

NATURE



BOOK GUIDE

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1
AUTUMN 2022
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

Hello there, readers. As you flip (or scroll) through these pages, I hope you'll discover books you'll want to take to the woods or the seashore or the prairie or enjoy late at night under a quilt on the couch.

We planned this Guide to offer something for everyone--cozy novels, dystopian fables, inspiring memoirs and adventure stories, illuminating volumes of nonfiction, theoretical approaches to advocacy, and even a murder mystery solved by a birding detective. I invited friends, colleagues and friends of friends--scientists, naturalists and stewards of the natural world--to share their favorite books with you. The books celebrate nature in some way, inspire us to act or ask questions, to learn, to enjoy. I've read every one and I hope you'll enjoy them as much as I have.

Why the Guide Was Created

Nature Book Guide really began when I realized I could no longer recommend a book I'd loved. Originally published in 1942, *Cross Creek*, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings wrote descriptions of her rural Florida orange grove, swamp, creek, and neighbors so rich, that in the 1990s I planned a detour during a family trip to experience the place myself. Yet when I finally picked my ragged paperback copy last year, I was horrified to realize I'd dismissed Rawlings' overt racism as an outdated relic of her time. I couldn't overlook or excuse it any longer, nor could I recommend *Cross Creek* to anyone. The Guide became a way to include people and ideas, particularly those from underrepresented communities, rather than exclude them.

Representation Matters

I had no women role models in my first work outdoors; in 1975, I knew there were serious, thoughtful women out in the field, I just wasn't exposed to them. Many years later, it was gratifying to be a part of conversations Denver's outdoor community was having about embracing diversity, equity and inclusion. Representation does, indeed, matter; and I hope you'll find *Nature Book Guide* reflects that in our selections of authors, books, publishers, and our volunteer Book Recommendation Panel. We want to widen this community, so we'll add more voices to the Panel in upcoming issues.

If you find something you love in *Nature Book Guide*, will you help spread the word? Our Guide will always be free to download from our website (www.naturebookguide.com) along with extra features, bookmarks, and posters. And I'd value your thoughts as we plan our upcoming quarterly issues; feel free to contact me at naturebookguide@gmail.com.

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, where she promoted the desert/mountain region's natural and historical assets, including state and national parks. Through a partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Beth 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.



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 studying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geospatial analysis to support 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, Tree Crop Commercialization Lead for the Savanna Institute. 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.



Courtney Lyons-Garcia, Executive Director of the Public Lands Foundation; previously served as Executive Director of the 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 B. 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.



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

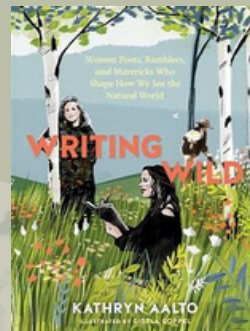
Vintage Fiction

The Keeper of the Bees

The Keeper of the Bees,
Gene Stratton-Porter,
The McCall Company, 1925,
505 pages

Jamie McFarland, a severely injured WWI soldier deemed a hopeless case by doctors, walks away from a government veteran's hospital, and with serendipitous timing finds himself in a beautiful mountainside garden property on the Pacific Coast in California. There he becomes a caretaker of the land and its beehives, and in the process heals himself. Though villains abound and threaten his well-being and land, Jamie and his kind neighbors, including his young and feisty sidekick "Scout," overcome adversity, always standing for virtue and trust, love and beauty, loyalty and friendship. This is a beautifully written and charming story celebrating nature and wonder, with the natural history of bees at its heart.

**"A beehive is just full of miracles
and signs and symbols and
wonders."**



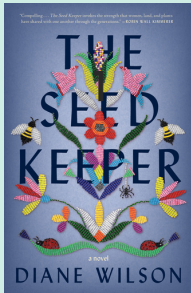
We found Gene Stratton-Porter's work through *Writing Wild* by Kathryn Aalto, a delightful and important introduction to women nature writers.

Writing Wild by Kathryn Aalto
Timber Press, 2020
250 pages

Written in the early 1920s, the engaging prose includes details that feel thoroughly modern. Key to the story is a gender-ambiguous character, described as "ambisextrous" in the *New York Times*' review at publication.

Gene Stratton-Porter (1863-1924) was a naturalist and nature photographer as well as a silent film-era producer. She was also one of the most popular authors of her time. Several of her books were best sellers (attracting an estimated 50 million readers) and were made into motion pictures. Stratton-Porter advocated for legislation for the conservation of wetlands, including her home Limberlost Swamp in Indiana, which was drained for agriculture between 1888 and 1910. It was partially restored in 1997 and is held by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

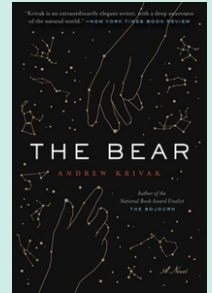
Four Novels



The Seed Keeper,
Diane Wilson,
Milkweed Editions,
2021, 392 pages

Courage, sacrifice, and rebirth connect the lives of four Indigenous women in this remarkable first novel by Diane Wilson, a Dakhóta author. Seeds hidden in the hems of skirts so they could be protected and passed from one generation to another, offer hope beyond intergenerational trauma and environmental and cultural degradation. *The Seed Keeper* is a beautiful story of grief, strength, generosity, and friendship.

