
Back Road Chalkies

With chalk in hand, *Back Road Chalkies* is a landscape anthology I selected and gathered up over one year from 2007-2008. The chalkboard stanchion took a day to build and move on a wheelbarrow to its perch. Built from old lumber I took apart from an outdoor bookstall I had designed years earlier. The chalkboard was bought from a family of home schoolers for \$5. The father of the brood asked, 'What are you going to do with that?' I said to drive by the house sometime and take a look. Maybe he has. All our neighbors have, but only two who liked to move on-foot ever said a word about it — smiled and said they looked forward to it. For awhile I was chalking up poems or sayings once a day, once a week, every few weeks, and over the long winter maybe just Thoreau would hold the fort. Jack London soon with him. A friend might write and tuck in a poem of their own and I'd share it immediately, or something in the world called for a line or two on the chalkboard, or the season asked for a poem, or the slant of light. Some of my own poems I just left unsigned, floating in the breeze. Nothing was planned, the day lay ahead. A poet visited and we welcomed him into a photograph with a lone, sturdy line of his poem alrerady on the board. Then came some puppets, followed by a turtle. Maybe a dozen vehicles passed by on a winter day, double that for summer — neighbors, joggers, septic truck, log truck, plow, grader, tractor, one old farmer with an ATV, bicyclists, scooter, UPS, Fed Ex, convertible, horse & rider. Susan Arnold often took the photographs. And the tall and graceful tamarack I planted 35 years ago provided all the shade.

Bob Arnold

Thanksgiving 08

BORN of a dream
What can we know
of the REAL

- BASHO

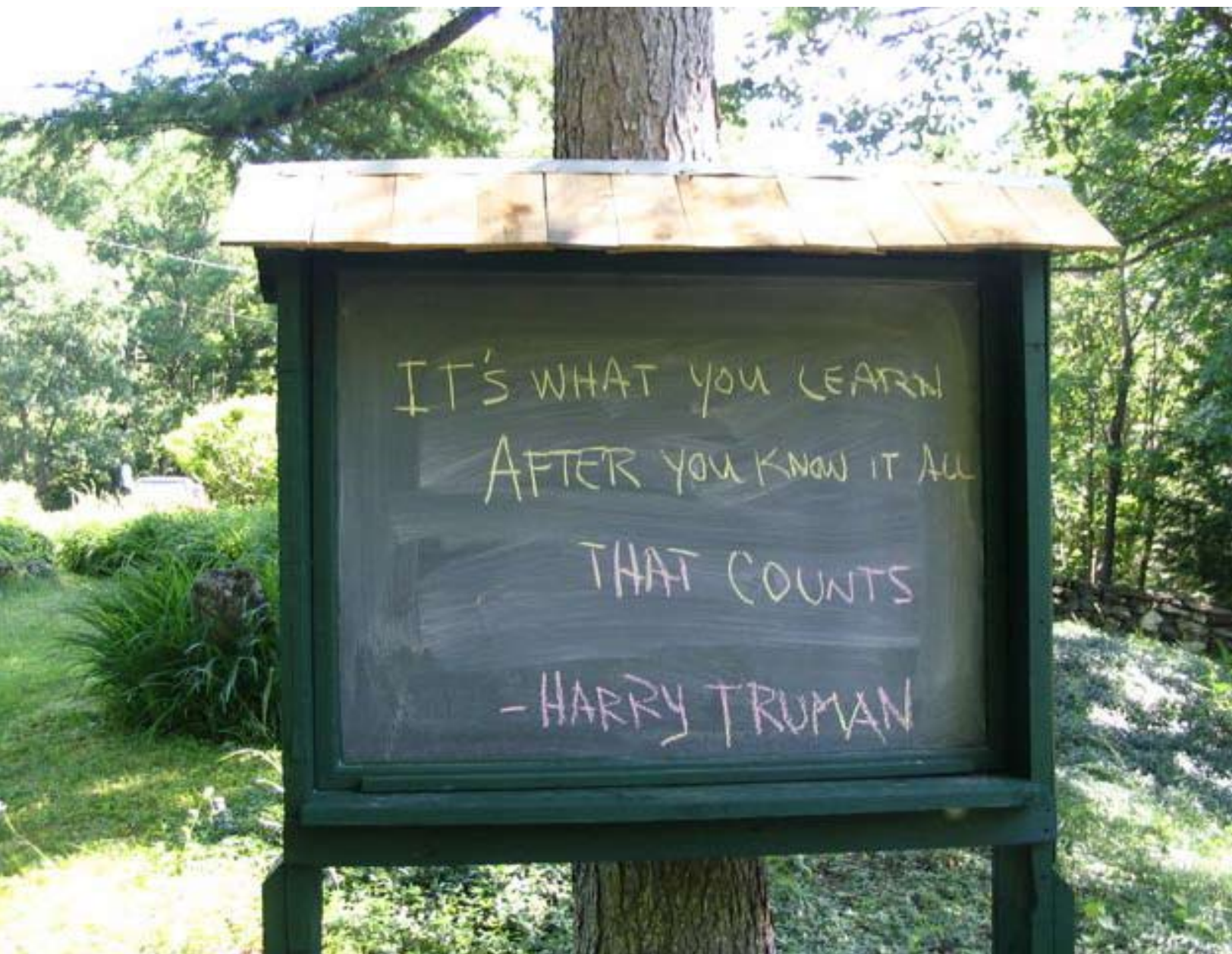


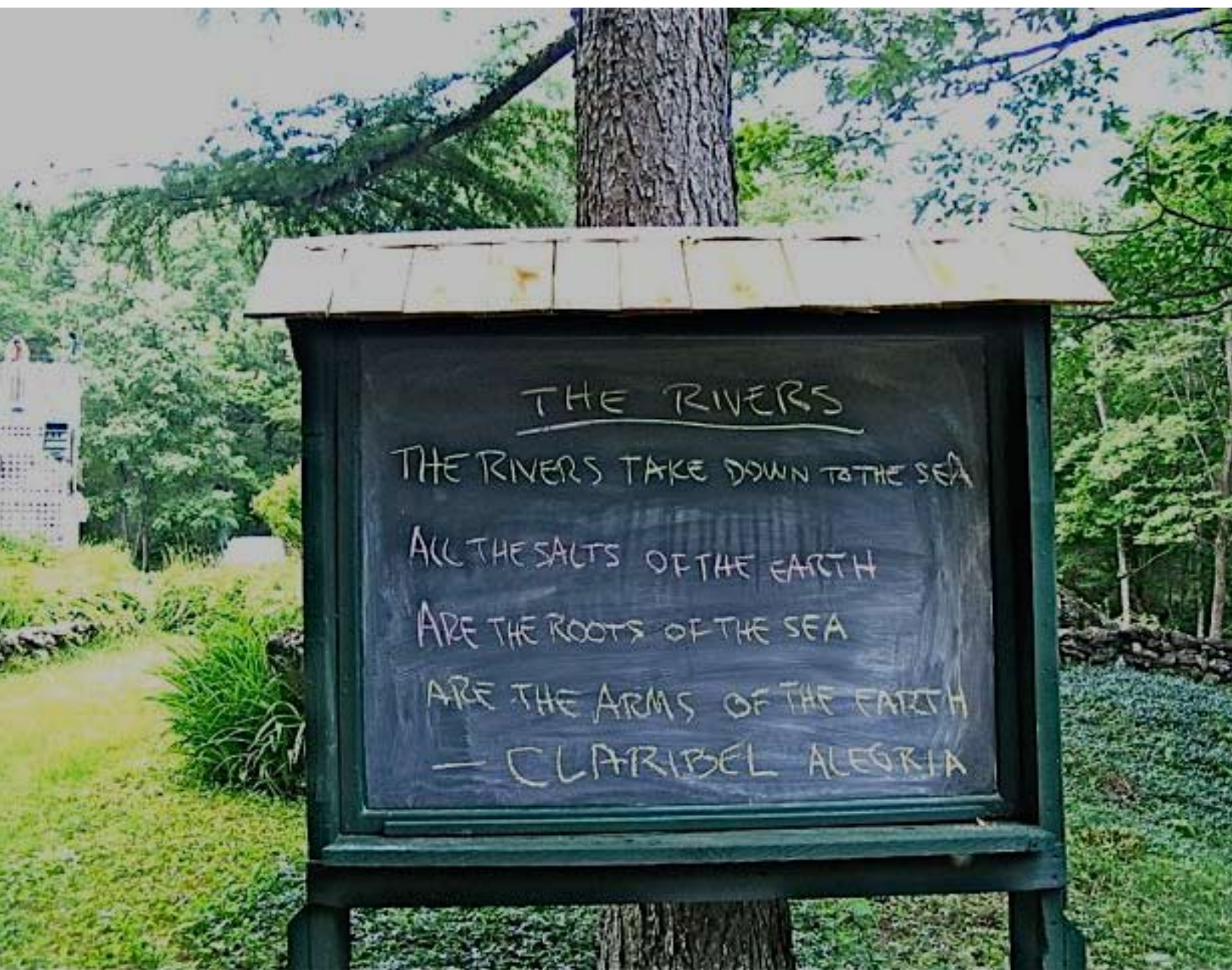


MUSIC IS THOREAU
CONTINUOUS—
ONLY LISTENING IS
INTERMITTENT



AM I THE LEAF
OR THE BREEZE
- KIT KENNEDY

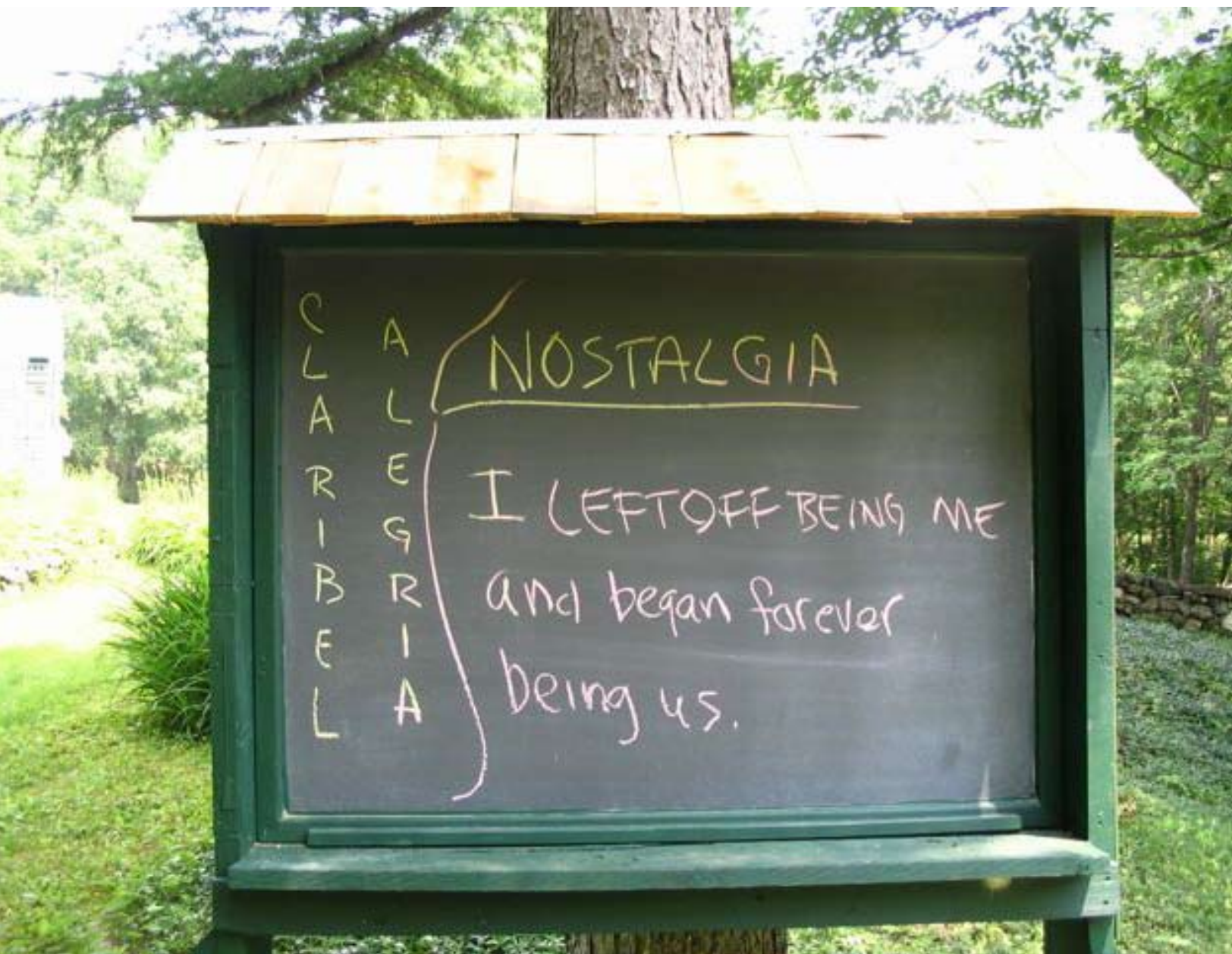


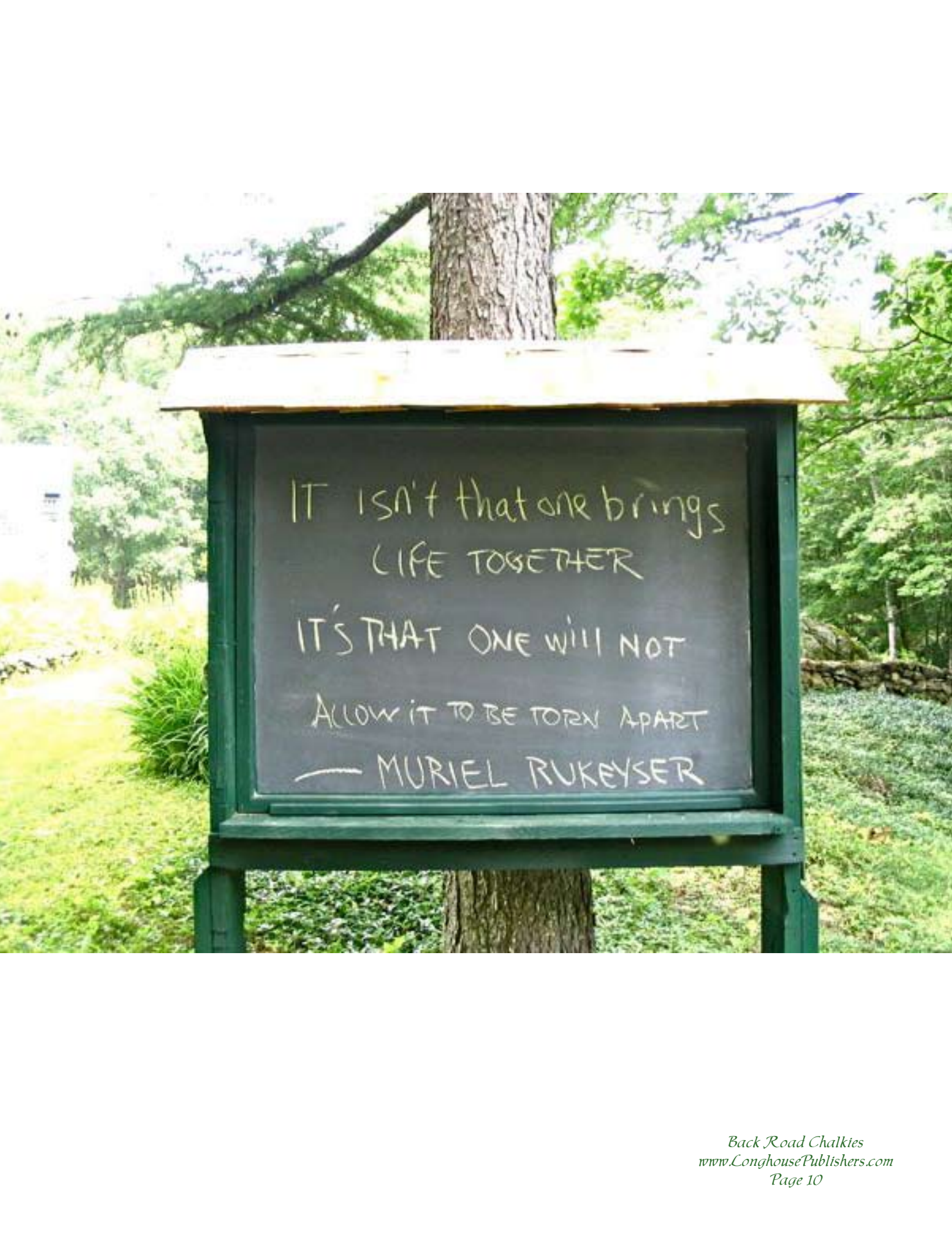


THE RIVERS
THE RIVERS TAKE DOWN TO THE SEA
ALL THE SALTS OF THE EARTH
ARE THE ROOTS OF THE SEA
ARE THE ARMS OF THE EARTH
— CLAIRIBEL ALEGRIA



ISSA
SUMMER NIGHT
EVEN THE STARS
ARE WHISPERING TO EACH OTHER



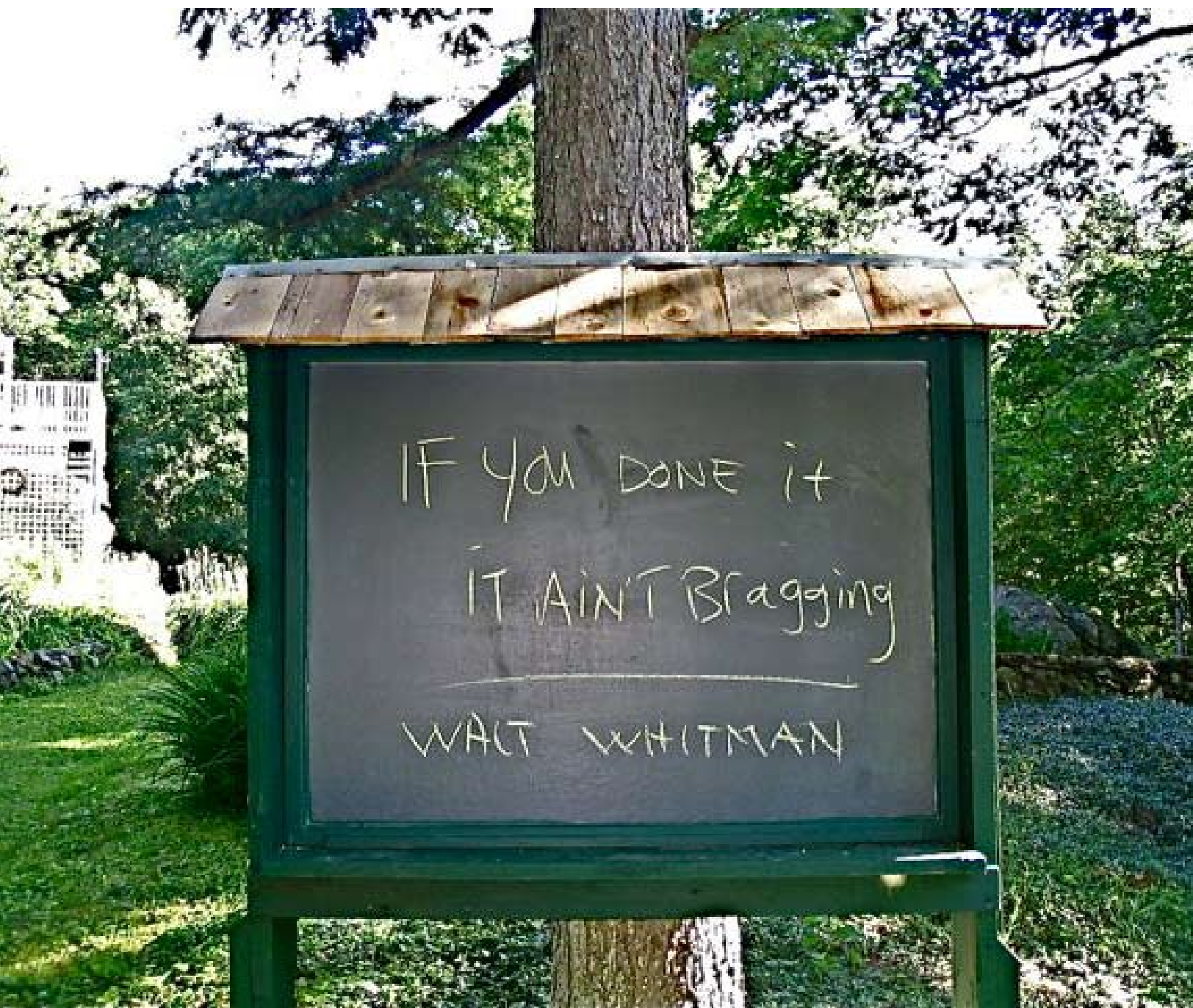
A green wooden signpost with a chalkboard is set against a backdrop of lush green trees and foliage. The signpost has a flat wooden top and is supported by two green wooden posts. The chalkboard is dark green and contains handwritten text in white chalk. The text is arranged in four lines, with the first two lines forming a sentence, the third line continuing it, and the fourth line being a signature. The background shows a large tree trunk to the left and a dense forest of green trees to the right.

