

Title	Author	Description	Nominated By
The Big Necessity	Rose George	The Big Necessity is on its way to removing the taboo on bodily waste—something common to all and as natural as breathing. We prefer not to talk about it, but we should—even those of us who take care of our business in pristine, sanitary conditions. Disease spread by waste kills more people worldwide every year than any other single cause of death. Even in America, nearly two million people have no access to an indoor toilet. Yet the subject remains unmentionable. Moving from the underground sewers of Paris, London, and New York (an infrastructure disaster waiting to happen) to an Indian slum where ten toilets are shared by 60,000 people, The Big Necessity breaks the silence, revealing everything that matters about how people do—and don't—deal with their own waste. With razor-sharp wit and crusading urgency, mixing levity with gravity, Rose George has turned the subject we like to avoid into a cause with the most serious of consequences.	Olivia Dorothy
The Fossil Hunter	Shelley Emling	Mary Anning was only twelve years old when, in 1811, she discovered the first dinosaur skeleton--of an ichthyosaur--while fossil hunting on the cliffs of Lyme Regis, England. Until Mary's incredible discovery, it was widely believed that animals did not become extinct. The child of a poor family, Mary became a fossil hunter, inspiring the tongue-twister, "She Sells Sea Shells by the Seashore." She attracted the attention of fossil collectors and eventually the scientific world. Once news of the fossils reached the halls of academia, it became impossible to ignore the truth. Mary's peculiar finds helped lay the groundwork for Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, laid out in his On the Origin of Species. Darwin drew on Mary's fossilized creatures as irrefutable evidence that life in the past was nothing like life in the present. A story worthy of Dickens, The Fossil Hunter chronicles the life of this young girl, the dirt under her fingernails and not a shilling to buy dinner, who became a world-renowned paleontologist. Dickens himself said of Mary: "The carpenter's daughter has won a name for herself, and deserved to win it." Here at last, Shelly Emling returns Mary Anning, of whom Stephen J. Gould remarked, is "probably the most important unsung (or inadequately sung) collecting force in the history of paleontology," to her deserved place in history.	Olivia Dorothy and Ann DeSalvo
If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face	Alan Alda	Alan Alda has been on a decades-long journey to discover new ways to help people communicate and relate to one another more effectively. If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face? is the warm, witty, and informative chronicle of how Alda found inspiration in everything from cutting-edge science to classic acting methods. His search began when he was host of PBS's Scientific American Frontiers, where he interviewed thousands of scientists and developed a knack for helping them communicate complex ideas in ways a wide audience could understand—and Alda wondered if those techniques held a clue to better communication for the rest of us. In his wry and wise voice, Alda reflects on moments of miscommunication in his own life, when an absence of understanding resulted in problems both big and small. He guides us through his discoveries, showing how communication can be improved through learning to relate to the other person: listening with our eyes, looking for clues in another's face, using the power of a compelling story, avoiding jargon, and reading another person so well that you become "in sync" with them, and know what they are thinking and feeling—especially when you're talking about the hard stuff. Drawing on improvisation training, theater, and storytelling techniques from a life of acting, and with insights from recent scientific studies, Alda describes ways we can build empathy, nurture our innate mind-reading abilities, and improve the way we relate and talk with others. Exploring empathy-boosting games and exercises, If I Understood You is a funny, thought-provoking guide that can be used by all of us, in every aspect of our lives—with our friends, lovers, and families, with our doctors, in business settings, and beyond.	Olivia Dorothy

