Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Nature Connoisseurship"

Greenbaum, Allan

Greenbaum, Allan. "Nature Connoisseurship." *Environmental Values* 14, no. 3 (2005): 389–407. doi:10.3197/096327105774434477 .

Environmentalists who seek to protect wild nature, biodiversity and so on for its own sake manifest a disposition to value the interesting at least on par with the useful. This disposition toward the interesting, which provides the affective and cognitive context for the discovery of intrinsic values in nature and the elaboration of ecocentric ethics, does not arise simply from learning about nature but is part of a more general socially inculcated cultural system. Nature connoisseurship exhibits formal parallels with art connoisseurship. The abstraction-oriented cultural system which prizes 'disinterested interest' is characteristic of culturally rich fractions (or subdivisions) of the middle class in modern Western societies. Valuing nature for its own sake (like valuing, for its own sake, the domination of nature) is not a 'natural' response to nature but a disciplined cultural accomplishment.

— Text from The White Horse Press website

All rights reserved. © 2005 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_14no.3_greenbaum_allan.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV1421.html
- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Websites linked in this text:

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Nature Connoisseurship"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5944
Print date: 04 November 2026 15:43:10

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327105774434477
- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV1421.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Nature Connoisseurship"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5944
Print date: 04 November 2026 15:43:10