IT ISN'T THAT ONE BRINGS
LIFE TOGETHER

IT'S THAT ONE WILL NOT

ALLOW IT TO BE TORN APART

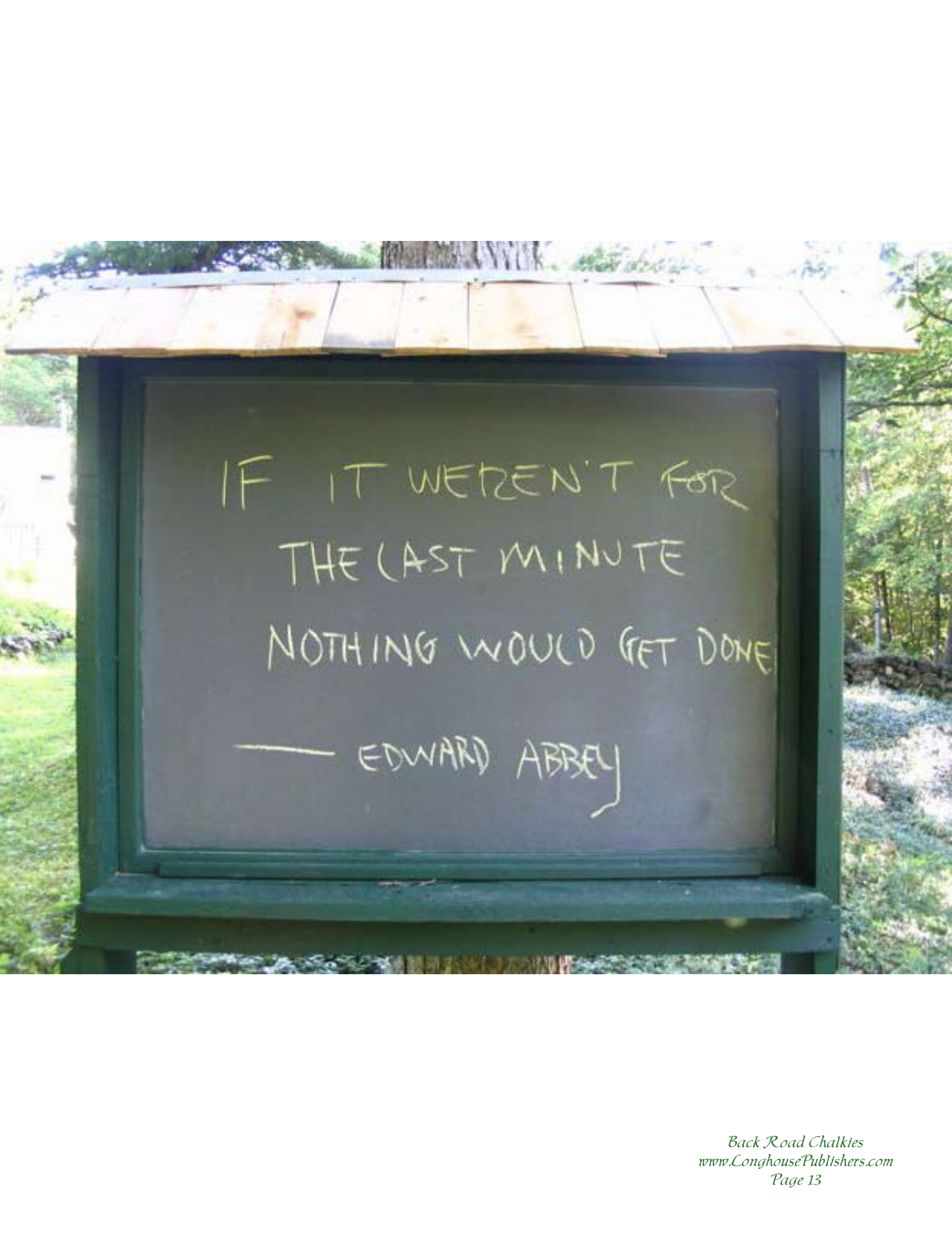
— MURIEL RUKEYSER



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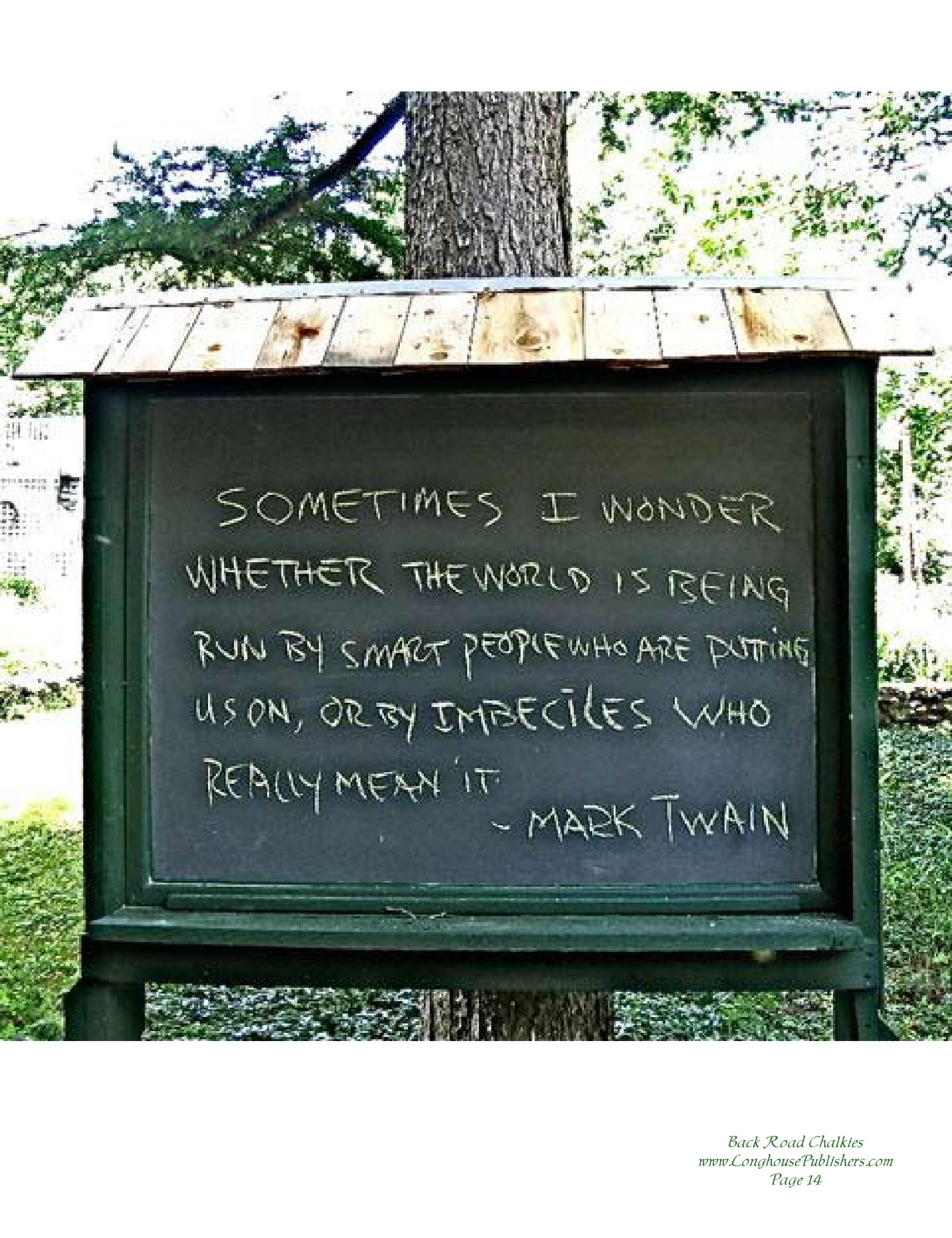
JUST RESTING —
letting the
breezes MAKE

a thing of
a body



IF IT WEREN'T FOR
THE LAST MINUTE
NOTHING WOULD GET DONE

— EDWARD ABBEY



SOMETIMES I WONDER
WHETHER THE WORLD IS BEING
RUN BY SMART PEOPLE WHO ARE PUTTING
US ON, OR BY IMBECILES WHO
REALLY MEAN IT.
- MARK TWAIN

