

RECOMMENDED READING LIST: ADULTS

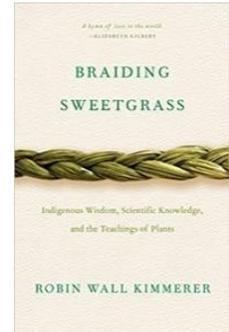
Title: Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants

Author: Robin Wall Kimmerer

Categories: Botany, Nature Writing, Ecology

Member: Kerry Leigh - Staff

Reason: Robin Wall Kimmerer was educated as a scientist and teaches at a university. As Robin discovers her indigenous background she documents her exploration of her journey, blending ancient mystical knowledge with objective science. An easy read with short stories that challenge our ideas as we are reintroduced to a visceral beauty.



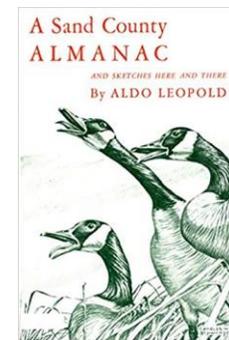
Title: A Sand County Almanac with Other Essays on Conservation from Round River

Author: Aldo Leopold

Categories: Ecology, Conservation

Member: Zach Grycan - Staff

Reason: Leopold captures a calendar year in nature, providing an ecological portrait of the upper Midwest; it is a vivid glimpse into the mechanisms of our beloved prairies, wetlands, and woodlands. Written prior to World War II the almanac and the essays detail the author's environmental concerns that still ring true today- an inspiring look at the world just outside our door!



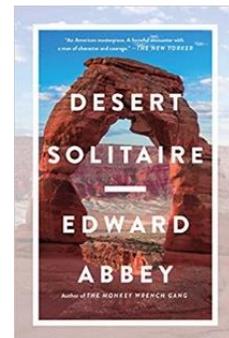
Title: Desert Solitaire

Author: Edward Abbey

Categories: Environmentalism, Memoir, Nature Writing

Members: Zach Grycan - Staff

Reason: Abbey made an effort to capture some of what it is to live (and die) in the desert southwest, one of his well-articulated results was this book. Open it up and let it take you back to a time before the roads were "improved" and vending machines lined up like soldiers to provide us with endless streams of litter and diabetes..



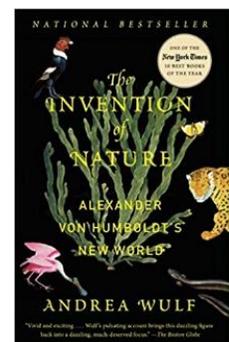
Title: Invention of Nature: Alexander van Humboldt's New World

Author: Andrea Wulf

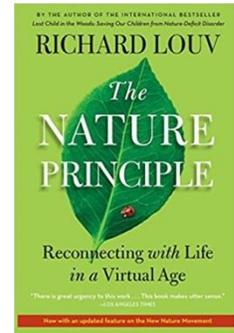
Categories: Environment, Biography, Earth Science

Members: Dan Williams – Trustee, and Barbara Williams

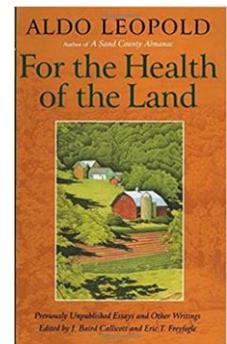
Reason: The biography of the world famous German polymath (1769-1859) whose explorations and observations changed the way that humans see the natural world and who predicted human-induced climate change. He influenced Darwin, Muir and Thomas Jefferson, among many other leading thinkers and scientists. The biography was the winner of multiple awards and prizes.



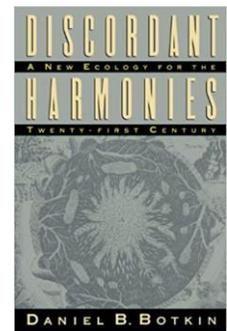
Title: The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age
Author: Richard Louv
Categories: Ecology, Environment
Member: Rick Barton - Trustee
Reason: none given



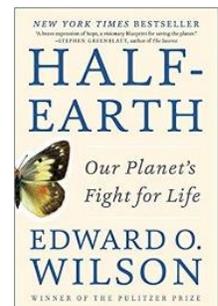
Title: For the Health of the Land
Author: Aldo Leopold
Categories: Nature Writing, Ecology
Member: Rick Barton - Trustee
Reason: none given



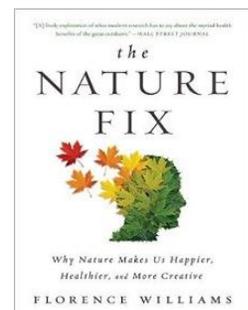
Title: Discordant Harmonies: A New Ecology for the 21st Century
Author: Daniel B Botkin
Categories: Ecology, Neuroscience
Member: Jon Duerr - Trustee
Reason: none given



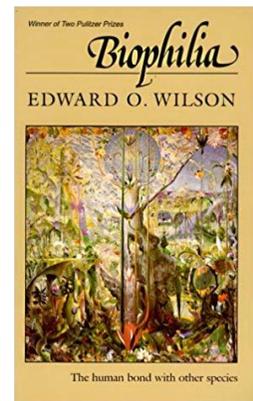
Title: Half Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life
Author: Edward O. Wilson
Categories: Nature and Ecology, Environment
Member: Ruth Little - Trustee
Reason: none given



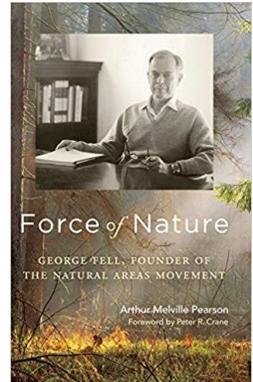
Title: The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier and More Creative
Author: Florence Williams
Categories: Nature Writing, Natural History
Member: Ashley Sarver - Trustee
Reason: A good read about the science behind why being outside makes us better people. It also describes initiatives around the world that build on this science and work to further incorporate nature therapy as a more accepted route for health and well-being. It promotes both nature conservation and human health – a combination of topics I find really intriguing and relevant.



