

Chemung Valley Audubon Book Club Selections 2017-2020

The Gift of the Deer

by Helen Hoover

One Christmas Eve, an emaciated deer stumbled across the yard of Helen Hoover's remote cabin in northern Minnesota. Barely surviving the brutal winter, gaunt from starvation, blind in one eye from a hunting wound, he became the central character in Hoover's best-selling book.

The Bluebird Effect

Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds

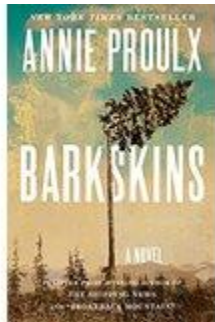
by Julie Zickefoose

The Bluebird Effect is about the change that's set in motion by one single act, such as saving an injured bluebird—or a hummingbird, swift, or phoebe. Each of the twenty-five chapters covers a different species, and many depict an individual bird, each with its own personality, habits, and quirks. Zickefoose's stunning watercolor paintings and drawings illustrate the book.



Barkskins

by Annie Proulx



In her historical woodland saga spanning 300 years, Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winner Proulx tells the stories of those who loved and those who destroyed North America's vast, verdant forests. In *Barkskins*, Proulx follows the decimating trail of the ax and sawmill, tracking the simultaneous annihilation of the forests and the lives and cultures of Native peoples who had lived for millennia in knowledgeable symbiosis with the wilderness and its sheltering, sustaining trees.

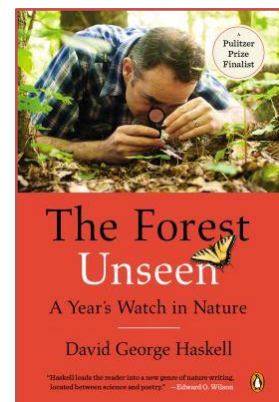
The Forest Unseen

A Year's Watch in Nature

by David George Haskell

Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the Pen/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award

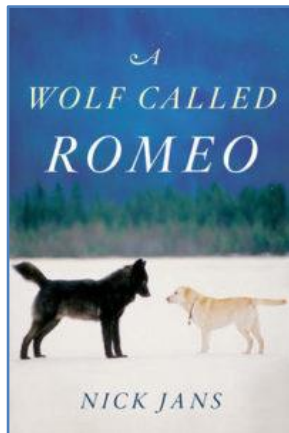
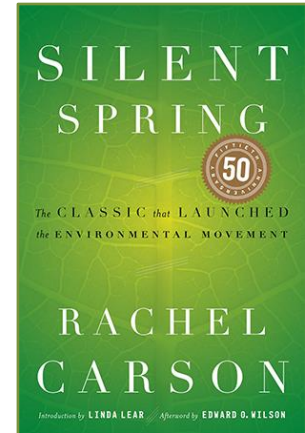
In this wholly original book, biologist David Haskell uses a one-square-meter patch of old-growth Tennessee forest as a window onto the entire natural world. Visiting it almost daily for one year to trace nature's path through the seasons, he brings the forest and its inhabitants to vivid life.



Silent Spring

by Rachel Carson

Published in 1962, *Silent Spring* warned against the indiscriminate use of pesticides and inspired a generation of activists. The book ushered in a new awareness of environmental stewardship still relevant more than 50 years after its publication.



A Wolf Called Romeo

by Nick Jans

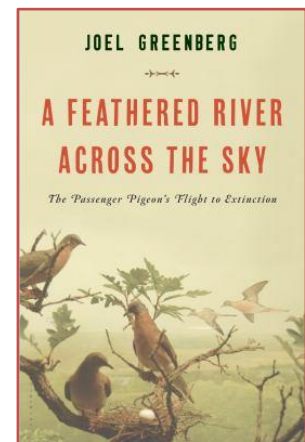
Having lived in Alaska for nearly thirty years, Nick Jans was no stranger to wildlife. But when one evening at twilight a lone black wolf ambled into view not far from his doorstep, Nick would finally come to know this mystical species—up close as never before. Jans is an exceptional storyteller.

