

My Somerset Life

A diary by Brian Snellgrove

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The American Museum, Bath, Heritage Day free entry – a pictorial visit

Highly recommended Museum open most days between February and November.



strange cloud effect. A chem trail shading a real cloud from sunlight early on the Sunday morning



a view down the valley from the American University

Bees

The white boxes in front of you are beehives that were put in place by Somerset Bees. These are an important part of the American Museum & Gardens sustainability initiatives. We have established a number of colonies of these amazing creatures and if you look carefully, you will see them industriously visiting our flowers and trees collecting pollen and nectar. There are also wild colonies of bumble bees nesting in the woodland - usually in holes in the ground or tree cavities as well as various solitary bee species.

Why do we need bees?
Hard working honey bees and their close relatives, the solitary bees have been around for millions of years, pollinating our plants and - honey bees anyway - producing the sweet golden syrup we call honey. However, bees are increasingly under threat and these important insects are in severe decline.

Types of Bee
Not all bees are the same. There are over 20,000 species of bee globally with about 270 species of bee recorded in the UK including our friend the honey bee (*Apis Melifera*) as well as 25 bumblebee species and more than 220 types of solitary bee.

Why are Bees under threat?
Bees are surrounded by threats, especially habitat loss, pesticides, climate change and the extreme weather as well as invasive species, parasites and diseases.

How you can help bees
Luckily, it's not too late to help save the bees. There are lots of things you can do to help - most of which can be done from the comfort of a garden or outdoor space.

- If you have a garden, you can fill it with bee-friendly flowers and trees
- You could also provide shelter for many species of solitary bees by building a 'Bee Hotel' - just hang it up in a sunny sheltered spot in a garden and watch bees filling the tubes during the spring and summer months.

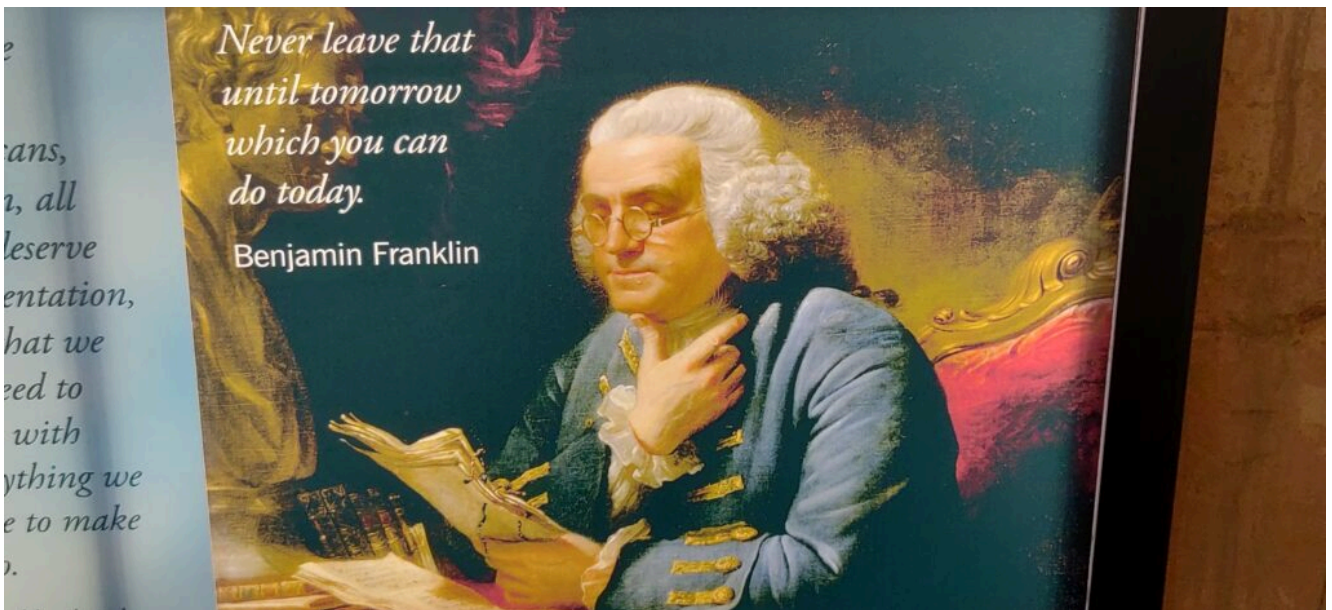
Did you know there were 20,000 species of bees around the world.