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WITH THE SILENCE

to be
where roses bloom
by the SEA

not far
from A LIFE THROWN AWAY

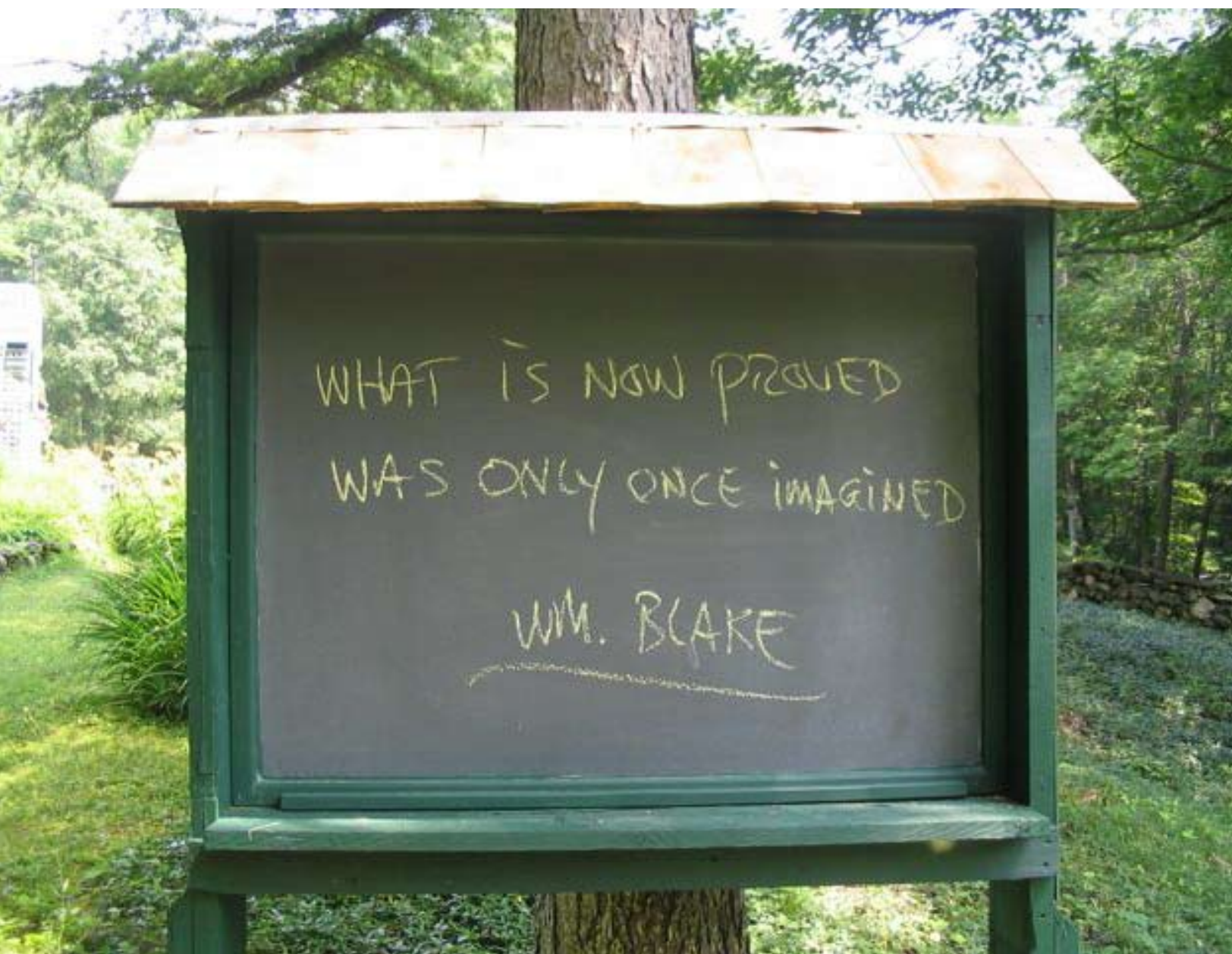
PURPLE JAPANESE IRIS

WHERE YOU STAND

THEY JUST ABOUT

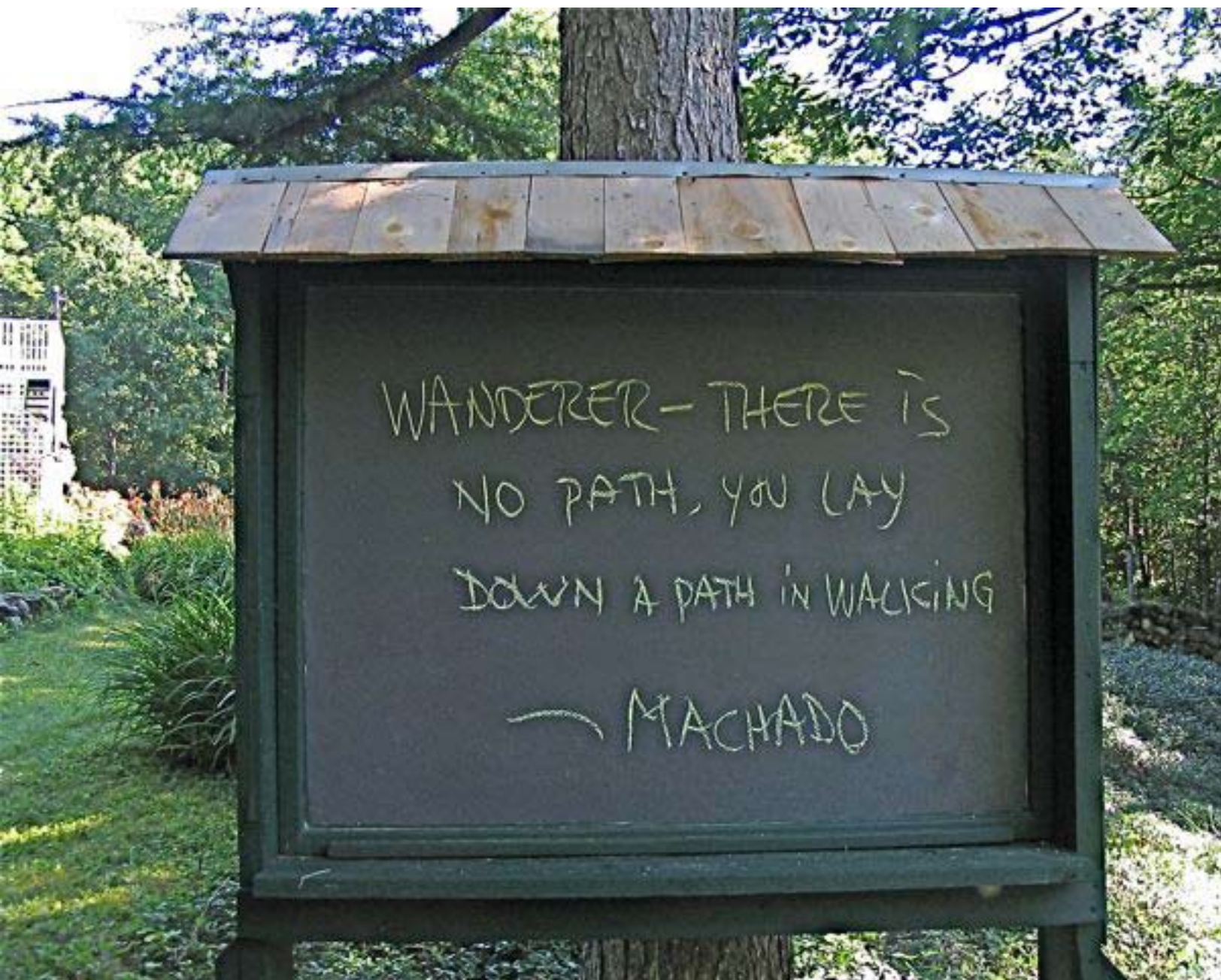
TOUCH YOUR LIPS

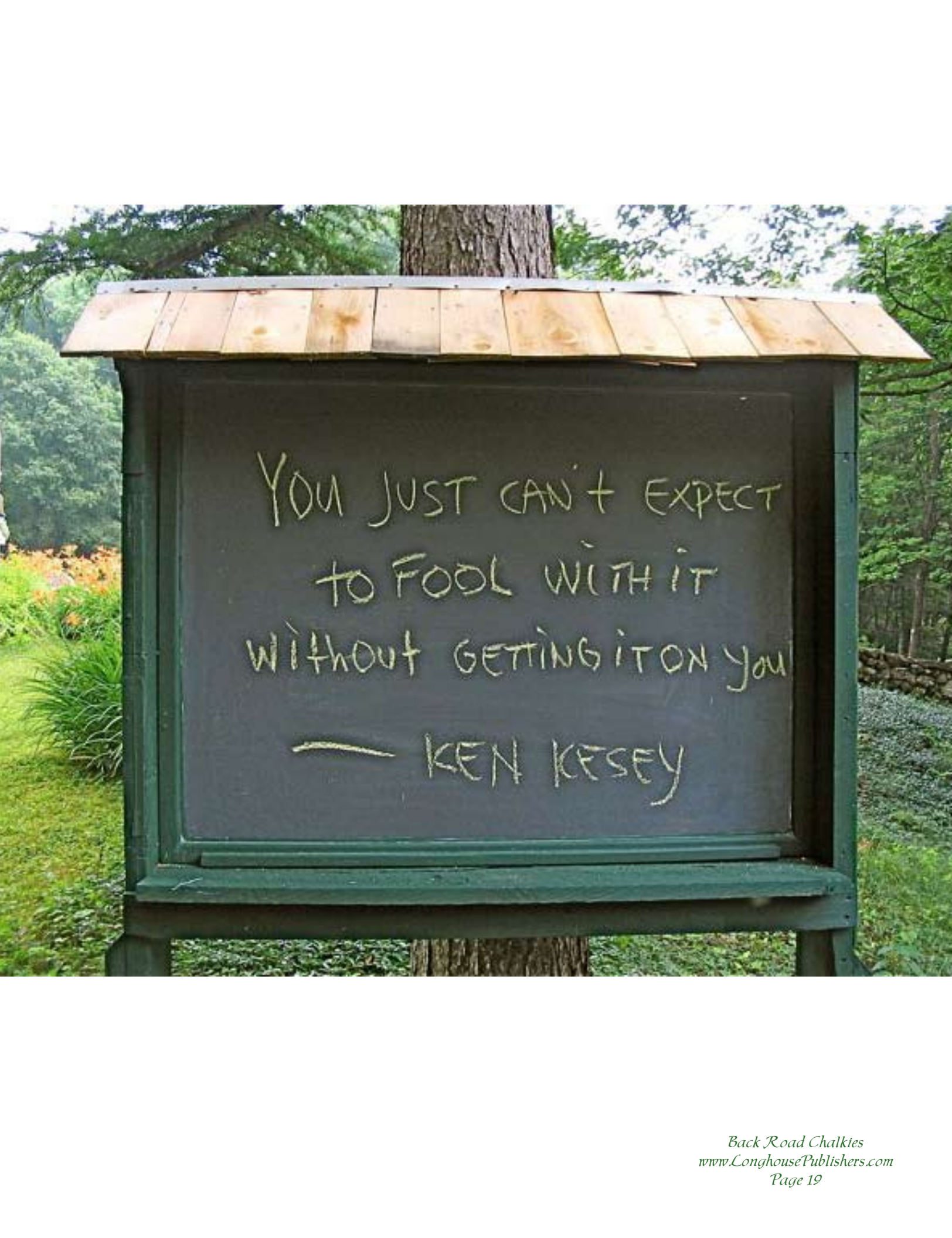
~BOB ARNOLD



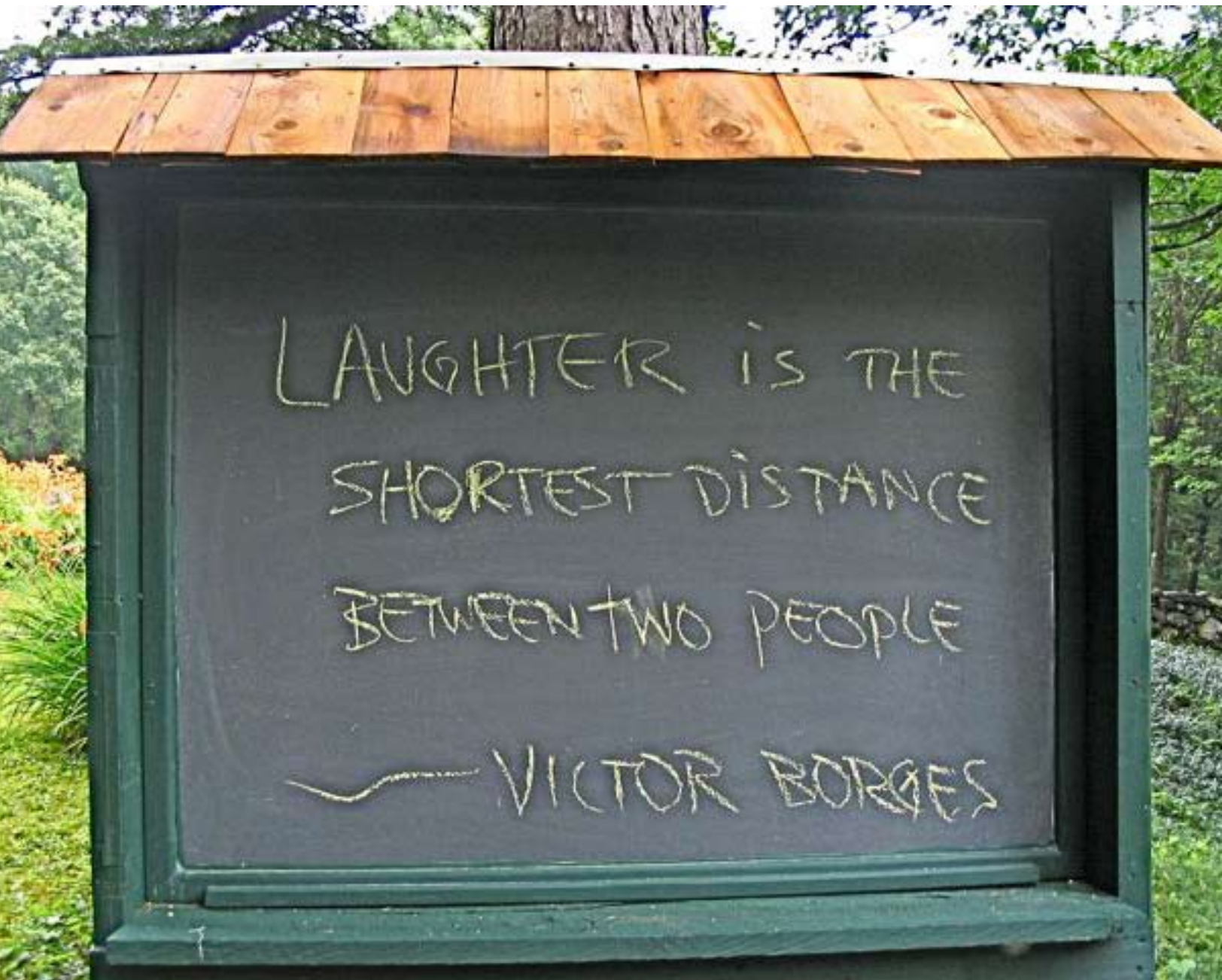
WHAT IS NOW PROVED
WAS ONLY ONCE IMAGINED

WM. BLAKE



A green wooden sign with a wooden roof, featuring a chalkboard with a quote by Ken Kesey. The sign is set in a grassy area with trees in the background.

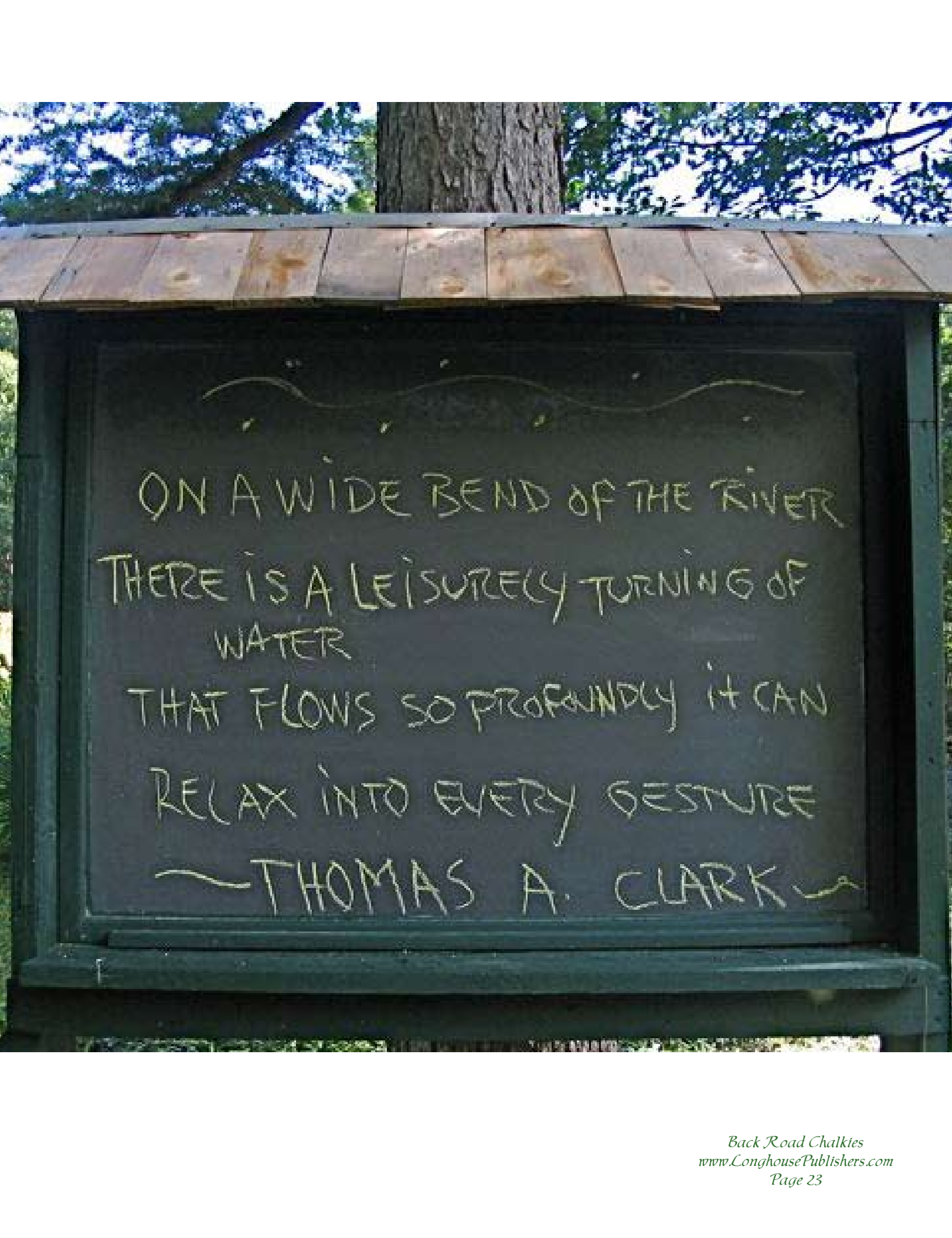
YOU JUST CAN'T EXPECT
TO FOOL WITH IT
WITHOUT GETTING IT ON YOU
— KEN KESSEY



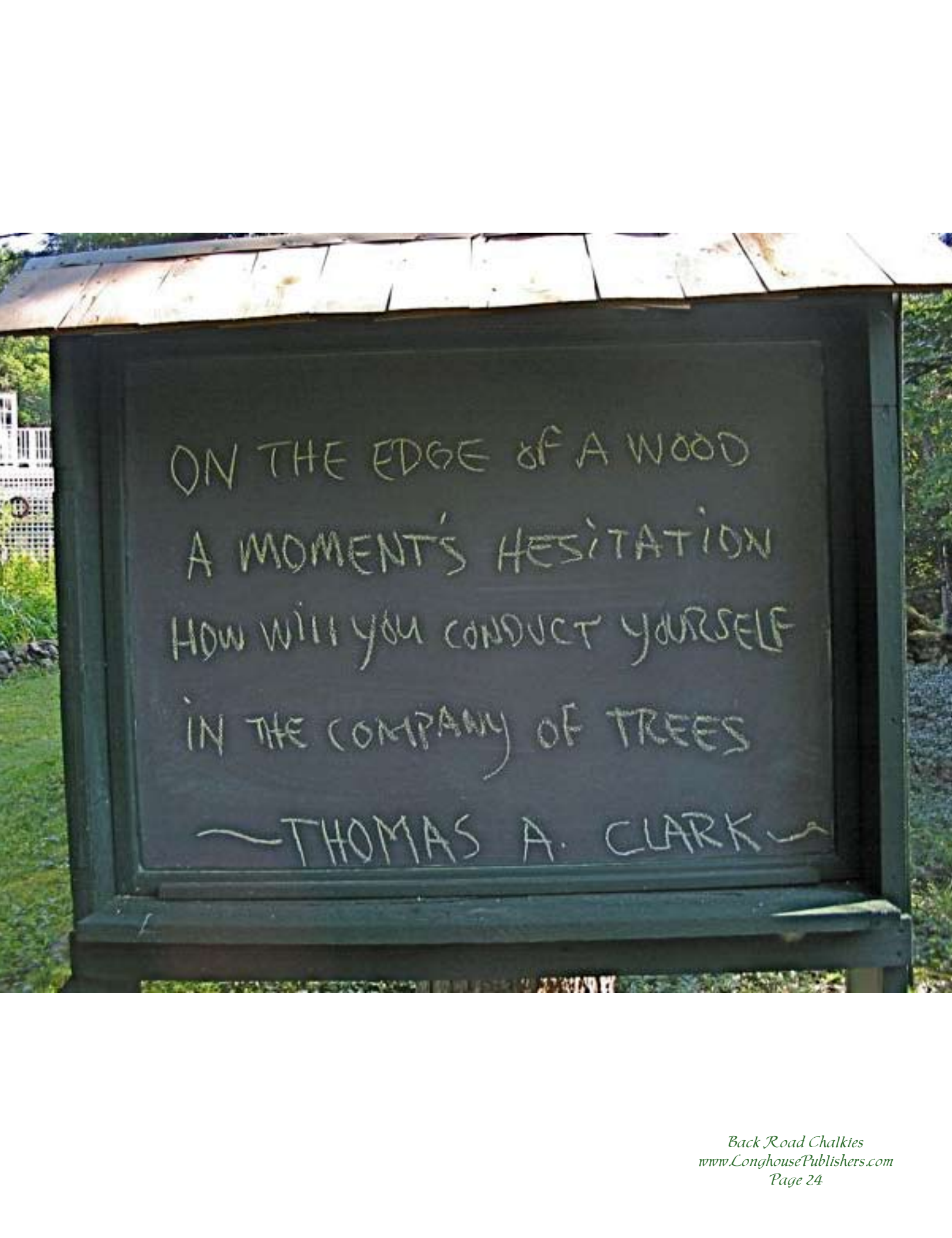


TO KINDLE A FIRE
THE AUTUMN WINDS HAVE PILED
A FEW DEAD LEAVES

~ RYOKAN



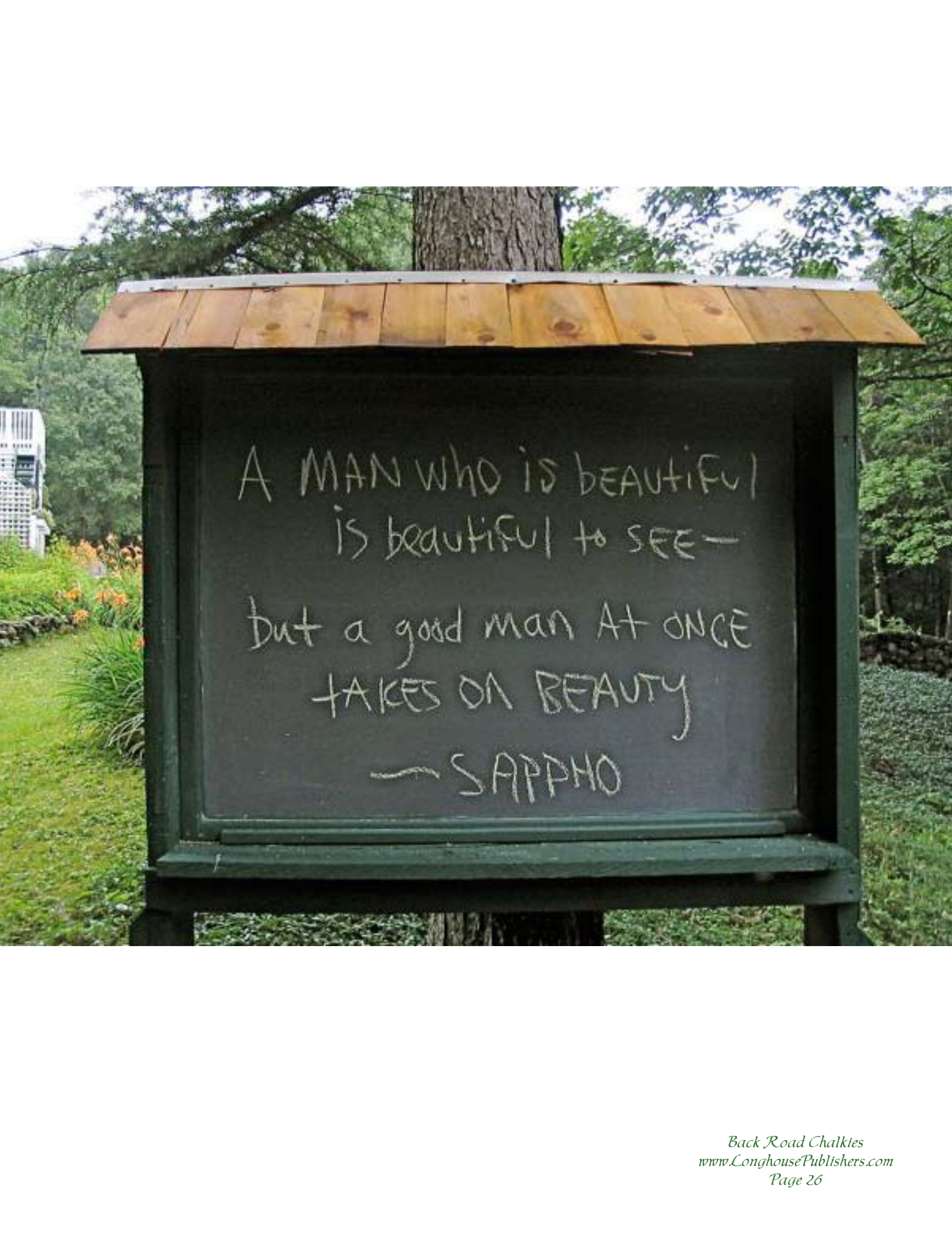
ON A WIDE BEND OF THE RIVER
THERE IS A LEISURELY TURNING OF
WATER
THAT FLOWS SO PROFOUNDLY IT CAN
RELAX INTO EVERY GESTURE
— THOMAS A. CLARK —



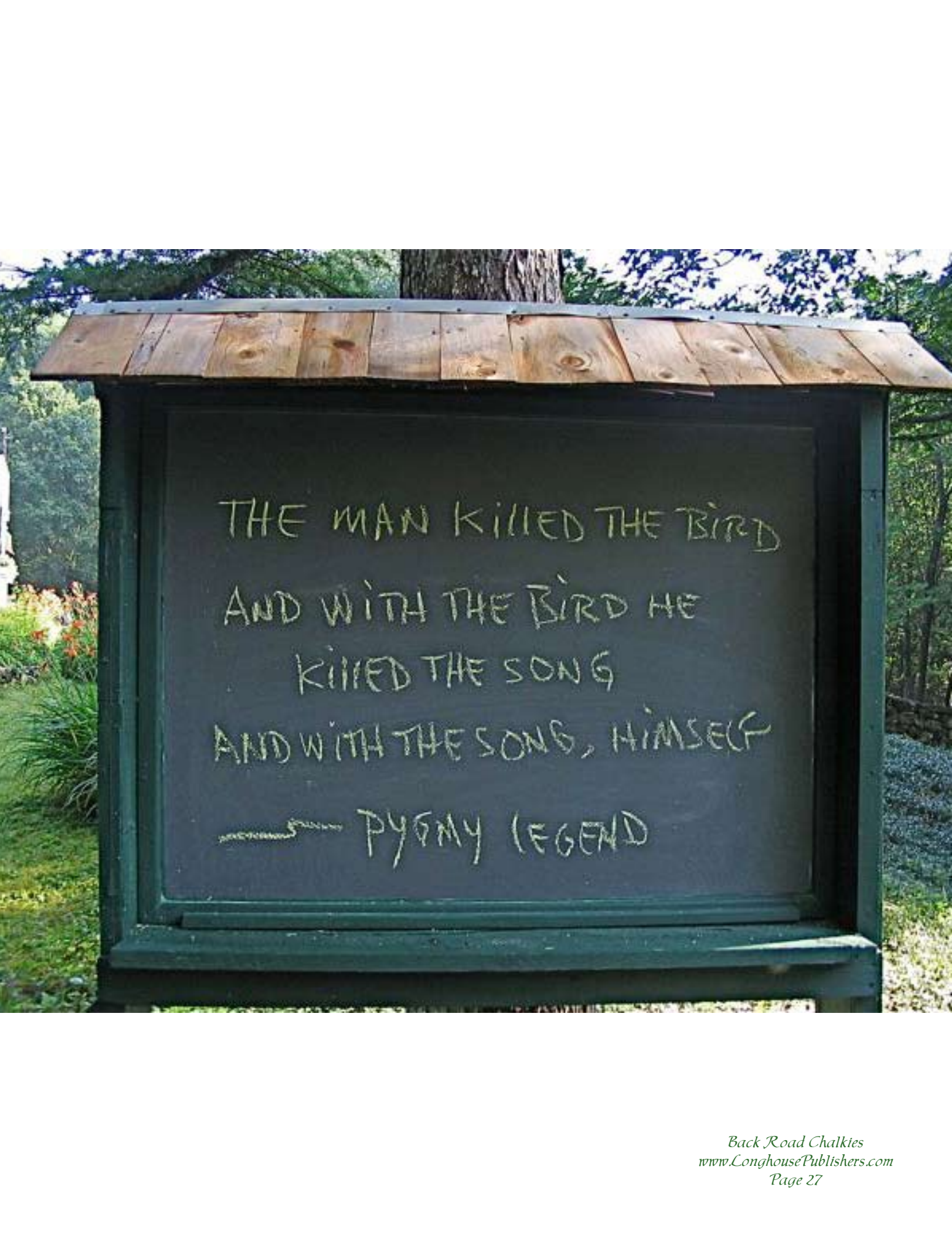
ON THE EDGE OF A WOOD
A MOMENT'S HESITATION
HOW WILL YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF
IN THE COMPANY OF TREES
—THOMAS A. CLARK—

