts of the elites in both countries view having nuclear weapons as a ticket to prestige.

~John Burroughs

Before the bud swells, before the grass springs, before the plough is started, comes the sugar harvest. It is sequel of the bitter frost; a sap run is the sweet goodbye of winter.

~John Burroughs

One may return to the place of his birth, He cannot go back to his youth.

~John Burroughs

The U.S. had about 10,000 nuclear warheads. It is estimated that the U.S. is heading towards having 6,000 nuclear warheads in the year 2012.

~John Burroughs

When I look up into the starry heavens at night and reflect upon what it is I really see there, I am constrained to say, 'there is no god'.

~John Burroughs

I came from a race of fishers; trout streams gurgled about the roots of my family tree.

~John Burroughs

Then, again, how annoying to be told it is only five miles to the next place when it is really eight or ten!

~John Burroughs

The pleasure and value of every walk or journey we take may be

doubled to us by carefully noting down the impressions it makes upon us.

~John Burroughs

One goes to Nature only for hints and half-truths. Her facts are crude until you have absorbed them or translated them ... It is not so much what we see as what the thing seen suggests.

~John Burroughs

How much there is in books that one does not want to know, that it would be a mere weariness and burden to the spirit to know.

~John Burroughs

In the order of nature we may behold the ways of the Eternal.

~John Burroughs

Every day is a Sabbath to me. All pure water is holy water, and this earth is a celestial abode.

~John Burroughs

Few persons realize how much of their happiness, such as it is, is dependent upon their work.

~John Burroughs

In the printed page the only real things are the paper and the ink; the white spaces play the same part in aiding the eye to take in the meaning of the print as do the black letters.

~John Burroughs

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