

Freyja gets in on the photograph act.

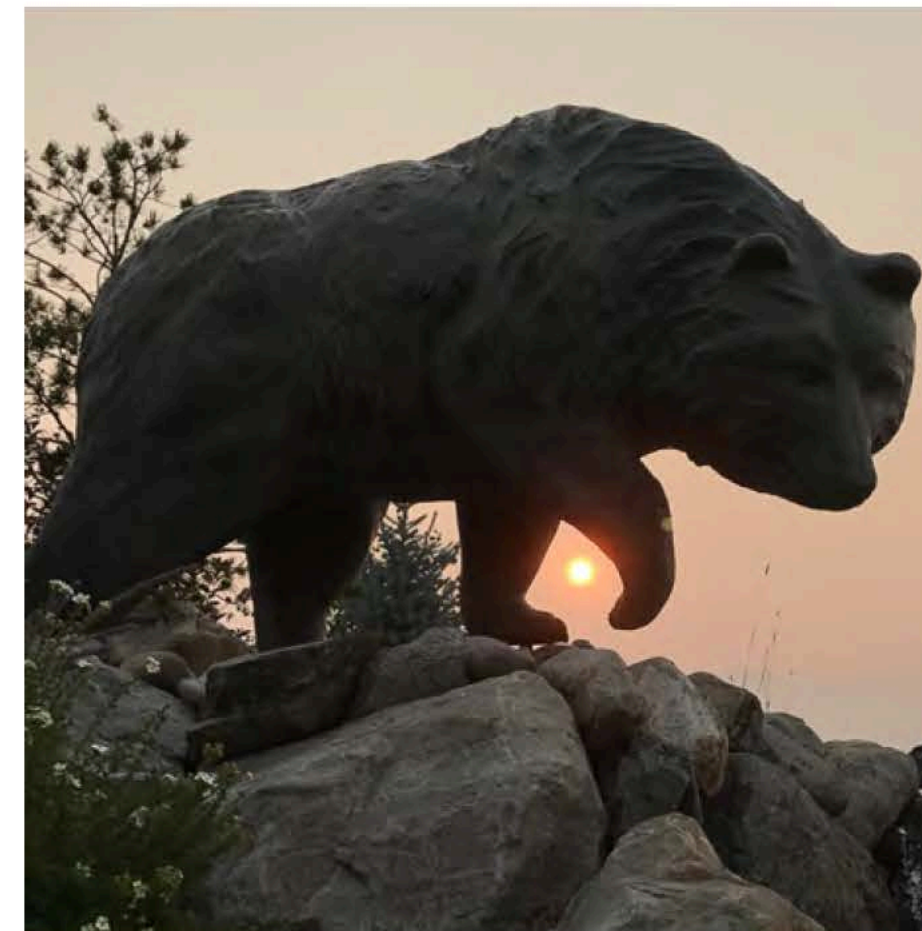
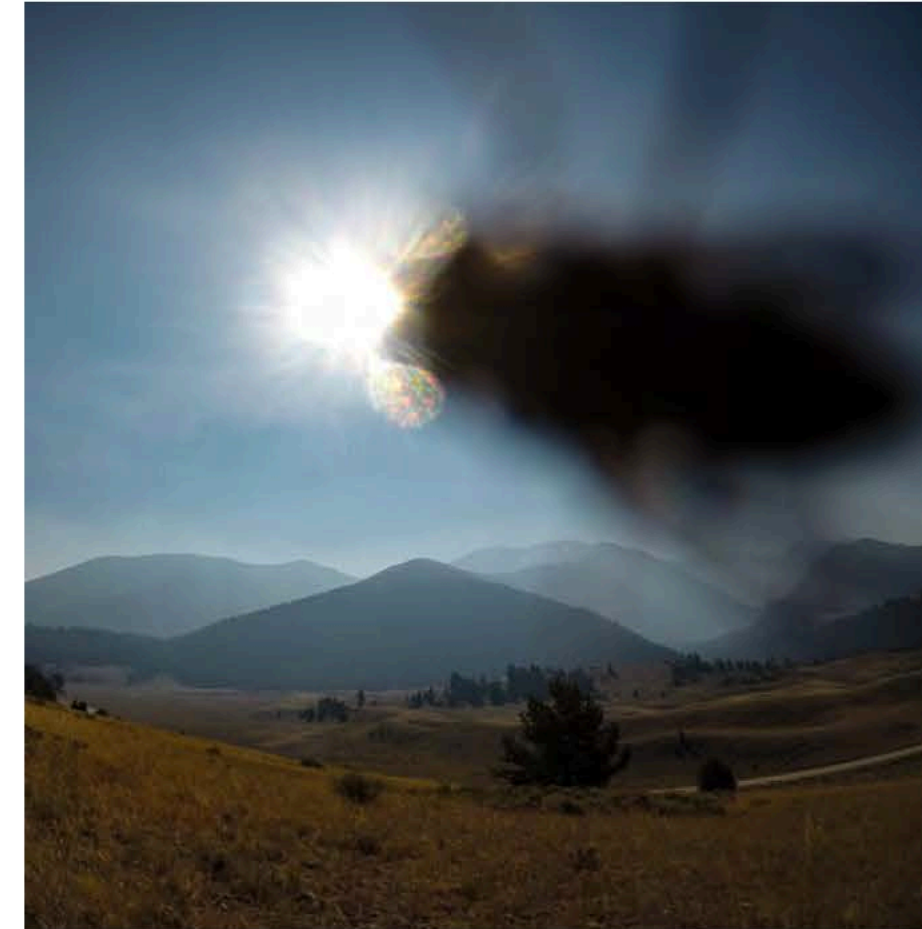
Best images of 2017