Cobalt mountains

Among the chill mist mountains
A mysterious morning fire
Around the down forest
White spirit smoke of fallen timber
Burning stronger than water,
~ MIYAZAWA KENJI

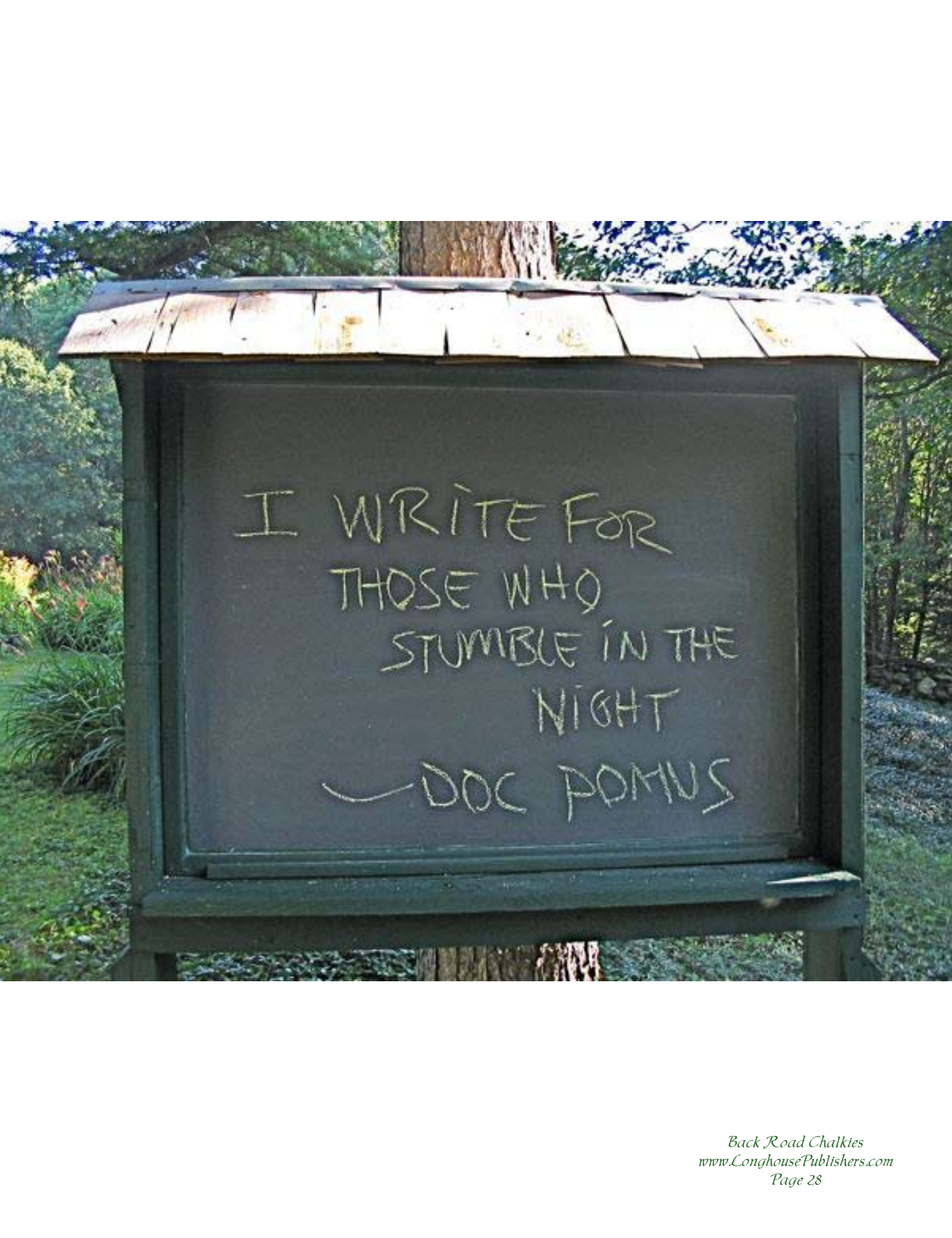
A photograph of a green-painted wooden signpost with a flat roof made of horizontal wooden planks. The signpost holds a large, dark green chalkboard. On the chalkboard, a quote is written in white chalk. The background shows a lush garden with green foliage and orange flowers on the left, and a large tree trunk behind the sign. A white building is partially visible in the distance on the left.

A MAN who is BEAUTIFUL
is beautiful to SEE—
But a good man At ONCE
TAKES ON BEAUTY
—SAPPHO

A wooden signpost with a chalkboard face is set in a forest. The sign has a wooden plank roof and a dark green frame. The text is written in yellow chalk. The background shows trees and foliage.