Killers of the Flower Moon	David Grann	In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, they rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. Her relatives were shot and poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more members of the tribe began to die under mysterious circumstances. In this last remnant of the Wild West—where oilmen like J. P. Getty made their fortunes and where desperadoes like Al Spencer, the “Phantom Terror,” roamed—many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. As the death toll climbed to more than twenty-four, the FBI took up the case. It was one of the organization’s first major homicide investigations and the bureau badly bungled the case. In desperation, the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including one of the only American Indian agents in the bureau. The agents infiltrated the region, struggling to adopt the latest techniques of detection. Together with the Osage they began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.	Olivia Dorothy and Ann DeSalvo
Black Faces, White Spaces	Carolyn Finney	Why are African Americans so underrepresented when it comes to interest in nature, outdoor recreation, and environmentalism? In this thought-provoking study, Carolyn Finney looks beyond the discourse of the environmental justice movement to examine how the natural environment has been understood, commodified, and represented by both white and black Americans. Bridging the fields of environmental history, cultural studies, critical race studies, and geography, Finney argues that the legacies of slavery, Jim Crow, and racial violence have shaped cultural understandings of the "great outdoors" and determined who should and can have access to natural spaces.	Olivia Dorothy
World Made by Hand (A Novel)	James Howard Kunstler	The critically acclaimed <i>World Made by Hand</i> , is an astonishing work of speculative fiction that brings to life what America might be, a few decades hence. For the townspeople of Union Grove, New York, the future is nothing like they thought it would be. After the catastrophes converged—the end of oil, climate change, resource wars, and global pandemics—they are doing whatever they can to get by. Transportation is slow and dangerous, so food is grown locally at great expense of time and energy, and the outside world is largely unknown. There may be a president, and he may be in Minneapolis now, but people aren’t sure. Their challenges play out in a dazzling, fully realized world of abandoned highways and empty houses, horses working the fields and rivers, no longer polluted, and replenished with fish. With the cost of oil skyrocketing—and with it the price of food—Americans are increasingly aware of the possibility of the long emergency. Kunstler’s extraordinary book, a novel full of love and loss, violence and power, sex and drugs, depression and desperation, but also plenty of hope, is sure to find many new readers.	Chuck Oestreich
The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill: A Love Story...With Wings	Mark Bittner	Like a lot of young people in the 1970s, Mark Bittner took the path of the “dharma bum.” When the counterculture faded, Mark held on, seeking shelter in the nooks and crannies of San Francisco’s fabled bohemian neighborhood, North Beach. While living on the eastern slope of Telegraph Hill, he made a magical discovery: a flock of wild parrots. In this unforgettable story, Bittner recounts how he became fascinated by the birds and patiently developed friendships with them that would last more than six years. When a documentary filmmaker comes along to capture the phenomenon on film, the story takes a surprising turn, and Bittner’s life truly takes flight.	Hedy Hustedde and Ann DeSalvo

Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation	Andrea Wulf	Tells the story of the revolutionary generation from the unique perspective of their lives as gardeners, plant hobbyists, and farmers. Acclaimed historian Andrea Wulf describes how George Washington wrote letters to his estate manager even as British warships gathered off Staten Island; how a tour of English gardens renewed Thomas Jefferson's and John Adams's faith in their fledgling nation; and why James Madison is the forgotten father of environmentalism.	Hedy Hustedde and Ann DeSalvo
We're Doomed. Now What? Essays on War and Climate Change	Roy Scranton	Addresses the crisis that is our time through a series of brilliant, moving, and original essays on climate change, war, literature, and loss, from one of the most provocative and iconoclastic minds of his generation. Whether writing about sailing through the melting Arctic, preparing for Houston's next big storm, watching Star Wars, or going back to the streets of Baghdad he once patrolled as a soldier, Scranton handles his subjects with the same electric, philosophical, demotic touch that he brought to his groundbreaking New York Times essay, "Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene."	Hedy Hustedde
The Seashell on the Mountaintop: How Nicolaus Steno Solved an Ancient Mystery and Created a Science of the Earth	Alan Cutler	Seventeenth-century scientists were baffled: How did the fossils of seashells find their way to the tops of mountains? Steno, hailed by Stephen Jay Gould as "the founder of geology," solved the puzzle, exploring beyond the pages of the Bible and looking directly at the clues left in the layers of the Earth....This thrilling tale of scientific investigation and portrait of an extraordinary scientist-turned-priest forever changed our understanding of the Earth.	Hedy Hustedde and Ann DeSalvo
Two in the Far North	Margaret E. Murie	Murie, as one of the earliest female proponents of the wilderness movement, she earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She "has helped generations of men and women understand and then articulate their devotion to the work of preserving wild landscapes. She has a grandmother's poise, a lover's fire, a spouse's allegiance, a curandera's wariness about Congressional platitudes."--Barry Lopez	Hedy Hustedde and Ann DeSalvo
This Is Your Brain on Parasites: How Tiny Creatures Manipulate Our Behavior and Shape Society	Kathleen McAuliffe	A riveting investigation of the myriad ways that parasites control how other creatures - including humans - think, feel, and act. These tiny organisms can live only inside another animal, and, as McAuliffe reveals, they have many evolutionary motives for manipulating their host's behavior. Far more often than appreciated, these puppeteers orchestrate the interplay between predator and prey. With astonishing precision, parasites can coax rats to approach cats, spiders to transform the patterns of their webs, and fish to draw the attention of birds that then swoop down to feast on them.	Laura Morris
The Source: How Rivers Made America and America Remade Its Rivers	Martin Doyle	The author is a river science and policy professor at Duke and director of the Water Policy Program at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. Pub. 2018. A great read. Need to check on paperback publication.	Kathy Wine
Woolly: The True Story of the Quest to Revive One of History's Most Iconic Extinct Creatures	Ben Mezrich	Science fiction becomes reality in this Jurassic Park-like story of the genetic resurrection of an extinct species, the woolly mammoth. By bestselling author of The Accidental Billionaires and The 37th Parallel. With his knack for turning narrative nonfiction into stories worthy of the best thriller fiction (Omnivoracious), Ben Mezrich takes us on an exhilarating true adventure story from the icy terrain of Siberia to the cutting-edge genetic labs of Harvard University. A group of young scientists, under the guidance of Dr. George Church, the most brilliant geneticist of our time, works to make fantasy reality by sequencing the DNA of a frozen woolly mammoth harvested from above the Arctic circle, and splicing elements of that sequence into the DNA of a modern elephant.	Kristen Bergren