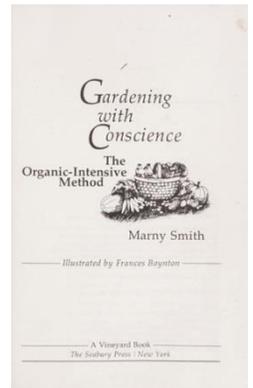
Title: Biophilia
Author: Edward O. Wilson
Categories: Conservation, Ecology, Biology
Member: Dan Swift – Trustee
Reason: He makes a scientist's case for the need to protect and encourage biodiversity thru preservation of natural habitats.



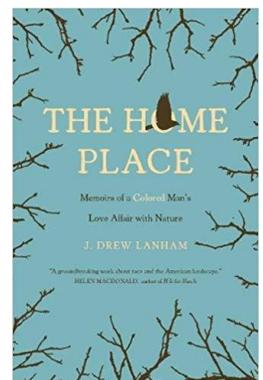
Title: Force of Nature: George Fell, Founder of the Natural Areas Movement
Author: Arthur Melville Pearson
Categories: Environmentalism, Conservation, Biography
Member: Jill Kennay - Staff
Reason: This book gives insight into George Fell's experiences as The Nature Conservancy's first executive director and his return to Rockford to begin the Natural Land Institute in 1958. It explains the initial purposes of NLI and inspires me to continue the legacy of protecting natural land.



Title: Gardening With Conscience: The Organic Intensive Method
Author: Marny Smith
Categories: Gardening
Member: Linda Miller - Trustee
Reason: My connection with the land began with the gardens of my grandparents and parents when I was a child. My husband and I have had a garden from the first year we met and still rely on our garden for most of our produce year round, 40+ years later. As a librarian, I have always, and still do, turn to the library for my reading materials, but of the very few books that I have ever purchased, most relate to gardening. The very first one I bought is still my favorite.
Notes: May no longer be in print.



Title: The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love of Nature
Author: Drew Latham
Categories: Nature and Ecology, Ecotourism
Member: Ruth Little - Trustee
Reason: Gives a non-white person's perspective on nature.



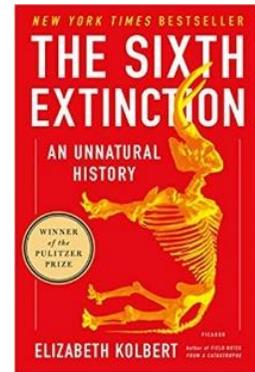
Title: The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History

Author: Elizabeth Kolbert

Categories: Biology, Environmental Science

Member: Mark Luthin - Trustee

Reason: Historically, there have been 5 mass extinctions on earth where the diversity of life suddenly was reduced dramatically. All of the past extinctions were cataclysmic events, but scientists are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, which could be the most devastating extinction event ever. This one is unique, however, because the cause is not a meteor or an ice age. The current extinction event which is well underway is a direct result of the actions of one species that currently lives on earth, and that would be us.



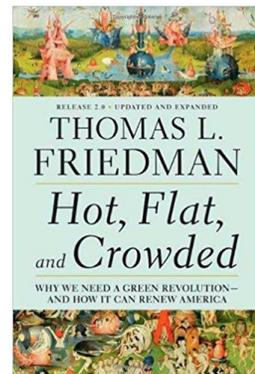
Title: Hot, Flat and Crowded

Author: Thomas Friedman

Categories: Alternative Energy, Environmental Policy, Economy

Member: Trip Thienemann - past Trustee

Reason: "In this brilliant, essential book, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Thomas L. Friedman speaks to America's urgent need for national renewal and explains how a green revolution can bring about both a sustainable environment and a sustainable America."



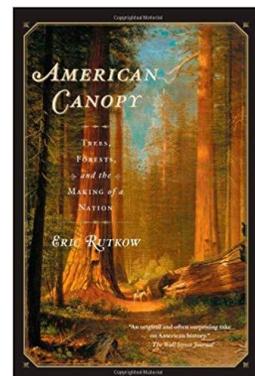
Title: American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation

Author: Eric Rutkow

Categories: Trees, Forestry, Nature & Ecology

Member: Stacy Wallace, Education Committee

Reason: none given



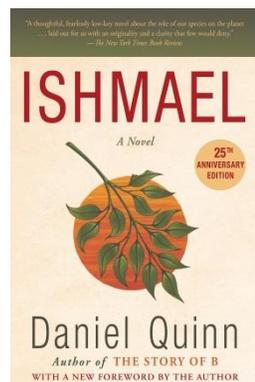
Title: Ishmael: A Novel

Author: Daniel Quinn

Categories: Fiction, Human History, Nature and Ecology

Member: Kim Johnsen - staff

Reason: It was hard for me to read it in the beginning, but as I continued to read the book, I became more fascinated with the premise of it. It turned my belief system upside down and opened my eyes to a different world view.



Title: Natural Voices: Celebrating Nature with Opened Eyes

Author: Anthology with 14 authors

Categories: Poetry, Prose

Member: Kim Johnsen - staff

Reason: This book of nature themed poetry and prose is inspirational. The variety of voices expressed through various poetic styles and stories feels relevant for today and yet timeless in its expression.