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Best images of 2017

PHOTOS BY CINDI CHRISTIE



Welcome to the 11th edition of the annual “Best Images” books. Photos were made using four kinds of cameras ranging from iPhone to Nikon DSLR. On this page, an insect seems to eat into the sun during the total eclipse above the Pahsimeroi Mountains. The grizzly bear sculpture by Robert Deurloo plays with a big orange ball (the sun) as smoke from wildfires hung over Salmon in September. Icy ornaments melted from a pine tree later that month. Here’s to having a camera handy and finding beauty in the year ahead.

Cover: A golden leaf floats along Lawa’i Stream to the Pacific Ocean at Allerton Garden on the island of Kauai.

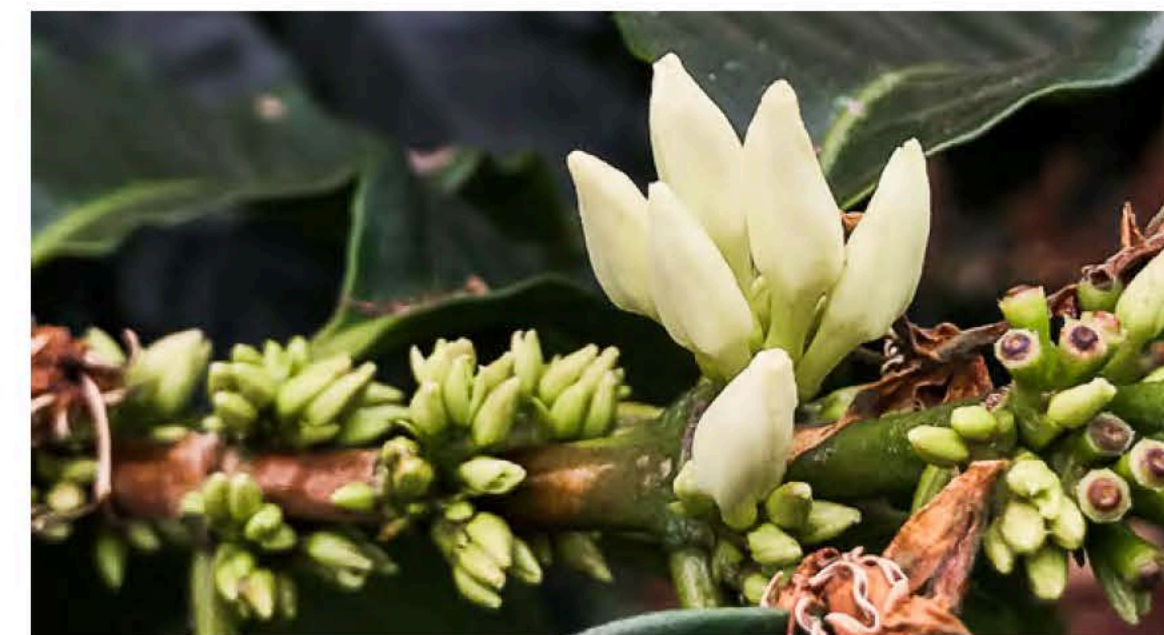


A palm leaf starts to turn yellow and brown at Allerton Garden in Koloa, Kauai. The National Tropical Botanical Garden is divided into outdoor garden “rooms” with different plant collections. A giant palm, right, is backlit during a sunset walking tour. Scientists at the botanical gardens are tasked with studying and conserving native Hawaiian plants.