Detox Your Home	Christine Dimmick	Very interesting read! About regulations labeling - what the FDA regulates and what they don't. The truth about bottle water and nestle involvement. Discusses cleaning products and gives solutions to detox ypur home for improvement in ypur health and environment!	Linda Ruggeberg
The Water Will Come (suggested last year also)	Jeff Goodell	Goodell presents a vivid warning and a call to arms to the generation that gets to decide how fast and how high the water will come.	Ann D.
Trespassing Across America: One Man's Epic, Never-Done-Before (and sort of illegal) Hike Across the Heartland	Ken Ilgunas	The author walks the path of proposed oil pipeline through the plains of US. His jounies help him learn from people and places he visits.	Ann DeSalvo
Tip of the Iceberg: My 3,000 Mile Journey Around Wild Alaska, The Last Great American Frontier	Mark Adams	The author sets out to retrace the George W. Elder ship of the 1899 exploration of shoreline of Alaska, comparing along the way the journals of those on the expedition. Many of passengers were famous people - John Muir, George Grinnell, and many other experts of their time.	Ann DeSalvo
Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore	Elizabeth Rush	A lyrical discussion by the author and people from Maine, Louisiana, Florida, California and New York. Sea level rise is a hard truth and the author discusses how it impacts all life in these coastal areas.	Mike Wilcox
Storm Lake: A Chronicle of Change, Resilience and Hope from a Heartland Newspaper	Art Cullen	Art Cullen won a Pulitzer prize in 2017 for editorial writing on water quality issues. This book deals in part with the mechanization and chemistry of big agriculture and the impact it has had on rural Iowa. He talks of conservation and water quality issues with Bill Stowe of the Des Moines water works. The book also deals with the changing demographics of rural America and how Storm Lake has welcomed immigrants and see the positive things like hard work and entrepreneurship they bring to the community.	Mike Wilcox
End of the Megafauna: The Fate of the World's Hugest, Fiercest, and Strangest Animals	Ross D E MacPhee	Until a few thousand years ago, creatures that could have been from a sci-fi thriller--including gorilla-sized lemurs, 500-pound birds, and crocodiles that weighed a ton or more--roamed the earth. These great beasts, or "megafauna," lived on every habitable continent and on many islands. With a handful of exceptions, all are now gone.What caused the disappearance of these prehistoric behemoths? No one event can be pinpointed as a specific cause, but several factors may have played a role. Paleomammalogist Ross D. E. MacPhee explores them all, examining the leading extinction theories, weighing the evidence, and presenting his own conclusions. He shows how theories of human overhunting and catastrophic climate change fail to account for critical features of these extinctions, and how new thinking is needed to elucidate these mysterious losses.Along the way, we learn how time is determined in earth history; how DNA is used to explain the genomics and phylogenetic history of megafauna--and how synthetic biology and genetic engineering may be able to reintroduce these giants of the past. Until then, gorgeous four-color illustrations by Peter Schouten re-create these megabeasts here in vivid detail.	Kathryn Allen

