

NATURE

BOOK GUIDE



VOL. 1 ISSUE 4
SUMMER 2023
WWW.NATUREBOOKGUIDE.COM

READING FOR FUN

Fiction, memoir, adventure, mysteries, classics, non-fiction
New and backlist titles

READING FOR INSIGHT

Recommended by naturalists and scientists with local, national, and international perspectives

READING FOR CHANGE

Books to illuminate, inform, challenge, and inspire care for our natural resources

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Welcome to Nature Book Guide

Readers, welcome! I'm so happy you're here. I hope this issue of *Nature Book Guide* will inspire you to spread a blanket under a shady tree to enjoy a perfect summer read, or two, or three! Not every book will appeal to every reader, of course, but we have to say this issue is jam-packed full of some of our favorites. We've--members of our Book Recommendation Panel of scientists and naturalists and I--had a blast bringing these books to you over the course of four seasons--fiction, inspiring memoirs and adventure stories, well-researched nonfiction, and thoughtful approaches to advocacy for our present and future. Here are some of our highlights for summer:

Bike, Walk, Train, Paddleboard

How do we get to the natural places and wildlife that need our care? Sophie Pavelle's *Forget Me Not* is an important contribution to nature writing--by focusing on getting to our wild places by low carbon travel, she shows it is possible to access nature in a new, healthier, and more satisfying way. Book Recommendation Panelist Kristin Memmott joined me for our interview with Sophie; you'll find it on page 18.

Three Bird Girls

Merely by chance--and we love the serendipity of it--three books we selected were written by or about "Bird Girl." Velma Wallis tells the Athabaskan Indian legend of *Bird Girl*, which we included in our Alaska feature (page 11). The subject of a groundbreaking novel *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea* (page 7) was called "Bird Girl" in several previous efforts to tell her life's story. And Dr. Mya-Rose Craig writes her life story as birder and activist in *Birdgirl: Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future* (page 19).

African Voices

We are enormously pleased to bring two voices from Uganda in our feature on Vanessa Nakate's *A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis*. Joining our recommendation of this impressive work is an interview with the equally impressive teenage indigenous Batwa woman, Joyce Orishaba (starting on page 20).

I can't wait to hear from you all about your summer reading. If you find something you love in Nature Book Guide, will you help spread the word by posting on your social media channels, or by dropping me a line? Our Guide will always be free to download from our website (www.naturebookguide.com) along with extra features, bookmarks, and posters. I'd value your thoughts as we plan our upcoming quarterly issues; feel free to contact me at naturebookguide@gmail.com.

Beth Nobles

FOUNDER/EDITOR

As a high school student in the Youth Conservation Corps, Beth built trails and trail bridges in two Illinois state parks. Mid-career, she led the Texas Mountain Trail as Executive Director for a decade, and through a partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife, developed the Far West Texas Wildlife Trail and map. Before she retired in 2021, she led the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, an organization supporting an urban trail along a riparian corridor in the Denver metro area. She's organized countless volunteer opportunities to connect others to science and the outdoors; founding *Nature Book Guide* was another effort to do the same.



Book Recommendation Panel

Monique "Mo" Fair, Executive Director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, a nonprofit organization supporting an urban trail and riparian habitat in metro Denver, Colorado.



Adrianna Weickhardt, US Forest Service hydrologic technician working to conserve and restore watershed resiliency on the western slopes of Colorado and a former wildland firefighter on USFS helitack and hand crews in California, with extensive experience working in outdoor education/interpretation and natural resource management in state and national parks. Adrianna is specializing in wildfire mitigation/restoration planning in her graduate studies at Oregon State University.



Rich Reading, Ph.D. is the Vice President of Science and Conservation at Butterfly Pavilion. Rich has a long record of wildlife research around the world; in 2020, he was recognized by the country of Mongolia with the highest award bestowed upon a non-citizen for his contribution to wildlife conservation. His current work includes research on the ecology and population dynamics of threatened species of native Mongolian Parnassius butterflies.



Kate Vannelli, Leader of the 'Living with Big Cats' Initiative at World Wildlife Fund, focusing specifically on human - big cat conflict and enabling coexistence between people and lions, jaguars and snow leopards. Kate is based in Arusha, Tanzania.



Efrain Leal Escalera is a proud bilingual, multicultural immigrant scientist/artist from Durango, Mexico. He is an interdisciplinary photographer, activist, entomologist, visual storyteller and educator living in the Denver metro area.



Katie Smither, an Opto-mechanical Technician, who helps to maintain large telescope mirrors, instrument optics, and laser beams. She's working just south of the Atacama Desert in Chile for an organization that manages telescopes all over the world, particularly Arizona, Hawai'i, and Chile.



Bill Davison, Value Chain Development Manager for the Savanna Institute, which works to support resilient, scalable agroforestry. Bill has worked for The Nature Conservancy as a Land Steward and spent seven years as an organic vegetable farmer in central Illinois. He transitioned from farming to working as a Local Food System Educator with University of Illinois Extension where he developed programs to support staple crops and agroforestry. He is a board member for the John Wesley Powell Audubon Society and an accomplished birder. Bill writes a gardening and re-wilding newsletter on Substack.



Courtney Lyons-Garcia, Executive Director at Mission Heritage Partners, supporting the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, a National Parks property. Previously served as Executive Director, Public Lands Foundation and Big Bend Conservancy in Texas. Courtney is also the Parks and Trail specialist for the Great Springs Project, a network of spring-to-spring trails and protected natural areas over the Edwards Aquifer between San Antonio and Austin.



Rachel Hutchens, Executive Director of Bluff Lake Nature Center, a nonprofit agency that owns and manages a 123-acre urban wildlife refuge and outdoor classroom in Denver. Bluff Lake educates individuals to be engaged, resilient, and curious; conserves a natural area in the city; furthers equity in outdoor access; and nurtures the health and well-being of communities and ecosystems.



Warren Sconiers, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Sconiers teaches introductory biology and education courses and researches curriculum development and educational approaches for large classroom settings. During the summers, he researches how changes in plant communities in response to climate change impact arthropod communities in alpine systems.



Dennis Vásquez, Deputy Director of the City of Albuquerque's Parks and Recreation Department. Before retiring from the National Park Service, Dennis served as superintendent for a number of parks including White Sands National Park, Bandelier National Monument, Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and Petroglyph National Monument.



Kristin Memmott, Natural Resources Specialist for the City of Aurora, Colorado. She is passionate about human-wildlife conflict resolution, conserving habitat for wildlife species in densely populated areas, and creating accessible nature play spaces. She is currently focusing her interest and research on the American beaver.



Lisa Fargason Gordon, Executive Director at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute (CDRI), also known as the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center and Botanical Gardens, Fort Davis, Texas. Sharing her background as an educator, Lisa has helped to create CDRI's acclaimed educational programs, free for youth in the Texas Education Agency Region 18 service area.



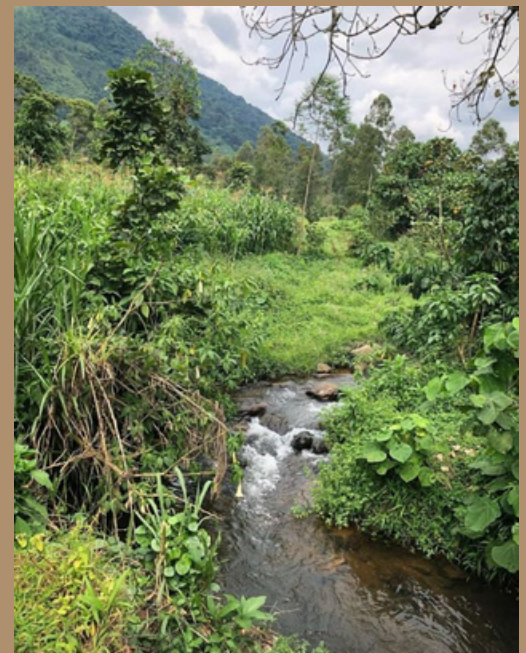
Guest Contributor



Joyce Orishaba, a 17-year-old high school student in California, is a member of the Indigenous Batwa tribe of Uganda. We asked Joyce to comment on Vanessa Nakate's *A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis*.

Last year, Joyce was one of 13 winners (of more than 12,000 entries) in the New York Times' 100 Words Personal Narrative Contest with her essay, "A River Runs Through Me." She wrote about her experience as an orphan and the impact of the removal of the Batwa tribe from their ancestral home in the 1990s to create Bwindi Impenetrable National Park as a refuge for mountain gorillas. The Batwa tribe now lives in settlements at the edge of the National Park.

The Redemption Song Foundation has been working with Batwa in Kalehe Village in Uganda, creating a more sustainable community with clean water, improved livelihoods through an artisan coop, and education for children. Joyce benefitted from this support and was adopted by the Foundation's founder, Wendee Nicole. The Foundation continues its work in Uganda, and this year Joyce is starting the Discover the Lost Tribe, an ambassador program connecting Batwa and American youth.



