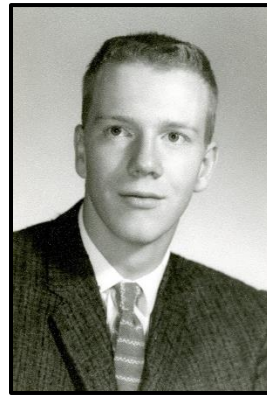
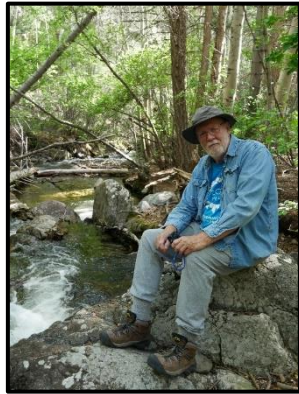


## *David Lee Class of 1961*

### *Ephrata Alumni Association Noted Alumni*



David's parents, John and Mary Lee, moved to Ephrata just after their marriage in 1936. Although he was born in Wenatchee, December 10, 1942, he grew up in, and attended, schools through high school, in Ephrata. He was active in football, basketball and track from Junior high school and on. In summers, early he attended Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp, and later hiked the high Cascades with high school friends-- that inspired his college study of biology.

He attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, graduating with a B.S. in Biology in 1966. A year of travel in the South Pacific helped him narrow his focus to plants, and the study of botany.

He attended graduate school (M.S. 1968 and Ph.D. in 1970) in botany at Rutgers University in New Jersey, under the mentorship of Prof. David Fairbrothers.

He received a Post-Doctoral fellowship at The Ohio State University 1970-72, working in the new field of plant biotechnology. He met his wife, Carol, in Columbus.

They moved to Malaysia 1973-76 where David worked as a Lecturer at the University of Malaya. His experience in Asian tropical rainforests set his research focus for the rest of his career, studying the functional ecology of rainforest plants.

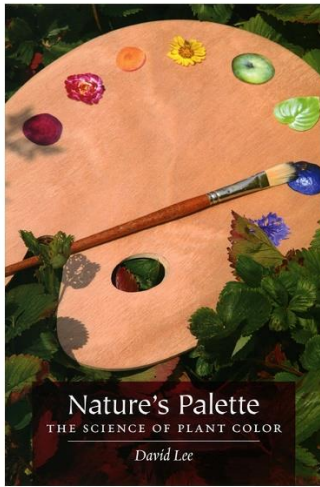
In 1976-77, they travelled back to the United States, and then to France where he worked as a Visiting Professor of the Laboratory of Tropical Botany in the Université Montpellier II.

After returning to the U.S. and living in upstate New York, he accepted a position at the newly-opened Florida International University, a unit of the State University system of Florida. He worked there for thirty years, promoted from Assistant, to Associate, and then to Full Professor, and working for a time as the Chairs of the Departments of Biological Sciences and Environmental Studies. During his time at FIU, the enrollments grew from ten to fifty thousand students, and numerous new programs were established. He was part of a strong research program in tropical biology. At FIU he received faculty awards in Service (1993), Research (1995), and Teaching (1993, 2000). He also received the Alumni Association's Golden Torch Award (outstanding faculty for the year 2007).

During a research career that spanned more than four decades, David developed a global reputation for his studies in tropical botany. He conducted research in Asia (West Malaysia, Sarawak, Sabah, Indonesia, Thailand, India and China), the neotropics (Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, French Guyana) and Africa (Gabon) He is particularly known for his work on structural colors in plants and the function of autumn

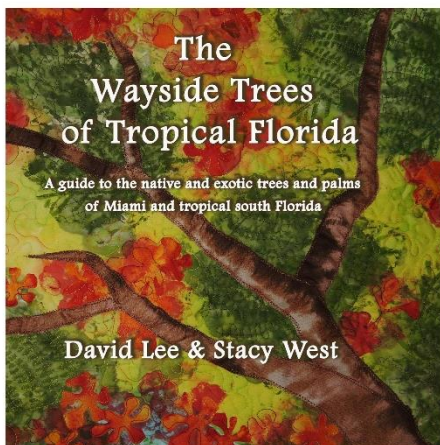
leaf color. He has published 93 peer-reviewed articles, 10 books, and 37 general articles. *Nature's Palette. The Science of Plant Color* (Chicago, 2007) won the Best Scholarly Book in the Biological Sciences for 2007, American Association of Publishers; and *Nature's Fabric. Leaves in Science and Culture* (Chicago, 2017) was selected by *Choice* (ALA) as one of 5 best plant science books for 2018. He Received an Indo-American Fellowship to conduct research in India, 1984-85, and a Charles Bullard Fellowship to study at Harvard University in 1998 and 2004. In 2019, his professional Society, The Botanical Society of America, awarded David its most distinguished award, The Distinguished Fellow, for his outstanding contributions to the Botanical Sciences.