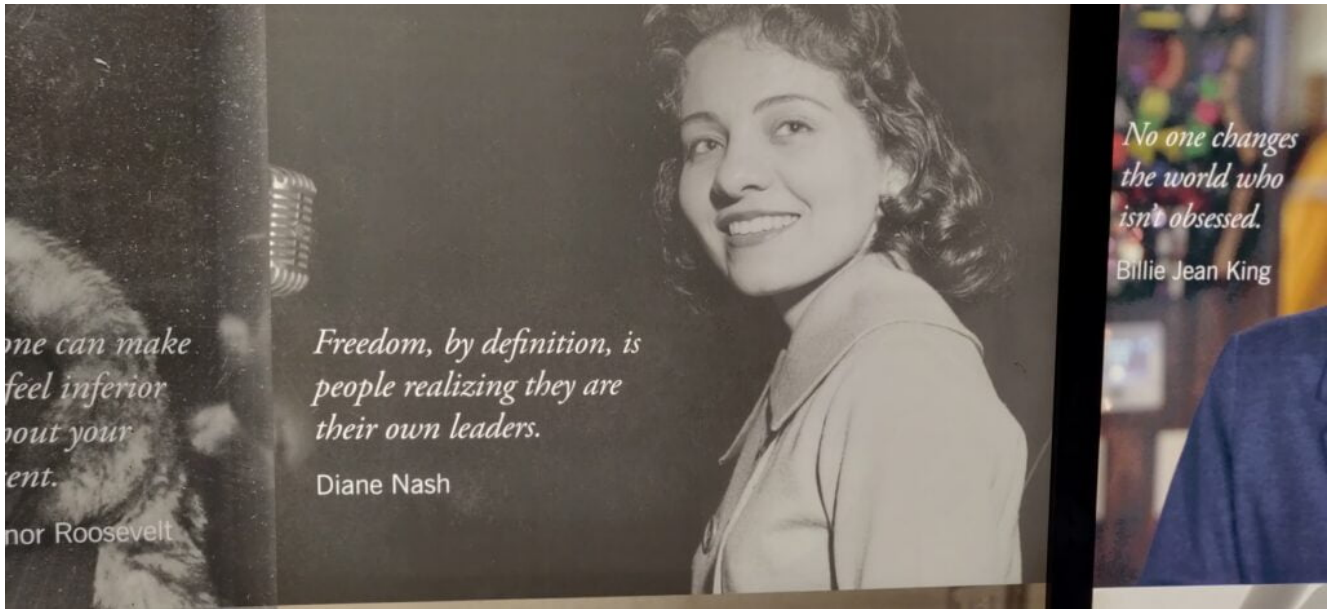


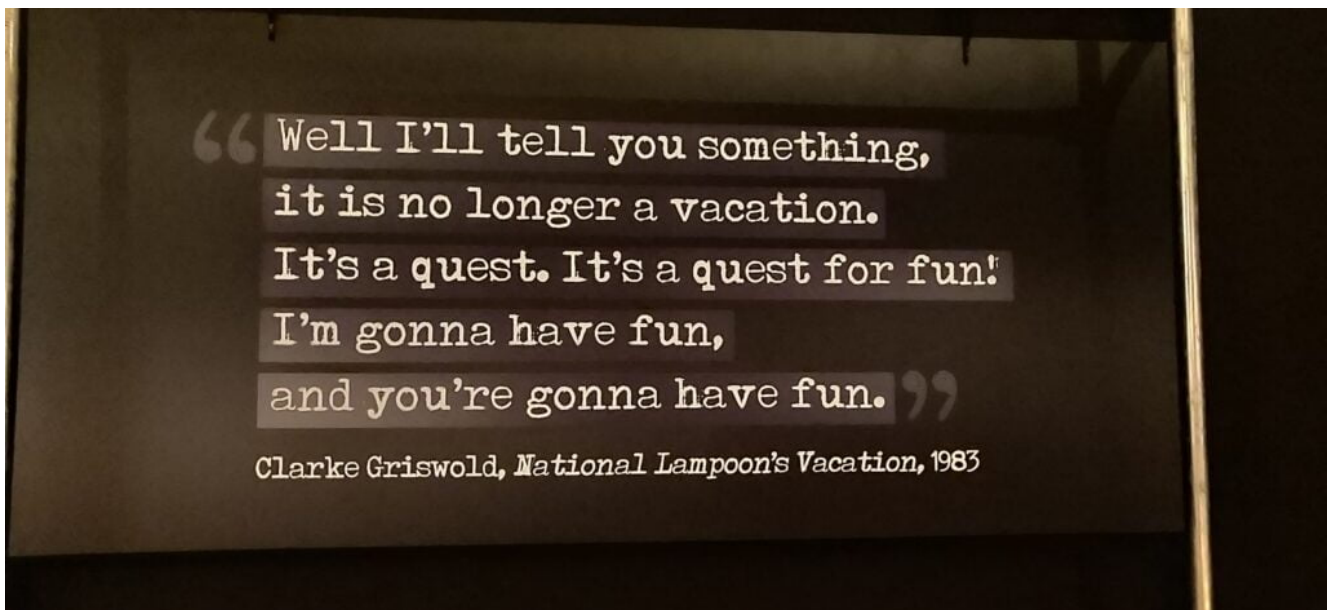
southern ssection of the USA – tribes pre columbus



all USA tribes before Columbus – now mostly disappeared









**THELMA
&
LOUISE**



apple espalier in the American gardens



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My Somerset Life by Brian Snellgrove

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