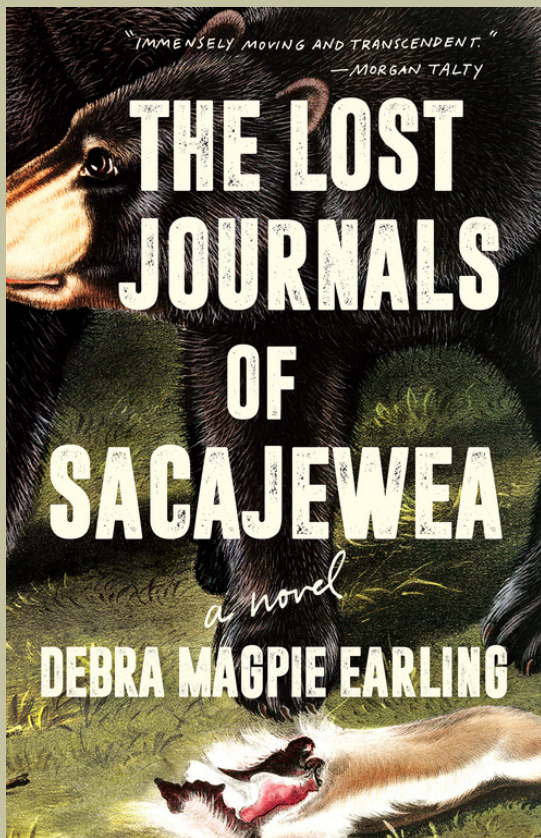
Uganda's Munyaga River

For more information about Redemption Song Foundation, visit redemptionsongfoundation.org

As Nature Book Guide develops, we'll widen our circle of voices by inviting additional scientists, naturalists and stewards to join the Book Recommendation Panel.

Learn more about our panel members at www.naturebookguide.com/about

New Approaches to Fiction



The Lost Journals of Sacajewea: A Novel,
Debra Magpie Earling, Milkweed Editions
2023,
264 pages

Two centuries of waiting, and Sacajewea finally has a voice. The Lamhi Shoshone woman who guided Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery from 1804 to 1806 recalls her astonishing life through Debra Magpie Earling's powerful *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea: A Novel*. There are lessons of childhood—gathering berries, fishing, weaving baskets. Sacajewea tells us of learning to listen to the world around her, the brutality of her kidnapping and being gambled away to the French-Canadian trapper Charbonneau, to guiding newcomers through the wild land they intended to conquer.

It was the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition that brought Earling—author of the acclaimed bestseller *Perma Red* and member of the Confederated Shalish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation—to Sacajewea's story. Earling first told the story through collaborations with indigenous artists and printmaker Peter Koch. Her prose in *Lost Journals* carries the reader through Sacajewea's pain, resistance, and resilience, giving us a remarkable life and an authentic voice in a powerful work of art.

A June 2023 Indie Next Pick, Selected by Booksellers;
A Library Journal Recommended Read for 2023

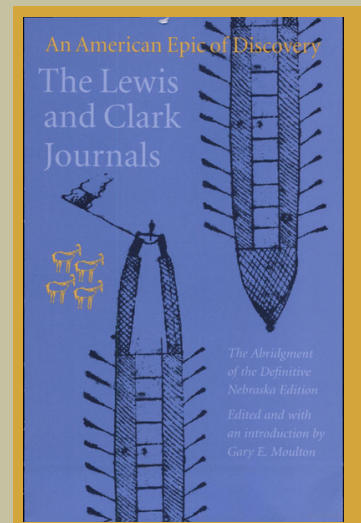
From *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea*:

"I know their song warnings. I listen. My feet tethered. I am in a Land no longer my own. The scents around me are not scents I know. My legs jolt and stiffen out like a butchered Deer. My body is broken. My body is a different Country. A different River breaks my blood."

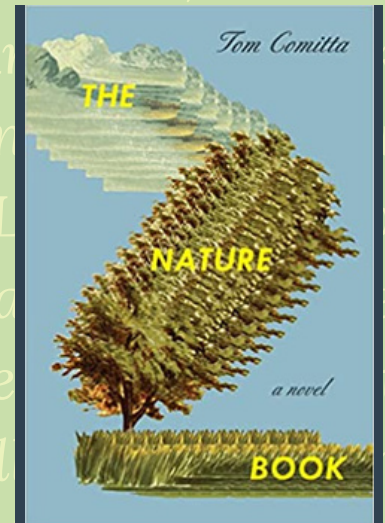
From original *The Lewis and Clark Journals*:

"July 28, 1805 (Lewis)
...Sah-cah-gar-we-ah or Indian woman was one of the female prisoners taken at that time; tho' I cannot discover that she shews any immotion of sorrow in recollecting this event, or of joy in being again restored to her native country; if she has enough to eat and a few trinkets to wear I believe she would be perfectly content anywhere."

The Lewis and Clark Journals (Abridged Edition): An American Epic of Discovery
Meriwether Lewis and Members of the Corps of Discovery
(authors), Gary E. Moulton (editor),
Bison Books,
2004,
497 pages

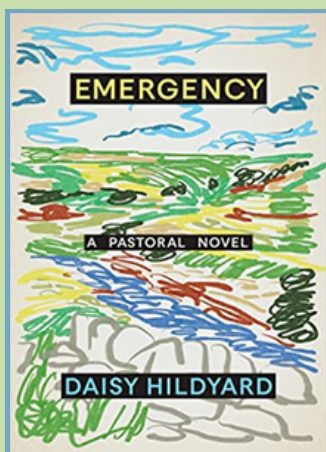


What would this world be without humans? The four seasons, the sea, space, the prairie, all without us? Tom Comitta's innovative "literary supercut" novel, *The Nature Book*, is seamlessly constructed with text from three hundred works by some of our most celebrated English-language authors: a diverse group including V.S. Naipaul, George Orwell, Betty Smith, Edith Wharton, Marilynne Robinson, Ralph Ellison, Lucy Maud Montgomery, and many others. Released in March 2023, *The Nature Book* is already in its second printing. Readers looking for a firmly constructed plot may be challenged, but Comitta's choices deliver some of the most beautiful and engaging descriptions of the natural world in this vibrant and thought-provoking work of art.



The Nature Book,
Tom Comitta,
Coffee House
Press,
2023,
272 pages

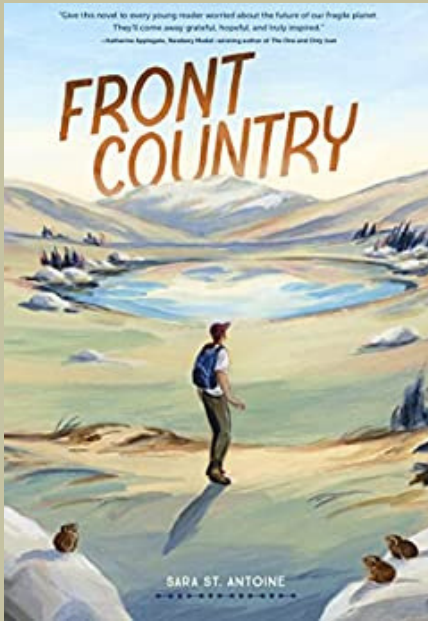
"...the shock of finding myself still on my own two flat feet with leaves crushing under the weight of my own body, the smell of garlic and wet earth rising in a trail behind me when I climbed onto the gate..."



Emergency: A Pastoral Novel,
Daisy Hildyard,
Astra House,
2022,
224 pages

Shortlisted: 2023
Rathbones Folio
Award for Fiction

"A requiem for the English countryside," Hildyard writes about the interconnectedness in nature and community, and the implications of the loss of natural environments. The narrator considers her childhood in 1990s rural Yorkshire in contrast to Covid during lockdown. Hildyard's prose is luminous, vivid, edgy, and bleak, and represents a modern and vibrant approach to pastoral fiction.



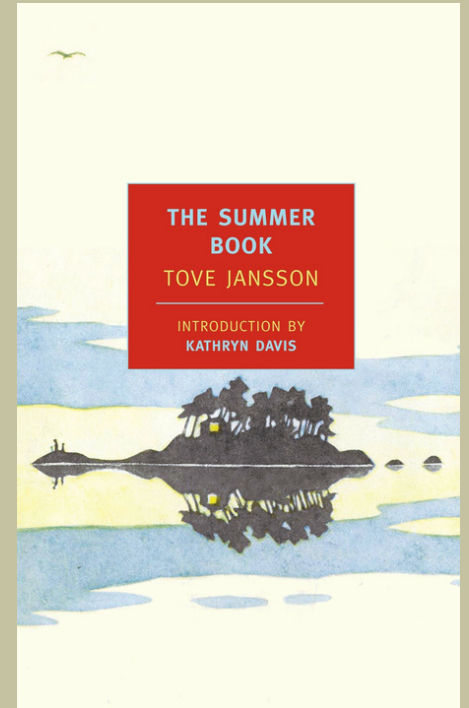
Front Country,
Sara St. Antoine,
Chronicle Books,
2022,
332 pages
Reading Age:
10 years and up

**"I'm sorry," she said, offering me a handkerchief.
"This might be the worst time in history to be a kid
who loves nature."**

Front Country is an engagingly told YA story for our post-COVID, climate-anxiety times. Eighth-grade honor student Ginny Shepherd struggles with grief and despair for the planet, and out of concern for her sadness, her parents enroll her in a backpacking trip in Montana. She's thrilled, until she discovers her parents have misunderstood her grief and have enrolled her in a program for troubled youth. What she encounters that summer leads to lessons and greater understanding for all involved.

"Every year, the bright Scandinavian summer nights fade without anyone's noticing. One evening in August you have an errand outdoors, and all of a sudden it's pitch-black. It is still summer, but the summer is no longer alive."