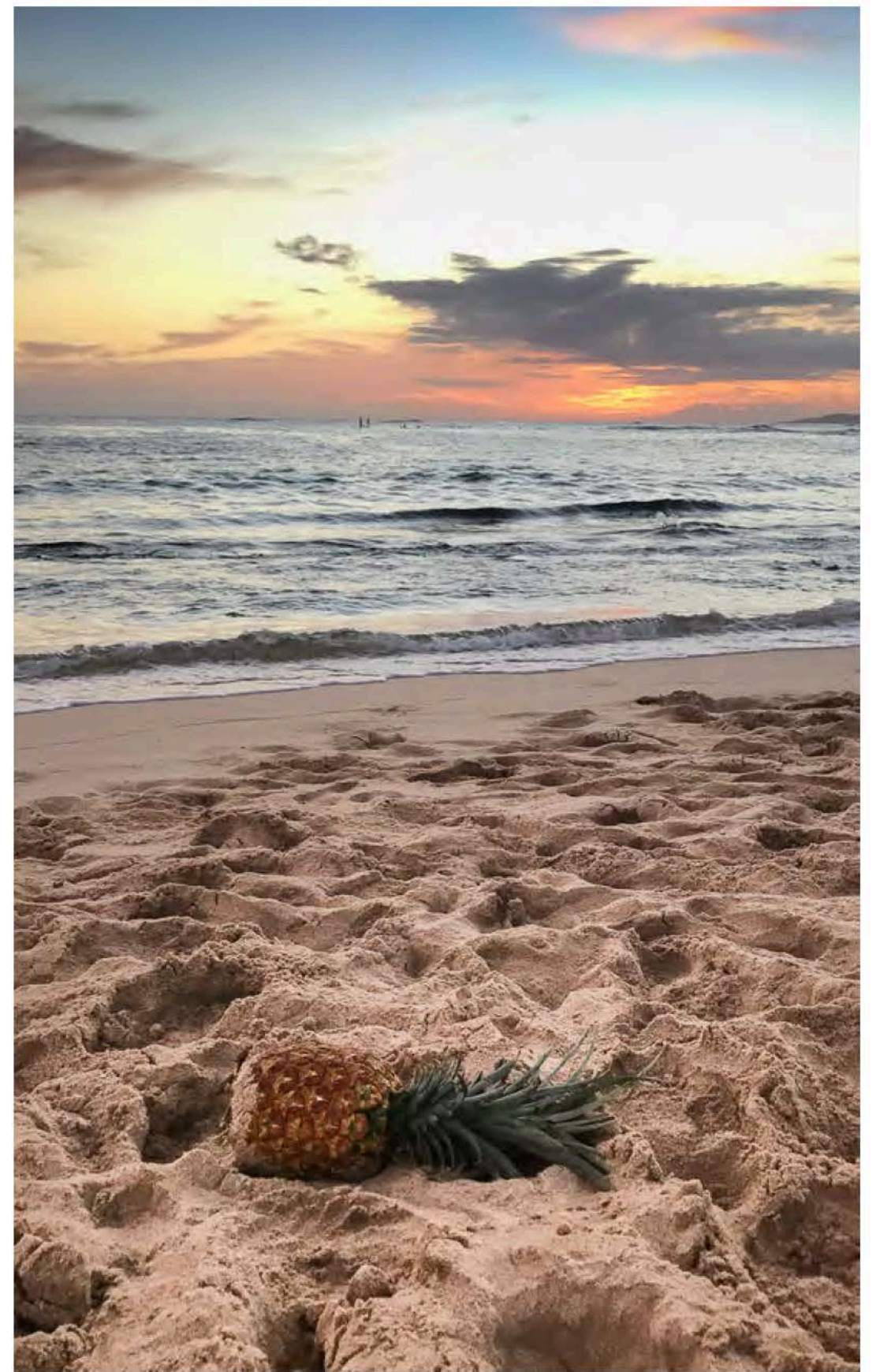




These Moreton Bay figs at the Allerton Garden played a role in the film, "Jurassic Park."