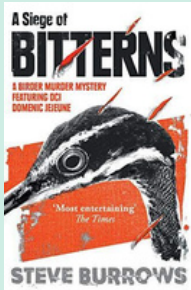
Winner of the 2022 Minnesota Book Award in Fiction,
Longlisted for the 2022 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award



The Bear,
Andrew Krivak,
Bellevue Literary Press,
2020, 224 pages

The Bear is a tender story about human extinction and the father and daughter who are the last two in a post-apocalyptic "Edenic future." Survival means acquiring skills--gathering and preparing food, making clothing and finding shelter--and paying attention to the rhythms of life, to the seasons, and to the animals around them. A fable of uncommon and delicate beauty, *The Bear* will stay with you.

NEA Big Read selection, Mountain Book Competition Winner,
Chautauqua Prize Finalist, Joyce Carol Oates Prize Longlist



*A Siege of Bitterns: A
Birder Murder Mystery*,
Steve Burrows
Point Blank/One World,
2014, 368 pages

Fans of BBC murder mysteries will enjoy following DCI Domenic Jejeune as he solves a murder in Norfolk, England, aided by his vast knowledge of birding and ecology. *A Siege of Bitterns* is the first in a series of seven mysteries by the former editor of *Hong Kong Bird Watching Society* magazine and contributing field editor for *Asian Geographic*.

Winner Best First Novel 2015 Arthur Ellis Award, Globe and Mail
100: Best Books of 2014, Shortlisted for Best Mystery 2015 Kobo
Emerging Writer Prize



The Rain Heron,
Robbie Arnott,
FSG Originals, 2021,
288 pages

The rain heron--a magical, luminous, shape-shifting creature with the ability to change the weather--is pursued through a remote and dangerous frontier. A thriller marked by violence and beauty, the intertwining stories speak to friendship, resilience, and our precarious relationship to nature. *The Rain Heron* is a post-apocalyptic fable told with emotion, elegance, and two strong female characters at the lead.

Robbie Arnott was named a Sydney Morning Herald Best Young
Australian Novelist

An Interview with Author Susan Futrell



Good Apples: Behind Every Bite, Susan Futrell,
University of Iowa Press, 2017
262 pages

What updates do you have for readers on the apple industry since *Good Apples* was published?

Things have not gotten easier for apple growers. Climate extremes, global markets, and consolidation in the wholesale/retail industry have squeezed even the large growers in WA state. Many smaller orchards have shifted to Pick-Your-Own with events and other attractions as the only way they can manage to stay afloat. So that bifurcation into commodity volume or small-scale specialty has continued to deepen. One hopeful change is that interest in craft cider has led to more heirloom plantings, albeit often at a pretty small scale. Still, all the orchards I work directly with in the Northeast are still in business, several now in the hands of the next generation. Within a few miles of my house in Iowa are now several orchards that sell dozens of varieties at local markets and stores—we definitely have better access to fabulous local fruit than a few years ago. I think those orchards have a positive future as long as people appreciate their fruit; wholesale orchards that supply big grocery chains and export markets face so many outside pressures, it is going to continue to be challenging for them.

***Good Apples* inspires readers—or at least it inspired us—to become more adventurous apple buyers. What varieties are your current favorites?**

I still love a good Macoun or Empire when I'm in the Northeast, and a tart-sweet Jonathan when I can find one in the Midwest. Cox's Orange Pippin, originally from England, is sublime. The more I'm around apples, the more varieties I love—it's hard to pick just one or two!

***Good Apples* begins on an icy February day when an apple orchard is sold at auction, and Susan Futrell is relieved she is not holding the winning bid.**

With years of experience in sustainable food distribution and marketing, Futrell understands the ecological and economic forces shaping the apple industry. University of Iowa Press writes that Futrell, "shows us why sustaining family orchards, like family farms, may be essential to the soul of our nation."

We loved your affection for the Harold Linder orchard, what has happened to that land?

The land is still there, although Harold died a number of years ago, well into his nineties. I last visited the orchard about three years ago; it is increasingly untended and wild, and the grass was knee-high between the trees. The Leopold tree is easy to find even without the map we made, thanks to its long horizontal branch perfect for sitting just a few feet off the ground. Harold's son and daughter have given a portion of his land to a county conservancy and it is now a public space for walking along the creek and hills. But at that time they had not been able to find a manageable way to turn over the orchard and house, or a buyer who could give it the care it needs. Your question makes me want to drive down to check on it. I might try to take a scion from the Leopold tree if I can find a place for it.

You were so clear in your discussion of challenges bringing organic apples to the consumer. What would you like apple buyers to know about organic apples today?

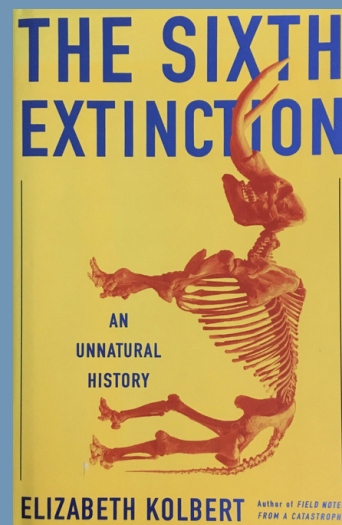
93% of the organic apples grown in the US are in one region: arid, mostly-irrigated western Washington. If you want good, local apples anywhere else, look for growers who use other versions of ecological practices as well. There are plenty of them, and they grow delicious, healthy fruit with deep respect for their land and communities. Like so many things these days, it's wise to stop seeing everything as having only two answers, right or wrong. Not healthy for ecosystems, or democracies!

