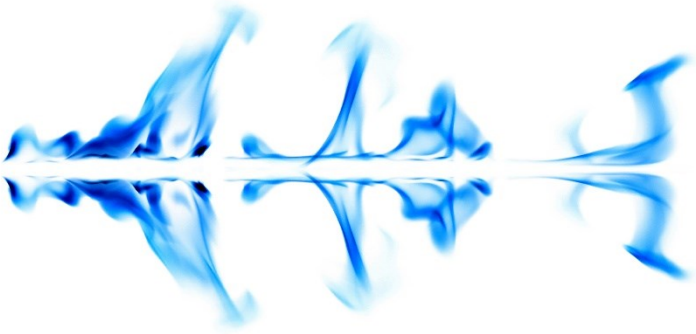


Resonance | Rob Scott

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Rob Scott

The following are the first few pages of “Resonance” by Rob
Scott

Sound

Sound as a tool has the ability to break gravitational bonds and to levitate objects, it can float heavy things like ten-ton chunks of solid coral with the use of simple tools, allowing 2.2 million pounds of coral to be transported by one man in the cover of night, alone, over ten miles of distance.

Did you know that sound can be more destructive than the highest-grade military explosive, spreading more damage over a wider range than the detonation of Nitroglycerin, RDX, HMX, or even PETN? The desecration these military-grade explosives make are nothing compared to just sound and what sound can do to structures.

Have you ever been to Miami? Have you seen all the high-rise buildings all within a four-mile radius? Do you know how many people reside in those buildings? Ever wonder how they can afford to live in them? It costs \$2,500 per month to rent a one-bedroom apartment. Meanwhile, thirty percent of working Miami residents are living below poverty-level, the stark racial dimensions cause many Black and Hispanic residents to feel unfairly oppressed and denied opportunities to live as others do. Hence the uprisings, riots and large angry gatherings forcing the Miami Police to employ something they affectionately call “Bertha” to disperse crowds.

Sound, just sound, can now disperse crowds. It is a great tool, right, a technological advancement, sounds good, right? Hold that thought, we will come back to that a little later.

The Two Seasons of East Texas

Welcome to East Texas. Now, you have probably heard about The Four Seasons, a luxury hotel chain owned by Bill Gates, that weirdo from Seattle who makes the computer software that has to be “updated” every week. It’s a swanky, hoity-toity hotel, costs a lot and makes you feel important for a little while. There’s one in just about every major city across America and around the world. Well, they ain’t got one of them fancy pants hotels in East Texas.

So, there are just two seasons in East Texas, Hot, which happens for nine months; and Cold, which lasts for just three months. When it is hot, everything grows tall fast. A typical pasture will have weeds and they tend to grow taller and faster than the grass. If they are not mowed down every few weeks, the weeds will quickly over-run the pasture, depleting the nutrition of it, causing livestock to lose weight and not produce the dairy and marbled cutlets one was hoping for.

There’s a good guy, a friend of mine, name’s George, he mows pastures out this way. He ain’t the cheapest, but not the most expensive neither. He is honest, consistent, dependable, speaks English and gets the job done right the first time. When he’s not running tractor, he’s a great Dad and spends his time off with his kids.

From March through October, George stays extremely busy mowing pastures. To keep fifty customers happy, and to mow 1,500 acres in nine months, George must maintain a pace of five acres every single day, Monday through Sunday. What George does not know and cannot control for is when rain will occur. The only time George can afford to take a break is when it rains.

Now, in a normal year, rain occurs for just 90 days in Segno, mostly during the Cold Season; November through February. This is George's typical down time. This is when he tries to spend as much time as he can with his children. It is a new routine for George. He used to work at a desk job making sure trucks and loads of freight were matched from place to place. He had done that job his entire working career of thirty years. George was married twice; once to Helga, the mother of his two children. He was married to her for nine years. When he divorced, he took a couple of years to himself, and that is when he found Myndie. It rained during their wedding and upon her recent passing, George decided to make the move from the Kingwood suburb out to his Segno country property in East Texas and to take up pasture mowing as his new profession.

Now, pasture mowing pays about fifty bucks an acre, but smaller tracts of land garner a little more, George charges sixty and still he cannot keep up with the demand for his services. So, when it rains, George gets a little break from his busy schedule.

After Myndie died, George needed to search for inner peace, the last thing he wanted was another wife. He still needed to make a living, but he wanted to be able to ponder what next to do. He remembered how it felt to mow lawns, back when he was a kid and his dad was out of work and needed to make a living. George helped his dad mow lawns on the weekends to help make ends meet. When on a riding mower, and you have a large yard to mow, the hum of the engine tends to drown out the rest of the world, and for a moment, it is just you and your thoughts. George loved to think and he yearned for the distractions of life to allow him those brief opportunities to do so. To George, thinking was the ultimate high, to just set his mind free to contemplate and to solve issues at hand.