A lei graces a rocky shoreline. A coffee plant bloom and bamboo are seen on a tour of the Kauai Coffee Company.



A pineapple takes in the sunset at Poipu Beach on the island of Kauai. Left, a koi swims among the lilypads at Allerton Garden.



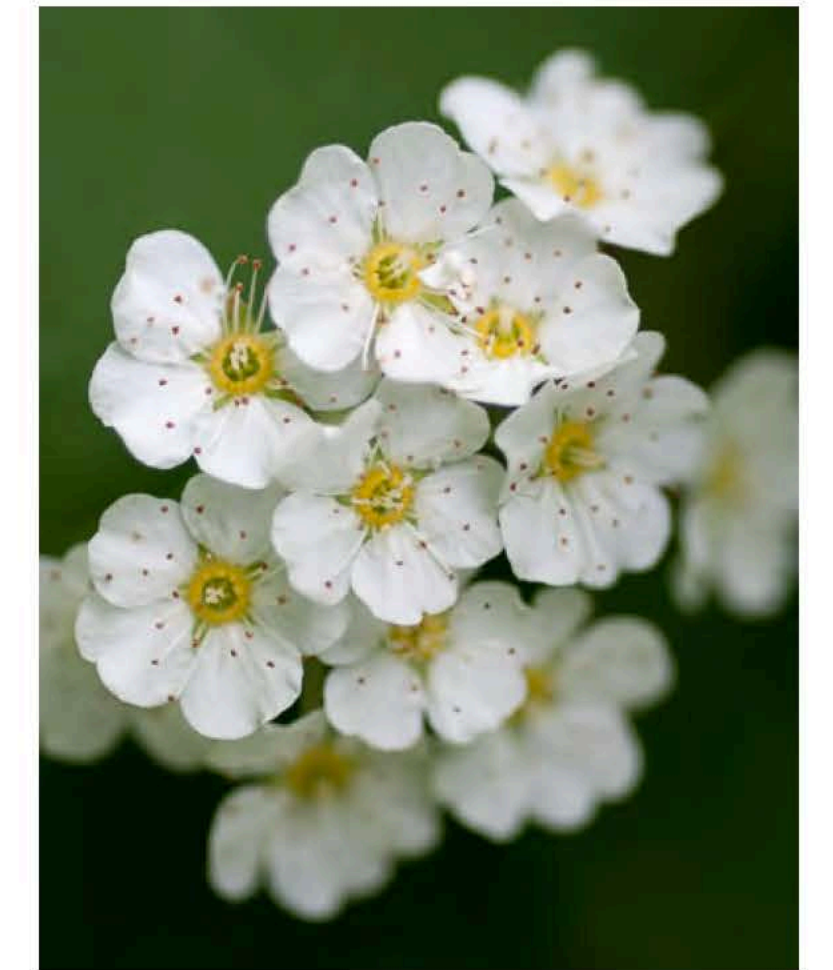