"If you know how to look, you can probably find signs of the current extinction even in your own backyard."

--Elizabeth Kolbert

Considered a modern classic, Kolbert makes complex scientific theory relatable, even exciting, and certainly easy to understand. Traveling to sites important to the five great extinctions prior to our own Anthropocene, she tells stories of endangered species and habitats all over the world. From the Andes to the Great Barrier Reef to Iceland, with a sense of both wonder and dread, Kolbert documents the impact of human activity on climate and environment.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, a New York Times Bestseller, one of the New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Books of the Year, National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist.

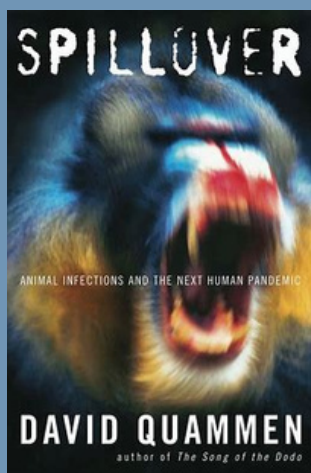


The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, Elizabeth Kolbert,
Henry Holt & Company, 2014,
336 pages



"A great read on an important topic that is getting overlooked to our detriment." --Rich Reading

Recommended by Richard Reading,
Vice President of Science and Conservation at Butterfly Pavilion



"For five years, I shadowed scientists into the field—a rooftop in Bangladesh, a forest in the Congo, a Chinese rat farm, a suburban woodland in Dutchess County, New York—and through their high-biosecurity laboratories. I interviewed survivors and gathered stories of the dead.....I tried hard to deliver the science, the history, the mystery, and the human anguish as page-turning drama."

--David Quammen

Booklist Top 10 Science Book of 2012,
New York Times Book Review Notable Book for 2012

"This enlightening book walks you through the little things we overlook like a murder mystery, and how they can all add up to something much bigger and world-altering. I was shocked at how insignificant interactions and lucky circumstances led to so much in our world today."

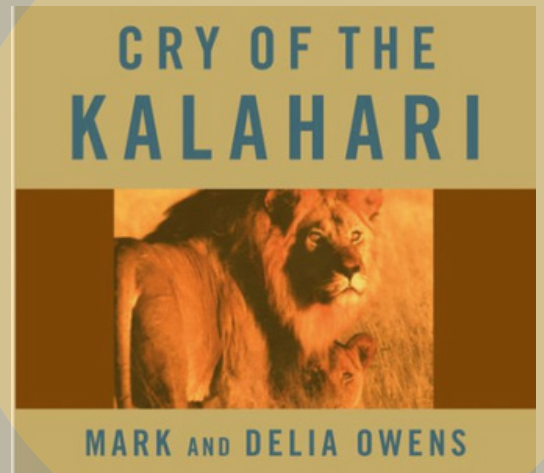
--Warren Sconiers

Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic
David Quammen, WW
Norton, 2012, 520
pages

Recommended by Warren Sconiers, Associate
Teaching Professor, Department of Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado at Boulder



“On January 4, 1974, a year after we were married, we boarded a plane with two backpacks, two sleeping bags, one pup tent, a small cooking kit, a camera, one change of clothes each, and \$6000. It was all we had to set up our research.” --Mark Owens



Cry of the Kalahari, Mark and Delia Owens, Mariner Books, 1984, 316 pages

A story of tenacity and survival in extreme isolation, Mark and Delia Owens detail their zoological research with lions, brown hyenas, and jackals—animals with no previous exposure to humans. The Owens fought through hunger and thirst, wind, drought, and fire. On-the-fly veterinary care, improvised camp construction, and repair of their vehicle, airplane, and radio transmitters, they proved unshakable with every challenge.

An international bestseller and winner of the John Burroughs Medal for the Best Natural History Book of the Year. (And yes, this is the same Delia Owens who authored the best-seller *Where the Crawdads Sing*.)

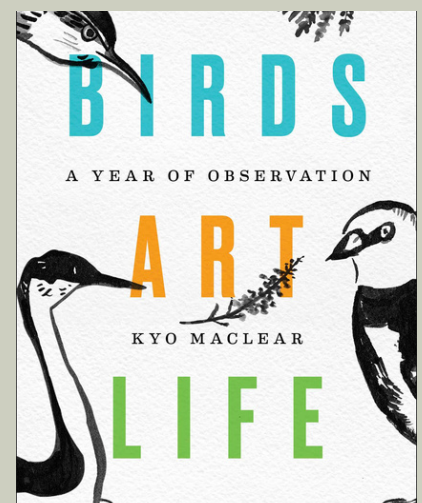


“One of my favorites. Delia’s chapters especially make you feel like you are there, tracking lions and brown hyenas, and experiencing the challenges of human development, drought and a changing climate. It’s a beautiful and stomach-tightening book that highlights our changing world.” --Kate Vannelli

Recommended by Kate Vannelli,
Leader of the ‘Living with Big Cats’ Initiative at World Wildlife Fund

“On the satisfactions of small birds and small art and the audacity of aiming tiny in an age of big ambitions” --Kyo Maclear

Seeking comfort and inspiration during a challenging year of illness and grief, writer Kyo Maclear sets out to learn about urban birds under the tutelage of a musician friend. This is a poetic meditation on life, family, and creation. Short essays structured around the months of the year offer thoughtful discussions on making art, paring down life to simple pleasures and seeking beauty from the ordinary.