The Summer Book,
Tove Jansson
(Translated from
Swedish by Thomas
Teal), New York
Review of Books
(paperback), 2008,
184 pages



"This novel is so beautiful, and I fell in love with the strong female characters. An elderly artist and her six-year-old granddaughter while away a summer together on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland. Gradually, the two learn to adjust to each other's fears, whims, and yearnings for independence, and a fierce yet understated love emerges--one that encompasses not only the summer inhabitants but the island itself, with its mossy rocks, windswept firs, and unpredictable seas." --Rachel Hutchens

The Independent: 50 Best Books for Summer; The Guardian: Book of the Week

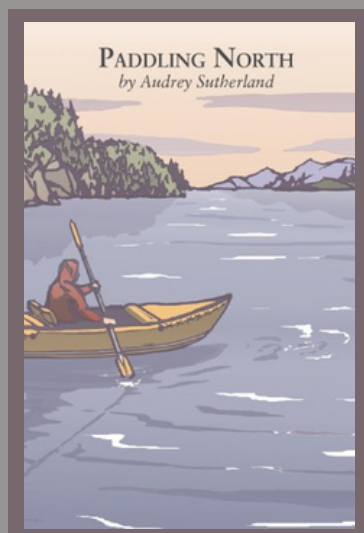
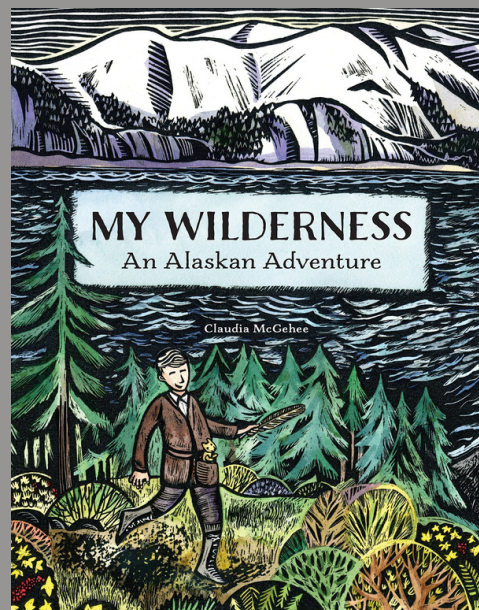


Recommended by Rachel Hutchens,
Executive Director, Bluff Lake Nature Center

Adventures in Alaska

With the charming *My Wilderness: An Alaskan Adventure*, scratchboard artist and author Claudia McGehee leads us by sight, sound, touch, heart, and imagination through a real-life father-and-son adventure. When artist Rockwell Kent traveled to Alaska with his nine-year-old son Rocky in 1918, they lived on Fox Island in a rough but cozy cabin with aging frontiersman Lars Olson. McGehee brings us the snow baths, goat friends, porcupines, seashells, whales, and otters that inhabited Rocky's Alaskan adventure.

My Wilderness: An Alaskan Adventure,
Claudia McGehee
Little Bigfoot, 2015,
32 pages
Reading age: 5-9 years



Paddling North: A Solo Adventure Along the Inside Passage
Audrey Sutherland
(author), Yoshiko Yamamoto (illustrator),
Patagonia, 2012,
172 pages

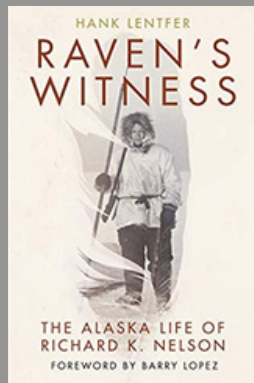
At age 60, Audrey Sutherland begins a solo, summerlong adventure in her inflatable kayak along the southeast coast of Alaska. *Paddling North* recalls the adventure with maps, journal entries, camp recipes, a gear list, bibliography, and beautiful illustrations by Yoshiko Yamamoto.

From the foreword of *Paddling North*:

"This is the story of a trip, taken over two summers, that started in Ketchikan and went all the way to Skagway. Since that first voyage, I've paddled 8,075 solo Alaskan miles and 22 more years in Alaska and British Columbia. But it is never enough. My boat is now a newer inflatable: longer, lower, and faster, with a rudder and a spray deck that shed the rain and the seas. I have encountered thirty bears, four wolves, and hundreds of whales. We're still coexisting, and I keep learning. The philosophy is the same. Go simple, go solo, go now."

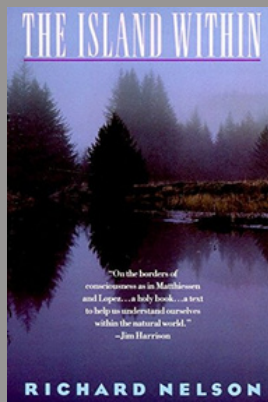
Neighbors in Northern Alaska

Raven's Witness: The Alaska Life of Richard K. Nelson, Hank Lentfer, Mountaineer Books, 2020, 256 pages



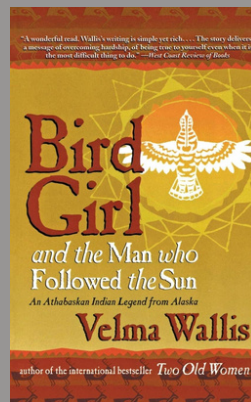
2020 Banff Mountain Book Competition Finalist in Mountain Literature

Winner, John Burroughs Medal for distinguished natural history writing



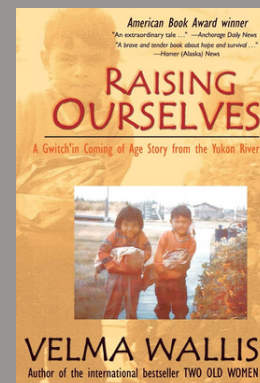
The Island Within, Richard Nelson, Vintage, 1991, 284 pages

Western States Book Award, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Book Award



Bird Girl and the Man who Followed the Sun, Velma Wallis, Harper Perennial, 1997, 224 pages

Raising Ourselves: A Gwitch'in Coming of Age Story from the Yukon River, Velma Wallis, Epicenter Press, 2003, 212 pages



Winner: American Book Award, 2003

"If I were the rain and wind and light, I would encircle the island like the sky surrounding the earth, flood through it like a heart-driven pulse, shine from inside it like a star in flames, burn away to blackness in the closed night of the sky. There are so many ways to love this island, if I were the rain." —from *The Island Within*

Celebrated author, cultural anthropologist, radio producer, and activist Richard Nelson spent most of his career studying the interaction between nature and people, specifically the indigenous cultures of the interior of Alaska. His work on his doctorate centered in the same remote Yukon-Koyukuk area Velma Wallis called home.

In time, Nelson moved from anthropology studies to literary nonfiction, with his most celebrated work--*The Island Within*--capturing his travels to an unidentified island in the Pacific Northwest. Nelson led a full and celebrated life, becoming Alaska's Poet Laureate and earning the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alaska Conservation Foundation. Hank Lentfer's thoughtful and celebrated biography of Nelson, *Raven's Witness*, is deeply sourced with Nelson's own letters, journals, and recordings.

Recommended by Bill Davison
Savanna Institute



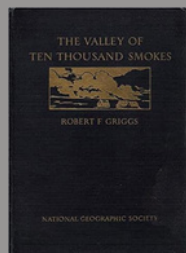
"Zhoh heaved a deep sigh. He knew disciplining his daughter sounded like an easy thing to do, but it was not. Bird Girl was between the stages of being a child and a woman. She could be as docile as a fish swimming quietly beneath the waters, but at times her eyes would rage as rebelliously as those of an old bear with many wounds in his body." —From *Bird Girl*

In *Raising Ourselves*, Velma Wallis, a member of the Gwitch'in clan, captures the sobering reality of a language and traditions surrendered to the white culture. Before they settled permanently in Fort Yukon in 1959--a town accessible only by riverboat, airplane, snowmobile or dogsled--Wallis' parents were nomadic, and after the move, the family continued to rely on trapping and hunting for support. After her father's death, and still in her teens, Wallis left home to live in a family cabin in the wilderness, learning to trap animals for survival.

With *Bird Girl and the Man Who Followed the Sun*, Wallis preserves the legends of her Athabaskan language. Mirroring her own story, Wallis' Bird Girl is an independent hunter, while Dagoo is a restless dreamer who leaves home to search for the legendary Land of the Sun.

Valley of 10,000 Smokes

The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, Robert F. Griggs/National Geographic Society, Legare Street Press 2022 (reprint), 1922 (original), 348 pages



Vintage Cover



Legare Street Press Cover



Recommended by Adrianna Weickhardt,
US Forest Service hydrologic technician

"In 2017, I moved to Alaska to work at Katmai National Park and Preserve--one of my favorite places on earth--as a Park Ranger. Today, when visitors head to the Valley of 10,000 Smokes, they see a moonlike landscape altered by the Novarupta eruption of 1912. The "smokes" were a result of water being vaporized below the superheated pyroclastic flow. Today, the entire valley is surrounded by still active volcanoes that you can see steaming on a clear day. I recommend National Geographic's 1922 record of their visit to the region, *The Valley of 10,000 Smokes*. It's dense, but it's actually really interesting and well-illustrated with some amazing historic photographs."

-Adrianna Weickhardt

Here are some excerpts:

"THE ERUPTION AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

If such an eruption should occur on Manhattan Island, the column of steam would be as conspicuous as Albany. The sounds of the explosions would be plainly audible in Chicago. The fumes would sweep over all the states east of the Rocky Mountains. In Denver they would tarnish exposed brass, and even linen hung out on the line to dry would be so eaten by the sulphuric acid content as to fall to pieces on the ironing board."