A Feathered River Across the Sky

The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction

by Joel Greenberg

In 1860 a flight of passenger pigeons that filled the skies for two days near Toronto likely exceeded one billion birds—possibly three billion. Naturalist Joel Greenberg relates how the pigeons' propensity to nest, roost, and fly together in vast numbers made them vulnerable to unremitting market and recreational hunting, and finally, their own extinction.

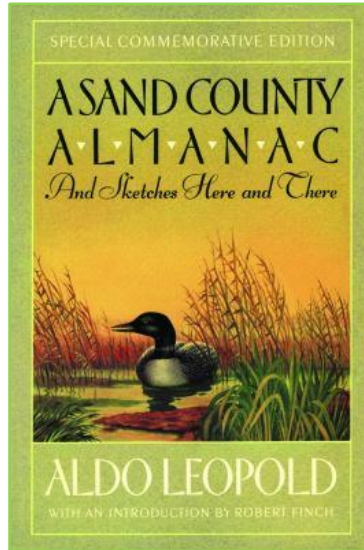


The Outermost House

A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod

by Henry Beston

Beston's account of a year on the beach of Cape Cod is a naturalist's encounter with an environment still unspoiled. He sees the full spectrum of colors in the waves, the sky, the topographical features of the Cape, the vegetation, and, of course, the fish and birds. This 1928 classic is said to have led to the creation of the Cape Cod National Seashore.



A Sand County Almanac

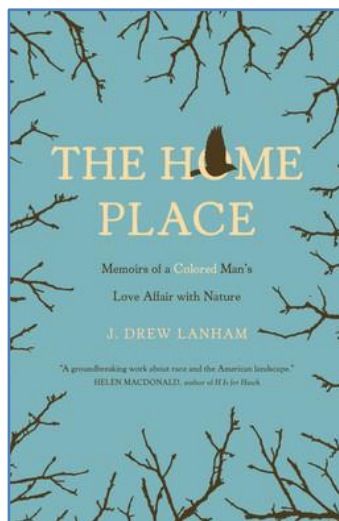
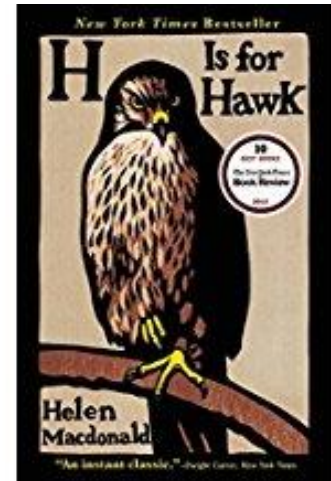
by Aldo Leopold

Through science, history, humor, and prose, Leopold uses *A Sand County Almanac* and its call for a land ethic to communicate the true connection between people and the natural world. The book is a landmark of the American conservation movement and a cornerstone of modern conservation science, policy, and ethics.

H is for Hawk

by Helen Macdonald

As a child, Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer. She learned the arcane terminology and read all the classic books. When her father died and she was knocked sideways by grief, she became obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. She bought Mabel on a Scottish quayside, took her home to Cambridge, and embarked on the long, strange business of trying to train this wildest of animals.



The Home Place

Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature

by J. Drew Lanham

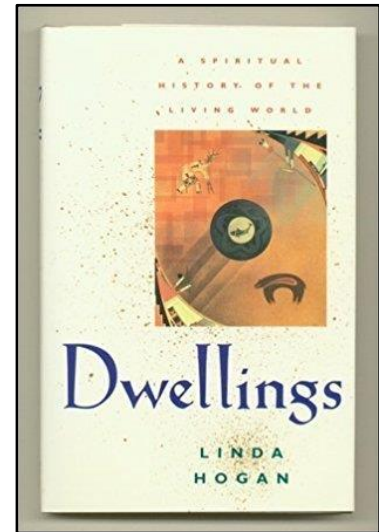
The Home Place is a big-hearted, unforgettable memoir by ornithologist J. Drew Lanham of Edgefield County, South Carolina, home to generations of Lanhams. In *The Home Place*, readers meet extraordinary people, including Drew himself, who asks what it means to be “the rare bird, the oddity.” By turns angry, funny, elegiac, and heartbreaking, *The Home Place* is a remarkable meditation on nature and belonging, at once a deeply moving memoir and a riveting exploration of the contradictions of black identity in the rural South—and in America today.