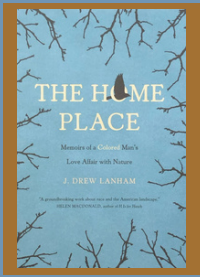
Birds Art Life: A Year of Observation, Kyo Maclear, Scribner, 2017, 217 pages



“Birds, Art, Life is a poignant book about a pessimistic artist that falls in love with birds. She comes to see birding as a disposition that keeps you open to beauty.” --Bill Davison

Recommended by Bill Davison, Tree Crop Commercialization Lead, accomplished birder and John Wesley Powell Audubon Society board member

Four Nature Memoirs



The Home Place: Memoir of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature



J. DREW LANHAM

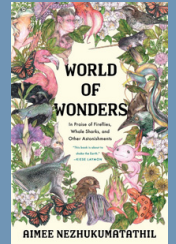
Milkweed Editions
2017
216 pages

In the first pages of *The Home Place*, J. Drew Lanham describes himself as “I am as much a scientist as I am a black man; my skin defines me no more than my heart does. But somehow my color often casts my love affair with nature in shadow.” *The Home Place* is a thoughtful memoir of family; the wild places of Edgefield, South Carolina, Lanham’s home; birds and deer and crickets and rivers; race and identity.

Winner of the 2017 Southern Book Prize, Reed Award from the Southern Environmental Law Center, Finalist for the John Burroughs Medal, Named a “Best Scholarly Book of the Decade” by The Chronicle of Higher Education.



World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments

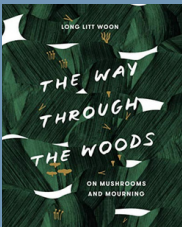


AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL

Milkweed Editions
2020
184 pages

Excitement, delight and astonishment bubble through the short essays in *World of Wonders*; Nezhukumatathil’s tender memories are intertwined with her experience as a daughter of Filipino mother and south Indian father in a family that was frequently uprooted. Through these stories frogs, cactus wrens, cara cara oranges, corpse flowers, peacocks and butterflies, remind us of our connection to and responsibility for the natural world.

A New York Times Best Seller, Barnes & Noble 2020 Book of the Year, an NPR Best Book of 2020, Kirkus Prize Finalist for Nonfiction, Southern Book Prize Finalist



The Way Through the Woods: On Mushrooms and Mourning



LONG LITT WOON

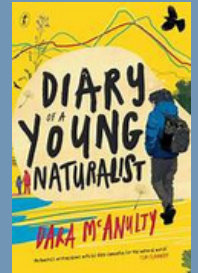
Penguin Random House
2019
279 pages

Anthropologist Long Litt Woon met and married her husband, Eiolf, shortly after she arrived in Norway to attend graduate school from Malaysia; his unexpected death at the age of fifty-four left her struggling with grief. Signing up for a course on mushrooming, she discovers a way to reengage with life, and embrace discovery and delight in the small vibrant world of mushrooms. Her travels take her from the Norwegian forest to Central Park in New York City, to Corsica.

The Way Through the Woods is published in 16 languages.



Diary of a Young Naturalist



DARA MCANULTY

Penguin Random House UK
2020
220 pages

When *Diary of a Young Naturalist* was published, Dara McAnulty was a 17-year-old autistic naturalist, and activist in Northern Ireland. A raw and beautifully written memoir, McAnulty shares his sensory encounters with nature, his enthusiasm, his struggles with school and challenges with advocacy. The reader emerges from this diary with a better understanding of autism and awe for McAnulty’s extraordinary voice.

Winner of the Book of the Year, Narrative Non-Fiction British Book Awards 2021; Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2020; Post Irish Book Award for Newcomer of the Year 2020.

Hawaiki Rising

and the Curious Legacy of H. A. Rey

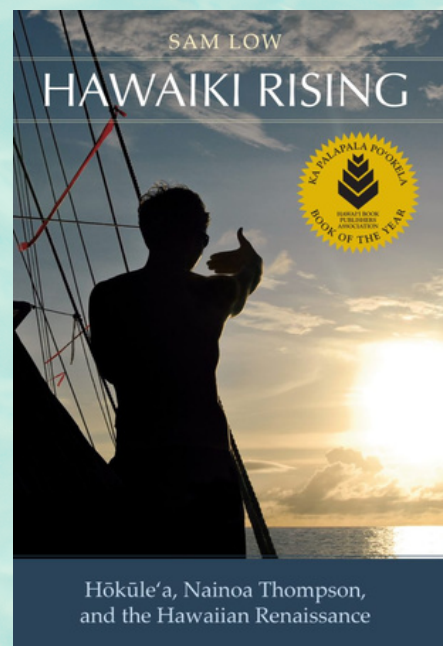
Hawaiki Rising is the story of a Polynesian voyaging canoe named Hōkūleʻa. Built with traditional materials and techniques, the goal was to sail across the Pacific without benefit of modern charts or instruments. Was this a scientific experiment? Or a project of cultural rebirth? Devastating losses, delays, and disagreements plagued the project, but it sailed in 1975, using knowledge of the waves, wind and stars as navigational tools. As Hōkūleʻa's navigator Nainoa Thompson said, "it has been a process of finding ourselves not only as Hawaiians, as native to these islands, but also to the planet Earth."