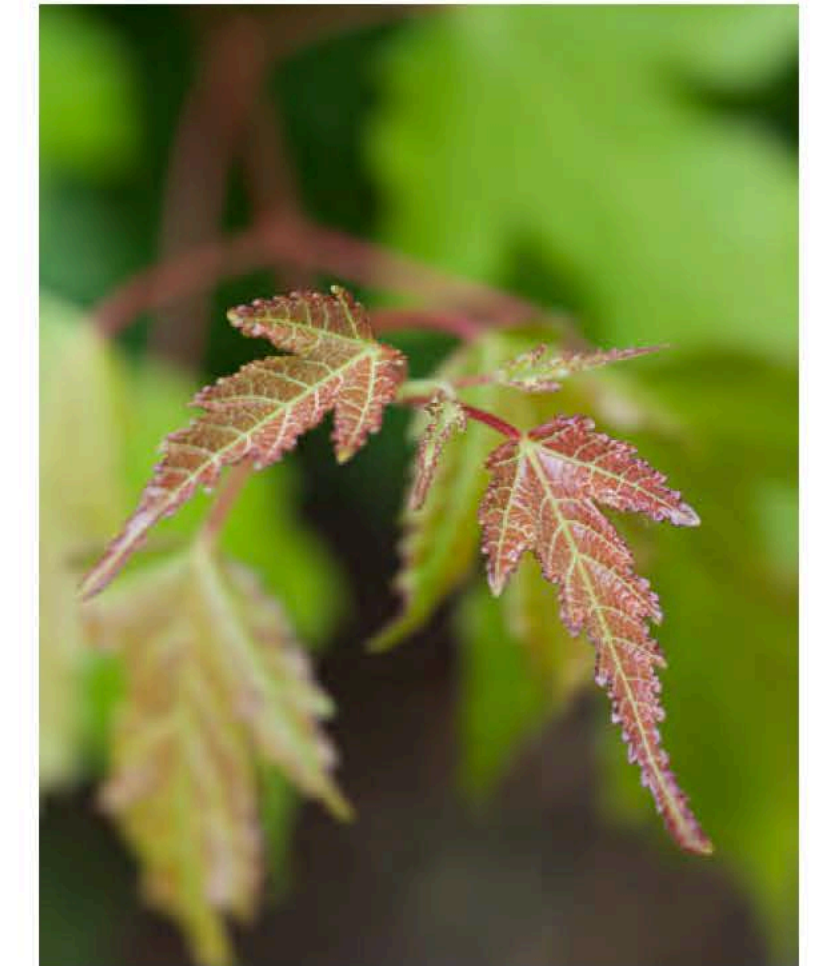
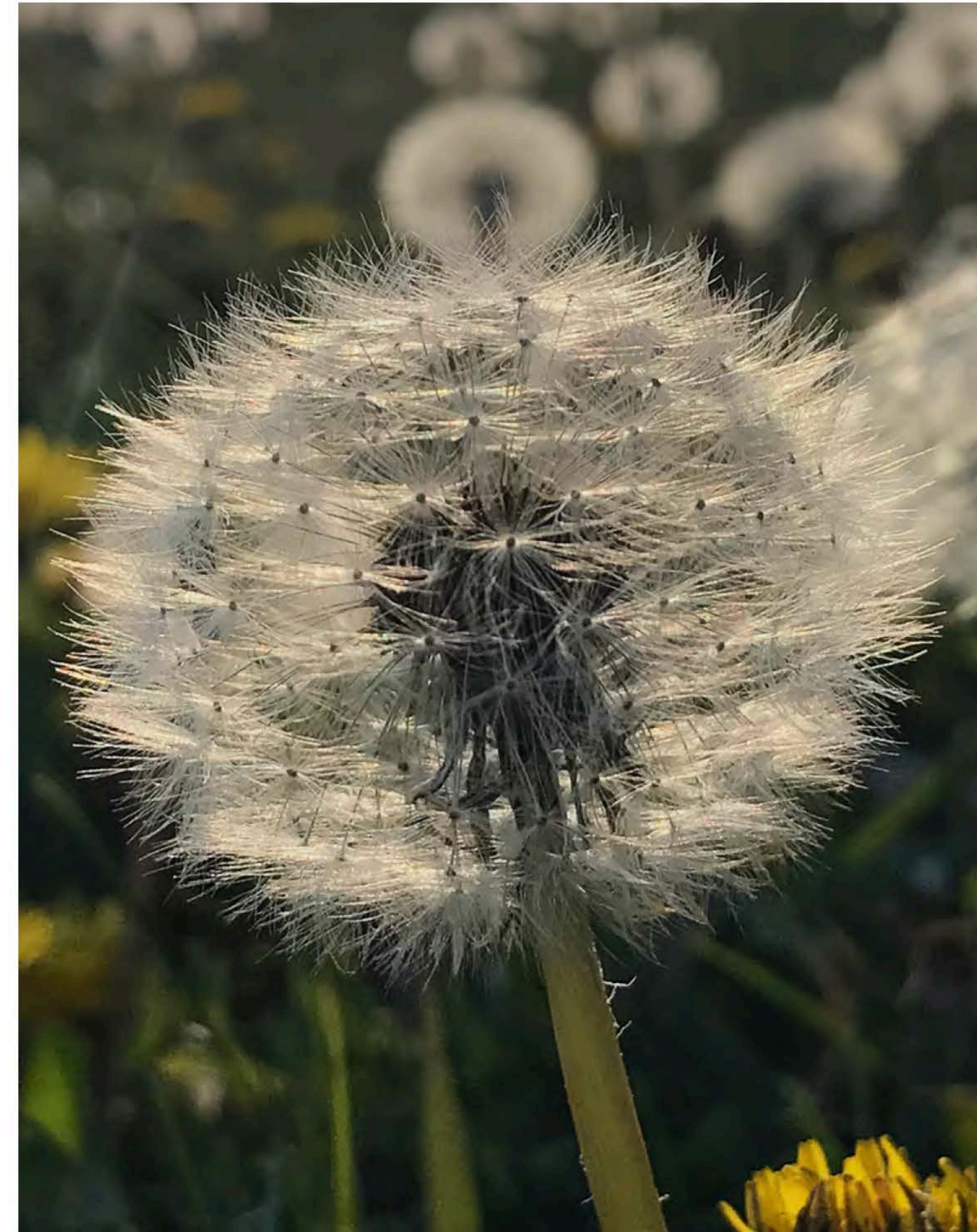
A doe and fawn, with its spots fading, nuzzle in the pasture after snacking on some greenery near the fenceline in Salmon. Above, a newborn fawn follows its mother across the field.