## Books by David Lee in the Past Twelve Years



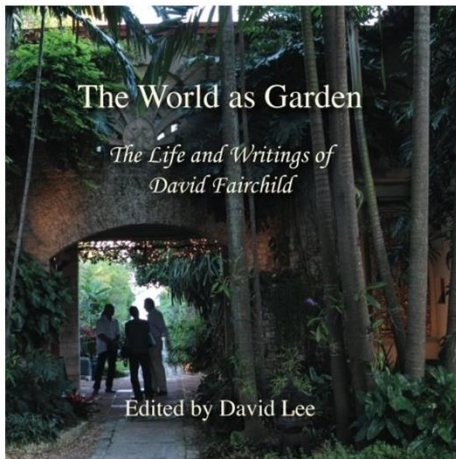
David Lee  
*Nature's Palette. The Science of Plant Color*  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007  
(Paperback revision in 2010)  
409 p.

There was, and still is, no book like *Nature's Palette*. Useful to scientists and acclaimed by the educated public. Winner of the Best of Biology and Life Sciences Award from the Association of American Publishers in 2007. Oliver Sacks wrote: "*Nature's Palette* is a spacious book, full of wonder and wonders, in which the scientific and the personal, the poetic and the historical come together in the most delightful way—it is a pure pleasure to read." The book is illustrated with 568 figures, mostly in color, and mostly by the author. It provided an opportunity to share his research in leaf optics and color.



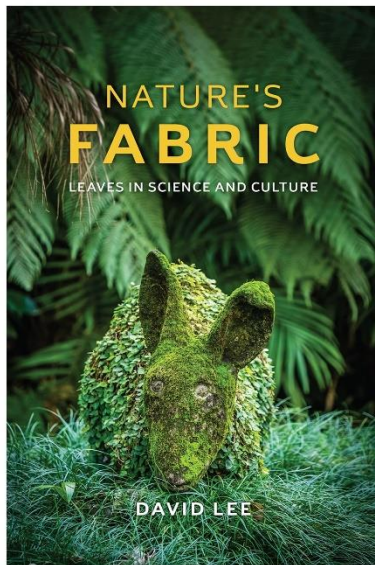
David Lee and Stacy West  
*Wayside Trees of Tropical Florida. A Guide to the Native and Exotic Trees and Palms of Miami and Tropical South Florida*  
Greensboro, NC: Tellus Books (corrected and republished by Createspace in 2017)  
263 p.

*Wayside Trees* is a work of gratitude by a writer and artist/designer for the time they spent in Miami, over thirty years. It describes over 500 species with introductory text and some 1200 photographs; it remains the best introduction to the rich tree flora of South Florida.



David Lee, ed.  
*The World as Garden. The Life and Writings of David Fairchild*  
North Charleston, NC: Createspace, 2013  
(corrected and reprinted in 2017)  
335 p.

David Fairchild was an important figure in the history of Miami, and perhaps, as the founder of the Plant Introduction Service, the most influential American plant scientist in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Using carefully selected text and insightful bridging essays, the book tells the story of Fairchild's life in his own words. It is illustrated with 100 black and white photos, many taken by Fairchild, and some never before published. The book was prepared after the editor served as the Director of the Kampong of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, Fairchild's former home.



David Lee  
*Nature's Fabric. Leaves in Science and Culture*  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017  
456 p.

Encouraged by the success of *Nature's Palette*, Lee wrote a parallel book about leaves, mixing science with history and philosophy. Inspired by his own research on leaves (functional ecology, plasticity, optics, color) he wrote another book about science for a more general public, and also of use to his fellow scientists. It is illustrated by more than 600 figures, again mostly in color and mostly by the author. As Nigel Chaffey wrote in *Botany One* (the Annals of Botany Blog): "David Lee has the knack of explaining botanical phenomenon to those who aren't necessarily that familiar with them, and making them comprehensible. As an interpreter of botanical phenomena for the non-specialist, Lee can be considered the People's Botanist."



Cover not yet designed

Peter Ashton & David Lee  
*Exploring Tapovan. The Natural History  
of Tropical Asian Forests*  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press,  
2019 (in press)  
~ 400 p.

Lee and Ashton first became acquainted in 1973, when Lee was working at the University of Malaya. When visiting Harvard, where Peter was a professor, Lee became aware of a huge monograph he was writing *On The Forests of Tropical Asia* (Kew, 2014). Huge in size, and hugely expensive, Lee suggested they undertake a condensation, and also an update and selective expansion of certain topics. The result is the above book. This is also a way for Lee to write with gratitude for his time in those forests, where most of his research ideas were sparked, and later pursued when he worked in France and then at Florida International University. He thinks that this may be the most successful book of the five written at the end of his university work and first ten years of retirement.