"REFLECTIONS ON THE NIGHT OF THE DISCOVERY

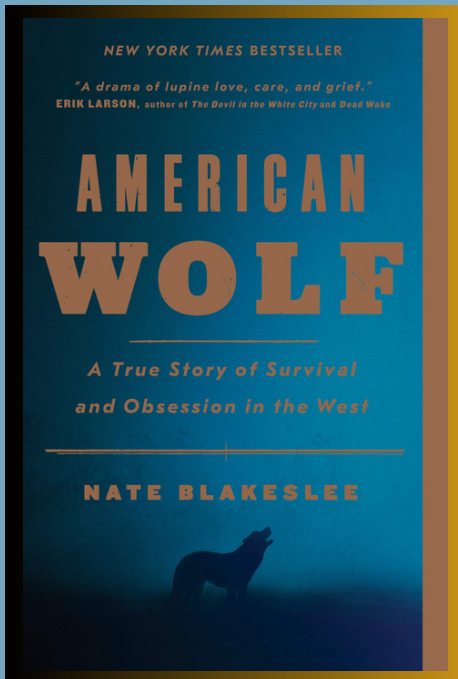
Sleep that night was impossible. I had as yet only a very inadequate conception of the place we had discovered, but I had seen enough to know that we have accidentally discovered one of the great wonders of the world."

"FRYING BACON IN SUPER-HEATED STEAM

While experimenting to find the best place to hold the pan, we tried pushing it down into the cavern below the orifice, but immediately, it was caught by the back draft and -- piff! the bacon was whisked out of the pan, flying through the air in every direction, to be eagerly caught and devoured by the spectators, who howled with delight at the sudden turn of events."

The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes is in the public domain. Visit our website's blog for more information on this book, including a link where readers can download it free of charge. www.naturebookguide.com/blog

Nonfiction



American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West,
Nate Blakeslee,
Crown, (paperback) 2018,
302 pages

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, Shortlisted for the 2018 J. Anthony Lukas Prize, An Outside Magazine Best Book of 2017, A Science Friday Best Science Book of 2017

"The vast and complex Yellowstone ecosystem has been impacted by human decisions and actions for years. The wolf was killed off in the 1930s, resulting in a major increase in the elk population which impacted every species of flora and fauna in the Park. American Wolf is the story of the complex reintroduction of the wolf to Yellowstone, bringing with it a trophic cascade of ecological change for the region and monumental management challenges for the Park. You will get a full sense of the legal and ethical dilemmas for Park staff and the surrounding communities while getting to know Yellowstone's most famous wolves- the Lamar Canyon Pack."
-Courtney Lyons-Garcia

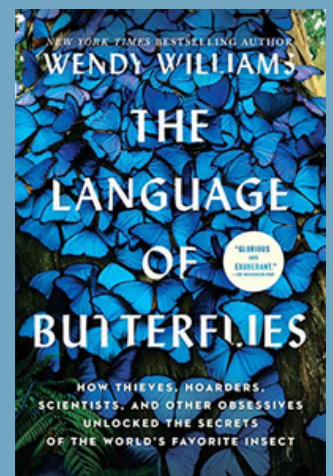
Book Recommendation Panelist, Courtney Lyons-Garcia, suggests listening to the audio version of *American Wolf* for maximum excitement. With evenhanded and heartfelt storytelling, Blakeslee writes with a clear eye towards the highly charged politics of species management. Readers should be aware that he recognizes--and employs--what he calls the "cardinal sin" of wildlife biology by anthropomorphizing the wolves to create this exciting tale.

Recommended by Courtney Lyons-Garcia, Executive Director Mission Heritage Partners supporting National Parks Service's San Antonio Missions National Historic Park



The Language of Butterflies: How Thieves, Hoarders, Scientists, and Other Obsessives Unlocked the Secrets of the World's Favorite Insect,
Wendy Williams, Simon & Schuster, 2021 (paperback),
256 pages

Acclaimed science writer, Wendy Williams, pulls together a fascinating collection of stories for the armchair enthusiast based on research from entomologists, paleontologists, ecologists, and butterfly researchers; and interviews with museum curators, historians, and landowners working to restore their properties for butterfly habitat. Dip into stories about Darwin, Victorian-era collectors, 17th century artist-naturalist Maria Sibylla Merian, author Vladimir Nabokov, and modern butterfly champions in *The Language of Butterflies*.



"There was a particular moment in my life when I knew I must live where I could fully taste the place in which I lived every week for the rest of my life, if not every day."

--Gary Paul Nabhan

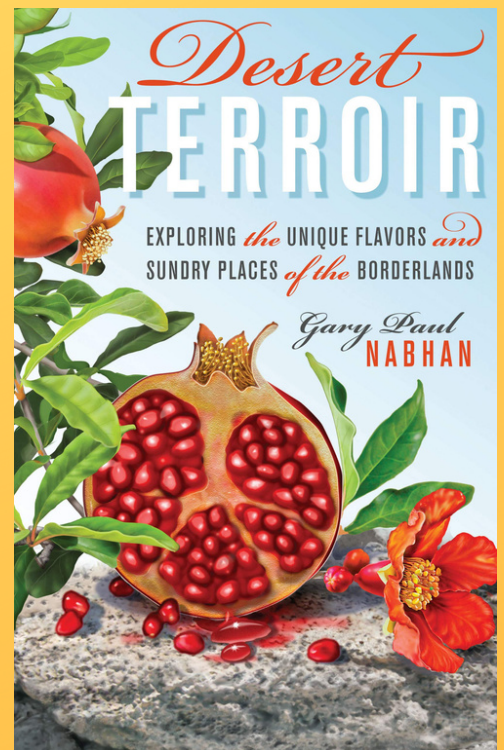
"Nabhan, an Agricultural Ecologist, Ethnobotanist, Ecumenical Franciscan Brother, and author, is considered a pioneer in the local food movement and the heirloom seed-saving movement. He is the original travel foodie who incorporates culture, history, and the land into every adventure and every tasty morsel.

I first met Gary in 2014, when he was quietly spending some time in the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute's (CDRI) Nature Center. We began to talk, and that was when I discovered that we carried one of his books, *Desert Terroir*, in our gift shop. He accepted our invitation to speak the following year, and I'm excited to announce he's returning to speak at our 50th anniversary in the fall.

Desert Terroir offers several short stories that trace the connection between local foods and their relationship to the native plants of the southwestern region. One of my favorites describes the travels, or travails, of the Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca and his shipwrecked crew and how they survived their trek across Texas thanks to Mostafa al-Azemouri, one of the New World's first immigrants who was also a slave of Moroccan origin. Mostafa's knowledge of the arid lands of his homeland and their similarities to the unfamiliar land they explored in the New World kept the shipwrecked survivors alive. Terroir is the flavor of the land. It's the character a food exhibits from a region's soil, topography, and climate. For a fun and engaging summer read, pick up *Desert Terroir* and embark on an epic-filled, savory journey with Nabhan."

--Lisa Fargason Gordon

Recommended by Lisa Fargason Gordon,
Executive Director, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute



Desert Terroir: Exploring the Unique Flavors and Sundry Places of the Borderlands
Gary Paul Nabhan,
University of Texas Press,
2012, 144 pages



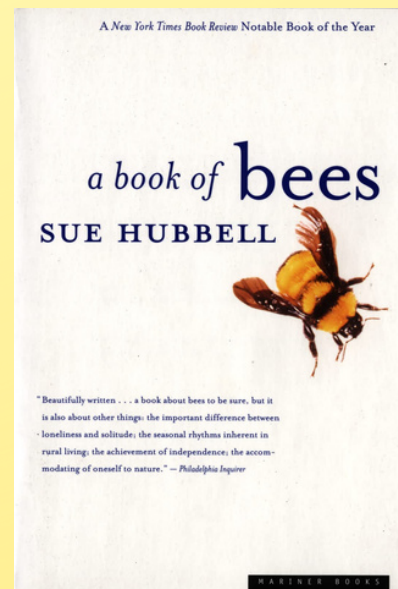
Two Classics

"I have had bees now for fifteen years, and my life is better for it."

More than a book about bees or beekeeping, Hubbell writes about her own life as a beekeeper in rural Missouri. Yes, you'll learn about bees. You'll also get a portrait of life in the country, of living on one's own, of building and keeping a business, and of caring for living things through the seasons. Partly a nature journal and personal memoir, Hubbell's smooth narrative style is a pleasure to read.

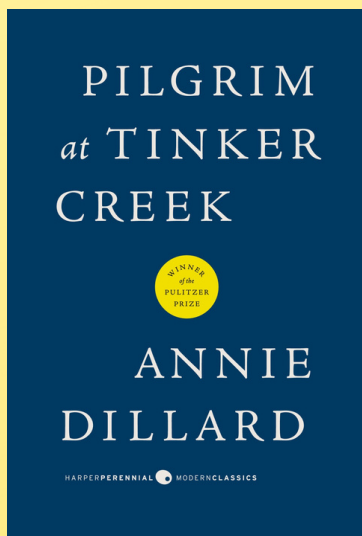
"For a long, long time—for nearly forty years—I never had bees. I can't think why. Everyone should have two or three hives. Bees are easier to keep than a dog or cat. They are more interesting than gerbils. They can be kept anywhere."

A Book of Bees: And How to Keep Them, Sue Hubbell, Mariner Books, 1998, 208 pages



A New York Times Notable Book

Winner, Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction



Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Annie Dillard, Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2013 (Originally published 1974), 304 pages

The Pulitzer Prize Committee noted Dillard's book "is a blend of observation and introspection, mystery and knowledge. We unanimously recommend it for the prize." An immediate bestseller, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* has been compared with the work of Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Edward Abbey.