I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grand View of Life	Ed Yong	Every animal, whether human, squid, or wasp, is home to millions of bacteria and other microbes. Ed Yong, whose humor is as evident as his erudition, prompts us to look at ourselves and our animal companions in a new light—less as individuals and more as the interconnected, interdependent multitudes we assuredly are. The microbes in our bodies are part of our immune systems and protect us from disease. In the deep oceans, mysterious creatures without mouths or guts depend on microbes for all their energy. Bacteria provide squid with invisibility cloaks, help beetles to bring down forests, and allow worms to cause diseases that afflict millions of people. Many people think of microbes as germs to be eradicated, but those that live with us—the microbiome—build our bodies, protect our health, shape our identities, and grant us incredible abilities. In this astonishing book, Ed Yong takes us on a grand tour through our microbial partners, and introduces us to the scientists on the front lines of discovery. It will change both our view of nature and our sense of where we belong in it.	Kathryn Allen	
Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail	Ben Montgomery	Emma Gatewood was the first woman to hike the entire Appalachian Trail alone, as well as the first person—man or woman—to walk it twice and three times and she did it all after the age of 65. This is the first and only biography of Grandma Gatewood, as the reporters called her, who became a hiking celebrity in the 1950s and '60s. She appeared on TV with Groucho Marx and Art Linkletter, and on the pages of Sports Illustrated. The public attention she brought to the little-known footpath was unprecedented. Her vocal criticism of the lousy, difficult stretches led to bolstered maintenance, and very likely saved the trail from extinction. Author Ben Montgomery was given unprecedented access to Gatewood's own diaries, trail journals, and correspondence. He also unearthed historic newspaper and magazine articles and interviewed surviving family members and hikers Gatewood met along the trail. The inspiring story of Emma Gatewood illustrates the full power of human spirit and determination.	Christina Powers	
Before the Echo: Essays on Nature	Pete Dunne and Diana Marlinski	"The natural world is a lot like a game of musical chairs," observes Pete Dunne. "Everywhere you turn, everywhere you go, there are places where living things sit down, niches that support their specific needs. But just as in musical chairs, there aren't enough places to go around. Our species keeps removing them—forcing other creatures to leave the game." In these 29 essays, one of America's top nature writers trains his sights on the beauties and the vulnerabilities of the natural world. Writing to infuse others with a sense of the richness and diversity that nature holds, Pete Dunne ranges over topics from the wonder of the year's first snowfall to the lost art of stargazing to the mysterious forces that impel people to hunt—and not to hunt. Running like a thread through all the essays is Dunne's desire to preserve all that is "natural" in nature, to stop our unthinking destruction of wild places and wild creatures before we humans find ourselves with "the last chair, in an empty room" on an impoverished earth.	Christina Powers	

Sisters of the Earth: Women's Prose and Poetry About Nature	Lorraine Anderson	Sisters of the Earth is a stirring collection of women's writing on nature: Nature as healer. Nature as delight. Nature as mother and sister. Nature as victim. Nature as companion and reminder of what is wild in us all. Here, among more than a hundred poets and prose writers, are Diane Ackerman on the opium of sunsets; Ursula K. Le Guin envisioning an alternative world in which human beings are not estranged from their planet; and Julia Butterfly Hill on weathering a fierce storm in the redwood tree where she lived for more than two years. Here, too, are poems, essays, stories, and journal entries by Emily Dickinson, Alice Walker, Terry Tempest Williams, Willa Cather, Gretel Erlich, Adrienne Rich, and others—each offering a vivid, eloquent response to the natural world.	Christina Powers
Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival	Bernd Heinrich	From flying squirrels to grizzly bears, and from torpid turtles to insects with antifreeze, the animal kingdom relies on some staggering evolutionary innovations to survive winter. Unlike their human counterparts, who must alter the environment to accommodate physical limitations, animals are adaptable to an amazing range of conditions. Examining everything from food sources in the extremely barren winter landscape to the chemical composition that allows certain creatures to survive, Heinrich's Winter World awakens the largely undiscovered mysteries by which nature sustains herself through winter's harsh, cruel exigencies.	Christina Powers
Keeper of the Wild: The Life of Ernest Oberholtzer	Joe Paddock	Ernest Oberholtzer (1884-1977) is one of the great unsung heroes of the American conservation movement of the twentieth century. Selected as one of the 100 influential Minnesotans of the twentieth century by the Minneapolis Star Tribune, a friend and contemporary of both Aldo Leopold and Sigurd Olson, and one of founders of The Wilderness Society, "Ober" was best known for his pioneering work to preserve one of the last remaining wilderness areas east of the Rockies—the Quetico-Superior region of northern Minnesota and southern Ontario. The long campaign by Ober and many others to preserve this area made a significant and lasting impression on conservation and wilderness preservation efforts around the world.	Christina Powers
The David Suzuki Reader: A Lifetime of Ideas from a Leading Activist and Thinker	David Suzuki and Bill McKibben	David Suzuki's collected writings on science, nature, technology, economics, politics, and the connectedness of all things. The David Suzuki Reader brings together for the first time the scientific and philosophical thought of North America's leading environmentalist.	Christina Powers
The Wild Out Your Window	Sy Montgomery	What could be better than watching the natural world out your window or on your television? Going out and experiencing it firsthand. In these fifty essays, acclaimed nature and science writer Sy Montgomery takes her readers on a season-by-season tour of the wilderness that is often as close as the backyard. Sy invites — almost dares — readers to follow her and form hands-on relationships with the plants, animals, birds, and even the insects that share space with people. These essays, most of which originally appeared in Sy's Boston Globe column Nature Journal, are by turns enlightening, entertaining, sometimes amusing, and always absorbing and informative. Filled with natural history and lore, the essays urge readers to appreciate what they find around them.	Christina Powers

Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land	Leah Penniman	In 1920, 14 percent of all land-owning US farmers were black. Today less than 2 percent of farms are controlled by black people—a loss of over 14 million acres and the result of discrimination and dispossession. While farm management is among the whitest of professions, farm labor is predominantly brown and exploited, and people of color disproportionately live in “food apartheid” neighborhoods and suffer from diet-related illness. The system is built on stolen land and stolen labor and needs a redesign. Farming While Black is the first comprehensive “how to” guide for aspiring African-heritage growers to reclaim their dignity as agriculturists and for all farmers to understand the distinct, technical contributions of African-heritage people to sustainable agriculture. At Soul Fire Farm, author Leah Penniman co-created the Black and Latinx Farmers Immersion (BLFI) program as a container for new farmers to share growing skills in a culturally relevant and supportive environment led by people of color. Farming While Black organizes and expands upon the curriculum of the BLFI to provide readers with a concise guide to all aspects of small-scale farming, from business planning to preserving the harvest. Throughout the chapters Penniman uplifts the wisdom of the African diasporic farmers and activists whose work informs the techniques described—from whole farm planning, soil fertility, seed selection, and agroecology, to using whole foods in culturally appropriate recipes, sharing stories of ancestors, and tools for healing from the trauma associated with slavery and economic exploitation on the land. Woven throughout the book is the story of Soul Fire Farm, a national leader in the food justice movement.	Olivia Dorothy	
<b>Previous Suggestions</b>				
Undeniable: Evolution and the Science of	Bill Nye			
Sex in the Sea: Our Intimate Connection with Sex-Changing Fish, Romantic Lobsters...	Marah Hardt			
Megafire: The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame	Michael Kudas			
Geography of Nowhere (discussed in 1st year of book club)	James Howard Kunster			
Immersion: The Science and Mystery of Freshwater Mussels	Abbie Gascho Landis			
The Green Boat	Mary Pipher			
The Wild Trees	Richard Preston			
Brief Eulogies for Loast Animals: An Extinction Reader	Daniel Hudon			
The Water Will Come	Jeff Goodell			
Wild Ones: A Sometimes Dismaying, Weirdly	Jon Mooallem			
A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction	Joel Greenberg			
Paddle to the Amazon: The Ultimate 12,000-Mile Canoe Adventure	Don Starkell			

Getting to Green - Saving Nature a Bipartisan Solution	Frederic Rich			
The Great Mortality: An Intimate History of the Black Death, the Most Devastating	John Kelly			
Walking Zero: Discovering Cosmic Space and Time Along the Prime Meridian	Chet Raymo			
The Lady and the Panda: The True Adventures of the First American Explorer to Bring Back China's Most Exotic Animal	Vicki Croke			
State of Wonder: A Novel	Ann Patchett			
Atlantic: Great Sea Battles, Heroic Discoveries, Titanic Storms, and a Vast Ocean of a Million Stories	Simon Winchester			



## **2018 Book Club Ballot**

### **If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?: My Adventures in the Art and Science of Relating and Communicating**

Category: Psychology

Author: Alan Alda

Alan Alda has been on a decades-long journey to discover new ways to help people communicate and relate to one another more effectively. This book is the warm, witty, and informative chronicle of how Alda found inspiration in everything from cutting-edge science to classic acting methods. His search began when he was host of PBS's Scientific American Frontiers, where he interviewed thousands of scientists and developed a knack for helping them communicate complex ideas in ways a wide audience could understand—and Alda wondered if those techniques held a clue to better communication for the rest of us.