**"Growing up in Hawai'i in the nineteen sixties, I found my Hawaiian culture ebbing away. I had never attended a traditional ceremony and seldom heard our language spoken. It was a confusing time for me and I felt lost between worlds that seemed in conflict. All that changed one night when Herb Kane introduced me to the stars and explained how my ancestors had used them to find their way across a vast ocean to settle all of Polynesia. At that moment, my vision of my ancestry became timeless and alive in those same stars."
-Nainoa Thompson**



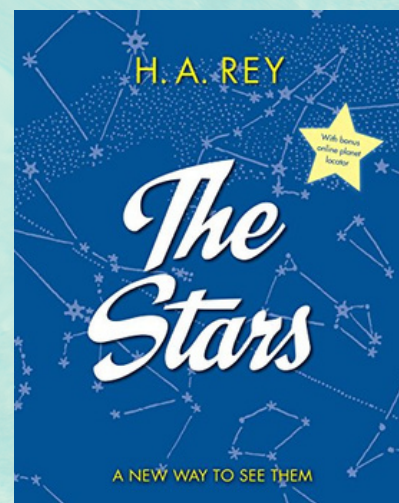
Recommended by Katie Smither, an Opto-mechanical Technician, who helps to maintain large telescope mirrors, instrument optics, and laser beams used in contemporary ground-based astronomy. She is currently working in Chile.

Nainoa Thompson used ancient wayfinding techniques of celestial navigation including the Micronesian Star Compass to guide Hōkūleʻa, however there's a startling connection between Thompson and H.A. Rey, the illustrator and author, known for the *Curious George* series of children's picture books. Read more on our blog at naturebookguide.com.



Hawaiki Rising: Hawaiki Rising: Hōkūleʻa, Nainoa Thompson, and the Hawaiian Renaissance,
Sam Low,
University of Hawai'i Press,
2019, 344 pages

KA PALAPALA PO'OKELA AWARDS
Hawai'i Book Publishers Association Book of the Year, 2014





THE HOUR OF LAND

A PERSONAL TOPOGRAPHY OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS



The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks
Terry Tempest Williams,
Farrar, Straus and
Giroux, 2016, 389 pages

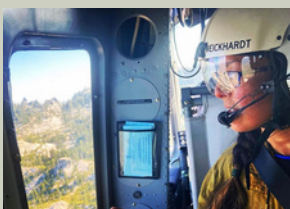
Longlisted for an Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence, A *Washington Post* Notable Book of the Year

Terry Tempest Williams reflects on a “geography of hope” through her personal experiential lens on a dozen diverse National Parks and Monuments. The mosaic of contrasts she examines are not only of those inherent between the landscapes of the parks, places and histories therein, but also of those between preservation and use, conservation and consumption, and politics and ecology.

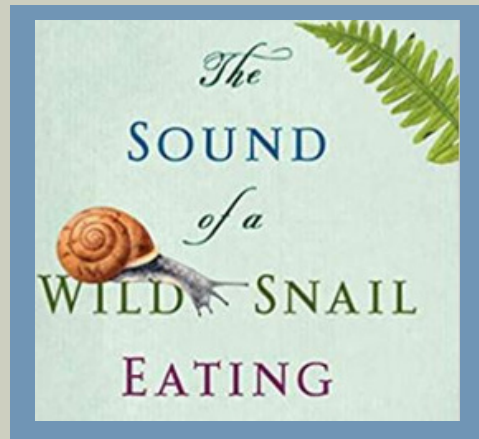
As one of the most American ideas to date, she eloquently expresses how each of the National Parks protects for all “democratic vistas” and the notion of “unending possibility.” But she doesn’t shy from discussing the difficult and painful realities of how many of these now federally owned public lands were once, and still very much are, the sacred homelands to many Native American people. Her caring way of acknowledging those displaced and her inquiry into some of these injustices lends to showing us a way to embrace the whole simultaneously complicated and remarkable story of our National Park system, and how to ultimately heal our humanity.

Her love affair with prairie dogs is endearing, too, but her love affair with the land, recognizing its soul as our own, is what seems to resonate most profoundly. Being reminded that these National Parks are “breathing spaces for a society that increasingly holds its breath” is a call to action for all of us to reconnect with our wilder, more authentic selves, and to commune with the wildness of places like Canyonlands, Big Bend, and Gates of the Arctic NPs to name a few. This is an impassioned Nature read that is sure to inspire.