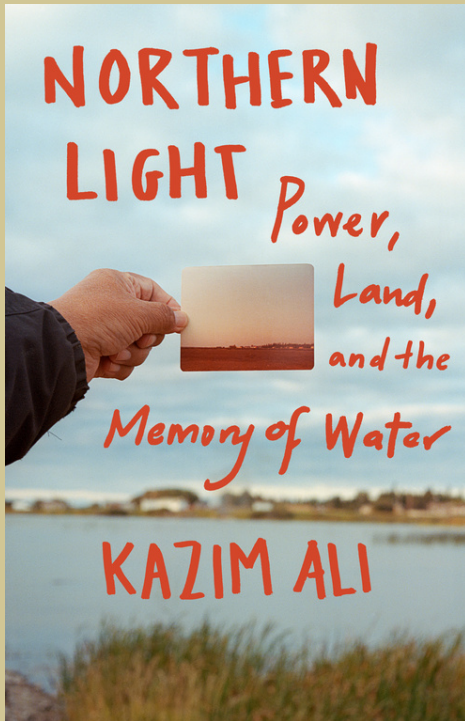
"To me, reading *Tinker Creek* felt like reading poetry that was dripping with molasses. There are long sentences, exhaustive observations, and repetitive tones that left me wide-eyed and in need of beach-read. However, I always came to this book because those long descriptions and details are complements to the often painful, mundane, beautiful and juicy moments found in our natural world. It is a book that sticks with you as a classic and I am glad I read it. It feels like a piece of literature I will return to at different phases of my life and feel new connections to what Annie Dillard shares about her experiences in Virginia's outdoors."

--Kristin Memmott



Recommended by Kristin Memmott
Natural Resources Specialist for the City of Aurora, Colorado

Memoirs by Poets



Northern Light: Power, Land, and the Memory of Water,
Kazim Ali,
Milkweed Editions,
2021, 200 pages

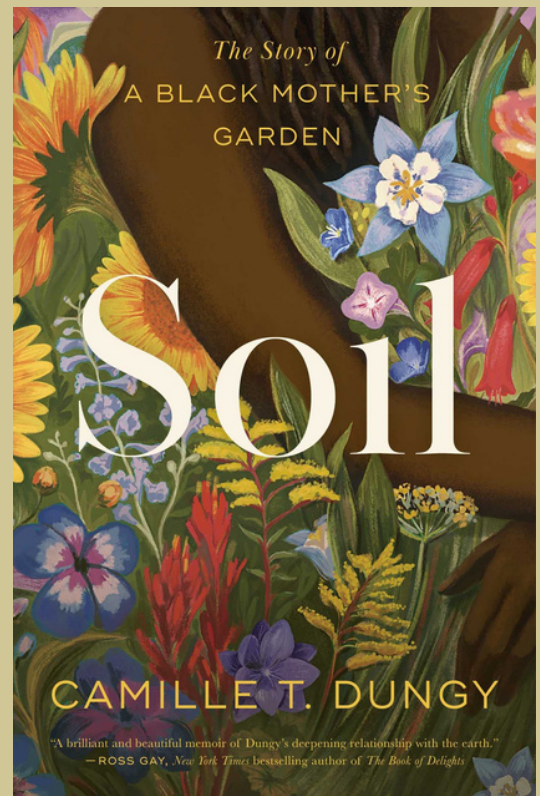
2022 Banff Mountain
Book Award for
Environmental Literature;
Finalist,
2022 Lammy Award
in LGBTQ Nonfiction;
Outside Magazine
"Favorite Book of 2021"

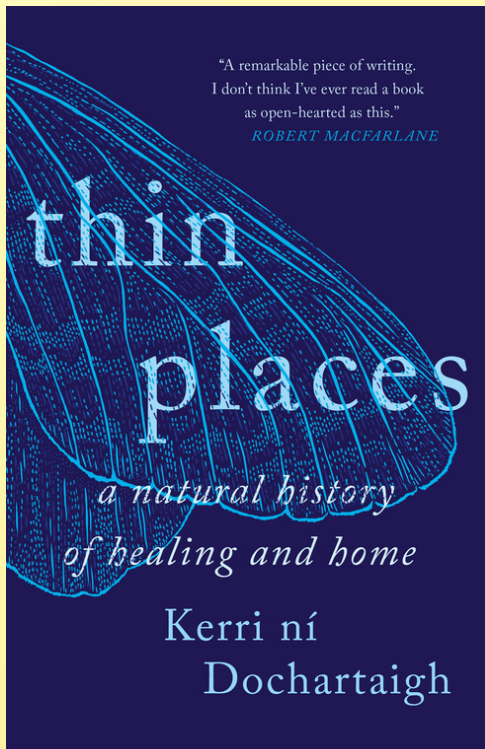
When Manitoba Power built a dam and hydroelectric system on the Nelson River to power Winnipeg and other cities, Kazim Ali's father (an electrical engineer from India) moved his family to the temporary town of Jenpeg to work on the project. An isolated settlement of trailers, Jenpeg's five residential streets were surrounded by pristine boreal forest filled with bears, wolverines and moose. With *Northern Light: Power, Land and the Memory of Water*, Kazim Ali takes a trip back to find Jenpeg no longer exists. The devastating effects of technology on the environment and indigenous Pimicikamak Cree are painfully visible. Ali has written a beautiful and empathetic memoir of place, migration, generosity, and reinvention.

"Every person who finds herself constantly navigating political spaces--by which I mean every person who regularly finds herself demoralized and exhausted by the everyday patterns of life in America--should have access to such a garden." --Camille Dungy

*Soil: The Story of a
Black Mother's Garden*,
Camille T. Dungy, Simon &
Schuster, 2023, 336 pages

Published in May 2023, Camille Dungy's *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* already seems destined to be a classic in nature writing, memoir, and environmental justice literature. Dungy chronicles the transformation of her ordinary suburban Fort Collins, Colorado, yard to a space for pollinators and prairie, filling it with intention, memory, and meaning. A brilliant tribute to motherhood, family, and one's roots, *Soil* is thoughtful, wise, and one of the best memoirs to emerge from the pandemic.





Thin Places:
A Natural History
of Healing and Home,
 Kerri ní Dochartaigh,
 Milkweed Editions,
 2022, 280 pages

Harrowing, unrelenting trauma dominates *Thin Places: A Natural History of Healing and Home*, as author Kerri ní Dochartaigh recalls her young life--the firebombing of her home in Derry, Northern Ireland during the Troubles; the terror of living in a mixed home (one parent was Catholic, the other Protestant) in a divided city; struggles with poverty, death, and suicide. She experiences grief, alcohol, and nightmares, and the overwhelming sense of no possible escape.

And yet, ní Dochartaigh is finally able to call on the natural world and "thin places"-- "places that make us feel something larger than ourselves, as though we are in a place between worlds, beyond experience." Nature is a powerful force to pull her back to life. The wind, the rain, birds. Fire. Stretches of shoreline. Light. Snow.

Thin Places is a beautiful and courageous book, full of brutality and violence, but carrying the gifts of truth and redemption.

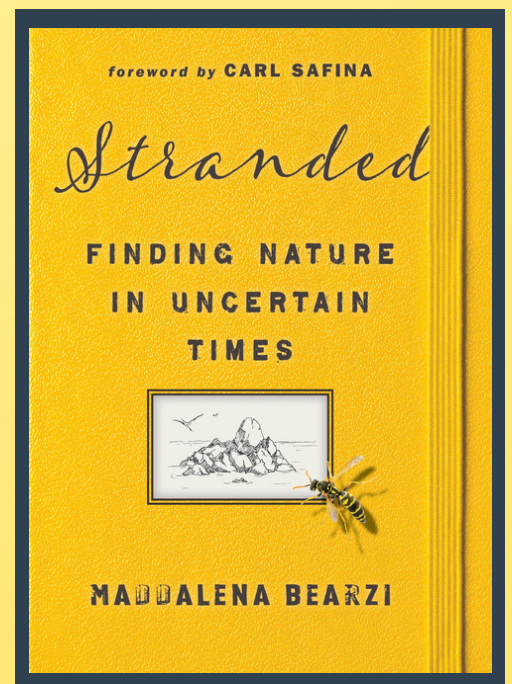
Indie Next Selection for April 2022,
 Indies Introduce Selection for
 Winter/Spring 2022,
 Junior Library Guild Selection

When the COVID lockdown became a reality, and she was unable to continue work in the close quarters of her research vessel, conservationist and marine biologist Maddalena Bearzi turned her wildlife observations to her own yard instead of the sea.

The resulting *Stranded* is as effortless and satisfying as a backyard conversation with an old friend. Bearzi recalls lockdown days with humor--her NextDoor community's daily "Coyote Alert!"--and wonder for the wildness of her neighborhood. Instead of studying whales and dolphins, she turns her attention to birds and squirrels, dogs and opossums, paper wasps and garden flowers, creating an unpretentious and thoroughly satisfying memoir of the pandemic.

Her list of "Ideas for Uncertain Times" is realistic, optimistic, hopeful, and reassuring. Bearzi hits the right tone for these chaotic times.

Stranded: Finding Nature
in Uncertain Times
 Maddalena Bearzi,
 Heyday Books,
 2023, 224 pages



A Brief Conversation with Author Sophie Pavelle



Forget Me Not: Finding the forgotten species of climate-change Britain,
Sophie Pavelle,
Bloomsbury Wildlife,
2022, 352 pages



The People's Book Prize 2023;
Waterstone's Best Nature & Travel Books 2022

"Looking back, I think swimming among seagrass could rank in the top five of the great human experiences. We forget the tender joy the natural world can elicit."