### **Undeniable: Evolution and the Science of Creation**

Category: Evolution

Author: Bill Nye

Sparked by a controversial debate in February 2014, Bill Nye has set off on an energetic campaign to spread awareness of evolution and the powerful way it shapes our lives. In *Undeniable: Evolution and the Science of Creation*, he explains why race does not really exist; evaluates the true promise and peril of genetically modified food; reveals how new species are born, in a dog kennel and in a London subway; takes a stroll through 4.5 billion years of time; and explores the new search for alien life, including aliens right here on Earth.

### **Sex in the Sea: Our Intimate Connection with Sex-Changing Fish, Romantic Lobsters, Kinky Squid, and Other Salty Erotica of the Deep**

Category: Marine Life/Animal Study

Author: Marah J. Hardt

Forget the Kama Sutra. When it comes to inventive sex acts, just look to the sea. There we find the elaborate mating rituals of armored lobsters; giant right whales engaging in a lively threesome whilst holding their breath; full moon sex parties of groupers and daily mating blitzes by blueheaded wrasse.

Through overfishing, climate change, and ocean pollution we are disrupting the creative procreation that drives the wild abundance of life in the ocean.

### **Megafire: The Race to Extinguish A Deadly Epidemic of Flame**

Category: Earth Changes

Author: Michael Kotas

Likely a top award winner for non-fiction books, in 2017, *Megafire* examines why there are so many intense and devastating wildfires and what they mean to the environment. When it comes to the complicated dynamics of wildfire, few writers can match the breadth and depth of knowledge of Michael Kotas. Fewer still can measure up to his muscular prose. Kotas trains a keen eye and masterful turn of phrase on the politics of wildfire—a problem bound to visit more death and destruction on communities across the American West while politicians duck the painful decisions to put their constituents and wild lands ahead of votes.”

## **2018 Book Club Ballot**

### **Geography of Nowhere - Discussed this book in 1<sup>st</sup> year of book club.**

Category:

Author: James Howard Kunstler

DESCRIPTION-none

### **Immersion: The Science and Mystery of Freshwater Mussels**

Category: Ecosystem

Author: Abbie G. Landis

Landis gets under the skin of not so much a single animal, but a whole ecosystem. Part scientist, part observer, and part campaigner against water pollution, she puts herself and her family at the centre of the story. This is neither cloying nor vain, and her growing fascination with her subject is infectious. Immersion is science writing at its best: rich, accurate, and moving."

### **The Green Boat**

Category: Climate Change

Author: Mary Pipher

Pipher emphasizes the importance of taking small, positive steps to preserve what's important, drawing from her own experiences as part of a group fighting energy company TransCanada's installation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline across the Midwest, which will sit atop the Ogallala Aquifer, the source of 40% of the United States' fresh water. The challenges she confronts reveal surprising answers to the critical questions we face: How do we mobilize ourselves and our communities to work together to solve global problems? How do we stay happy amid very difficult situations? And what is the true meaning of hope?

### **The Wild Trees**

Category: Nature & ecosystem

Author: Richard Preston

Book unfolds the spellbinding story of Steve Sillett, Marie Antoine, and the tiny group of daring botanists and amateur naturalists that found a lost world above California, a world that is dangerous, hauntingly beautiful, and unexplored. They inadvertently discovered a thriving ecosystem hidden among the tree tops, 60-90 meters (200-300 ft) above, of redwood lattices, berry bushes, bonsai trees, epiphytes, lichens, voles, and salamanders.

### **Brief Eulogies for Lost Animals: An Extinction Reader**

Category: Wildlife extinction

Author: Daniel Hudon

People know about the passenger pigeon and the dodo, but not the 900 other species that have gone extinct. In terse, lyrical prose, "Brief Eulogies for Lost Animals: An Extinction Reader" tells the stories of 100 recently extinct animals so that we may memorialize them and ultimately become aware of our heavy footprint on the local environment.