—Adrianna Weickhardt



Recommended by Adrianna Weickhardt,
US Forest Service hydrologic technician



The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating by Elisabeth Tova Bailey, Algonquin Books, 2016, 208 pages

"I could never have guessed what would get me through this past year--a woodland snail and its offspring"

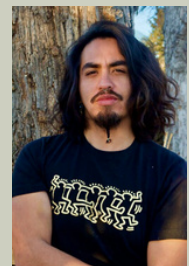
--Elisabeth Tova Bailey

Felled by an unknown pathogen, Elisabeth Tova Bailey is bedridden with severe neurological symptoms, her body "rendered useless." When a friend brings her a gift from the woods, *Neohelix albolabris* a common forest snail (*Neohelix albolabris*), Bailey spends hours observing her new companion. She writes a captivating meditation on survival and resilience, a short volume of quiet and brilliant nature writing.

"*The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* left a mental impression on the power the duality in putting oneself in the perspective of another. In order for us to observe, we must stop, perceive and and take it in. In the case of the author, a forced halt offered her the opportunity to see life through a different lens and to appreciate stillness and observation. Sometimes life gives circumstances that are literally out of our control. We must find solutions and insight via those adversities, and in this case the best teacher is Nature."

"El sonido de un caracol comiendo dejó una impresión mental en el poder la dualidad de ponerse uno mismo en la perspectiva del otro. Para que podamos observar debemos detenernos y asimilarlo. En el caso de la autora, un alto forzoso le ofreció la oportunidad de ver la vida con otro lente y apreciar la quietud y la observación. A veces la vida da circunstancias que están literalmente fuera de nuestro control. Debemos encontrar soluciones y discernimiento a través de esas adversidades, y qué mejor maestra que la Naturaleza." --Efrain Leal Escalera

Winner of the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing,
Winner of the John Burroughs Medal,
Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award in Natural History Literature



Recommended by Efrain Leal Escalera, a proud bilingual, multicultural immigrant scientist/artist from Durango, Mexico.

Snail photo by Efrain Leal Escalera

Outdoor Adventure

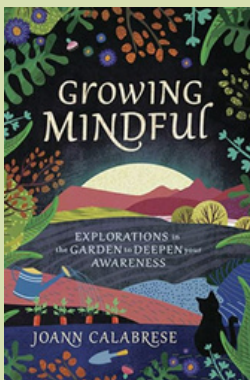
**"If you are reading this and looking longingly out of the window at a distant hill, then this book is for you, whoever you are and wherever in the world you might be."
—Alastair Humphreys**



Microadventures: Local Discoveries for Great Escapes, Alastair Humphreys.
William Collins, 2015, 256 pages

There's no reason to feel stuck in the "9 to 5 life" when hours of adventure can be enjoyed after the work day. Humphreys, who's biked around the world and paddled across oceans, makes the case for pursuing adventure—even if you're city-bound and wilderness seems hundreds of miles away—and includes dozens of adventures like a credit card adventure, walking home for Christmas, and impromptu escapes from the office.

**"Joann leads Qigong and Mindfulness walks at Bluff Lake Nature Center and other natural areas around the Denver area. This book has a lot of great ways for adults and kids to connect to nature on a daily basis, whether it's in your backyard, in a city park or just looking out our window."
—Rachel Hutchens**



Growing Mindful: Explorations in the Garden to Deepen Your Awareness, Joann Calabrese, Llewellyn Publications, 2021, 272 pages



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

**"The intent of this book is to spread the power and joy that comes from spending time on the trail"
—Summer Michaud-Skog**

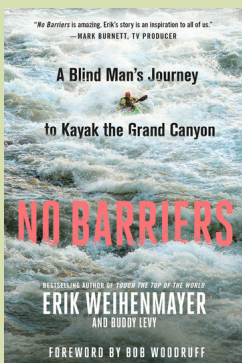


Fat Girls Hiking: An Inclusive Guide to Getting Outdoors at Any Size or Ability, Summer Michaud-Skog, Timber Press, 2022, 252 pages

Pure inspiration. *Fat Girls Hiking* was born from the Instagram account and in-person community of the same name. Even chapter headings inspire: "Bugs and Humidity: or Why I Didn't Start Hiking Sooner," "Finding Joyful Movement: Fitness Trauma, Team Sports, and Fat Athletes," and "Change Always Comes: The Restlessness Inside."

**"Don't make Everest the greatest thing you ever do."
—expedition leader to Erik Weihenmayer**

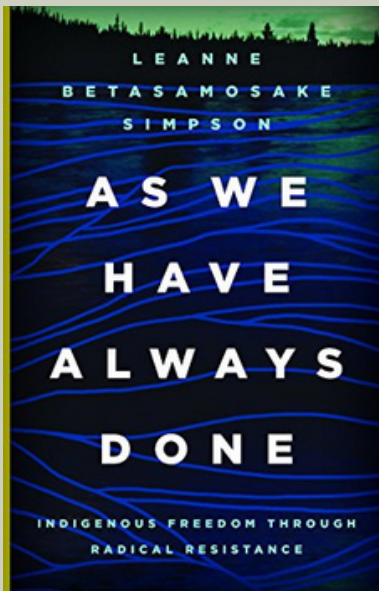
Erik Weihenmayer--the first blind adventurer to reach the summit of Mt. Everest--tackles challenge after challenge--from mountaineering to family tragedy to learning to lead expeditions before kayaking the Grand Canyon is even mentioned. *No Barriers* outlines "the how" of each adventure.



