

Bedford resident finds beauty in science, spirituality

By Hannah Onoroski
Bedford Journal staff

Paul Carr's vocation was laboratory research, but it was his love of the natural world that fueled his desire to write a book.

Carr, of Bedford, who worked for 33 years at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Bedford, Mass., will be at the Toadstool Bookshop in Milford, Nov. 14, signing copies of his book, "Beauty in Science and Spirit."

His work at the AF Lab led to new technology that is now used in radar, television and cell phones, and his book is a bit derivative of that — it looks at the correlation between art, science, math and nature.

An example of this correlation is depicted on the cover. The photograph, taken by the author, shows a swallowtail butterfly perched on a purple flower. Over the butterfly's wingspan is a triangle, reaching from wingtip to wingtip and to the bottom of the butterfly's body.

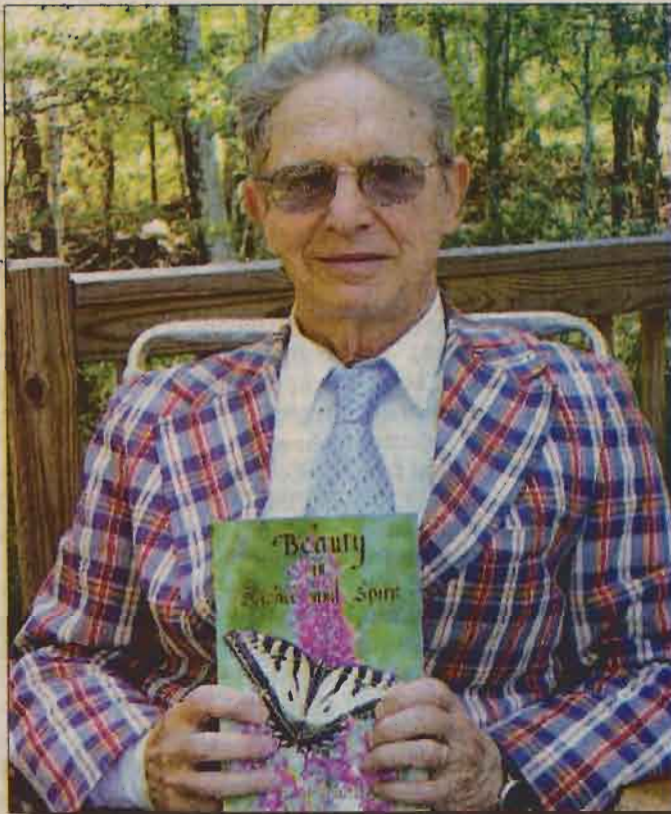
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Carr explained that the proportion of the larger side to the smaller sides of the triangle is 1.6. The so-called "divine proportion," found in many naturally occurring patterns, is 1.618. This is just one example, Carr said, of math reflected in nature.

Carr cares deeply for the beauty of the natural world, and looks to preserve that beauty. He said science, which has for so long been a tool for progress and advancement, is now plotting a slightly different course.

"Science was how we knew there was a problem in the first place," Carr said, speaking of the rise in greenhouse gases, pollution emissions and use of fossil fuels. "Science, though no doubt important and useful in our lives, is also the tool through which we are putting our planet in danger. We need to balance an appreciation for our home planet with a respect for science and what it can do."

Carr's book signing at Toadstool will be at 7 p.m. For more about his work and book, visit his website at www.MirrorOfNature.org, which includes a number of striking nature photographs, many taken by Carr.



Photos by Hannah Onoroski

Author Paul H. Carr poses with his book, 'Beauty in Science and Spirit,' at his Bedford home. Carr will be at the Toadstool Bookshop in Milford next month signing copies.