Dwellings

A Spiritual History of the Living World

by Linda Hogan

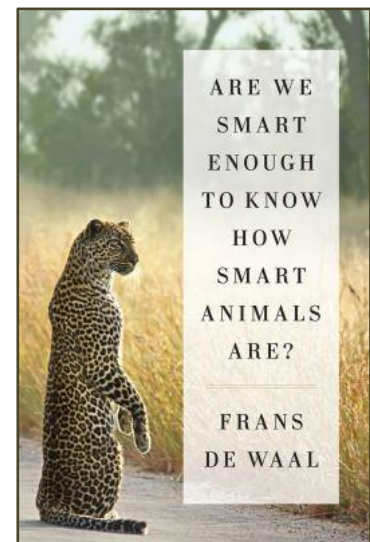
Award-winning Chickasaw poet and novelist Linda Hogan's first work of nonfiction explores the author's lifelong love for the living world and all its inhabitants. *Dwellings* teaches us about cultures whose understanding of the world are often at odds with one another and with other species. She tells of Native peoples' sacrifices and gifts, and of the Indian tradition as a means of finding balance and restoring our relationship to the earth. These illuminating writings offer a more hopeful future as they seek visions and light ancient fires.



Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?

by Frans de Waal

World-renowned biologist and primatologist Frans de Waal explores the oddities and complexities of animal cognition—in crows, dolphins, parrots, sheep, wasps, bats, chimpanzees, and bonobos—to reveal how smart animals really are, and how we've underestimated their abilities for too long. Fascinating, entertaining, and deeply informed, de Waal's landmark work will convince you to rethink everything you thought you knew about animal—and human—intelligence.



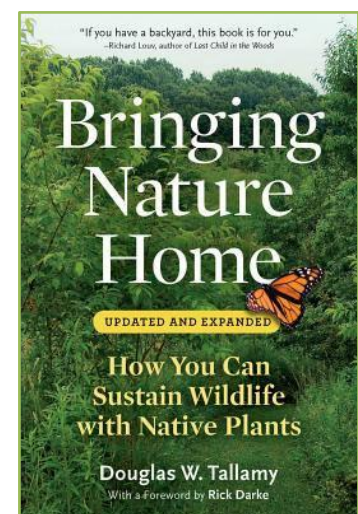
Bringing Nature Home

How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants

by Douglas W. Tallamy

"If you cut down the goldenrod, the wild black cherry, the milkweed and other natives, you eliminate the larvae and starve the birds. This simple revelation about the food web—and it is an intricate web, not a chain—is the driving force in *Bringing Nature Home* ." -The New York Times

Bringing Nature Home has sparked a national conversation about the link between healthy local ecosystems and human well-being. Everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity.



The Thing with Feathers

The Surprising Lives of Birds and What They Reveal about Being Human

by Noah Strycker

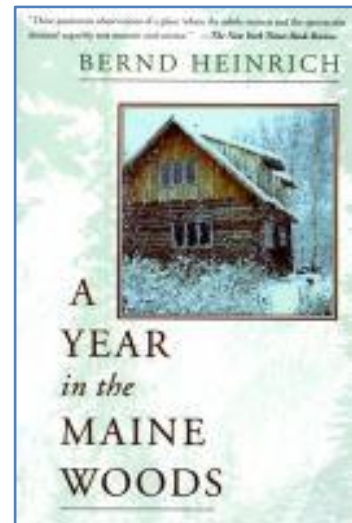
Noah Strycker is a birder and naturalist who has traveled the world in pursuit of his flighty subjects. Drawing from personal experience, cutting-edge science, and colorful history, he spins captivating stories about the birds in our midst and reveals the startlingly intimate coexistence of birds and humans. Beautiful and wise, funny and insightful, *The Thing with Feathers* is an enlightening journey into the lives of birds.