Overleaf: The Sawtooth range is seen beyond Little Redfish Lake in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area near Stanley.

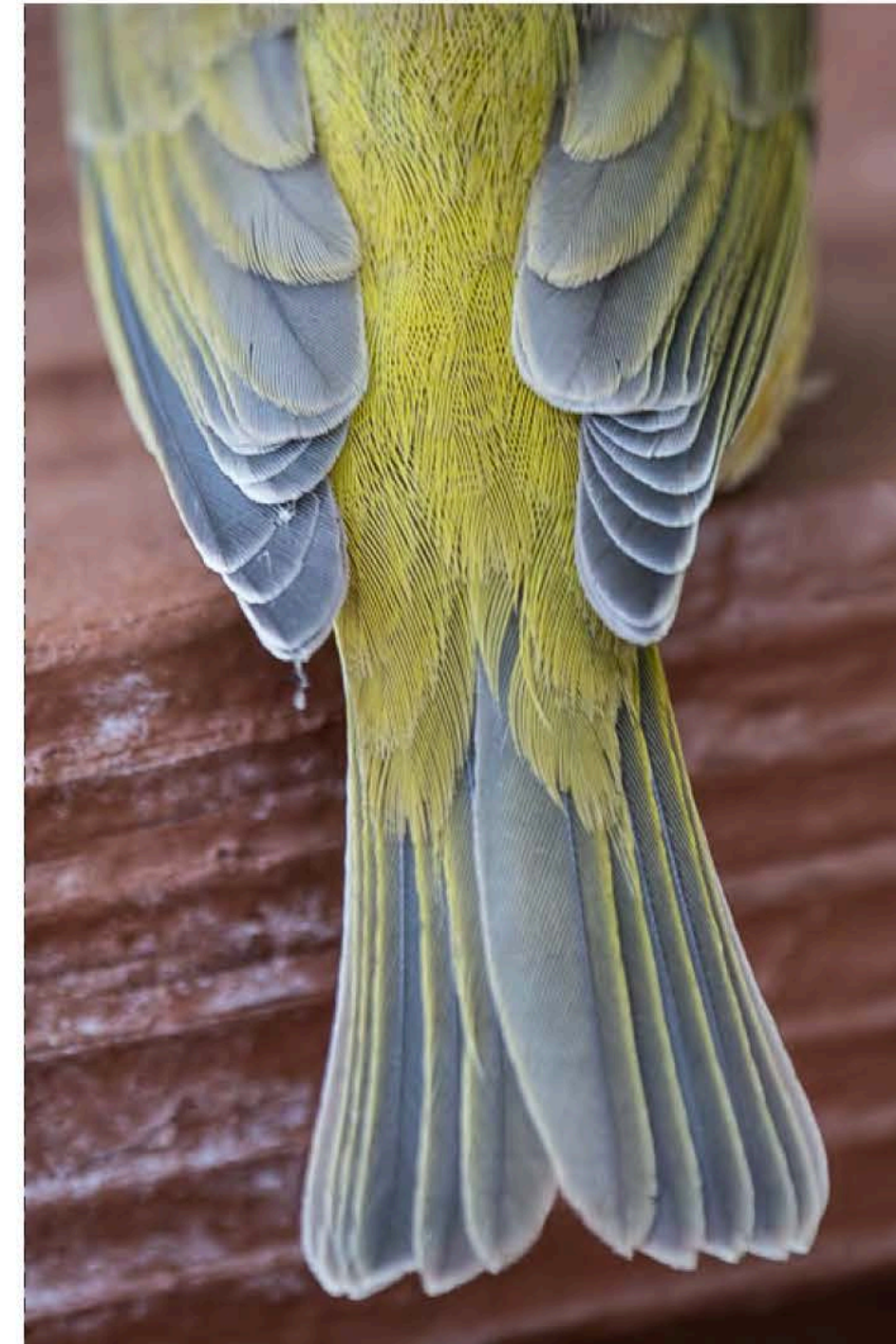
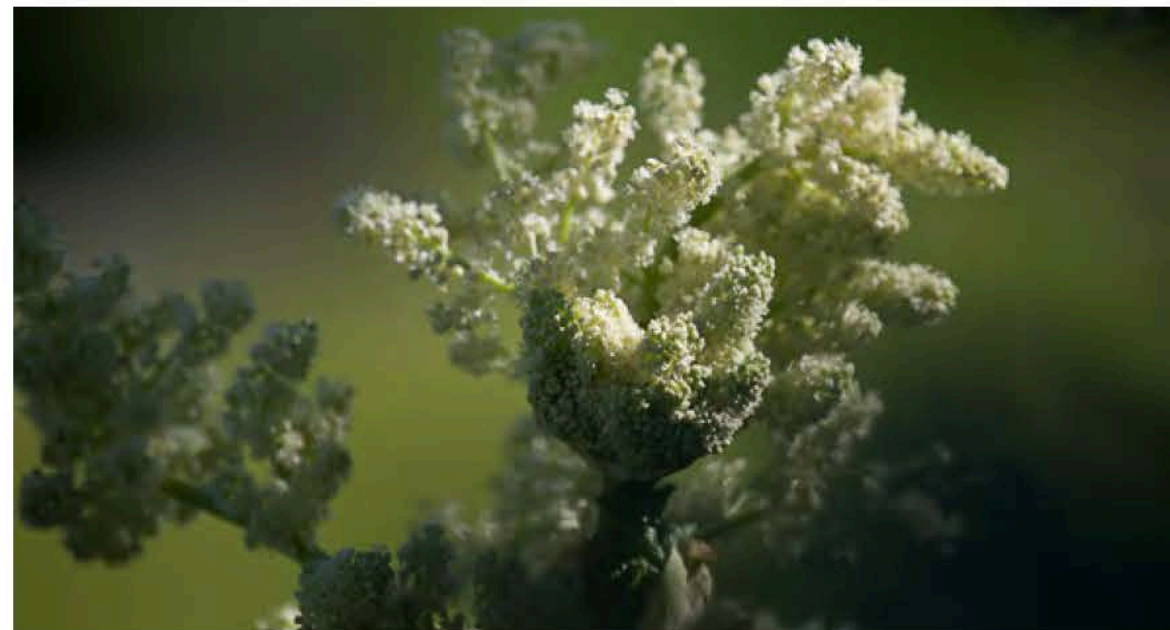




Lilacs go from buds to blooms. Serviceberries ripen in August.



Dandelions glow in the setting sun in May. In June, new acer leaves emerge and Spirea blossoms.



A tiny orange-crowned warbler rests on the deck in August. Members of the Idaho Birding group on Facebook helped identify the bird. Left, rhubarb grows and flowers in the yard. Three plants yielded rhubarb crisp and other treats throughout the spring. We were warned that there are a two times a year here when you lock your doors and roll up the car windows: zucchini season and rhubarb season.



The stub of a tree trunk at Little Redfish Lake near Stanley is peppered with small holes. Back in Salmon, firewood is ready for cold weather. Spiked wood is seen on a corral rail. At right, dramatic clouds cross the Continental Divide.





Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural and Educational Center in Salmon offers walking trails through the park and along the Lemhi River. Upper left, a trailside boulder shows multiple colors and textures. One of several horses, this one with a distinctive backside, grazes in its pen. Clouds float over the frame of a tepee. Interpretive signs tell visitors about Sacajawea and the Agai'dika Shoshone-Bannock people who lived in the area.