No Barriers: A Blind Man's Journey to Kayak the Grand Canyon, Erik Weihenmayer and Buddy Levy, Thomas Dunne Books, 2017, 480 pages



Recommended by Courtney Lyons-Garcia, Executive Director, Public Lands Foundation



As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance
by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, University of Minnesota Press, 2017, 320 pages



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

"I am absolutely sure that we as Nishnaabeg people cannot survive as a people without creating generations of artists, thinkers, makers and doers that live in Nishnaabeg worlds, that are in respectful relationship with each other, that create a movement that joins us to other Indigenous nations to protect the land and bodies."

--Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

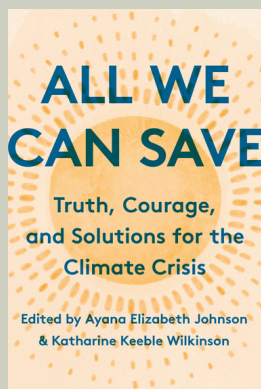
Winner: Native American and Indigenous Studies Association's Best Subsequent Book 2017; Honorable Mention: Labriola Center American Indian National Book Award 2017

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson is a Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg scholar, writer and artist, and is a member of the faculty of Ryerson University in Toronto. With *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance*, Simpson approaches some of the toughest topics of our time. Unapologetically, she presents a rigorous questioning of political change and advocacy and challenges prevailing societal norms by examining them through Nishnaabeg and academic lenses, often using Indigenous nature stories as her process. For readers looking for an intellectual challenge and an introduction to concepts that challenge the status quo, Simpson provides much food for thought.

"Leanna Betasamosake Simpson did not write this book for settlers or colonizers. She wrote it for her community, the Nishnaabeg people, and any other indigenous person who has had to debate the validity of their existence. As a non-indigenous reader, it is a privilege to read Simpson's words as I try to understand the indigenous resistance better."

***As We Have Always Done* is grounded in its own critical embodied research, writing outside of the framework of academics and institutions. Yet still, her words and the indigenous lessons within them are developed in a format that feels familiar, like the empirical scientific system.**

To mitigate the systemic harms that have been thrust upon this earth and persisted across generations, we must give an open ear to diverse histories."
--Monique Fair



All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson (editors), One World, 2020, 448 pages

"Top Ten Science Books of the Year" and "Earth Optimism Book of the Month" --Smithsonian Magazine

"Our visionaries, many of them women and people of color, have not only been warning us but illuminating paths forward. This book initially had a dual aim: to shine a light back on them, uplifting the expertise and voices of dozens of diverse women leading climate in the United States--scientists, journalists, farmers, lawyers, teachers, activists, innovators, wonks, and designers, across generations, geographies, and races--and to advance a more representative, nuanced, solution-oriented public conversation on the climate crisis. As we put it together, intermixing essays with poetry and art, as all these voices became a chorus, this book became a balm and a guide for the immense emotional complexity of knowing and holding what has been done to the world, while bolstering our resolve never to give up on one another or our collective future."

--Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katherine K. Wilkinson

For the Child in All of Us

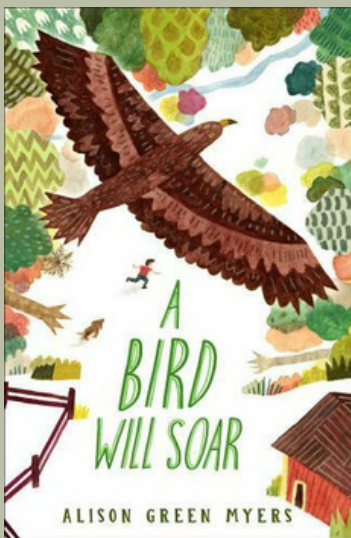


Creeking: A True Story, Jacqueline Briggs Martin (Claudia McGehee, illustrator), University of Minnesota Press, 2017, 36 pages.

Reading Age: 5-8 years

Can a creek be reclaimed after it has been bulldozed and filled with soil to become a cornfield? And become healthy enough to attract trout and bluebirds and frogs and insects? *Creeking* is the true story that answers YES. Michael Osterholm brought Iowa's Brook Creek back to life with big machines, plants, rocks, and gravel. Written by Caldecott Award-winning author Jacqueline Briggs Martin and beautifully illustrated by Claudia McGehee.

New York Public Library: A Top 100 Best Book for Kids 2017; John Burroughs Association--Riverby Award for Excellent Natural History Books for Young Readers; Green Prize for Sustainable Literature Awards; Green Earth Book Award

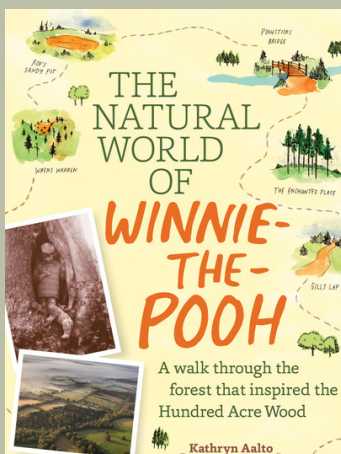


A Bird Will Soar, Alison Green Myers, Dutton's Children's Books/Penguin Random House, 2021, 390 pages.