A Year in the Maine Woods

by Bernd Heinrich

A Year in the Maine Woods is a personal book, propelled by the kind of restlessness that usually sends writers trekking across continents. Rather than hitting the open road, Heinrich looks for answers to life's questions in the unexpected richness of one small place, a few green acres along Alder Brook. His story is that of a man rediscovering what it is to be alive.

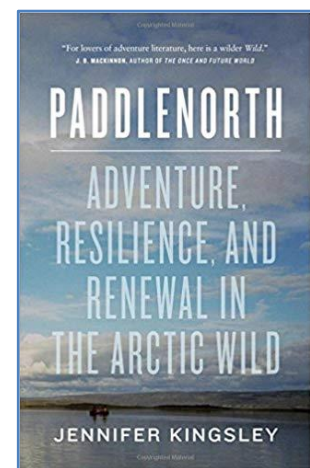


Paddlenorth

Adventure, Resilience, and Renewal in the Arctic Wild

by Jennifer Kingsley

Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award, *Paddlenorth* is the story of a 54-day paddling expedition in the Arctic wilderness. Six adventurers battle raging winds, impenetrable sea ice, and treacherous rapids. They test their physical endurance as they encounter grizzly bears and witness the caribou's summer migration.

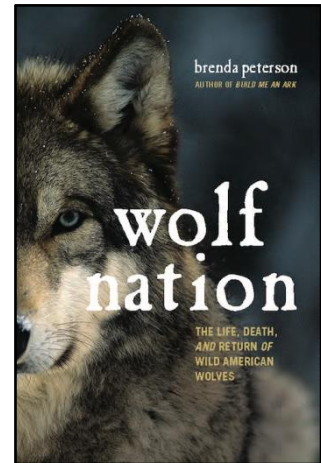


Wolf Nation

The Life, Death, and Return of Wild American Wolves

by Brenda Peterson

Peterson reveals the history of wild wolves in America. Native people revered them, settlers zealously exterminated them, and now, scientists, writers, and ordinary citizens are fighting to bring them back to the wild. Peterson makes the powerful case that without wolves, not only will our whole ecology unravel, but we'll lose much of our national soul.

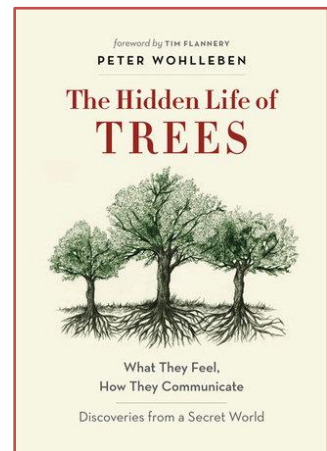


The Hidden Life of Trees

What They Feel, How They Communicate

by Peter Wohlleben

Wohlleben, a forester, explains the processes of life, death, and regeneration in trees and presents the science behind previously unknown communication abilities among them. He describes how these discoveries have informed his own forestry practices, and he believes that an eco-friendly approach is not only economically sustainable but also benefits the health of our planet and the mental and physical health of all who live on Earth.

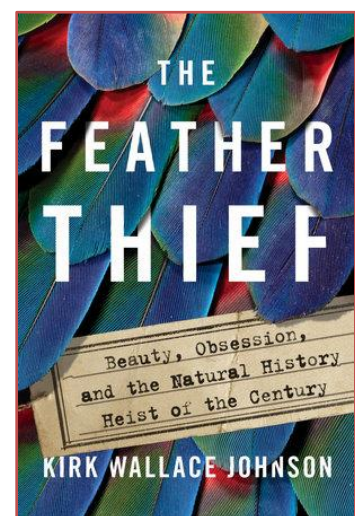


The Feather Thief

Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century

by Kirk Wallace Johnson

Johnson tells the true and bizarre story of Edwin Rist, who in 2009 stole 299 rare and scientifically significant bird skins from a British museum, many collected by 17th-century naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace. Rist sold the feathers for top dollar to those who shared his obsession—the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. The account explores this expensive and exotic hobby and goes deep into the illegal trade in birds and feathers, where greed knows no bounds.