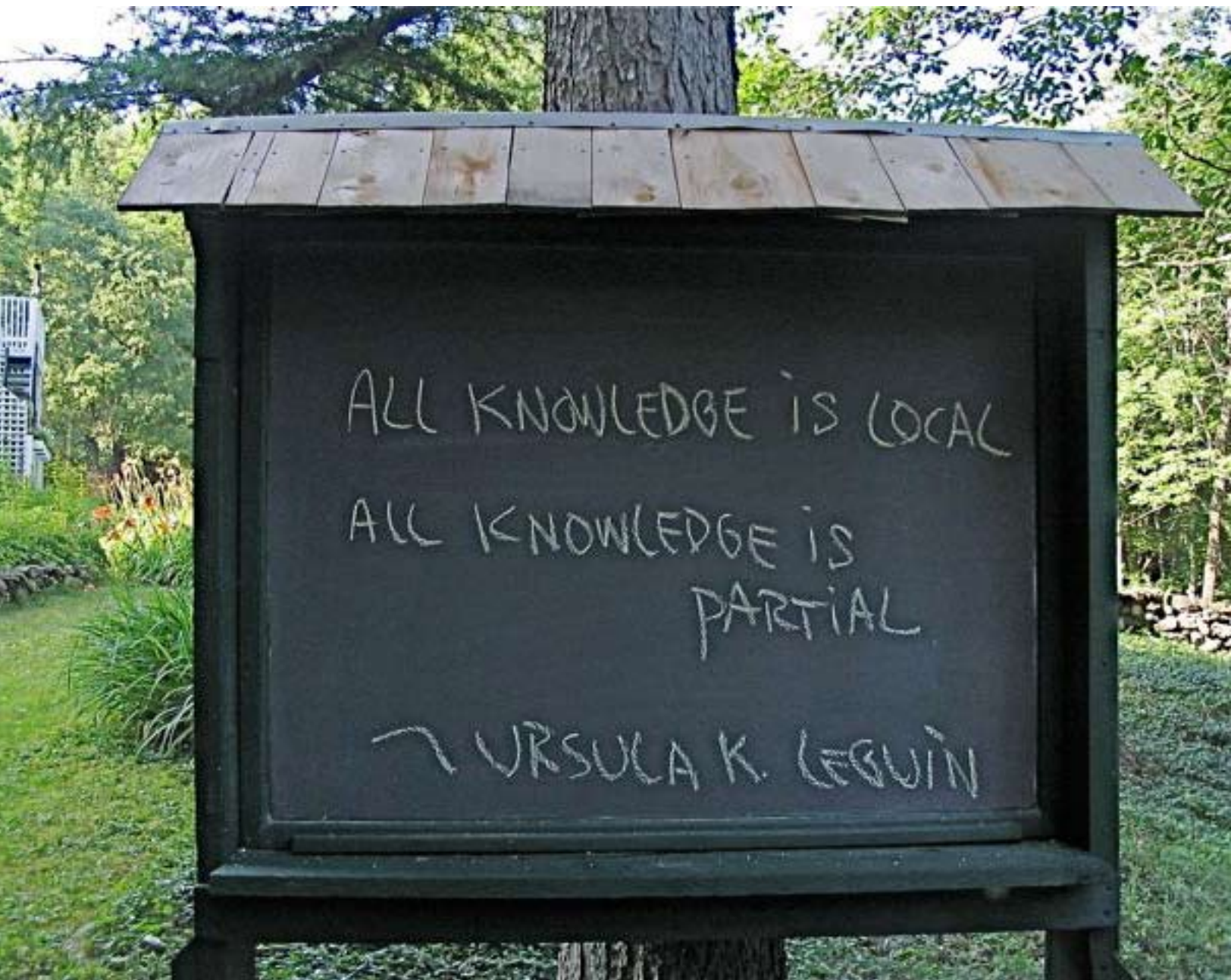
THE MAN KILLED THE BIRD
AND WITH THE BIRD HE
KILLED THE SONG
AND WITH THE SONG, HIMSELF
~~~~~ PYGMY LEGEND

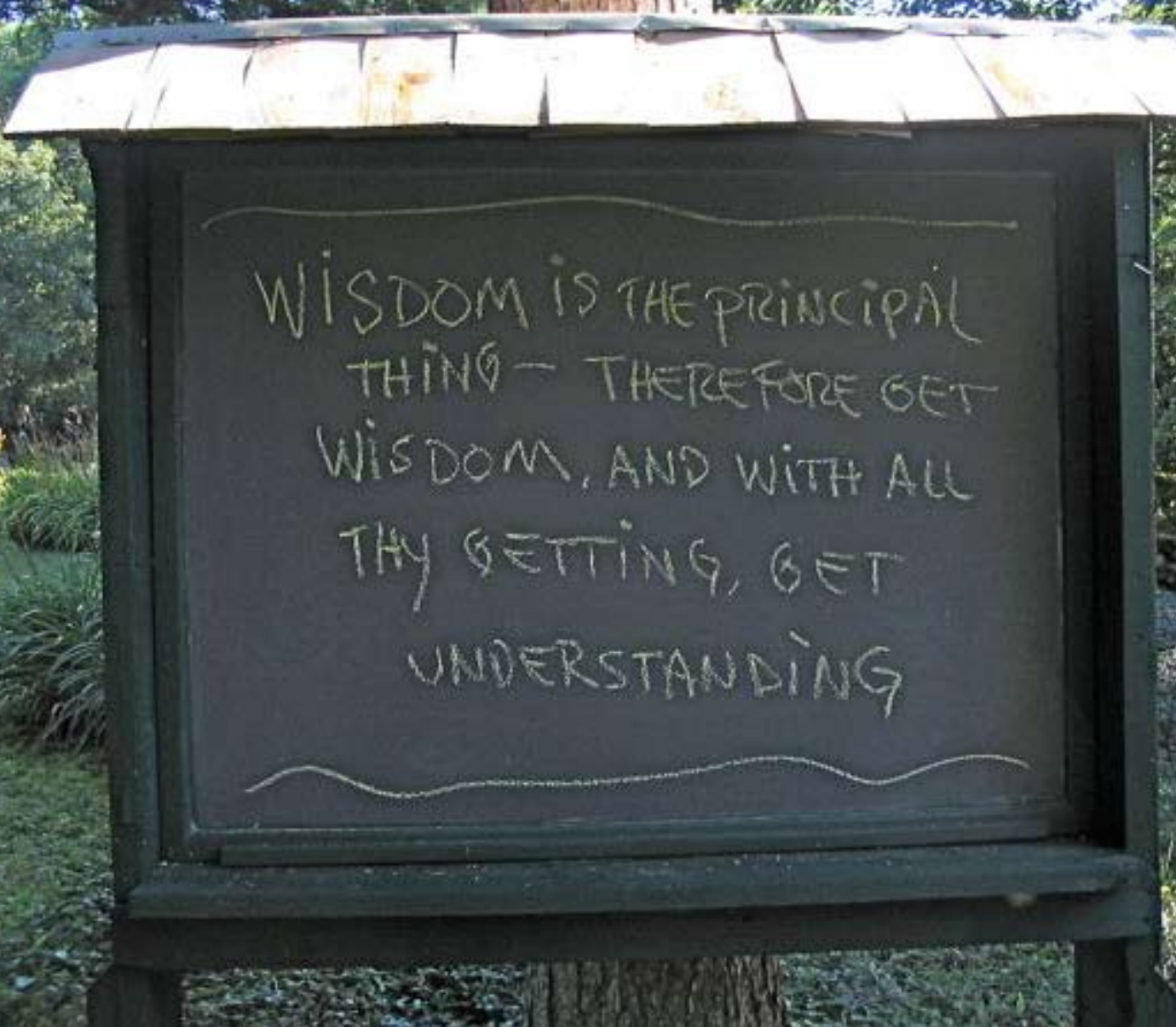


A photograph of a chalkboard sign with a wooden roof, set in a forest. The sign is dark green with white chalk text. The text reads: "I WRITE FOR  
THOSE WHO  
STUMBLE IN THE  
NIGHT  
—DOC POMUS". The sign is mounted on a wooden frame and has a rustic wooden roof. The background shows a dense forest with trees and foliage.

I WRITE FOR  
THOSE WHO  
STUMBLE IN THE  
NIGHT  
—DOC POMUS

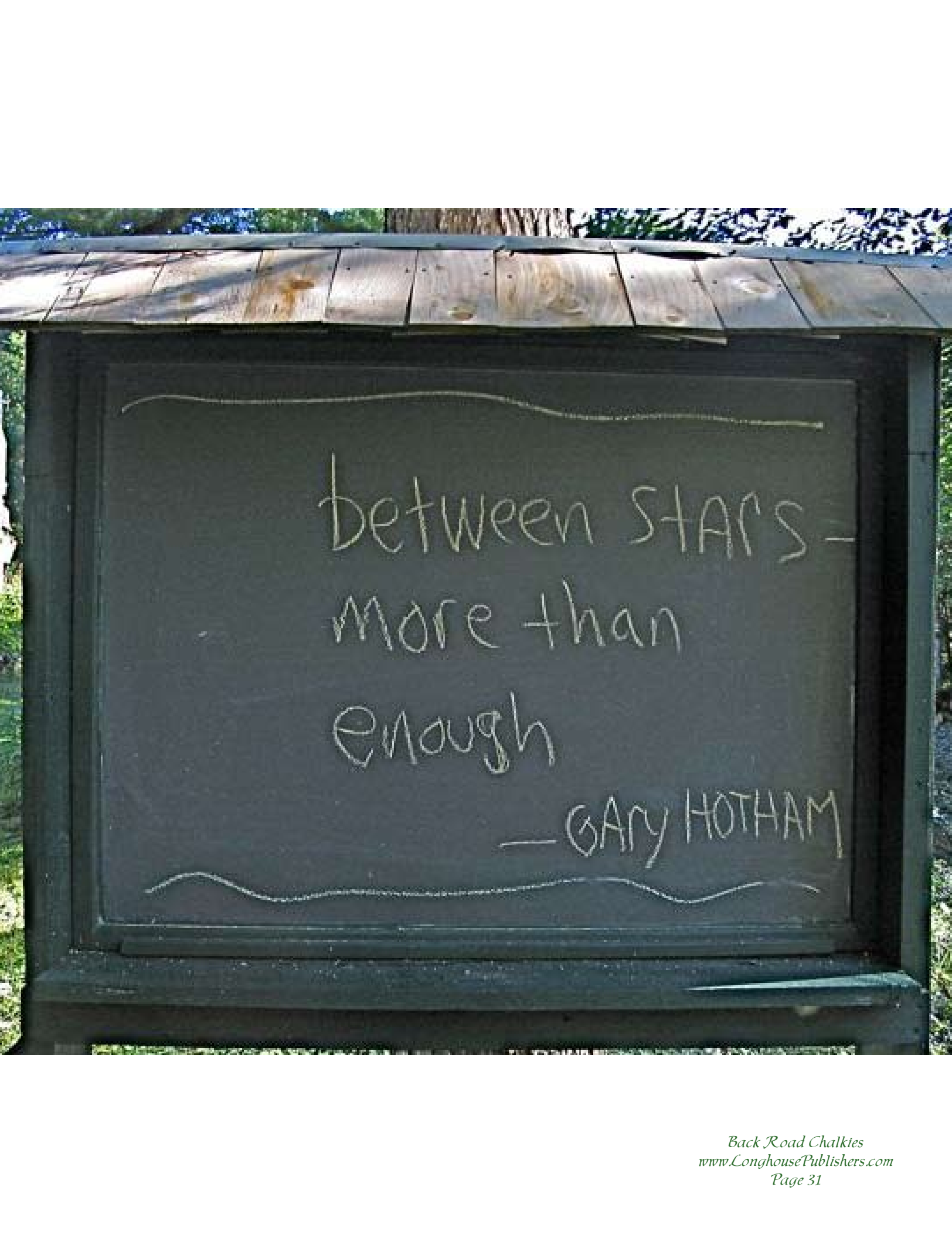






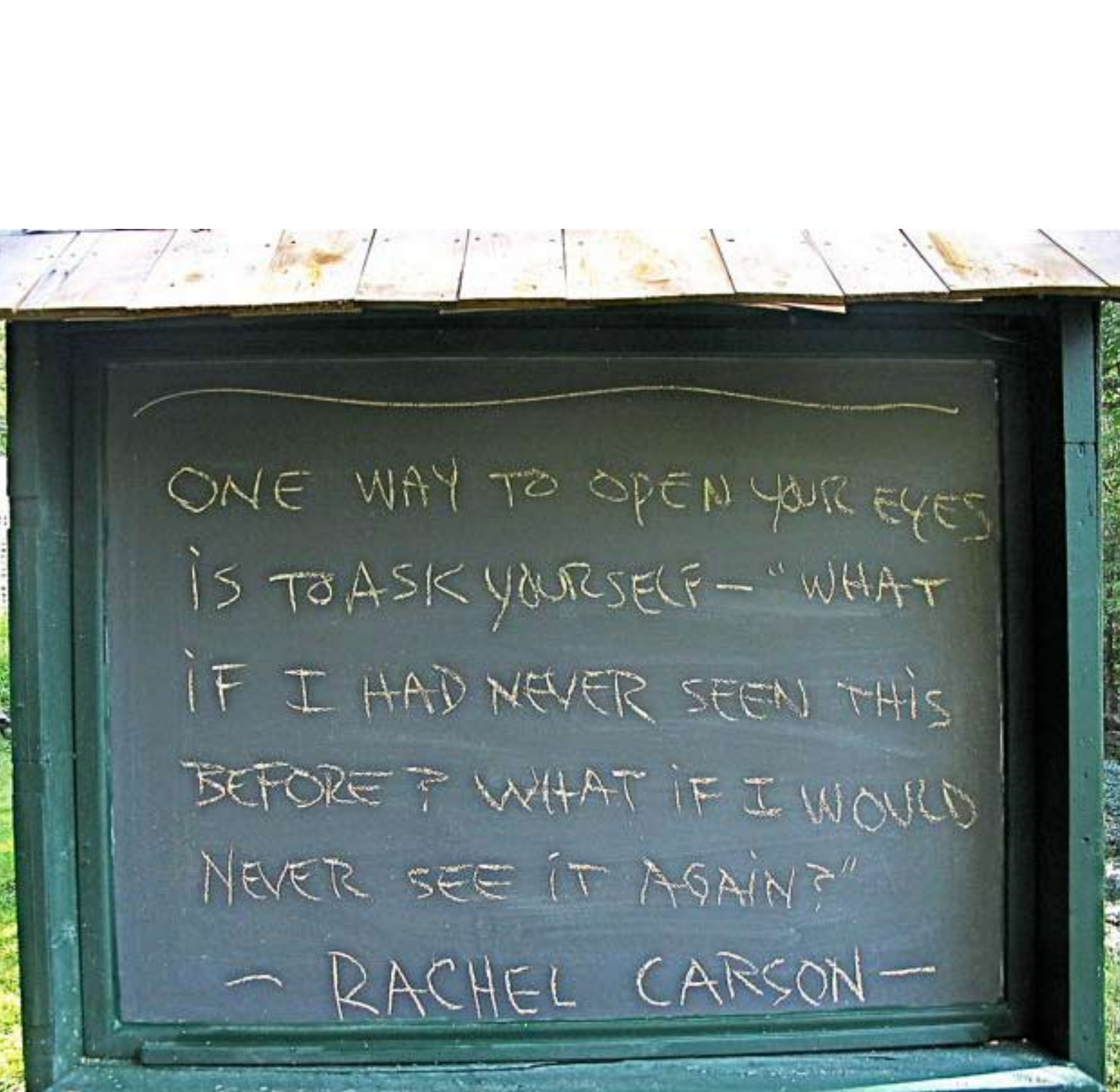
WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL  
THING - THEREFORE GET  
WISDOM, AND WITH ALL  
THY GETTING, GET  
UNDERSTANDING





between stars -  
more than  
enough

— GARY HOTHAM

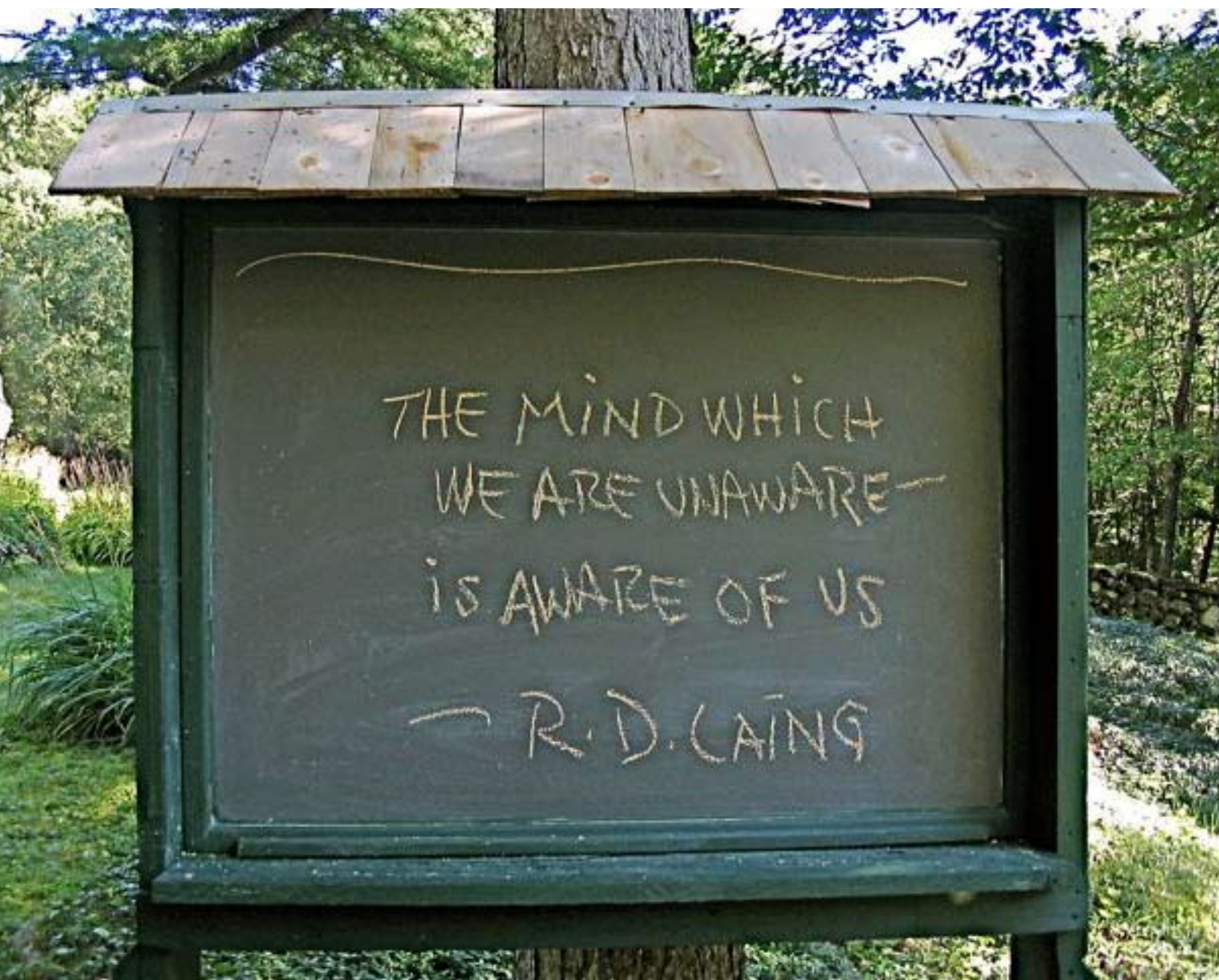


ONE WAY TO OPEN YOUR EYES  
IS TO ASK YOURSELF — "WHAT  
IF I HAD NEVER SEEN THIS  
BEFORE? WHAT IF I WOULD  
NEVER SEE IT AGAIN?"

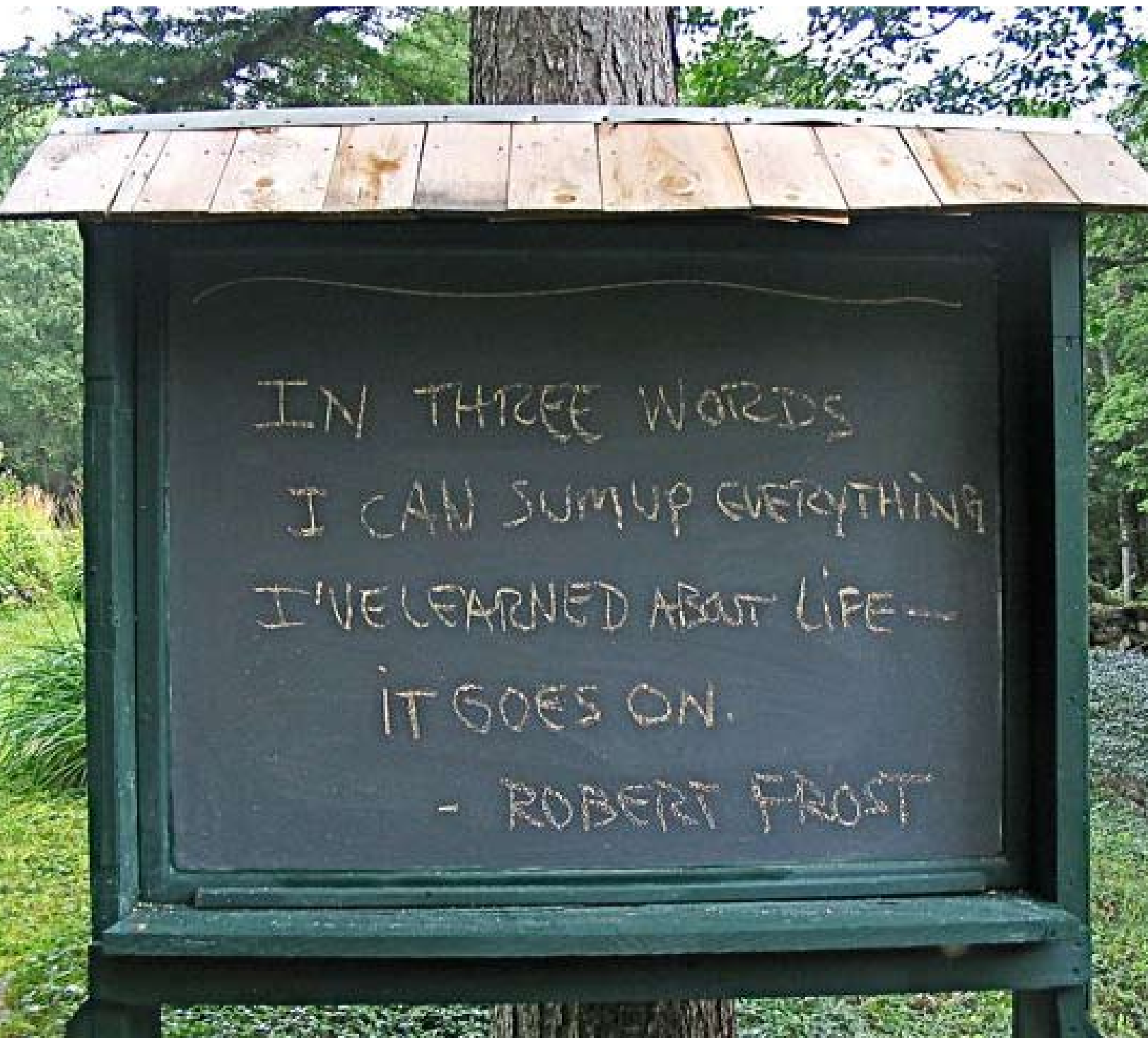
— RACHEL CARSON —





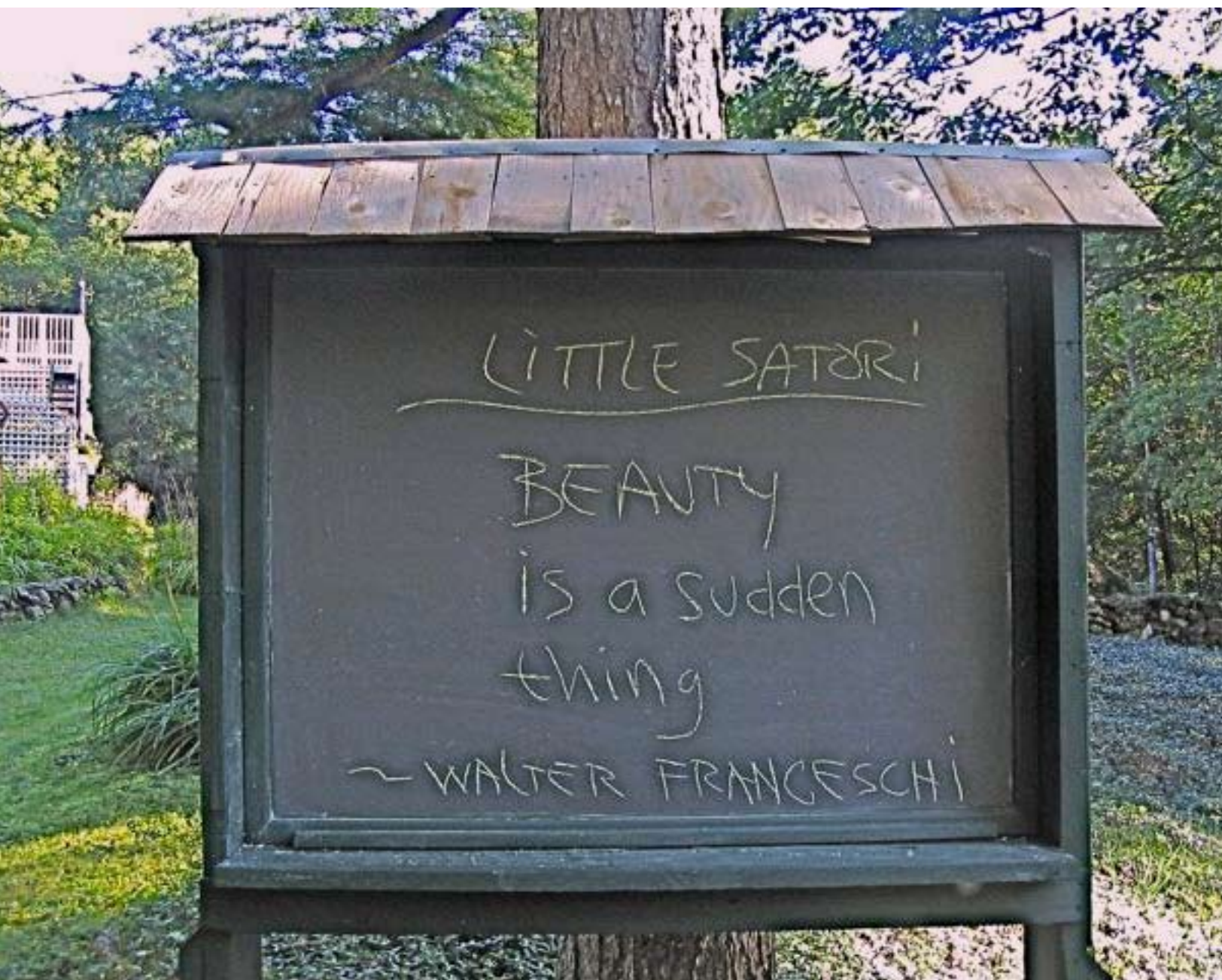








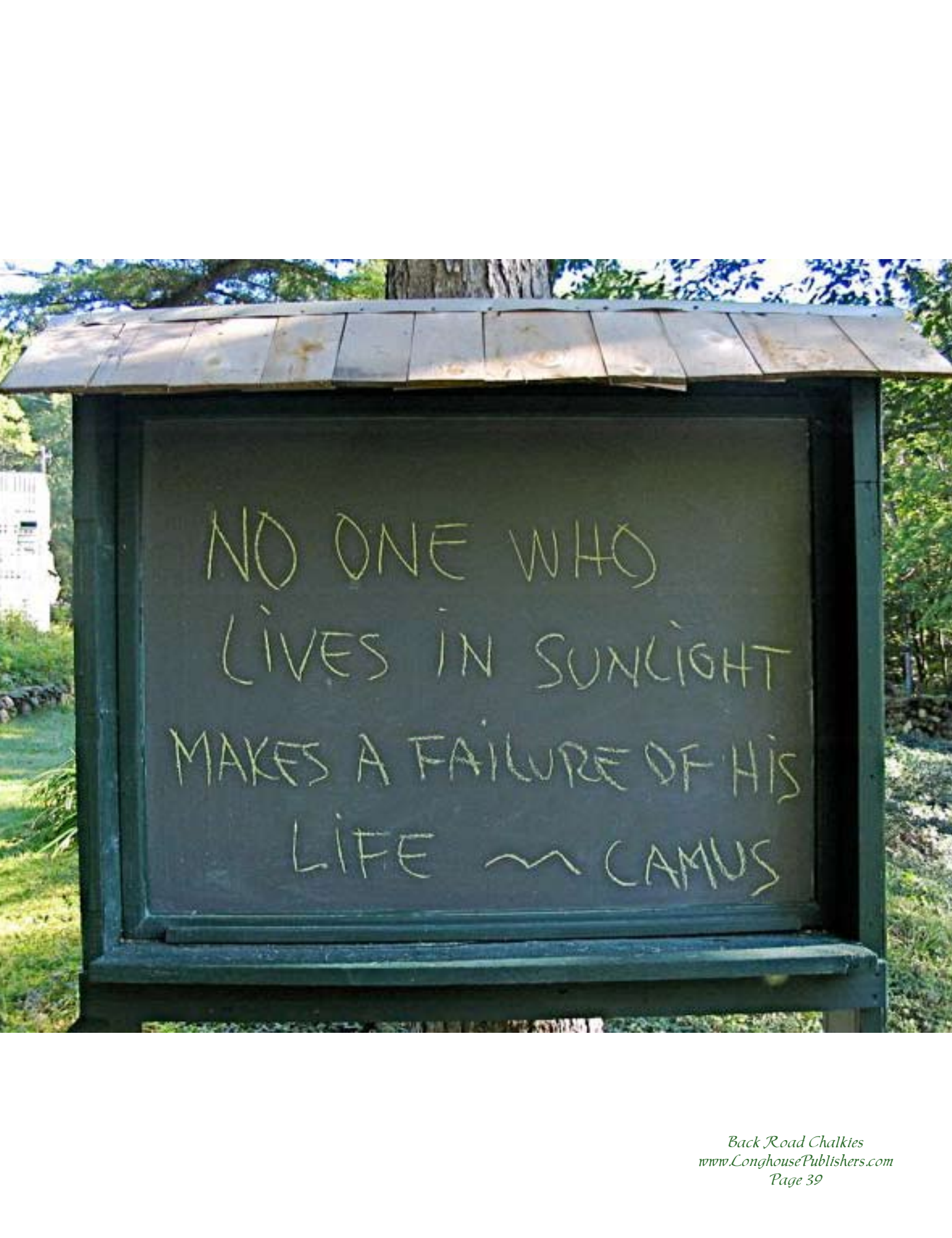












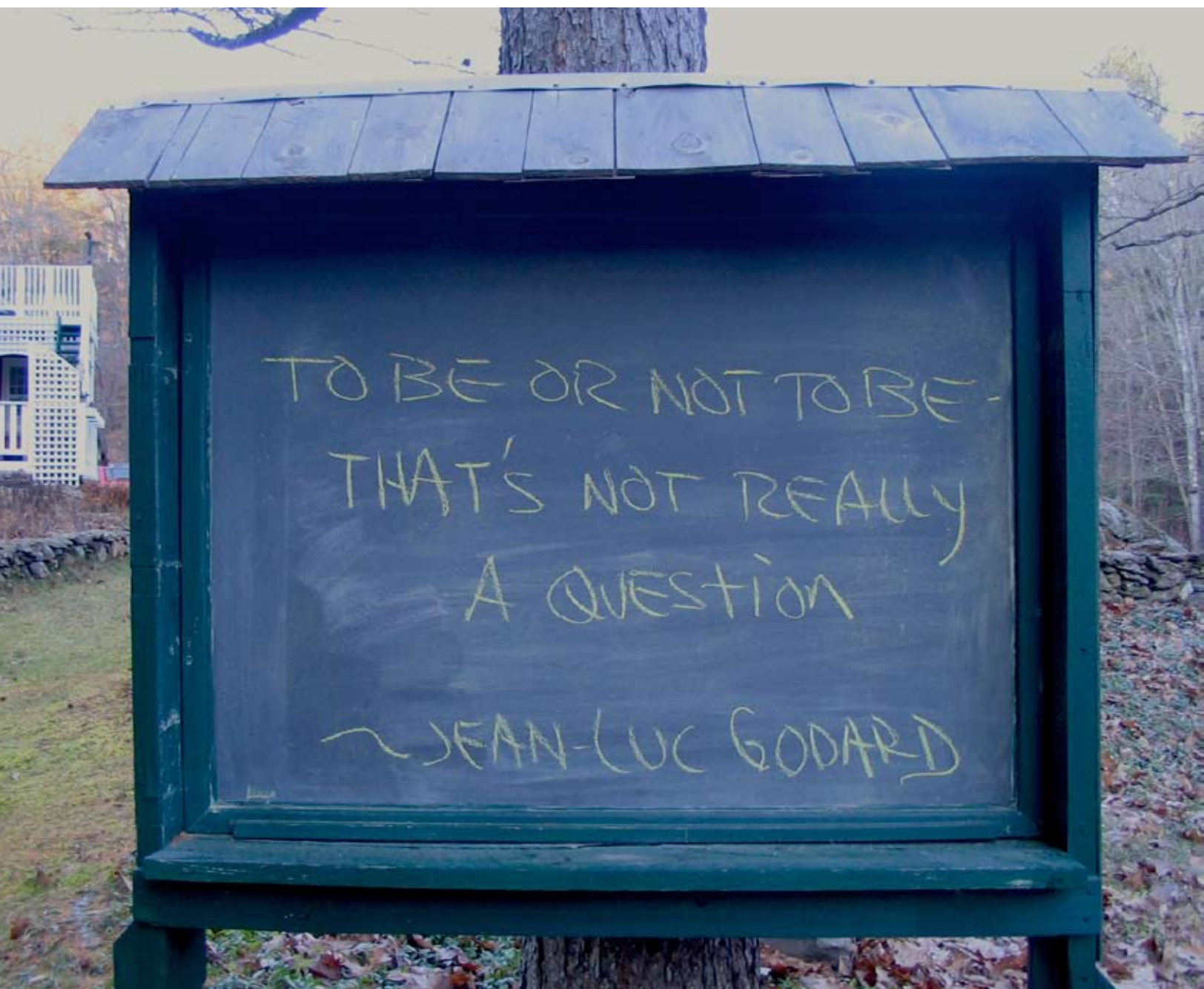
NO ONE WHO  
LIVES IN SUNLIGHT  
MAKES A FAILURE OF HIS  
LIFE ~ CAMUS




## M. GANDHI'S 7 SINS

- WEALTH WITHOUT WORK
- PLEASURE WITHOUT CONSCIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT CHARACTER
