

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

Q. Dear Twig: OK, I'll bite. What's bio ... bio ... phlablahblah? [See last week.]

A. For starters: You spell it **biophilia**. (Ah! Hard to spell!) And you say it, "BY-oh-FILL-ee-uh." (Ah! Hard to say!)

Think of it, yes, as a funny word. (Ha ha hee!) Though not in the same league as **Wankel rotary engine**. (Ba ha ha ha ha heeeeeee!)

And think of it, too, as something else. Think of it as the **bond** humans feel with **other living things** (plants, animals, etc.).

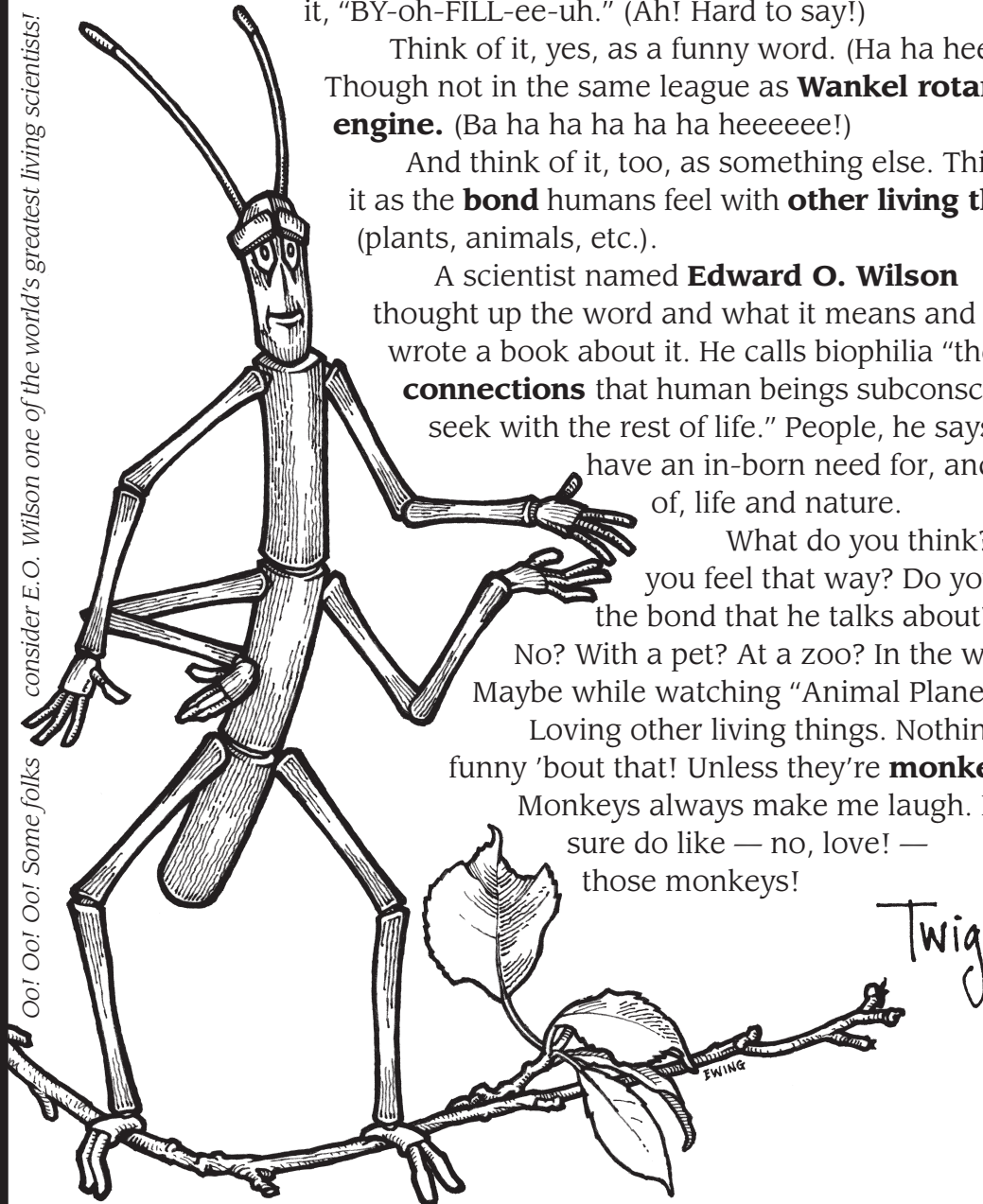
A scientist named **Edward O. Wilson** thought up the word and what it means and even wrote a book about it. He calls biophilia "the **connections** that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life." People, he says, have an in-born need for, and love of, life and nature.

What do you think? Do you feel that way? Do you feel the bond that he talks about? Yes?

No? With a pet? At a zoo? In the woods? Maybe while watching "Animal Planet"?

Loving other living things. Nothin' funny 'bout that! Unless they're **monkeys**.

Monkeys always make me laugh. I sure do like — no, love! — those monkeys!



Oo! Oo! Some folks consider E.O. Wilson one of the world's greatest living scientists!

From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).



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**For the week of
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Dear Reader: Read more about biophilia in *Biophilia: The Human Bond With Other Species*, written by Wilson; and in *The Biophilia Hypothesis*, edited by Stephen Kellert and Wilson. Called such things as "Darwin's natural heir," "the father of biodiversity" and "one of the 20th century's greatest thinkers," Wilson works at Harvard University. Find two of many articles about him in *The Guardian*, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4137503,00.html>; and at CNN.com, <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/americasbest/science.medicine/pro.eowilson.html>.

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