Life in the Treetops

Adventures of a Woman in Field Biology

by Margaret D. Lowman

Elmira native “Canopy Meg” Lowman pioneered the study of forest canopy ecology, and during three decades developed canopy access techniques that unlocked mysteries in the treetops. From Australia to Africa, Massachusetts to Belize, *Life in the Treetops* chronicles her groundbreaking achievements in field biology.

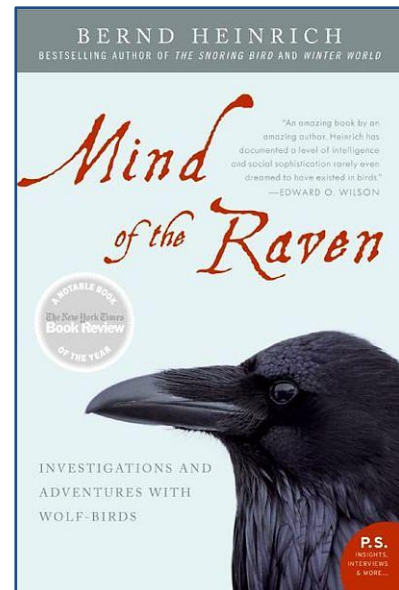


Mind of the Raven

Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds

by Bernd Heinrich

A passionate student of nature, Heinrich explores raven intelligence through observation, experiment, and personal experience. He takes us on a journey, from New England to Germany, Montana to the high Arctic, showing how science works in the field. At the heart of the book is Heinrich’s love and respect for these complex corvids.

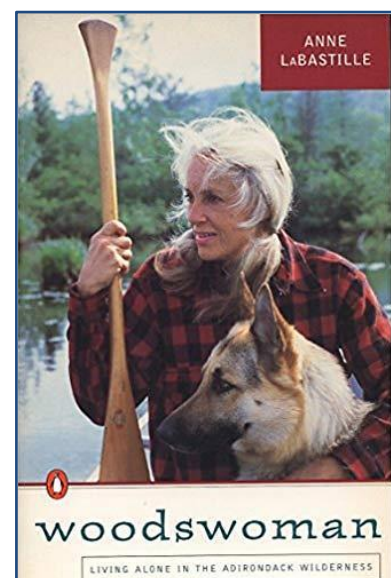


Woodswoman

Living Alone in the Adirondack Wilderness

by Anne LaBastille

Ecologist and photographer LaBastille tells of her life on a 20-acre parcel of land with a primitive cabin that became her permanent home. Dependent on her wits and ingenuity for survival, she writes about the Adirondack landscape, seasonal rhythms, and wildlife she came to know. She captures the struggle to balance her need for companionship and love with her desire for independence and solitude.

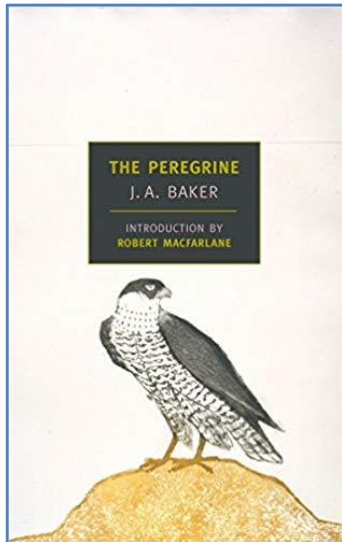
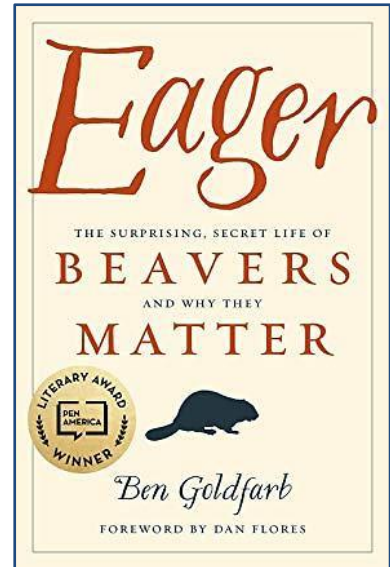


Eager

The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter

by Ben Goldfarb

Environmental journalist Goldfarb has joined the ranks of “beaver believers” who recognize that landscapes with beavers are far healthier than those without them. In creating wetlands, these rodent architects fight drought, flooding, wildfire, extinction, and the ravages of climate change. Goldfarb weaves history, geology, culture, and humor into this well-research volume.