Reading Age: 8-12 years

A Bird Will Soar is centered around Axel, a boy who loves birds and volunteers at a raptor rehabilitation center. When a tornado damages his home and destroys a nearby eagle's nest, Axel must learn to adjust with change. There are many surprises and discoveries for the reader; this heartfelt story addresses friendship and forgiveness, lost and found families, autism, growing up, and growing braver.

2022 Schneider Family Book Award, American Library Association; 2022 Carolyn W. Field Award: Best Book for Young Readers, Pennsylvania State Library Association; Fall 2021 Junior Library Guild Selection; 2022 Crystal Kite Finalist



The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: A Walk Through the Forest that Inspired the Hundred Acre Wood, Kathryn Aalto, Timber Press, 2015, 308 pages.

For adults to read on their own or with children.

Kathryn Aalto takes us to the places that inspired the Hundred Acre Wood, including the Poohsticks bridge, the Bee Tree, and Pooh's house. Brief biographies of both A.A. Milne and illustrator E.H. Shepard and the story of their collaboration are included, as well as a visitor's guide to the flora and fauna of Ashdown Forest. This is perfect bedside companion with original photographs, drawings, and maps; *The Natural World of Winnie the Pooh* is a book to be savored a page or two at a time.



BOOKS IN THE AUTUMN 2022 ISSUE

- Page 6: *The Keeper of the Bees*, Gene Stratton-Porter, The McCall Company, 1925, 505 pages.
Writing Wild, Kathryn Aalto, Timber Press, 2020, 250 pages.
- Page 7: *The Seed Keeper*, Diane Wilson, Milkweed Editions, 2021, 392 pages.
The Bear, Andrew Krivak, Bellevue Literary Press, 2020, 224 pages.
A Siege of Bitterns: A Birder Murder Mystery, Steve Burrows, Point Blank/One World, 2014, 368 pages.
The Rain Heron, Robbie Arnott, FSG Originals, 2021, 288 pages.
- Page 8: *Good Apples: Behind Every Bite*, Susan Futrell, University of Iowa Press, 2017, 262 pages.
- Page 9: *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, Elizabeth Kolbert, Henry Holt & Company, 2014, 336 pages.
Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic, David Quammen, WW Norton, 2012, 520 pages.
- Page 10: *Cry of the Kalahari*, Mark and Delia Owens, Mariner Books, 1984, 316 pages.
Birds Art Life, Kyo Maclear, Scribner, 2017, 217 pages.
- Page 11: *The Home Place: Memoir of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*, J. Drew Lanham, Milkweed Editions, 2016, 216 pages.
World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Milkweed Editions, 2020, 184 pages.
The Way Through the Woods: On Mushrooms and Mourning, Long Litt Woon, Penguin Random House, 2019, 279 pages.
Diary of a Young Naturalist, Dara McAnulty, Penguin Random House UK, 2020, 220 pages.
- Page 12: *Hawaiki Rising: Hawaiki Rising: Hōkūleʻa, Nainoa Thompson, and the Hawaiian Renaissance*, Sam Low, University of Hawai'i Press, 2019, 344 pages.
The Stars, H.A. Rey, HMH Books for Young Readers (2nd ed. edition), 2008, 160 pages.
- Page 13: *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks*, Terry Tempest Williams 2016, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 389 pages.
- Page 14: *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, Elisabeth Tova Bailey, Algonquin Books, 2010, 209 pages.
- Page 15: *Microadventures: Local Discoveries for Great Escapes*, Alastair Humphreys. William Collins, 2015, 256 pages.
Growing Mindful: Explorations in the Garden to Deepen Your Awareness, Joann Calabrese, Llewellyn Publications, 2021, 272 pages.
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Finding the Books Featured in the Guide

We consider our public library the primary resource for locating books. Many libraries offer interlibrary loan as an option for their patrons or can find an electronic copy when books are not in their physical collection. We also recommend readers patronize their local independent bookstores, or independent bookstores that are producing free events online, such as Point Reyes Books (see below). To locate an independent bookseller near you, [Indiebound](#) offers a "[bookstore finder](#)" feature on their website. Authors often suggest purchasing through Indiebound or directly through the publisher. Some of our selections, including vintage or backlist titles, might be more challenging. 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 has helped inspire the *Nature Book Guide*.

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Website: emergencemagazine.org [Events](#) (including free access to recorded events)

Thanks and Acknowledgements

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

- Book Recommendation Panel members, thank you for lending your names and recommendations to this project, and for the hours of reading you provided. And to Katie, Kate, and Mo, the first to jump on board-- you got the ball rolling my friends, and I'm forever grateful. Adrianna, you've helped in so many ways. Thank you.
- Library friends: Catherine, J.D., and Jeff and Ann, thank you for your inspiration and solid, thoughtful advice.
- LaShanda, our conversations about the need for representation and role models stuck; thank you.
- Kristin, I am grateful for the leap you took with our early COVID-days Nature Book Club.
- Thanks to my librarian mom, who took me to work with her, and to my dad for teaching me about the stars.
- To Monte, who has supported this project with enthusiasm and who has been there from the start.
- I am most grateful for the considerable editorial talents of my sister, Linda. You made every page, every sentence better; thank you.

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