




30 FUN
YARD AND GARDEN
FACTS

If you place a horseshoe around an oak tree’s side branch that’s 4 feet above ground level, and the oak grows at the rate of 1 foot per year, how high off the ground will the horseshoe be in 30 years?

If you answered 34 feet, you were deceived by an old tree question trick. The horseshoe will still be about 4 feet above ground, because trees grow in height from the tip of the central leader upward, not from the tree’s base. A side branch that’s 4 feet above ground will remain at that level — unless, of course, you prune it off.

Here are 30 more fascinating yard and garden facts.

1. One teaspoon of soil has more microorganisms than there are people on Earth.
2. Vanilla beans come from a variety of orchid.
3. Many common fruits are in the botanical rose family, including apples, pears, cherries, strawberries and raspberries.
4. Tomato fruits were considered poisonous by Europeans until the 1880s and



DON KINZLER
Growing Together

didn’t become popular until the pizza was invented in Naples, Italy.

5. Research shows plants respond to sound, being affected by the wavelength vibrations from music or voices.
6. The fastest-growing woody plant in the world is bamboo, which can grow 3 feet per day.
7. Tulip bulbs had a higher value than gold in Holland in the 1600s.
8. Most fruits have their seeds on the inside. Strawberries, however, have their seeds on the outside.
9. Daylilies aren’t true lilies because they grow from fleshy roots instead of bulbs.
10. There are more than 80,000 species of edible plants on the Earth, but 90% of the food humans eat comes



Tulip bulbs were worth more than gold in Holland in the 1600s. **Top:** Tomatoes were considered poisonous by Europeans until the 1880s.

11. The word pineapple was coined by Europeans who thought the fruit looked like a pine cone on the outside and an apple on the inside.
12. A cluster of bananas is called a hand.
13. Oak trees are struck by lightning more than any other tree type.
14. Cranberries float because of a small air pocket inside.
15. Apples float because they’re composed of 25% air.
16. The first type of aspirin, painkiller and fever reducer came from the bark of a willow tree.
17. The Amazon rain forest produces half the world’s oxygen supply.

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Reflections on being a grandmother

They arrived in a bunch. Seven new little beings in seven years. The first four are boys. The last three are girls. I love all of their names; Liam, Angus, Frankie, Winston, Millie, Risi and Landry. Each one of them seems to suit their name.

My husband and I are parents to five adult children. In one way, a lot of little kids at one time seems normal, and yet, the differences are numerous.



MARY MCGRATH

For starters, I am 40 years older than when our own five were all under 10 years old. The once-removed position of being a grandmother lowers my sense of responsibility and invites me to see them more tenderly. I listen to them with greater patience and presence.

It is hard and sad to admit that when my own children were growing up, my patience was often thin and my presence preoccupied with grocery shopping, meal preparation, transportation, dishes, laundry and schedules.

I was in my early 20s when our first child was born. I was in my early 30s when our fifth child was born.

Erik Erikson, German-American psychologist (1902-1994), writes that the task of mid-life (35-55 years old) is to resolve the unresolved issues of the first half of life. Believing that to be true, all of my children were born and mostly raised before I understood and processed the impact of my own childhood years.

It makes me wonder why we have the energy to bear and raise children in our younger years, but don’t generally acquire the wisdom and understanding until later in life. Puzzling.

Each of these little grandchildren are their very own version of a human being. It brings to mind the nature of nature. They seem to arrive with intact traits — their interests, their ways of interacting, their abilities, their introversion and extroversion tendencies.

Nurture, I imagine, has its own way of interacting with nature. Already, there are signs of athletes, scientists, musicians, theologians, chefs and mountain climbers.

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Popular Finnish singer celebrates ‘Oulu, Wisconsin’ in new song

By Maria Lockwood
Superior Telegram

A musician who has been called the “Bruce Springsteen of Finland” released a new single this month. The name of the song by Finnish singer-songwriter J. Karjalainen may sound familiar to readers: “Oulu, Wisconsin.”

The lyrics make it clear that this is no long-distance homage. It appears Karjalainen has traveled through the Bayfield County town, population 560.

The song makes references to U.S. Highway 2, the big white Oulu rock and a glass shop where the singer stopped for a cup of coffee.

“He must have



Contributed / Duane Lahti

The Aho House, an original pioneer home built on a Maple farm by John and Johanna Aho in the early 1890s is the most recent building to be donated to the Oulu Cultural & Heritage Center. Volunteers began renovation work on the home in the summer of 2018.

stopped at Oulu Glass Shop,” said Duane Lahti, board president of the nonprofit Oulu Cultural & Heritage Center.

The familiar birch

and ash trees, the hay barns, the Finnish flags scattered through the community all struck a chord with Karjalainen.

“Oulu, I’m thinking this

place could be in Finland,” the lyrics say.

Karjalainen started his recording career in 1981 in rock music and his popularity spans decades. Various websites compare his music to Van Morrison and Bob Dylan, as well as Springsteen.

Mirva Johnson, a graduate student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison who is pursuing her doctorate at the University of Turku in Finland, said articles about the new song have appeared in smaller Finnish newspapers, including Rumba.

“J. Karjalainen had previously released music related to Finnish America and this song is

based on some of his travels in the area. I’ve heard pretty positive opinions on the song, though also questions about the title because few have heard of Oulu, Wisconsin,” said Johnson, who is well-acquainted with the Bayfield County town.

Johnson volunteered to teach Finnish for several years during summer school sessions at the Oulu Cultural & Heritage Center. She also produced an award-winning film on the center as part of her master’s thesis in Scandinavian studies.

Joe Autio posted a link to the Karjalainen song on the Friends of Old-Brule Heritage Society’s Facebook page Jan. 8.

“I have met J. Karjalainen one time, maybe

2007, during my time at the University of Minnesota at an event at Andersen Library,” Autio said of a screening for a series of short films about Finnish Americana.

He said Karjalainen has done extensive traveling and performing in this part of the world, visiting many of the old Finnish communities between Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to meet elderly Finnish American musicians.

Lahti said he just learned about the song a week ago when Johnson forwarded it to him.

“We didn’t know we were getting literally on the roadmap again here,” he said.

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