***Forget Me Not* is the story of ten low-carbon trips—by foot, train, bicycle, kayak, cargo ferry—to explore species that are likely to disappear by 2050 should their habitats continue to decline. Pavelle—a hopeful climate change advocate—works for UK's Beaver Trust, is an Ambassador for The Wildlife Trusts, and is on the Board of Trustees for the Exeter City of Literature.**

We love the way you write about your adventures, "The irreverent joy of trying to find wildlife—and failing? The simplicity of totally winging it and being more in the moment?" How did your alternative travel decisions—biking, walking, swimming, kayaking—enhance the experience of seeking wildlife? Travelling by low-carbon means as much as possible immediately disrupts the hustle and pace at which we have normalised in modern life. Riding, walking and kayaking under my own steam introduces a new, much more present way of engaging with the landscape and your surroundings. As cliché as it sounds, it really made it more about the journey, as opposed to the destination. Travelling more slowly, and being less in control, sensitises you to the environment. You naturally tune in more to the weather, the sights, smells, wind direction, light levels and natural cues helping you navigate. It felt both exhausting and exhilarating on many occasions, but I loved every minute and relished the challenge.

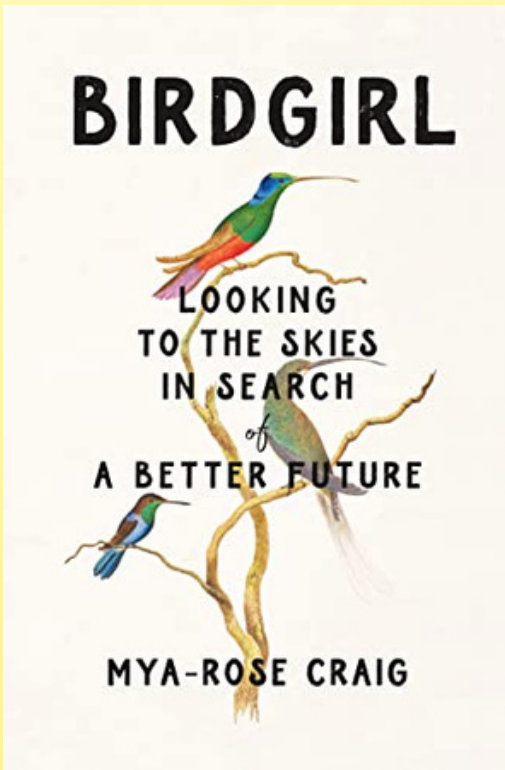
***Forget Me Not* focuses on "10 stars" animals and habitats needing attention. If you were to select a few more for another set of adventures, which would you pick?**

If I were to spotlight species in this way again, I definitely would want to include both a reptile and an amphibian! I would have loved to feature the fascinating Natterjack toad, one of the UK's rarest amphibians confined to only 60 sites in Britain, and also the adder – one of three species of snake in the UK. Reptiles and amphibians are highly adapted animals sensitive to environmental change, and remain some of our most valuable indicators of climate instability and biodiversity loss.



Interview conducted by
Book Recommendation Panelist, Kristin Memmott
and Founder/Editor, Beth Nobles

Advocacy, Action, and Inspiration



Birdgirl: Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future
Mya-Rose Craig, Celadon Books, 2023, 304 pages

In her inspiring memoir, *Birdgirl: Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future*, Mya-Rose Craig writes about the trauma she experienced as a child growing up with a mother with severe bipolar disorder, and how birding trips abroad helped her family cope. The trips helped her become the youngest person, at age 17, to see half the world's birds.

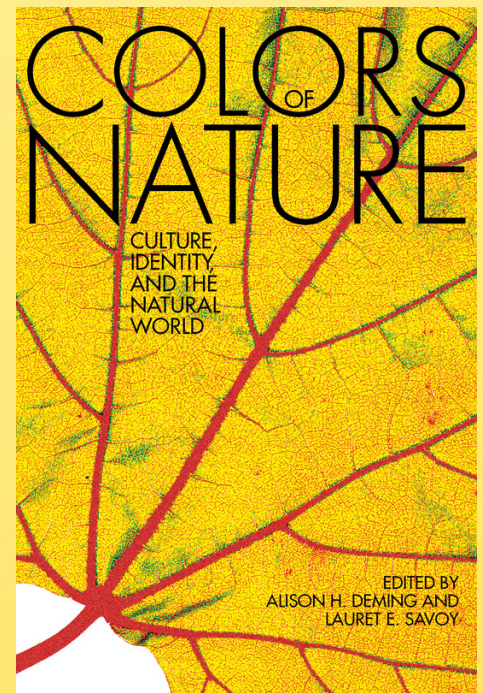
The 21-year-old, British-Bangladeshi birder, environmentalist, and diversity activist is an engaging and talented writer. It is astonishing to learn how much she has achieved--newspaper columnist at the age of 12, published author of three books, honorary doctorate in her teens, founder of the nonprofit Black2Nature operating nature camps for black and minority ethnic teens, numerous speaking engagements, (including sharing a stage at a youth strike with Greta Thunberg), and granted numerous conservation and environmental awards. Craig manages to write with joy and wonder and a sense of fun.

The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World, Alison H. Deming and Lauret Savoy (editors), Milkweed Editions, 2011, 368 pages

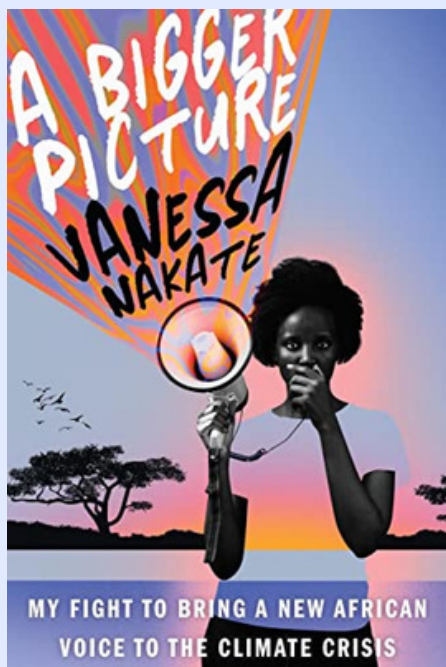
It might be tempting to overlook an essay collection a dozen years old, and yet, *Colors of Nature* is still vibrant, still wise, and still confronting issues we face today. Hurricane Katrina is here, as is NAFTA, as well as the forces of racism and colonialism. Also here: the beauty of ancestral wisdom, of finding one's authentic cultural voice, of listening to one another. As editor Alison H. Deming wrote in the Afterward, "My hope in this project was to be educated not just with the facts of our social/environmental predicament and woe, but to have my emotions educated, my empathy cultivated, my activism spurred by new stories. My larger hope is that this work will spur the same emotions in others."



Recommended by Mo Fair, Executive Director,
Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership



A Bigger Picture



A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis,
Vanessa Nakate,
Mariner Books, 2022,
240 pages



From a shy student in Kampala to one of the world's leading climate justice advocates, Vanessa Nakate's powerful and thought-provoking memoir *A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis*, shares her personal evolution as a leader and voice for her continent. Nakate addresses cultural barriers for young Ugandan women, political threats for advocates, the inequities present in the climate justice movement, and the disproportionate burden Africa bears in climate change.

In 2020, Nakate attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, as one of five young international delegates. She was famously cropped out of an AP photograph; the remaining advocates were white. The incident highlighted one of Nakate's core messages--that those who have been omitted from climate discussions must be heard.

Nakate provides resources for readers: the "17 Sustainable Development Goals" developed by her United Nations 2020 youth leadership cohort, the chapter titled "What Can I Do?," and an extensive appendix of organizations and contacts.

Interview with a Reader: Joyce Orishaba

A Bigger Picture addresses ecosystem destruction, including disruption in the Congo Basin Rainforest Ecosystem, which has been home to as many as 150 ethnic groups for as long as 50,000 years. One of these, the Batwa, were--as a consequence of fortress conservation efforts to save endangered mountain gorillas--displaced in the 1990s and forced off their ancestral land to create Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. We asked Joyce Orishaba, a 17-year-old high school student in California and member of the Batwa tribe to comment on Vanessa Nakate's *A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis*. Last year, Joyce was one of 13 winners (of more than 12,000 entries) in the New York Times' 100 Words Personal Narrative Contest, with her essay, "A River Runs Through Me." Her winning essay:



"I am six years old, sleeping with nothing but a banana leaf over my shoulders to keep me warm. Tears fall as I see the fear and uncertainty in my aunt's eyes. She is 13. She is my mom now, and we are lost. The indigenous Batwa lost our home, the rainforest, to the mountain gorillas. We are forgotten while the gorillas are celebrated. Lost to save the species. As the sun rises the next day, I run to Munyaga River and watch it become stronger and stronger. I will be the river for my people. I am the future."

--Joyce Orishaba, 17

Joyce, what were your general impressions of the book, and of Vanessa's experience as a young climate advocate? What parts of the book were most meaningful to you?

A Bigger Picture was an amazing book about climate change told with great depth of knowledge and personal experience, and I learned a lot from it. I really enjoyed the theme of her being cropped out of the picture as a clear example of the subtle and not so subtle ways racism occurs. I think writing around that discriminatory narrative was a good way to get people into the story. I listened to the audio version of the book and I felt I could really resonate with her. More voices from the global south, and more indigenous voices, need to be heard and I'm glad she is able to spread the message on a broader scale through this book.

What would you like readers to know about the effect of the removal of Batwa from the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to save the mountain gorillas? How has this move affected your friends, family, and culture?