The Peregrine

by J. A. Baker

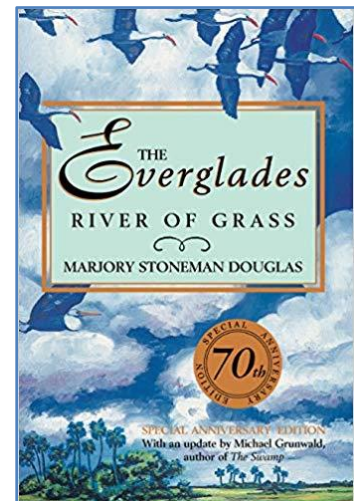
From fall to spring, the author observed two Peregrine Falcons and a host of other wildlife that shared the flat fenlands of eastern England. He followed the birds obsessively, observing them in the air and on the ground, and describing their activities with an extraordinary fusion of precision and poetry.

The Everglades

River of Grass

by Marjory Stoneman Douglas

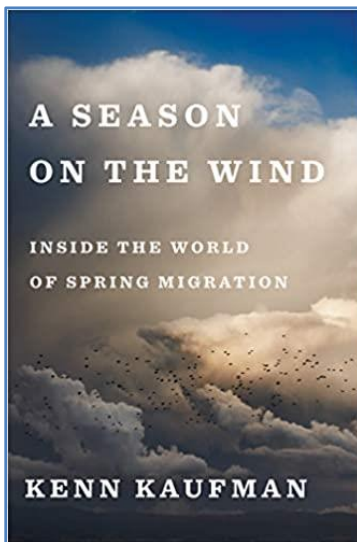
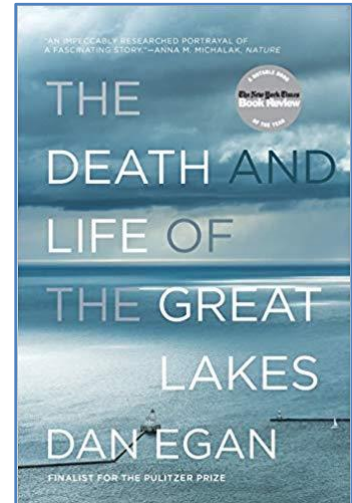
The book's first line, "There are no other Everglades in the world," launches this colorful history, from Paleo-Indian cultures and the megafauna they hunted, through conflicts with Europeans, and on to modern times. With this volume, the author redefined the Everglades as a treasured river, a 4,000-square-mile web of marshes and prairies that is found nowhere else on earth and is home to countless species.



The Death and Life of the Great Lakes

by Dan Egan

The Great Lakes—Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Superior—hold 20 percent of the world's supply of surface fresh water and provide sustenance, work, and recreation for tens of millions of Americans. Dan Egan's compulsively readable portrait tells the epic story of the lakes, examining the perils they face and the ways we can restore and preserve them for generations to come.



A Season on the Wind

Inside the World of Spring Migration

by Kenn Kaufman

Naturalist and conservationist Kenn Kaufman focuses on spring bird migration through the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on the southwestern shore of Lake Erie. This volume is highly readable and will be of great interest to active birders.

Rising

Dispatches from the New American Shore

by Elizabeth Rush

Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction.

Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award.

Elizabeth Rush takes readers where rising seas are transforming the U.S. coastline. In Rhode Island, Louisiana, Maine, Florida, Staten Island, Oregon, and California we learn how water and salt are eating away at landscapes and livelihoods.