

Hello:

I hope this finds you well.

The hardback version of “Stealing Picasso” is # 64 on Amazon’s Hot New Releases in Heist Fiction! Thanks for your support.

Anne did the artwork!

Mark your calendars:

Wednesday, October 19, 7 to 8 pm, I’ll be hosting a free program about “Stealing Picasso” at the St. Matthews Branch Library, 3940 Grandview Ave, Louisville, KY 40207, (502) 574-1771. I’d love to see you there.

Monday, October 24, starting at 7 PM CST, I’ll be at the Hopkins County Genealogy Society, 56 North Main, Madisonville, KY 42431. I’ll be speaking about “[Stealing Renoir](#),” (the first book in my “Stealing Masterpiece Art” series,) and how World War II was the greatest art theft in history.

If you know of anyone who is looking for a speaker, the Kentucky Humanities Speakers Bureau is great about helping to subsidize appearances. I’m also giving talks about “[A Promise Moon](#)” and how it relates to the Underground Railroad in Kentucky, as well as gardening with native plants and “[Let The Earth Breathe](#).” If you or anyone you know would like to schedule a talk, here’s the [link](#).

If you are reading a good book and would like to share it, let me know and I’ll post it on Facebook and mention it in my next newsletter.

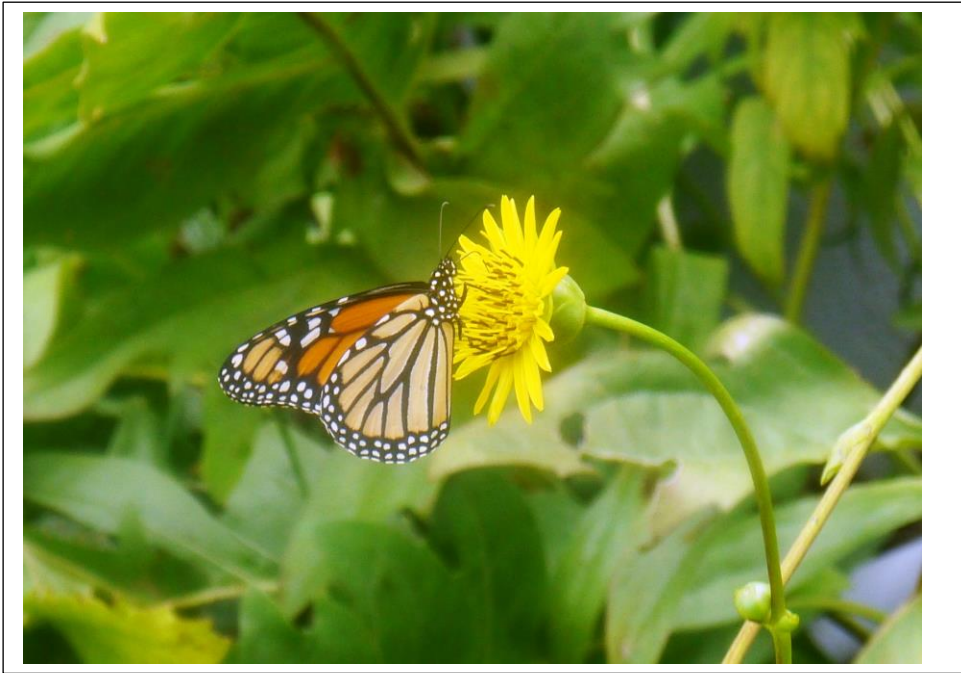
I’m reading, “Vincent van Gogh: A Life in Letters,” edited by Nienke Bakker, Leo Jansen, and Hans Luijten. I’m struck by the number of sketches Van Gogh incorporated into his letters. It’s fascinating to see his masterpieces take shape. Van Gogh produced about 150 watercolors! Look for this clue and plot point to show up in, “Stealing Van Gogh,” coming next year.

Mental Illness or Lead Poisoning? Van Gogh was known to suck on his brushes to shape the points—paints in that era had a sweet aftertaste—because of the lead content. Lead poisoning can cause delusions and hallucinations, progressive character changes and periods of delirium, in addition to ulcers that cause tooth loss and intestinal pain. Porphyria, a group of eight genetic disorders that affect the skin and nervous system, malnutrition, and absinthe abuse are also likely contributors to his mental illness diagnosis.

Meanwhile, I’ve been collecting seeds for our upcoming native plant and seed swaps. I’ll bring some seeds to my book talk on Wednesday in case you can’t make it to the citywide native seeds and plant swap on Saturday, November 26, 2022, 1-4 p at the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Avenue, 40213. Here is the link to the [Facebook page for more information](#).

Pumpkin Lasagna, Sweet Potato Cornbread Muffins, Spicy Fried Green Tomatoes, and Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies will be featured in the cozy mystery that I've started.

Here are a few before and after pictures of the plants and seeds that I'll be bringing to my book talk on Wednesday: Cutleaf Prairie Dock, a hardy survivor (*Silphium pinnatifidum*), Joe Pye Weed, a butterfly magnet (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), Orange Coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), and Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*).



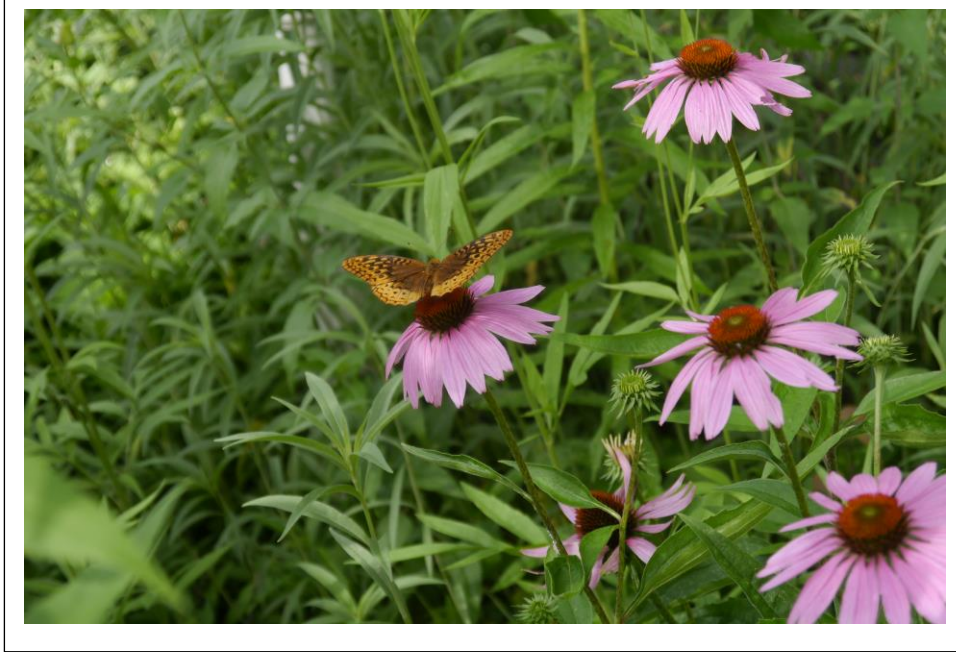
Cutleaf Prairie Dock (*Silphium pinnatifidum*)



Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*),



Orange Coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)



Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)



Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)



Gray-headed Coneflower (2) (*Ratibida pinnata*)

If you can't make it to a presentation in person, here is the link to my recent videos. They are short, 5-6 minutes. [Video link.](#)

Happy reading.

Stephen Allten Brown

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