- COMMERCE WITHOUT MORALITY
- SCIENCE WITHOUT HUMANITY
- WORSHIP WITHOUT SACRIFICE
- POLITICS WITHOUT PRINCIPLE



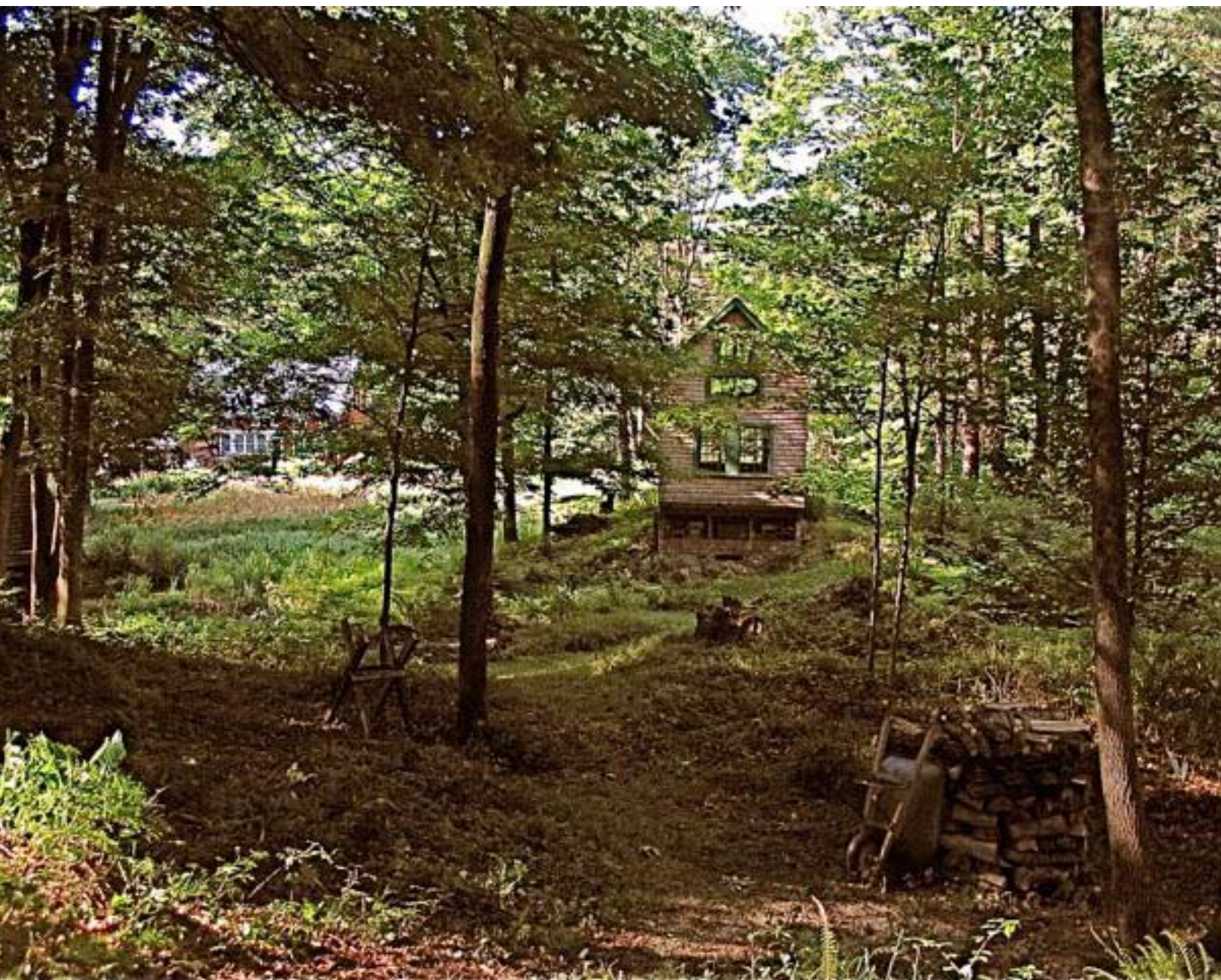




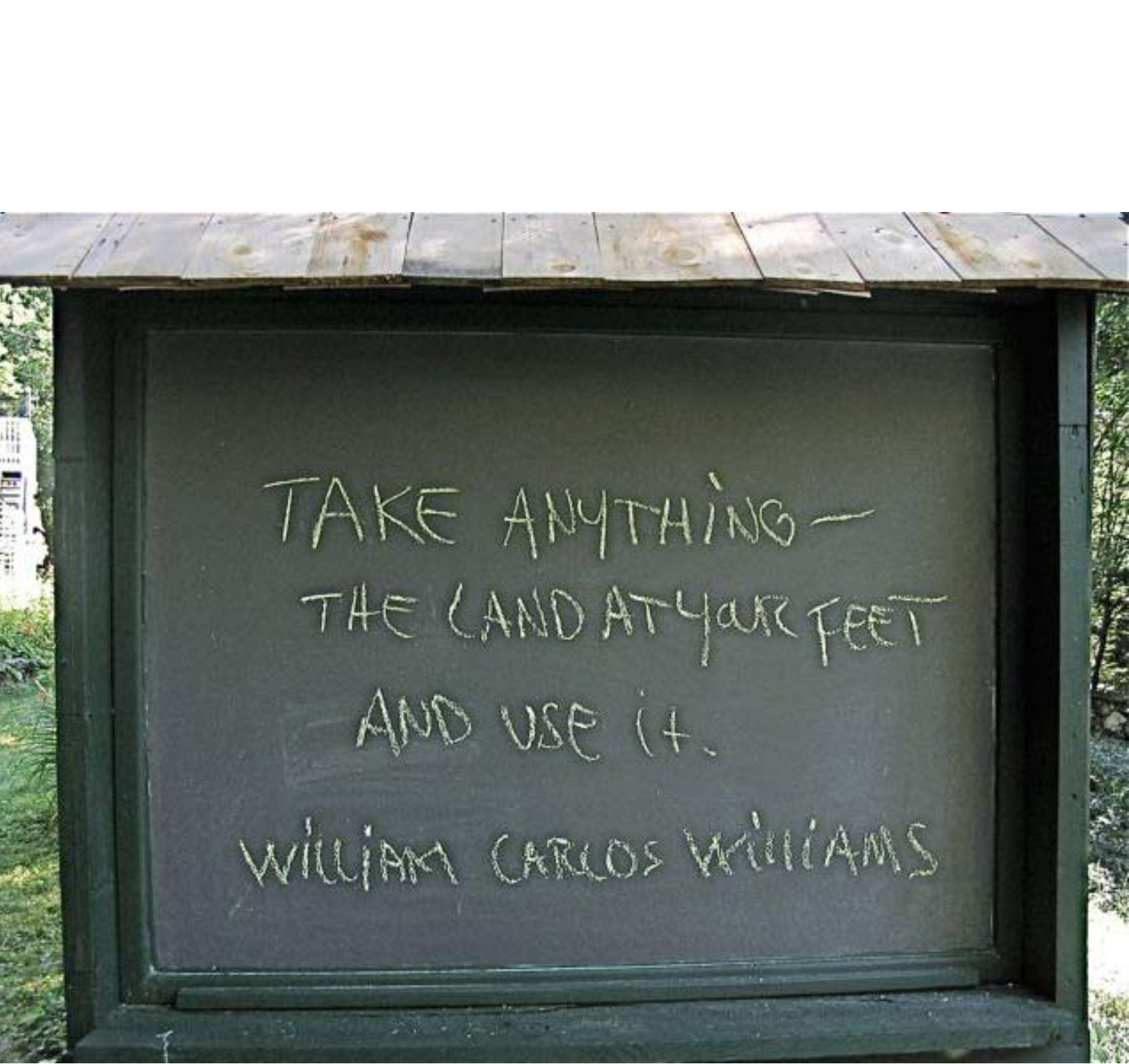
IN (CHERRY) BLOSSOM  
SHADOWS, NO ONE, REALLY, IS  
A STRANGER NOW.

—ISSA









TAKE ANYTHING—  
THE LAND AT YOUR FEET  
AND USE IT.  
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS



A green wooden sign with a corrugated metal roof, featuring a chalkboard with a handwritten quote. The sign is set outdoors in a grassy area with trees in the background. The text on the chalkboard is written in yellow chalk.

LOVE IS THE GREAT GOOD USE  
ONE PERSON MAKES OF ANOTHER  
~ LORINE NIEDECKER

THE CANDLE IS NOT  
THERE TO ILLUMINATE  
ITSELF

- NAWAB JAN-FISAN KHAN



CAW the GREAT  
CAW

— FERLINGHETTI

DON'T EVER TAKE A  
FENCE DOWN

UNTIL YOU KNOW WHY  
IT WAS PUT UP.

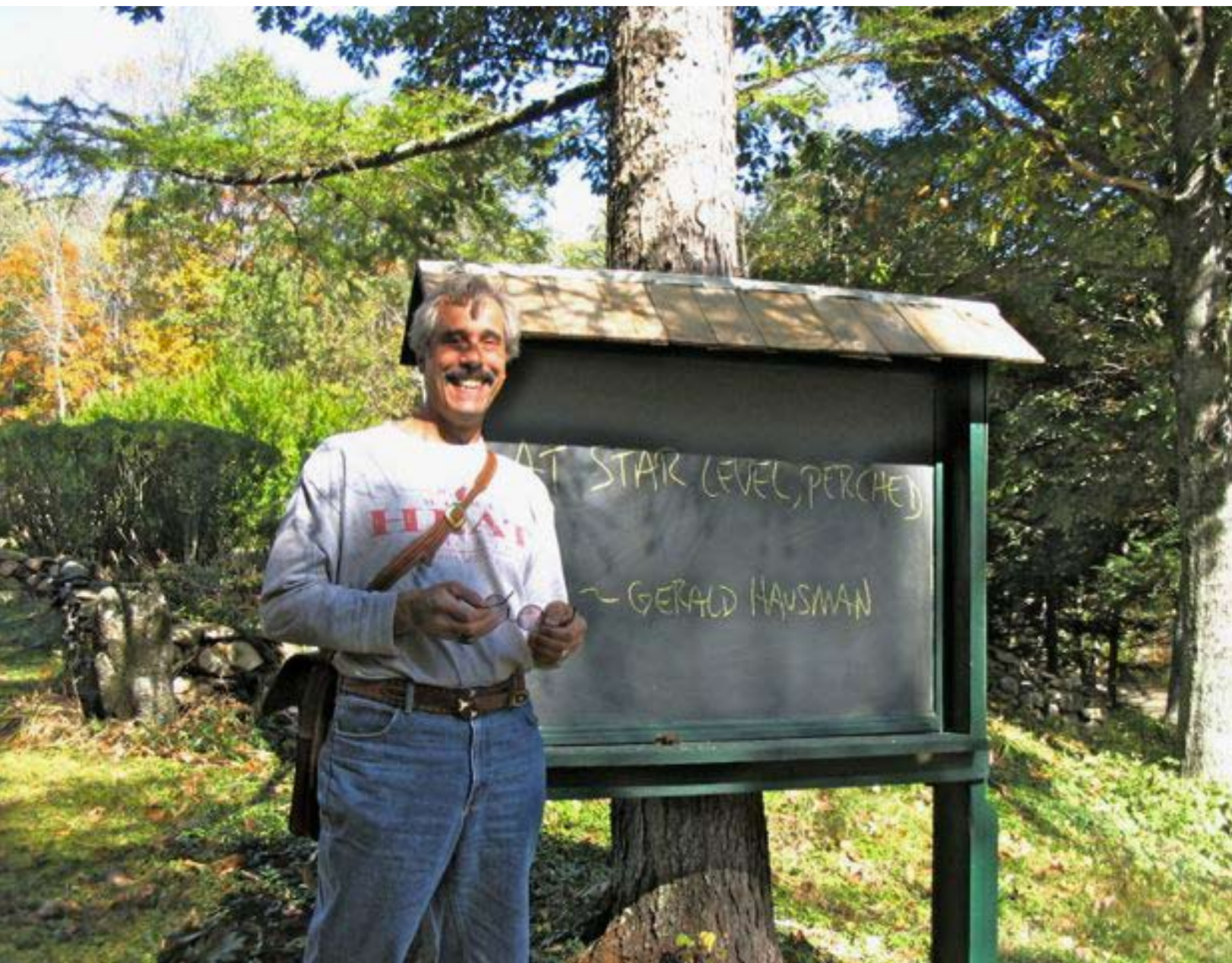
— ROBERT FROST



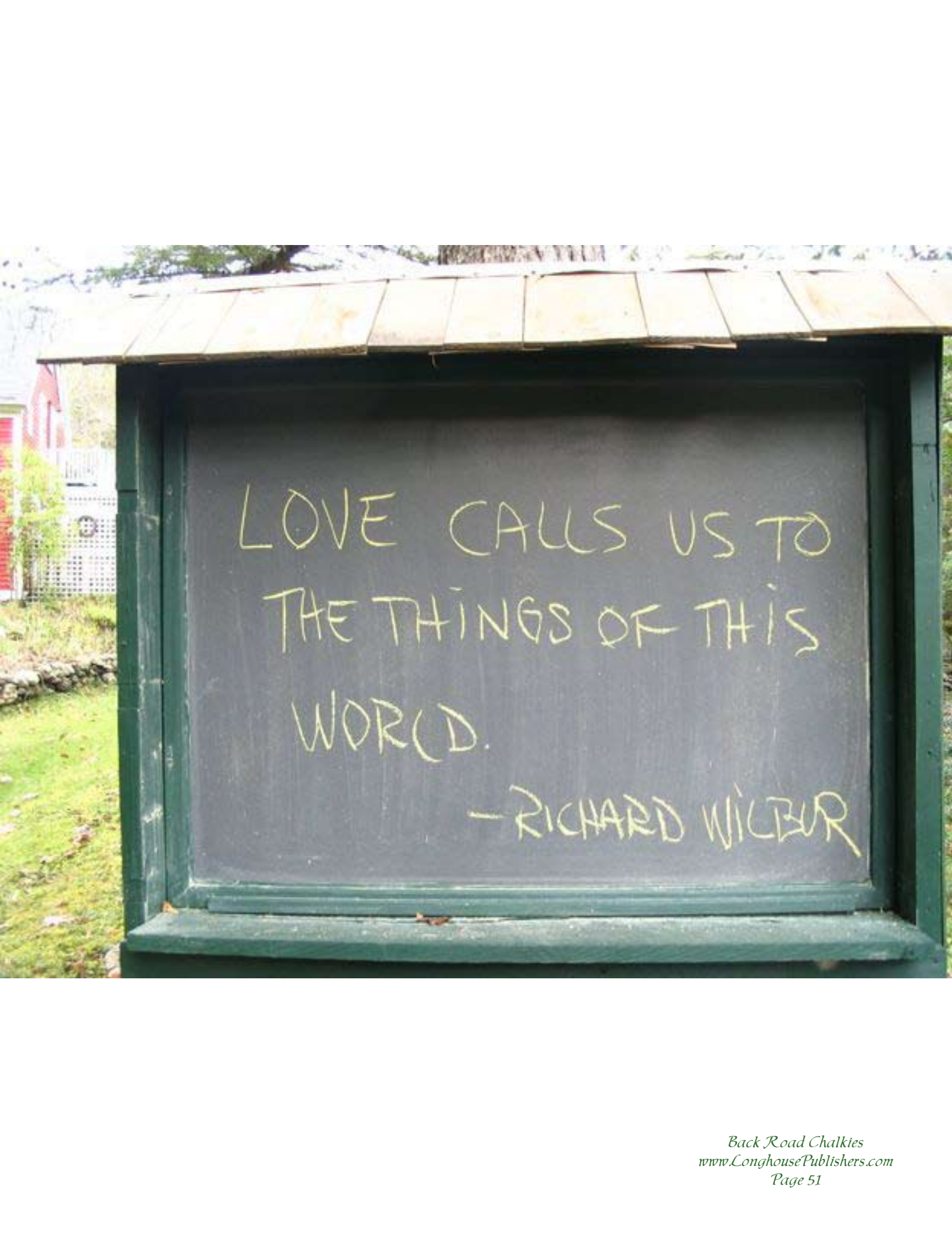
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Is it the LEAF  
Cradling the  
Air or Air LEAF?

How gentle  
this falling is  
TOGETHER







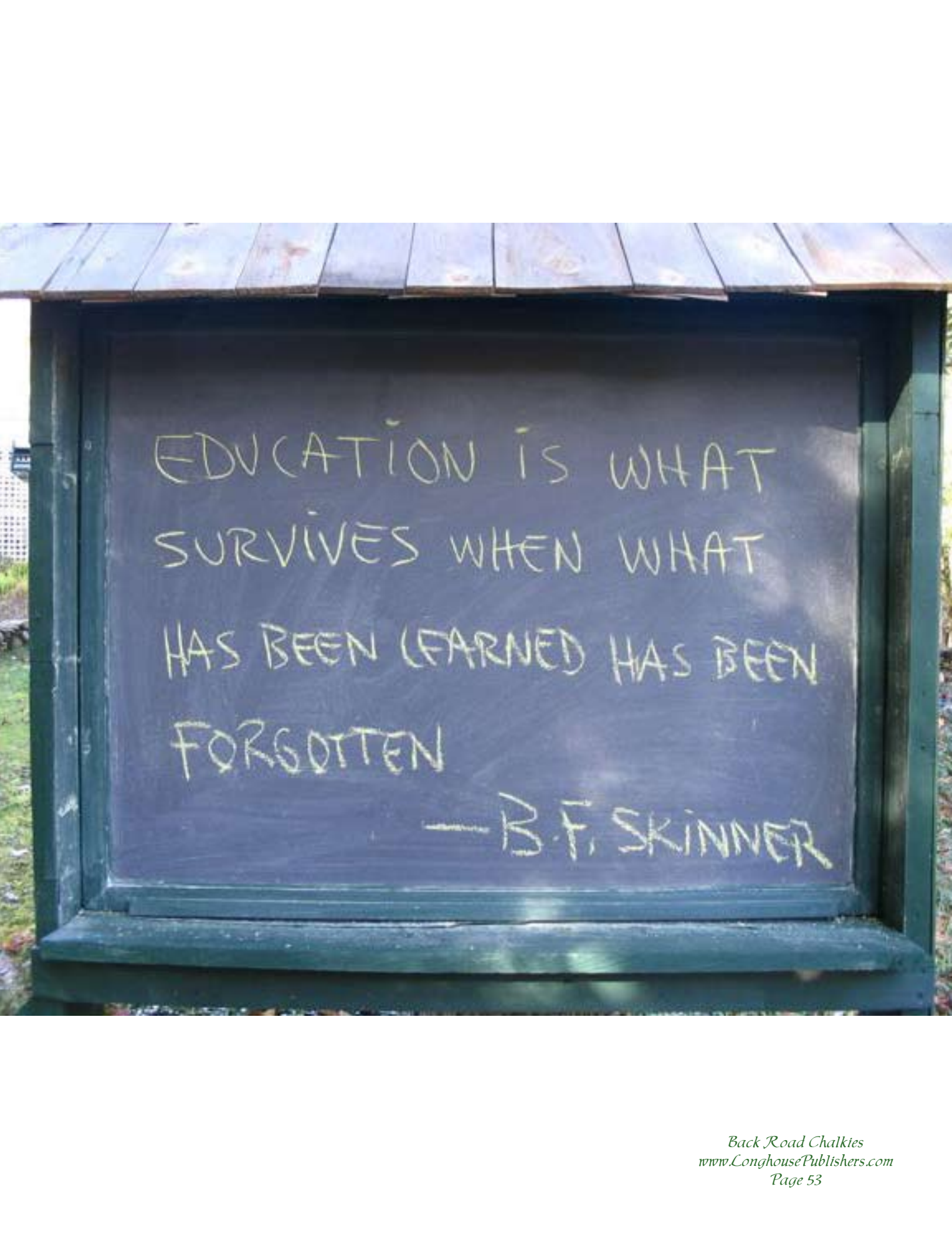
LOVE CALLS US TO  
THE THINGS OF THIS  
WORLD.

—RICHARD WILBUR

HOW OLD WOULD YOU  
BE IF YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW HOW OLD YOU ARE.

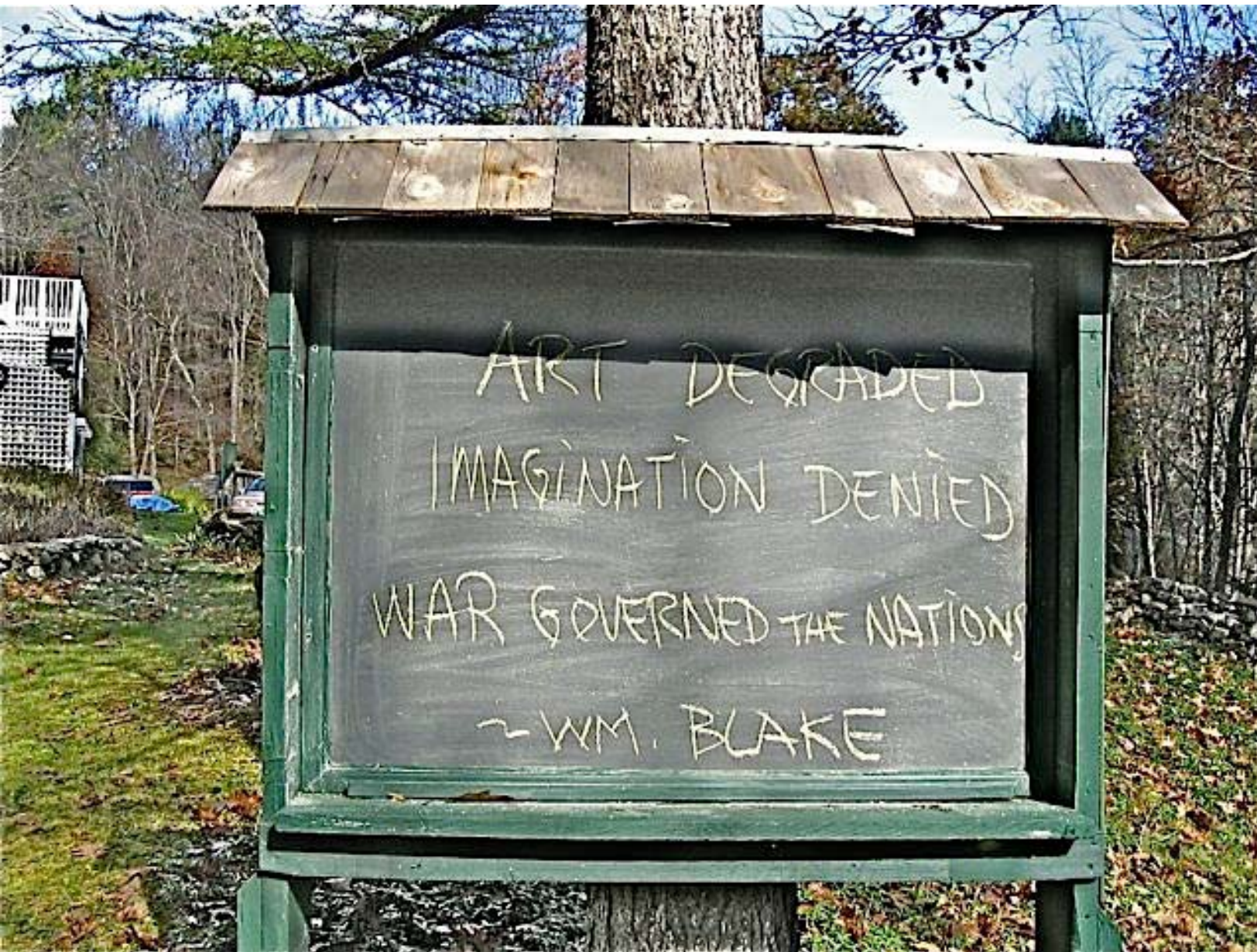
~ SATCHEL PAIGE