My people, the indigenous Batwa, were forcibly removed from Bwindi Impenetrable forest in Uganda in the 1990s to turn it into a national park in order to save the mountain gorillas and bring tourism. But in the process of conservation, my people nearly went extinct. While efforts to save the gorillas were successful, the Batwa were left without homes, livelihoods, and access to our ancestral land. This affected my people deeply, and still does. They lost the home which had provided them with food, medicine, protection, and tranquility. Most of the children in the 1990s died before they could get a glimpse into the world, and my people's life expectancy was 28 years old compared to the Ugandan average (at the time) of 60 years. They lived hanging by a thread hoping to survive another day, which led to alcoholism and abuse. It's hard for people to care about conservation when they are dying, uneducated, and struggling to literally survive day to day. Yet my people could be a powerful voice for climate if they were given educational opportunities and reforestation can not only help us in our villages, but simultaneously combat climate change. Outside the national park, there are almost no native forests in my district anymore. We can change this.



Joyce Orishaba, right,
with her Aunt Loyce
in Uganda in 2016.
(Wendee Nicole)

If I could tell Vanessa and other young climate activists anything, I would urge them to continue highlighting the human rights violations that occurred during the Batwa's removal from the rainforest and the ongoing impacts of their displacement. More human rights violations will surely occur in the future as the poorest of the poor suffer the most from climate disasters while contributing the least.

During the displacement of my people, they were left with no choice but to beg or to participate in agriculture, which can lead to deforestation and destruction of natural habitats. My mom's nonprofit, Redemption Song Foundation (RSF), is returning the forest to the Batwa by planting up to 10,000 trees in my family's village. We have already planted more than 2,000 native and fruit trees. As Vanessa says, even the simple act of planting one tree can make a difference in the fight against climate change. I would like to ask world leaders, from Uganda to the U.S., how can conservation efforts be balanced with the protection of indigenous peoples' rights and culture?

Vanessa's discussion of the AP photo-cropping incident spark questions like: What can be done to make African voices—and those from other underrepresented cultures—more visible in climate conversations? And more respected in those conversations, so they aren't marginalized?

One way to make African voices and other underrepresented cultures more visible in climate conversations is to actively seek out and lift up their perspectives and experiences. This could be funding more diverse speakers and experts at climate events and discussions, amplifying the voices of local communities who are directly impacted by climate change, and prioritizing efforts to address environmental injustices and iniquities that disproportionately affect marginalized groups. Also, giving African and indigenous people and youth more opportunities and better education, including funds to allow Black indigenous peoples to get scholarships to study in the U.S. or abroad, training them how to be leaders in their home countries and on the world stage. African governments should allow climate activists to protest and raise awareness of the issues that will directly affect them without fear of being arrested. African voices are less heard and respected in the global world and climate activism is no different. Africans want to make a difference in the world, too, and help our families, countries, and communities. As Vanessa mentioned, "They did not just crop out a picture, they cropped the whole continent of Africa."



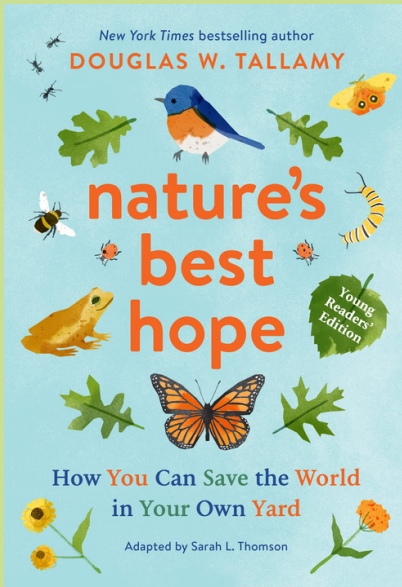
Uganda's Muyaga River

Out of more than 12,000 entries, your essay was one of 13 winners in the New York Times Essay contest for high school students. Has winning the contest, and having your story gain more exposure changed your perspective in any way?

Winning this contest allowed me to be invited onto local area TV stations and to be interviewed for newspapers. It is something I am so proud of. As my story gets more coverage, I feel as if my people will truly get the attention they deserve and hopefully be compensated for being removed from their land. Many Batwa are talented and smart but are simply not given opportunities to attend the best schools and receive mentorship and training. Based on my personal experience, that can make a huge difference in tapping into the unlocked potential inside each of my people. I went from being an 8-year-old failing every one of my classes and considered "stupid" in my community—which nearly led to me being 'trained' for early marriage—to someone in National Honor Society and winning a New York Times writing competition.

You're creating a new ambassador program for American and Batwa youth, called "Discover the Lost Tribe" as a part of the Redemption Song Foundation. What would you like readers to know about this program?

Discover the Lost Tribe is going to be an ambassadorship program connecting American and Batwa youth. American high school and college age youth will apply to be accepted into this competitive program and will then volunteer virtually in different program areas for 3 or 6 months before having an opportunity to travel to Uganda for a few weeks to spend time with the Batwa. My goal is to open the eyes of both American and Batwa youth about similarities and differences in their worldviews and life experiences and learn from one another.



"For an earlier issue of *Nature Book Guide*, I recommended *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*, and I'm delighted to see this new young reader's edition of the book has the same hopeful perspective that there are things ordinary people can do to support ecosystem resilience."
-Dennis Vásquez

Nature's Best Hope: How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard, Douglas W. Tallamy (adapted by Sarah L. Thomson), Timber Press, 2023, 256 pages
Reading Age: 8-12 years



Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard, Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2020, 256 pages



Recommended by Dennis Vásquez, Deputy Director of the City of Albuquerque's Parks and Recreation Department, and retired Park Superintendent with National Park Service

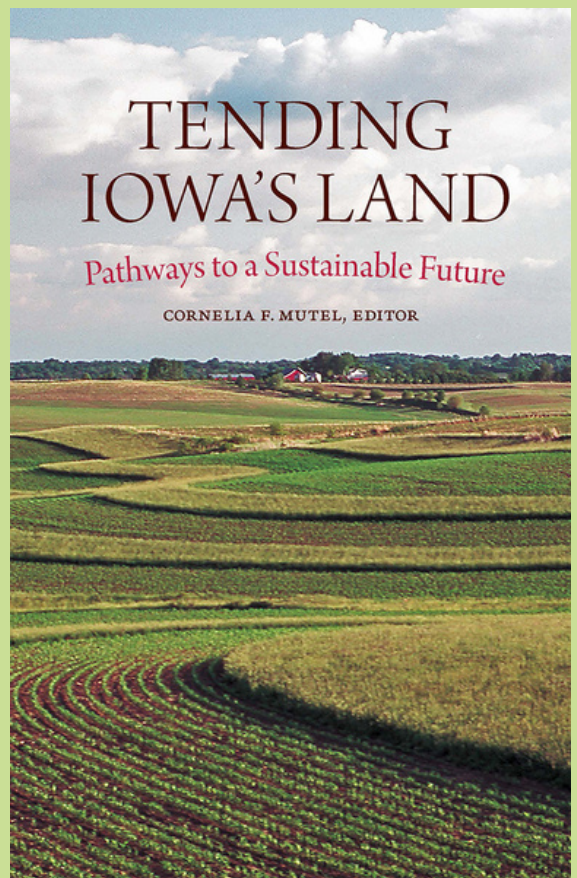
Why should anyone care about Iowa? The answer: We all should.

Arguably the most ecologically devastated state in the country--only one-tenth of one percent of the original prairie ecosystem remains--the state provides food, fuel, and agricultural products used all over the world. And despite the loss of their native ecosystem and a state legislature unwilling to fund solutions, Iowans are providing some great examples for those working to build a better future. *Tending Iowa's Land* shines light on the people and organizations working thoughtfully and diligently to improve their state.

Solutions include adopting regenerative agriculture strategies, shifts to renewable energy, watershed improvements, establishing clean energy districts, testing new grazing systems, and preserving and restoring remnant habitats.

Volunteerism takes a significant role. Brian Soenen, of the river-focused Iowa Project AWARE said, "One person can inspire change, but it takes a community to make something happen."

Tending Iowa's Land: Pathways to a Sustainable Future, Cornelia F. Mutel (editor), University of Iowa Press, 2022, 301 pages