### **The Water Will Come**

Category: Climate change

Author: Jeff Goodell

## **2018 Book Club Ballot**

The author envisions Miami's demise in "The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World", a journalistic take on what will happen to the world's coastal regions as climate change elevates sea levels. After a prologue titled "Atlantis" that creates a new literary genre of speculative non-fiction, Goodell dives into a wonky but vivid mix of science, history and sociology. He covers the Sunshine State, Greenland for ice testing, to Alaskan coastal communities, then back to Florida and out again to the wider world.

### **Wild Ones: A Sometimes Dismaying, Weirdly Reassuring Story About Looking at People Looking at Animals in America by Jon Mooallem**

#### **Mooallem**

Category: Ecology

Author: Jon Mooallem

This Journalist has watched his little daughter's world overflow with animals butterfly pajamas, appliquéd owls—while the actual world she's inheriting slides into a great storm of extinction. Half of all species could disappear by the end of the century, and scientists now concede that most of America's endangered animals will survive only if conservationists keep rigging the world around them in their favor. So Mooallem ventures into the field, often taking his daughter with him, to move beyond childlike fascination and make those creatures feel more real. *Wild Ones* is a tour through our environmental moment and the eccentric cultural history of people and wild animals in America that inflects it—from Thomas Jefferson's celebrations of early abundance to the turn-of-the-last-century origins of the teddy bear to the whale-loving hippies of the 1970s.

### **Windfall, The Booming Business of Global Warming**

Category: Climate Change

Author: McKenzie Funk

McKenzie Funk has spent the last six years reporting around the world on how we are preparing for a warmer planet. Funk shows us that the best way to understand the catastrophe of global warming is to see it through the eyes of those who see it most clearly—as a market opportunity. Global warming's physical impacts can be separated into three broad categories: melt, drought, and deluge. Funk travels to two dozen countries to profile entrepreneurial people who see in each of these forces a potential windfall.

### **A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction**

Category: Extinction

Author: Joel Greenber

When Europeans arrived in North America, 25 to 40 percent of the continent's birds were passenger pigeons, traveling in flocks so massive as to block out the sun for hours or even days. The downbeats of their wings would chill the air beneath and create a thundering roar that would drown out all other sound. John James Audubon, impressed by their speed and agility, said a lone passenger pigeon streaking through the forest "passes like a thought." How prophetic—for although a billion pigeons crossed the skies 80 miles from Toronto in May of 1860, little more than fifty years later passenger pigeons were extinct. The last of the species, Martha, died in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoo on September 1, 1914.

### **Paddle to the Amazon: The Ultimate 12,000-Mile Canoe Adventure**

Category: Adventure

## **2018 Book Club Ballot**

Author: Don Starkell

It was crazy. It was unthinkable. It was the adventure of a lifetime.

When Don and Dana Starkell left Winnipeg in a tiny three-seater canoe, they had no idea of the dangers that lay ahead. Two years and 12,180 miles later, father and son had each paddled nearly twenty million strokes, slept on beaches, in jungles and fields, dined on tapir, shark, and heaps of roasted ants.

They encountered piranhas, wild pigs, and hungry alligators. They were arrested, shot at, taken for spies and drug smugglers, and set upon by pirates. They had lived through terrifying hurricanes, food poisoning, and near starvation. And at the same time they had set a record for a thrilling, unforgettable voyage of discovery and old-fashioned adventure.

### **“Getting to Green” Saving Nature a Bipartisan Solution**

Category: Environment

Author: Frederick C. Rich

The Green movement in America has lost its way. Pew polling reveals that the environment is one of the two things about which Republicans and Democrats disagree most. Congress has not passed a landmark piece of environmental legislation for a quarter-century. As atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> continues its relentless climb, even environmental insiders have pronounced “the death of environmentalism.” In *Getting to Green*, Frederic C. Rich argues that meaningful progress on urgent environmental issues can be made only on a bipartisan basis. Rich reminds us of American conservation’s conservative roots and of the bipartisan political consensus that had Republican congressmen voting for, and Richard Nixon signing, the most important environmental legislation of the 1970s. He argues that faithfulness to conservative principles requires the GOP to support environmental protection, while at the same time he criticizes the Green movement for having drifted too far to the left and too often appearing hostile to business and economic growth. With a clear-eyed understanding of past failures and a realistic view of the future, *Getting to Green* argues that progress on environmental issues is within reach.