



MAINE MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

Natural History Booklist

We ask that our students read one natural history book while participating in the course and write a brief summary of the reading. The purpose of this requirement is to expand upon and deepen your learning about natural history, to give you insight into the human side of nature study and our interactions with the natural world, and offer a glimpse into the many varied ways naturalists spend time in nature and communicate their experiences. The following list offers a wide range of reading options, from timeless classics to recent releases. Most of them are specific to North America, many with a focus on the Northeast and New England (and more than a few were written about Maine), though some have a more global perspective. If you find a book that you'd like to read that's not on this list, please clear it with your mentor.

Ackerman, Jennifer. *The Genius of Birds* (2016).

Anderson, John. *Deep Things out of Darkness: A History of Natural History* (2012).

Anderson, Lorraine, ed. *Sisters of the Earth* (1991).

Bailey, Elisabeth Tova. *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* (2010).

Beede William , editor. *The Book of Naturalists* (1988).

Berry, Wendell. *Another Turn of the Crank* (1998), *Life Is a Miracle*. (2000).

Beston, Henry. *The Outermost House*. (1928), *Northern Farm* (1948).

Bjornerud, Marcia. *Reading the Rocks: the Autobiography of the Earth*. (2005)

Burroughs, Franklin, *Confluence: Merrymeeting Bay* (2006).

Carroll, David M. *Swampwalker's Journal* (1999).

Carson, Rachel. *The Edge of the Sea* (1955).

Chamovitz, Daniel. *What a Plant Knows: A Field Guide to the Senses* (2012).

Charney, Noah. *These Trees Tell a Story* (2023).

Dethier, Vincent G. *Crickets and Katydids, Concerts and Solos*. (1992).

Dillard, Annie. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* (1974).

Erdrich, Louise. *The Blue Jay's Dance: A Birth Year* (1995).

Finch, Robert. *Death of a Hornet* (2000).

Goldfarb, Ben. *Eager: The surprising secret lives of beavers and why they matter* (2018).

Halpern, Daniel , ed. *On Nature* (1987).

Hanson, Thor, *Feathers* (2011).

Haskell, David George. *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature* (2013), *The Songs of Trees* (2017)..

Heindrich, Bernd. *The Trees in My Forest* (1997), *Mind Of the Raven* (1999), *Winter World* (2003), *Summer World* (2009), etc.

Holmes, Hannah. *Suburban Safari* (2005).

Hubbell, Sue. *A Country Year* (1987).

Jahren, Hope. *Lab Girl* (2016).

Kilham, Lawrence. *A Naturalist's Field Guide* (1981).

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses* (2003), *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* (2015).

Kumin, Maxine. *In Deep: Country Essays* (1987), *Women, Animals, and Vegetables: Essays and Stories*. (1994).

Lawrence, Gale. *A Field Guide to the Familiar* (1998), *The Beginning Naturalist* (1980).

Leister, Mary. *Wildlings*. (1976), *Seasons of Heron Pond*. (1981).

Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac*. (1949).

Lopez, Barry. *Arctic Dreams* (2001).



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Louv, Richard. *Last Child in the Woods* (2005).

Macdonald, Helen. *H is for Hawk*. (2014). *Vesper Flights*. (2020).

Mitchell, John Hanson. *Ceremonial Time: Fifteen Thousand Years on One Square Mile* (1984), *Living at the End of Time* (1990), *A Field Guide to Your Own Backyard* (2014).

Muir, John. *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth: On Coming of Age, Invention and Ecology* (1913).

Olson, Sigurd. *The Singing Wilderness* (1956), *Listening Point* (1958), *The Lonely Land* (1961).

Philip, Leila. *Beaverland: How one weird rodent made America* (2022)

Pyle, Robert Michael. *Wintergreen* (1986).

Raffles, Hugh. *Insectopedia* (Essays) (2010).

Rawlence, Bem. *The Treeline: the last forest and the future of life on earth* (2022).

Russell, Sharman Apt. *Diary of a Citizen Scientist: Chasing Tiger Beetles and Other New Ways of Engaging the World* (2014).

Ryden, Hope. *Lily Pond* (1989).

Schilthuizen, Menno. *Darwin Comes to Town* (2018).

Sheldrake, Merlin. *Entangled Life* (2021).

Shetterly, Susan Hand. *Settled in the Wild* (2010), *Seaweed Chronicles* (2018).

Smith, Patti. *The Beavers of Popple Pond* (2014).

Stryker, Noah. *Birding Without Borders: An Obsession, a Quest, and the Biggest Year in the World* (2017).

Svensson, Patrik, *The Book of Eels: Our Enduring Fascination with the Most Mysterious Creature in the Natural World* (2020).

Sverdrup-Thygeson, Anne. *Buzz, Sting, Bite: Why We Need Insects* (2019).

Teale, Edwin Way. *The Lost Woods*. (1945), *North with the Spring*. (1951), *Autumn Across America* (1956), *Journey Into Summer* (1960), *Wandering Through Winter* (1965), *A Walk Through the Year* (1978).

Thaxter, Celia. *An Island Garden*. (1894).

Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden: or Life in the Woods* (1854), *The Maine Woods* (1864).

Wessels, Tom. *Reading the Forested Landscape* (1997); *The Granite Landscape* (2001).

Wohlleben, Peter. *The Hidden Life of Trees, What they Feel, How they Communicate* (2015).

Wulf, Andrea. *The Invention of Nature, Alexander von Humboldt's New World* (2015).

Yong, Ed. *An Immense World* (2022).

Zickefoose, Julie. *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds* (2012).

Zwinger, Ann and Edwin Way Teale. *A Conscious Stillness: Two Naturalists on Thoreau's Rivers* (1982).