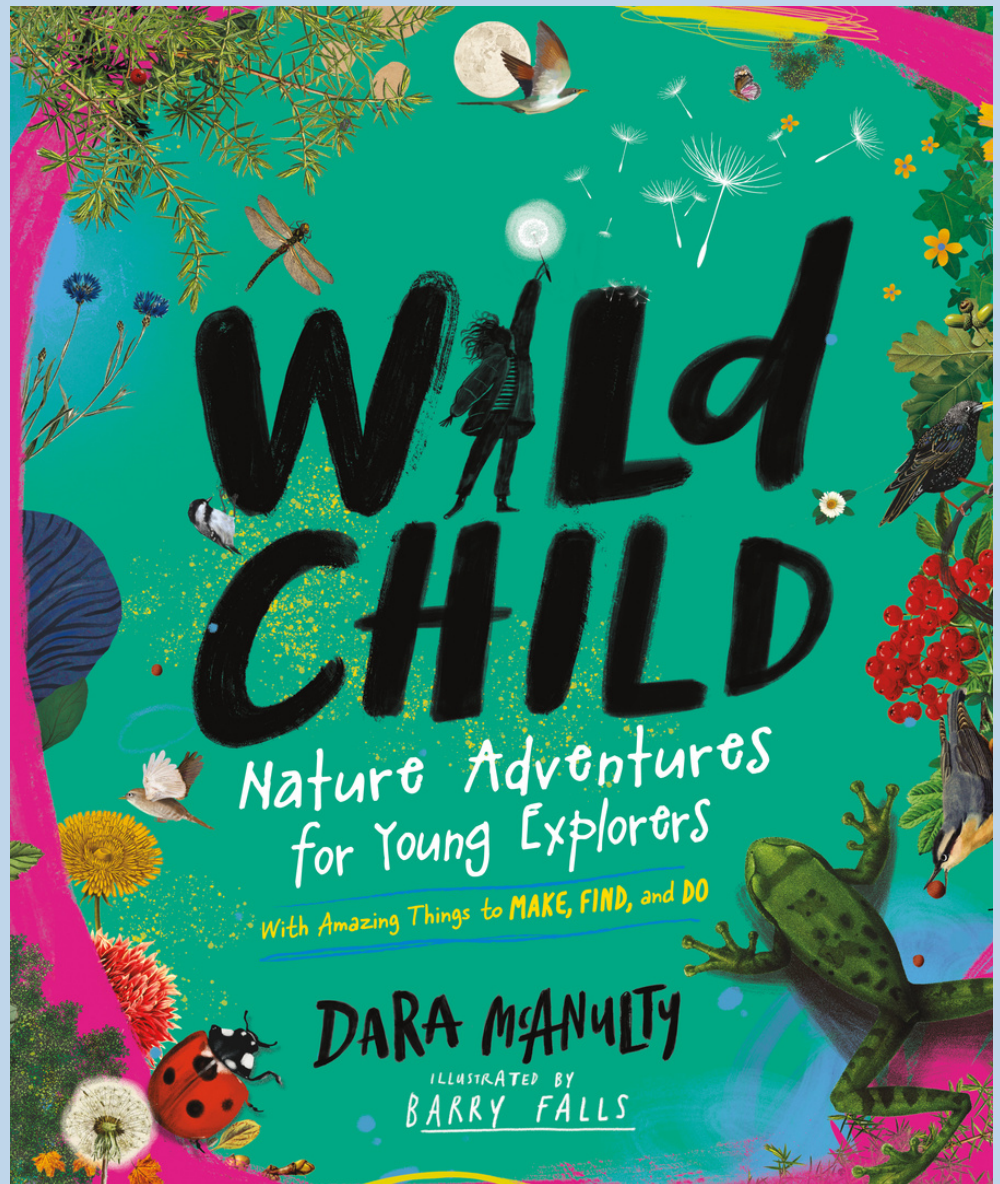
For the Child in All of Us

Wild Child: Nature Adventures for Young Explorers—with Amazing Things to Make, Find, and Do, Dara McNulty (writer) Barry Falls (illustrator), The Experiment, 2023, 64 pages

Reading Age: 7-11

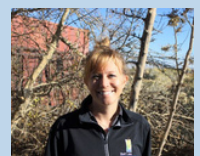


Nineteen-year-old Dara McNulty is a multi-award-winning autistic author, naturalist, and conservationist from Northern Ireland. His debut book, Diary of a Young Naturalist, won the 2020 Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing.

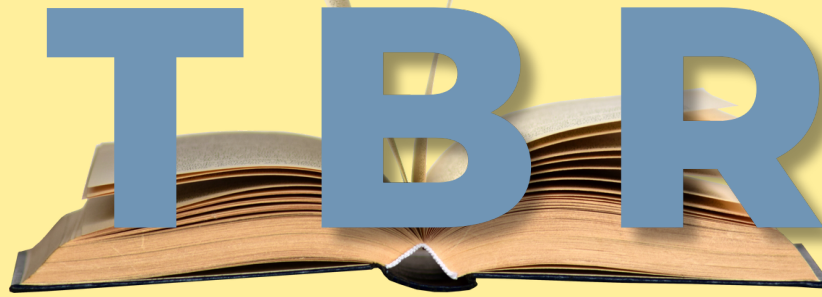


"*Wild Child* is a beautifully crafted book that identifies a variety of outdoor settings (such as the woods, open country, and rivers) and inspires the wild child in us all to go outside and explore! It is filled with interesting facts, poetic prose, and colorful illustrations, and demonstrates that there are many different ways to engage with nature." --Rachel Hutchens

Recommended by Rachel Hutchens,
Executive Director, Bluff Lake Nature Center



"TO BE READ" BOOKS IN THE SUMMER 2023 ISSUE



- Page 7: *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea: A Novel*, Debra Magpie Earling, Milkweed Editions, 2023, 264 pages
The Lewis and Clark Journals (Abridged Edition): An American Epic of Discovery, Meriwether Lewis and Members of the Corps of Discovery (authors), Gary E. Moulton (editor), Bison Books, 2004, 497 pages
- Page 8: *The Nature Book*, Tom Comitta, Coffee House Press, 2023, 272 pages
Emergency: A Pastoral Novel, Daisy Hildyard, Astra House, 2022, 224 pages
- Page 9: *Front Country*, Sara St. Antoine, Chronicle Books, 2022, 332 pages
The Summer Book, Tove Jansson (Translated from Swedish by Thomas Teal), New York Review of Books (paperback), 2008, 184 pages
- Page 10: *My Wilderness: An Alaskan Adventure*, Claudia McGehee, Little Bigfoot, 2015, 32 pages
Paddling North: A Solo Adventure Along the Inside Passage, Audrey Sutherland (author), Yoshiko Yamamoto (illustrator), Patagonia, 2012, 172 pages
- Page 11: *Raven's Witness: The Alaska Life of Richard K. Nelson*, Hank Lentfer, Mountaineer Books, 2020, 256 pages
The Island Within, Richard Nelson, Vintage, 1991, 284 pages
Bird Girl and the Man who Followed the Sun, Velma Wallis, Harper Perennial, 1997, 224 pages
Raising Ourselves: A Gwitch'in Coming of Age Story from the Yukon River, Velma Wallis, Epicenter Press, 2003, 212 pages
- Page 12: *The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes*, Robert F. Griggs/National Geographic Society, Legare Street Press 2022 (reprint), 1922 (original), 348 pages
- Page 13: *American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West*, Nate Blakeslee, Crown, (paperback) 2018, 302 pages
The Language of Butterflies: How Thieves, Hoarders, Scientists, and Other Obsessives Unlocked the Secrets of the World's Favorite Insect, Wendy Williams, Simon & Schuster, 2021 (paperback), 256 pages
- Page 14: *Desert Terroir: Exploring the Unique Flavors and Sundry Places of the Borderlands*, Gary Paul Nabhan, University of Texas Press, 2012, 144 pages
- Page 15: *A Book of Bees: And How to Keep Them*, Sue Hubbell, Mariner Books, 1998, 208 pages
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Annie Dillard, Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2013 (Originally published 1974), 304 pages
- Page 16: *Northern Light: Power, Land and the Memory of Water*, Kazim Ali, Milkweed Editions, 2021, 200 pages
Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden, Camille T. Dungy, Simon & Schuster, 2023, 336 pages
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- Page 19: *The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World*, Alison H. Deming and Lauret Savoy (editors), Milkweed Editions, 2011, 368 pages
Birdgirl: Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future, Mya-Rose Craig, Celadon Books, 2023, 304 pages
- Page 20: *A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis*, Vanessa Nakate, Mariner Books, 2022, 240 pages
- Page 23: *Nature's Best Hope: How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard*, Douglas W. Tallamy (adapted by Sarah L. Thomson), Timber Press, 2023, 256 pages
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- Page 24: *Wild Child: Nature Adventures for Young Explorers—with Amazing Things to Make, Find, and Do*, Dara McNulty (writer) Barry Falls (illustrator), The Experiment, 2023, 64 pages

Finding the Books Featured in the Guide

We consider libraries and independent booksellers the primary resources for locating books. Many libraries offer interlibrary loan or can find an electronic copy when books are not in their physical collection. To locate an independent bookseller near you, [Indiebound](#) offers a "[bookstore finder](#)" feature on their website. Another resource is [bookshop.org](#), where every purchase on the site financially supports independent bookstores, and you can specify your favorite shop to receive support. Authors often suggest purchasing through Indiebound, [bookshop.org](#), directly through the publisher, or a local independent bookshop. Some of our selections, including vintage or backlist titles, might be more challenging to locate. We've had good luck finding older titles through [Alibris](#) or other online merchants.

Discovering Inspiring Places



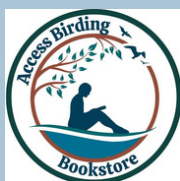
Rocky Mountain Land Library's mission is to help connect people to nature and the land. Their work and their generosity have inspired the *Nature Book Guide*.

Website: landlibrary.wordpress.com Instagram: @landlibrary



An independent bookstore in Iowa City, Iowa (UNESCO City of Literature), Sidekick Coffee & Books hosted our first Nature Book Guide special event in April.

Website: sidekickcoffeebooks.com Instagram: @sidekickcoffeeandbooks



Access Birding, a specialty online store on [bookshop.org](#) related to access, inclusion, disability, and birding. Presented by a disabled birder, an occupational therapist, and an advocate for improving access and inclusion for disabled birders.

Store: bookshop.org/shop/accessbirding Website: accessbirding.com

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Nature Book Guide is the result of a community of exceptionally kind people:

- Book Recommendation Panel members are the heart of this project. Friends, your recommendations and your work inspire us, illuminate us, educate, and entertain us. We couldn't put the *Guide* together without you.
- Sophie Pavelle and Joyce Orishaba, for giving us time and enthusiasm for our interviews, thank you.
- Sidekick Coffee and Books and Body Moves Fitness and Wellness Center for hosting our first public event, thank you.
- Friends who've left our bookmarks in Little Free Libraries, who put up posters in public libraries, who thank us for recommendations, and help spread the word about *Nature Book Guide*, thank you.
- Linda, your editorial talents make every page, every sentence better. Thank you.
- Monte, thank you for your thoughtful and insightful enthusiasm and for supporting this project in every possible way.

--Beth Nobles, Founder/Editor of *Nature Book Guide*

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