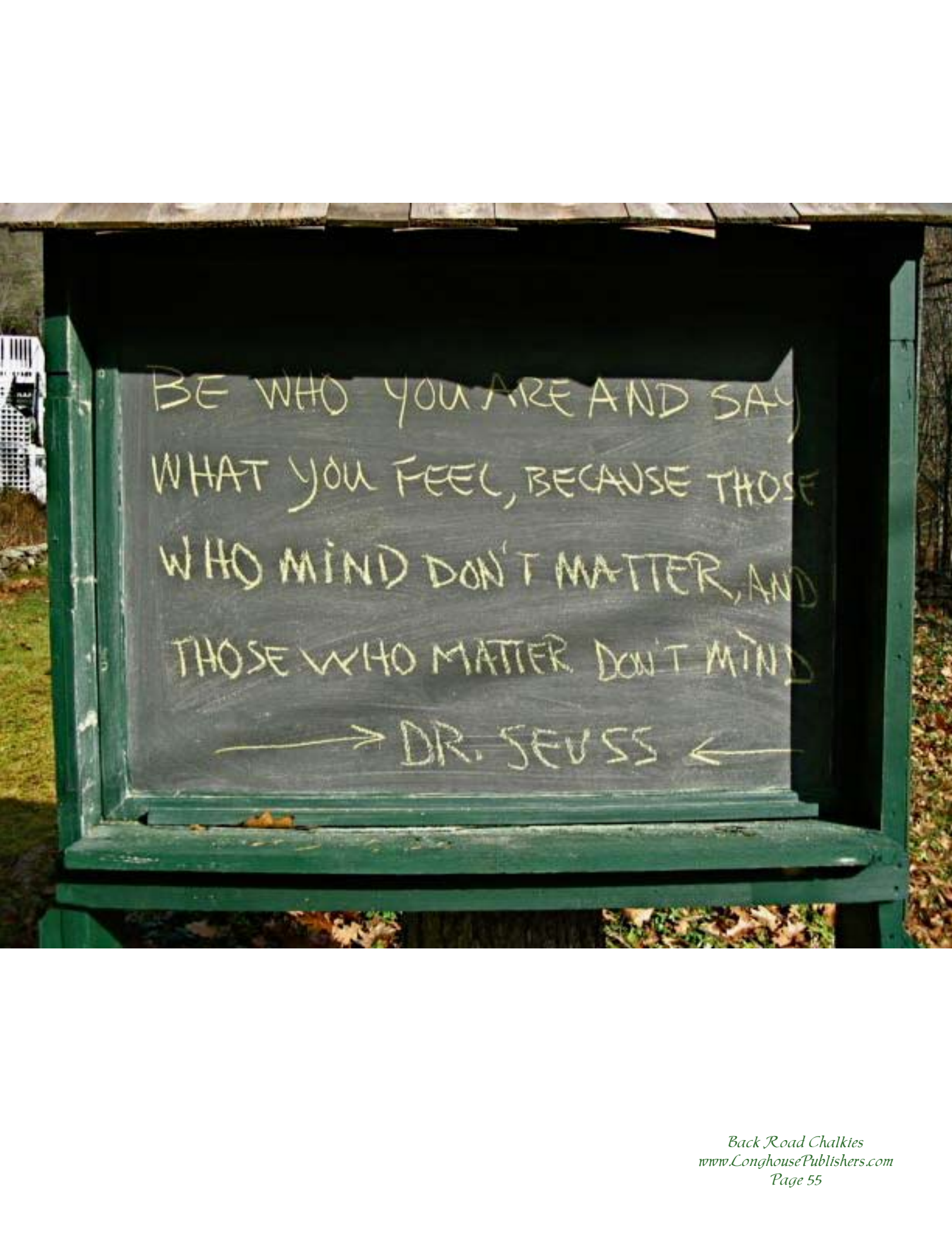
A photograph of a chalkboard mounted on a wooden structure. The chalkboard is dark green and has a quote written on it in white chalk. The quote is: "EDUCATION IS WHAT SURVIVES WHEN WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN". Below the quote, it says "— B.F. SKINNER". The chalkboard is set against a background of a wooden roof and some foliage.

EDUCATION IS WHAT  
SURVIVES WHEN WHAT  
HAS BEEN LEARNED HAS BEEN  
FORGOTTEN  
— B.F. SKINNER









BE WHO YOU ARE AND SAY  
WHAT YOU FEEL, BECAUSE THOSE  
WHO MIND DON'T MATTER, AND  
THOSE WHO MATTER DON'T MIND  
→ DR. SEUSS ←

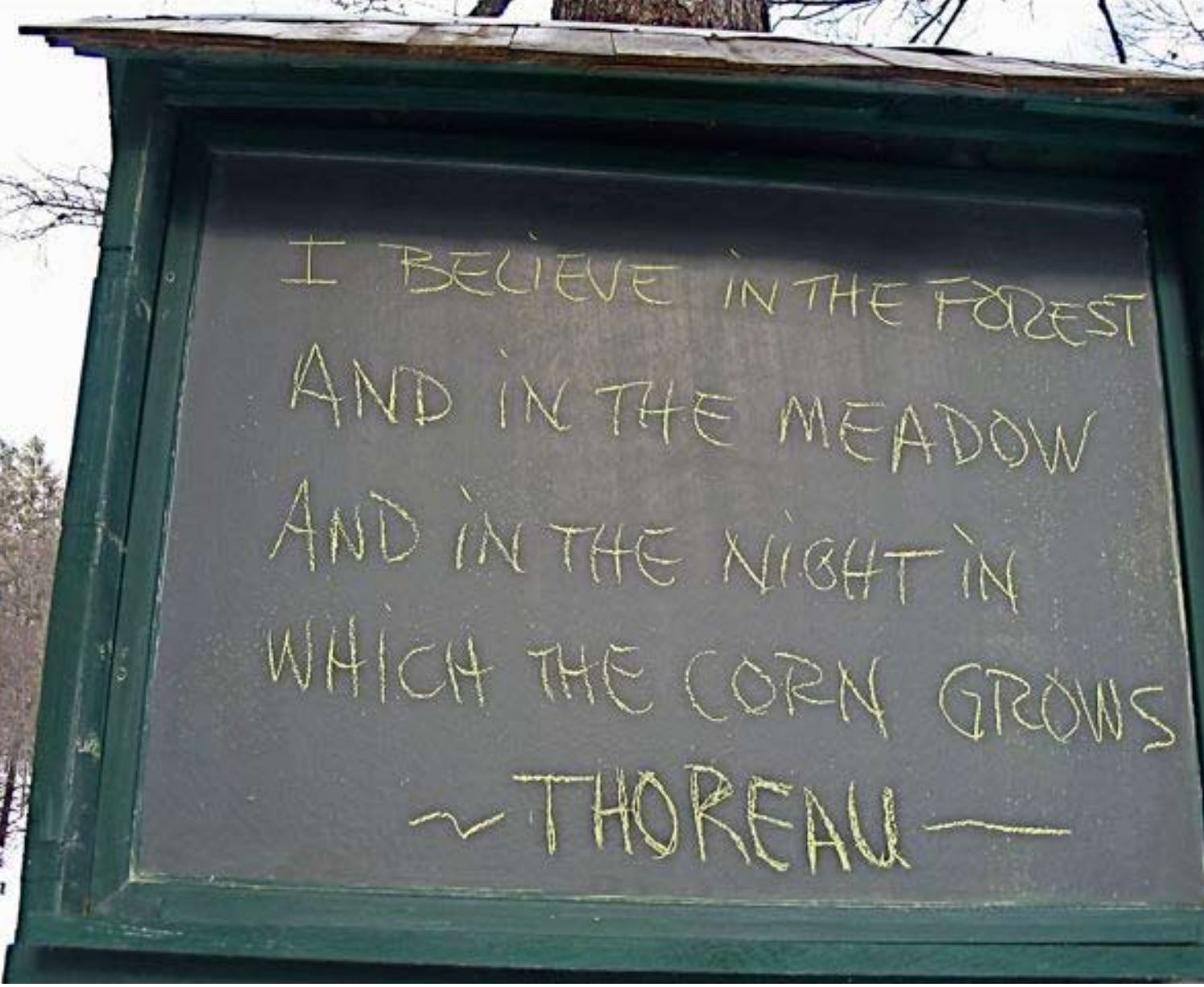
DON'T LOOK FOR  
MIRACLES — YOU  
ARE THE MIRACLE.  
— HENRY MILLER



A green wooden chalkboard with a dark green frame is mounted on a wooden post. The chalkboard has a quote written in yellow chalk. The quote is "HE WHO SERVES ALL BEST SERVES HIMSELF" with "ALL" underlined. Below the quote is the signature "— JACK LONDON". The chalkboard is set against a snowy background.

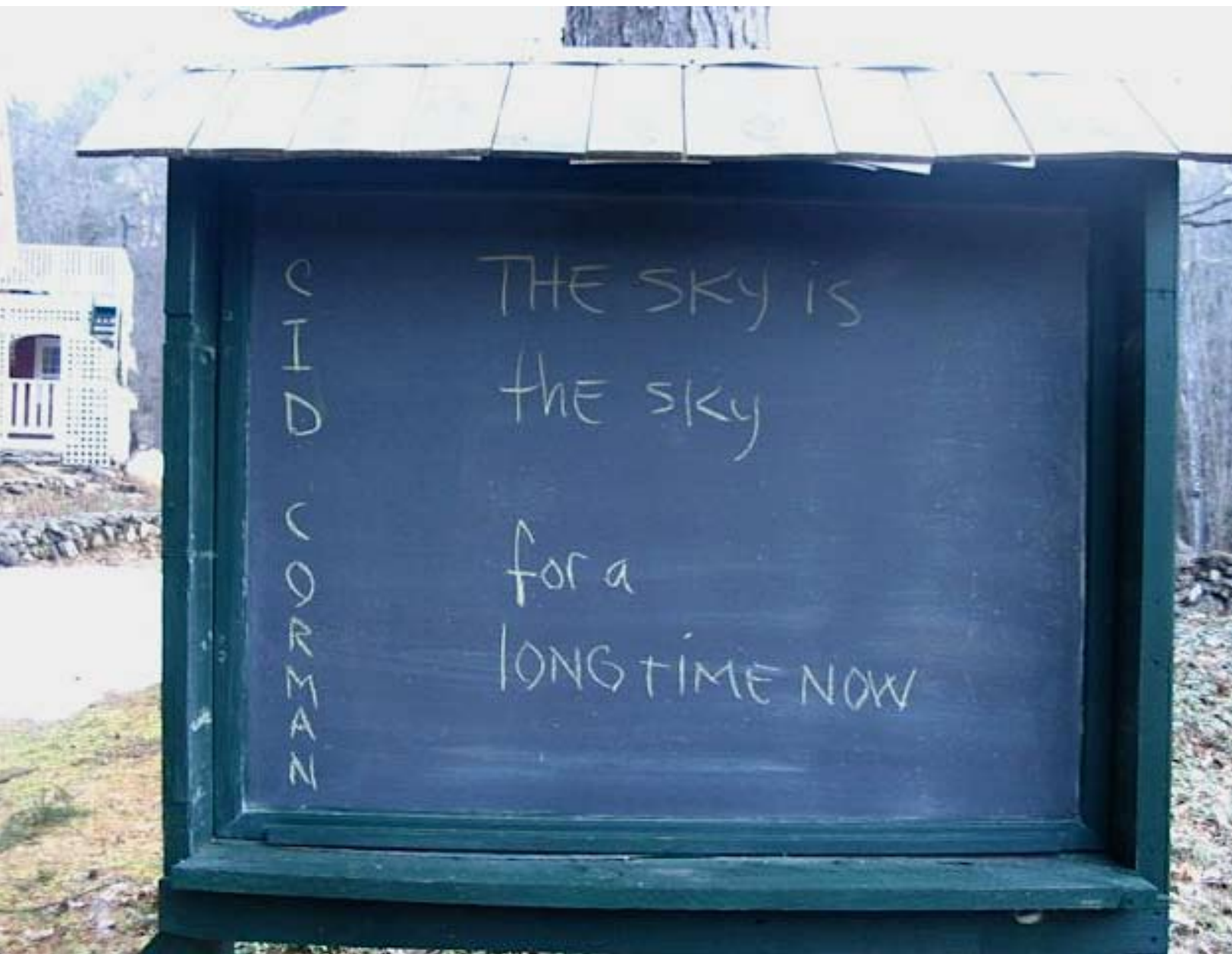
HE WHO SERVES ALL  
BEST SERVES HIMSELF

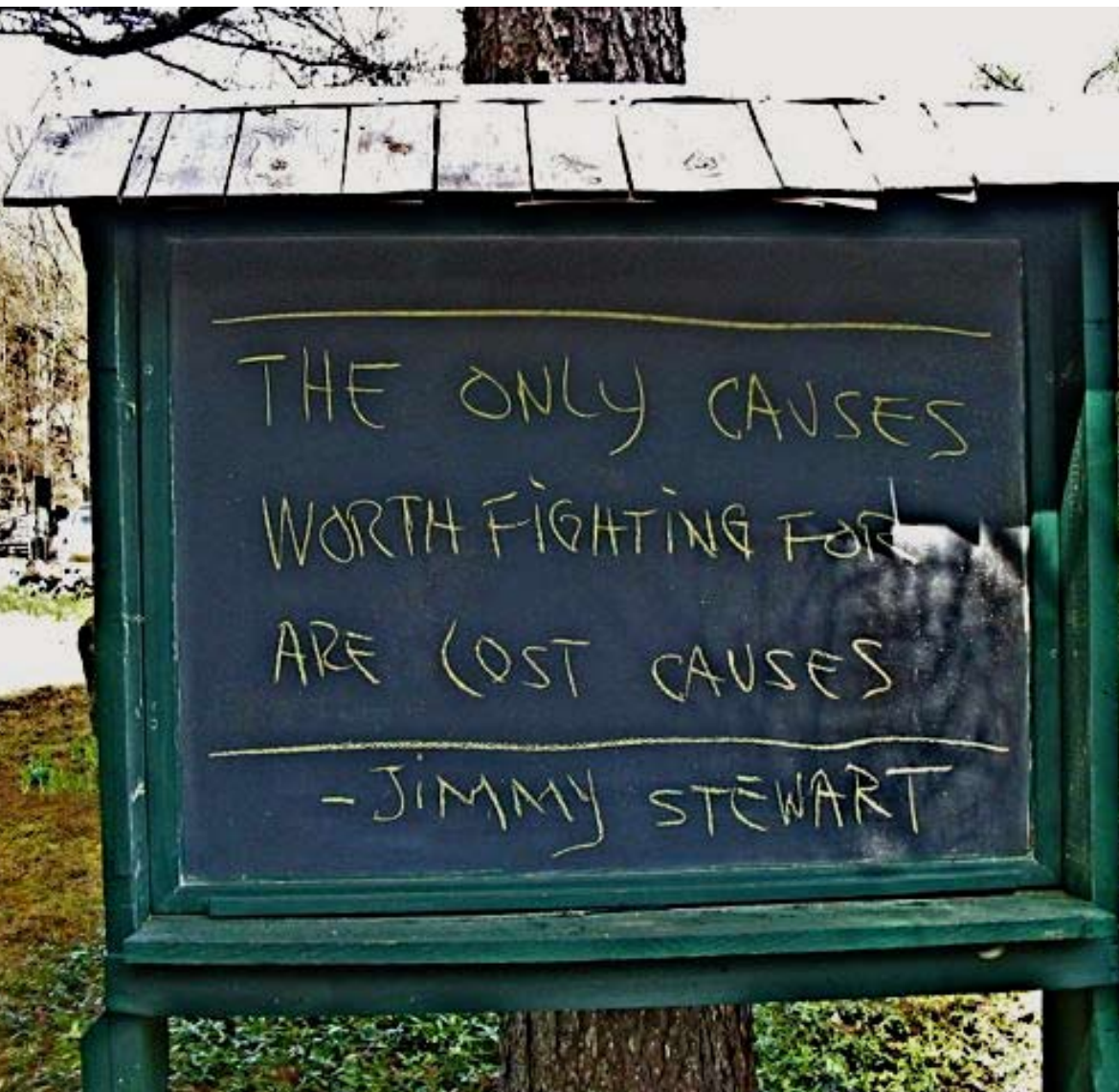
— JACK LONDON

A green-framed chalkboard with a quote by Thoreau. The text is written in yellow chalk. The quote is: "I BELIEVE IN THE FOREST  
AND IN THE MEADOW  
AND IN THE NIGHT IN  
WHICH THE CORN GROWS  
~THOREAU~". The chalkboard is mounted on a wooden post. In the background, there are bare trees and a white building.

