“Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest”. By Suzanne Simard

Chapter 1 – 6 January 6

1. How have Indigenous people contributed to the research by Dr. Simmard?
2. Salish people believe trees have person hood. How did these beliefs align with the science of forests today?
3. What are uneven forests?
4. Why is the Western Red Cedar considered the Tree of Life?
5. What is mycorrhizal fungus?
6. What is ectomycorrhizal fungi?
7. How are mycorrhizals different on grasses than on trees?
8. What benefit are alders to forest regeneration?
9. Do you share any favorite memories as the author’s birthday backpacking trip to Stryen Creek?

10) Why do you think the author was not rehired again after being laid off and Ray was hired in her place?

11) What are “Free to Grow “plantations?

12) How do lichens impact rocks?

13) What impacts do alder trees have on the soil? On the water?

14) What happened to the pine seedlings when the alders were gone?

Select a passage to share from chapter 1 – 6

Other Resources:

UTUBE: Suzanne Simard/Mother Trees and the Social Forest

Suzanne Simard—Dispatches from the Mother Tree Project

Netflix:

“Fantastic Fungi”

“Finding the Mother Tree” Chapters 7 – 15 January 19

1. What is the symbiotic relationship between fungi and trees? What does the tree provide to fungi and what do the fungi provide to trees?
2. Why is it important to protect Mother Trees?
3. Do tropical forests communicate in the same way as temperate forests?
4. What do the rings in the trees tell us?
5. What are the problems involved in planting monocultures?
6. What is the Mother Tree Project?
7. How can we help forests mitigate the impact of climate change?
8. How does adding more species to a forest impact the amount of carbon storage?
9. What do scientists predict will happen to Western Red Cedars in the Pacific NW in 20 years?
10. Choose a favorite passage to share from chapter 7 - 12