For George, he finds it very difficult to be engaged with another person for hours on end, talking, responding to banter and having to prove he is listening. Every now and then, he checks out and has a thought or two, which leads ultimately to the resting of his eyes and eventually to snoring. But when the engine of the mower drowns out the world and sets the stage for him to prospect at life again, George feels at home, at peace and in control of his destiny.

Wet Grass

Mowing wet grass causes many different kinds of problems. It dulls the blades that cut the grass and causes the grass to cut unevenly, sometimes causing grass to be up-rooted. It makes the cut grass clump and not exit the blade area, causing the blades to bog down and potentially to freeze up with excess grass accumulation. When that happens, you must clear the mowing deck of the clumped grass caked within it. That means lifting the mowing deck and running your hand around the blades within the walls of the deck and scooping out the thick tufts of wet grass. It is not good to mow grass with morning dew upon it. It is always best to wait until the grass is completely dry before attempting to mow it.

When it rains in East Texas, it is generally measured in inches. Rain tends to accumulate into puddles and these are very bad to drag a mower through because it damages the blades. The tips of the blade will bend into the water causing the permanent destruction of the cutting blade as it will now spin wobbly and can potentially ruin the cutting deck and destroy the mower itself.

Mowing pastures are somewhat stressful on the grass. Cutting it makes the grass vulnerable and susceptible to disease and fungus. If you were to mow grass while it is raining, it will most likely cause disease to infiltrate the

pasture, causing more harm than good. Not to mention the mud tracks the tractor tires will create across the pasture.

George usually pulls up to the job site at 07:30 AM and takes thirty minutes to unload the tractor from the trailer and to make it ready to begin mowing after the dew has dried. Sometimes the dew has cleared by 08:00 AM if it is a sunny day. Other days, when the dew takes longer to dry, George spends the hour or two manually sharpening the blades with a file and performing lube and grease maintenance on the tractor and implements.

Grass grows fast. Bahiagrass grows the fastest however, is not a high enough protein sufficient for cattle to feed upon. In East Texas, with its sandy soil, cattle prefer a tall, thick pasture and the best is a mixture of Sideoats Grama and Yellow Indiangrass. Interesting fact is that Indiangrass can be milled into flour and is naturally gluten free and makes decent breads and other baked goods. When cut at four inches height, the remaining 36 to 48 inches of Indiangrass bale well. But most pastures in the area just have Bermudagrass which grows two inches a week and is tallest in sixty days. It does not bale well and shrivels to dust in hot climates shortly after being cut.

Cows grow faster than grass. A cow gains about 2.5 pounds a day just by eating grass from a pasture. In just two

years a cow is fully grown and will net 500 pounds of trimmed, boneless beef. The value of such a cow is \$3,000.00. In Polk County, Texas there are 11,300 head of cattle worth \$35 million.

At two years of age, a female cow is old enough to breed. If she becomes pregnant, she will begin to produce milk and for nine months preceding the birth and thereafter. One milking cow will generate three gallons of milk every day. One cow is the equivalent of five goats which will produce 3.75 gallons of milk every day. One acre of pasture can support one Animal Unit Equivalent.

Value is in the eye of the beholder. What someone chooses to do with their resources is usually a matter of personal whim. When 50% of all acreage in America is used to produce hay or for forage use, one may say that is ridiculous “why not plant vegetables, don’t they pay better than hay?”. All vegetable sales in America total \$30 billion in a year. But all meat sold in America is \$76 billion in a year. If half of farms make vegetables and the other half is used to make meat, then who has the best business plan? It is a rhetorical question really, like a chicken or egg question.

If you have fifteen acres or five acres, or 150 acres you have choices and can grow whatever you want within reason and under certain laws which may prevent you from growing

what you really want to grow. Why choose goats over cows? Why choose blueberries over fresh herbs? If you want to grow the most valuable item, in mass quantity, might that drown the market for it?

Sometimes things will only grow under certain conditions, like Black Pepper only grows under sub-Tropical, wet and humid conditions and most herbs only grow in well-drained sandy loam soil.

In East Texas, pastures grow really well and things that graze upon them grow big and fast, like goats. In order to make goat milk, goats have to become pregnant, and they eventually produce their offspring, which will become too many goats for the foraging area, and they then must be culled. A goat is fully grown in three years. But the best time to slaughter a goat is between six and twelve months old for the freshest and most tender meat. A goat needs to eat about four pounds of pasture to gain a quarter pound of weight daily. An acre of pasture has about 10,000 pounds of forage. Ten goats will clear the acre of forage in 30 days. A good goat Shepard will rotate the goats from pasture to pasture allowing time for the previous pasture to recover and to re-grow.

I hope you did enjoy reading the first few pages of “Resonance” by Rob Scott. Please note all books can be located for sampling and purchase at:

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