I BELIEVE IN THE FOREST  
AND IN THE MEADOW  
AND IN THE NIGHT IN  
WHICH THE CORN GROWS  
~THOREAU~








THE ONLY CAUSES  
WORTH FIGHTING FOR  
ARE LOST CAUSES  
- JIMMY STEWART



# SELF-EMPLOYED

TAKE TWO SQUARED STONES AND  
DROP THEM ALMOST SIDE BY SIDE  
LIFT THE THINNER SLAB OF ROCK AND  
BUST YOUR GUTS SETTING IT ON TOP  
NOW YOU GOT REASON TO SIT DOWN

~ BOB ARNOLD ~



IT IS NOT THE MOON, I TELL YOU  
IT IS THE FLOWERS  
LIGHTING THE YARD  
— LOUISE GLUCK —







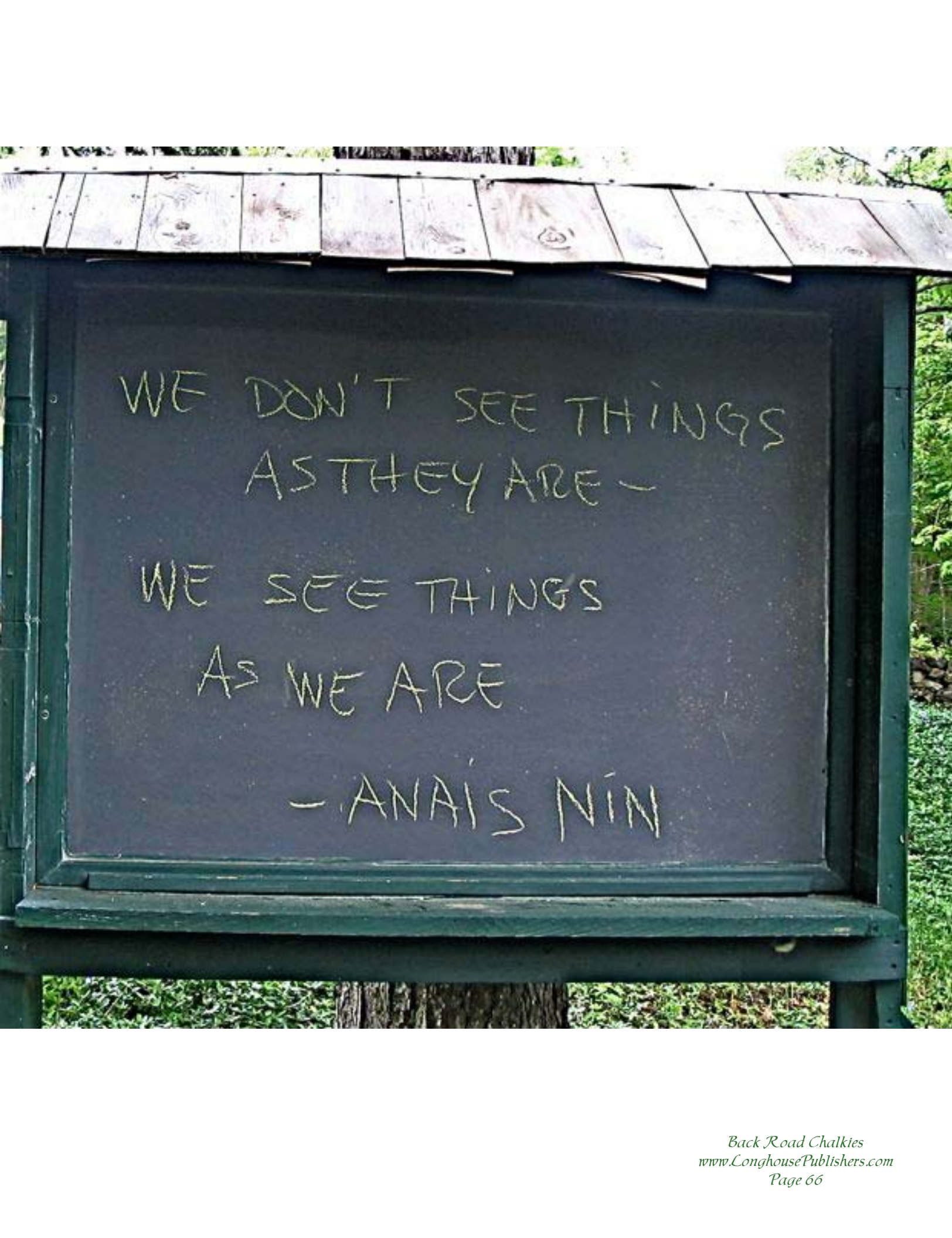


OPENING THE WINDOW  
A WINDOW FULL  
OF SPRING  
— SANTOKA









WE DON'T SEE THINGS  
AS THEY ARE -

WE SEE THINGS  
AS WE ARE

- ANAÏS NIN



PERSPECTIVE

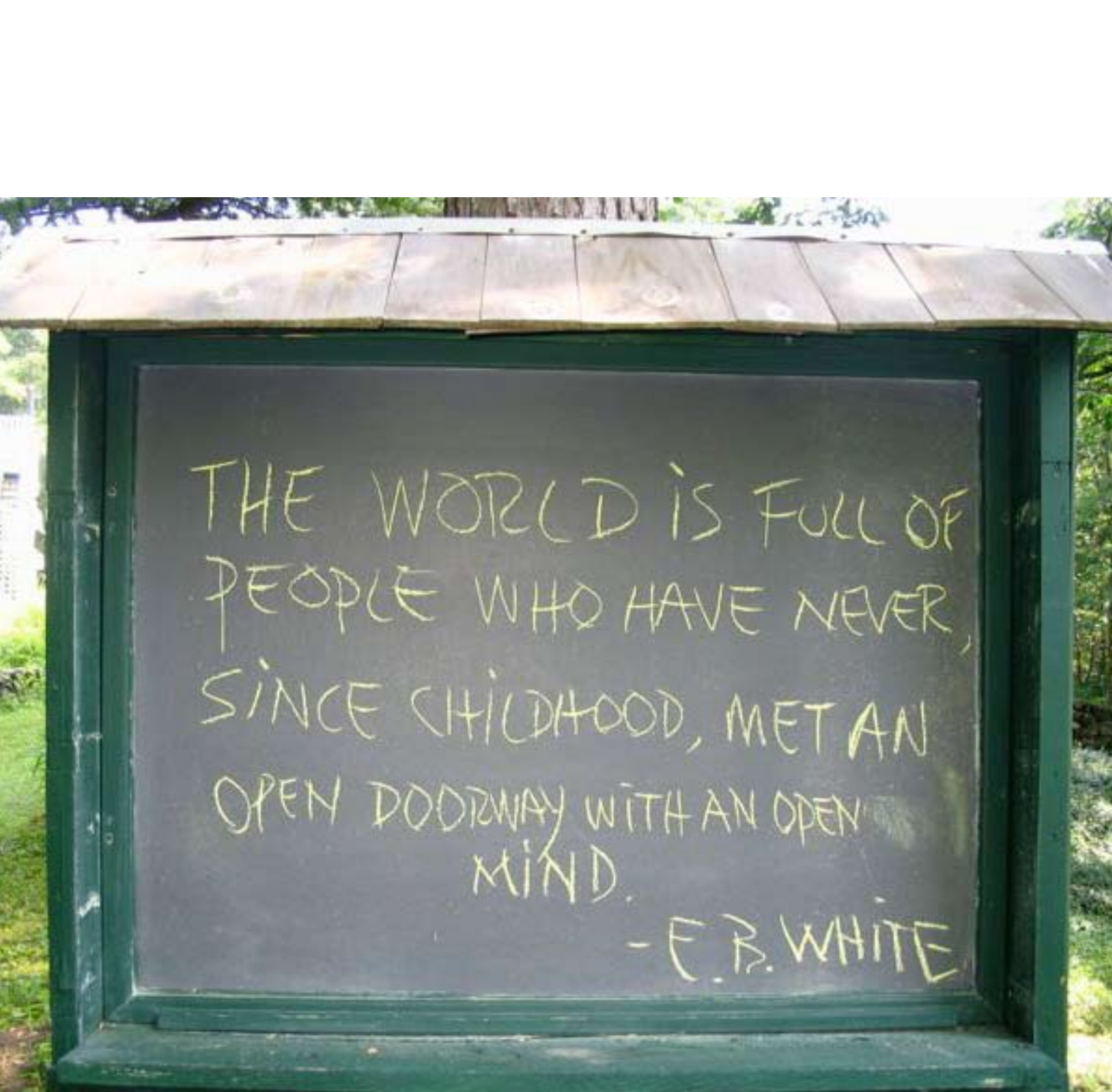
IF YOU CAN FIT THE SUN  
INTO A SPOON  
A BLUEBERRY  
CAN COVER THE MOON

~ HANNE BRAMNESS

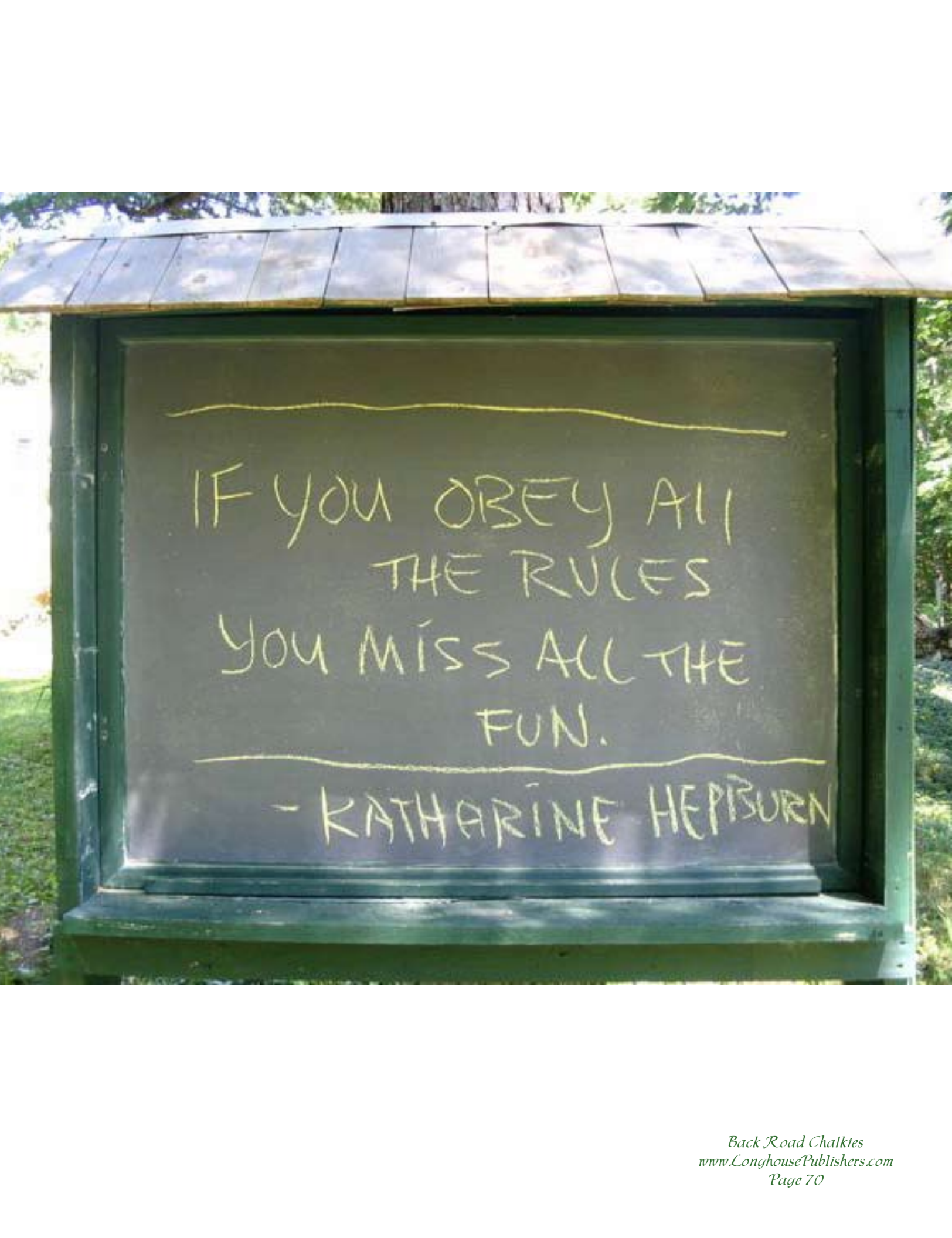
ALWAYS DO  
WHATEVER'S  
NEXT

— GEORGE CARLIN






THE WORLD IS FULL OF  
PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER,  
SINCE CHILDHOOD, MET AN  
OPEN DODDWAY WITH AN OPEN  
MIND.  
- E.B. WHITE



IF YOU OBEY ALL  
THE RULES  
YOU MISS ALL THE  
FUN.

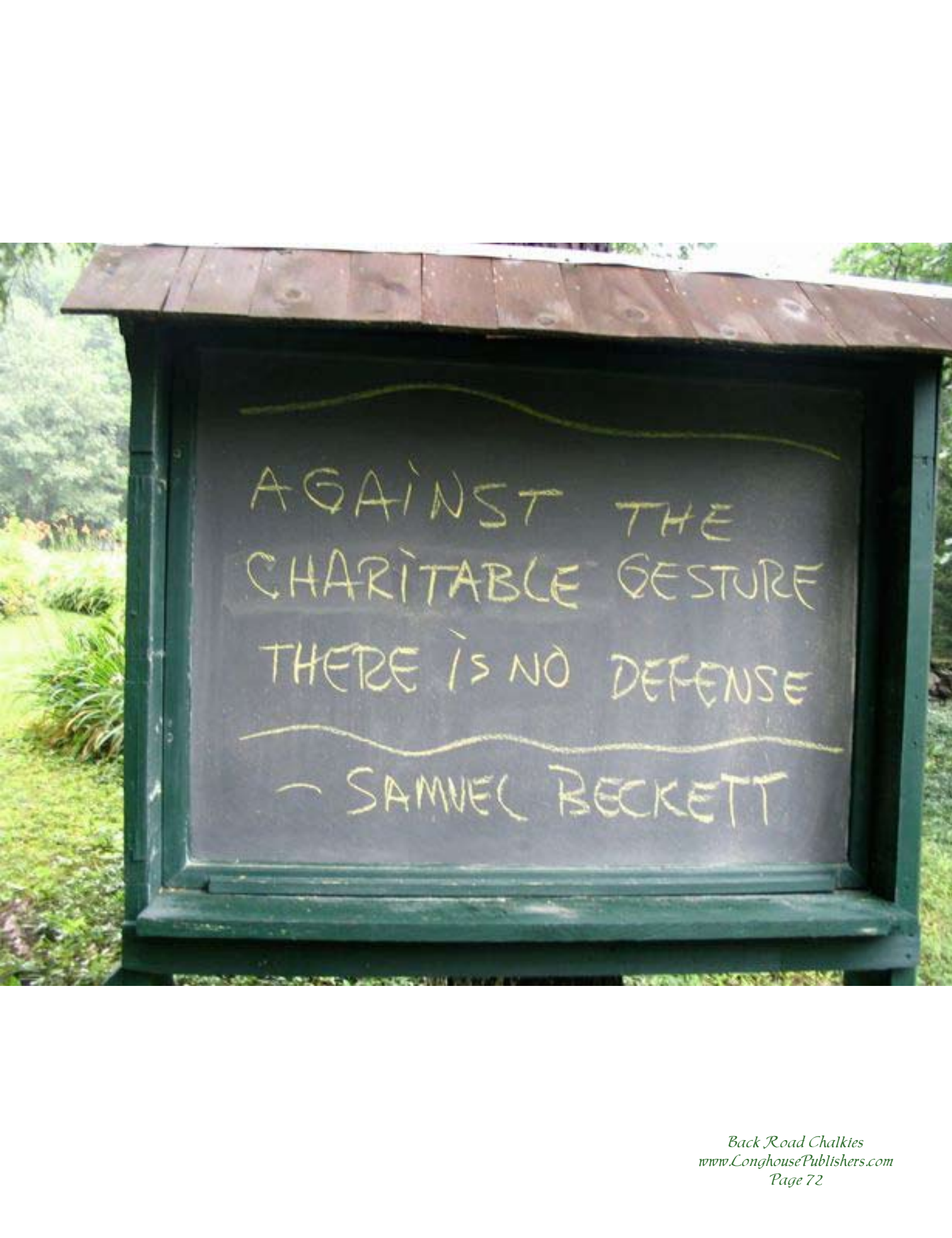
- KATHARINE HEPBURN





OUR LIVES BEGIN TO  
END THE DAY WE  
BECOME SILENT ABOUT  
THE THINGS THAT MATTER.

- MARTIN LUTHER KING



AGAINST THE  
CHARITABLE GESTURE  
THERE IS NO DEFENSE

— SAMUEL BECKETT



