

Books Recommendations for Future Reading:

Carol Ahrens: ***The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors***, David Haskell

"Both a love song to trees, an exploration of their biology, and a wonderfully philosophical analysis of their role they play in human history and in modern culture." – Science Friday, "The Best Science Books of 2017"

"Haskell's exquisitely wrought ecological study documents the fate of 12 trees, around the globe and over time . . . a ravishing journey into biotic community." – Nature

Carol Ahrens: ***Vegetables: A Biography***, Evelyne Bloch-Dano

"To speak of vegetables," says the author, "is to travel in search of a territory, a culture." Bloch-Dano, a literary critic and biographer of writers, guides us through a historical and literary farmers' market of vegetables.

"This is a wonderfully evocative and indeed mouthwatering celebration of vegetables and the joys of gardening.... Bloch-Dano takes ten vegetables, from the carrot and the cabbage to the pumpkin and the pea, and explores their history, drawing on literature, art, language, geography, genetics, and horticulture. She even throws in some recipes." Guardian

Carol Ahrens: ***Virginia Woolf's Garden***, Caroline Zoob

"Few things are more romantic than a lush garden full of vibrant color and sprinkled with cobblestone pathways. Virginia Woolf's Garden by Caroline Zoob explores the intricate flowers blooming behind Monk's House, where the legendary author and her husband, Leonard, lived. The Woolfs teach us that even a garden can be designed and is just as much a part of a home as the indoor space." Romantic Homes Magazine

Mary Blair: ***The Invisible Garden***, Dorothy Sucher

A longtime city dweller and expert storyteller takes a fresh look at gardening in Vermont, tapping the connection between the mysteries of the earth and those of the human spirit. Dorothy Sucher explores both her corner of Vermont and the many aspects of gardening - the satisfaction of shaping a landscape, the spirit of generosity in a land-based community, and the individuality expressed in a neighbor's flowerbeds.

Jill DeGraw: ***A Countryman's Woods***, Hal Borland (1983)

"[D]elightful, informal essays on the trees—and some commonly found shrubs and vines—of the North American woodlands." Book jacket

Jill DeGraw: ***Flower Confidential : The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful***, Amy Stewart (2007)

"An around-the-world, behind-the-scenes look at the flower industry and how it has sought—fOr better or worse—to achieve perfection." Book jacket

Jill DeGraw: ***Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds***, Jim Sterba.

"A former reporter for the New York Times and Wall Street Journal who grew up in the kind of rural environment he writes about, Sterba is careful not to take sides. What he does seem to advocate is for all parties to reexamine their firmly held beliefs about nature, because living among wild, unpredictable animals is not as straightforward as a game of "Duck Hunt" or a Disney cartoon." Washington Post (From Peggy Doty's list from MG training)

Jill DeGraw: ***Sowing the Seeds of Victory: American Gardening Programs of World War I***, Rose Hayden-Smith

"Gardening activity during American involvement in World War I (1917-1919) is vital to understanding current work in agriculture and food systems... These World War I programs resulted in a national gardening ethos that transformed the American food system." (Amazon.com)

Jill DeGraw: ***The Unlikely Lavender Queen: A Memoir of Unexpected Blossoming*** Jeannie Ralston (2008)

The story of the author's experiences as a New York magazine writer moving to Texas and becoming a lavender farmer.

Ruth Eilers: ***At The Edge of The Orchard***, Tracy Chevalier

I was not crazy about the writing but the story begins with Johnny Appleseed in Ohio where a family has just come from the East to settle in the West, got as far as Ohio. From here one member moves on West, ending up in California working in the Sequoias where he was collecting seedlings to send to Europe. I've seen those trees, they are amazing! The first book by Chevalier that I read and caused me to look for more of her writing because it was so well written and fascinating story about a woman in England who discovered fossils before the time of Darwin *Remarkable Creatures*, is based on a true story, but not a garden book.

Ruth Eilers: ***Children and Gardens***, Gertrude Jekyll

"Reminiscences of Gertrude Jekyll's childhood and early interest in plants. First published 1908, and written in a simple style for the young, it describes seeds, germination, flowers, fruits and gardens." Amazon.com

Ruth Eilers: ***Ground Rules: 100 Easy Lessons for Growing a More Glorious Garden***, Kate Frey

"Gardening doesn't have to be difficult, and Kate Frey-expert gardener and designer-makes it easier than ever with her new book, *Ground Rules*." Amazon.com

Ruth Eilers: ***Life in the Garden***, Penelope Lively

Lively takes up her key themes of time and memory, and her lifelong passions for art, literature, and gardening in this philosophical and poetic memoir. From the courtyards of her childhood home in Cairo to a family cottage in Somerset, to her own gardens in Oxford and London, Lively conducts an expert tour, taking us from Eden to Sissinghurst and into her own backyard, traversing the lives of writers like Virginia Woolf and Philip Larkin while imparting her own sly and spare wisdom.

Ruth Eilers: ***Remarkable Creatures: A Novel***, Tracy Chevalier

Remarkable Creatures is a stunning historical novel that follows the story of two extraordinary 19th century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world forever.

"Chevalier admirably weaves historical figures and actual events into a compelling narrative."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

Ruth Eilers: ***The Hidden Half of Nature, the Microbial Roots of Life and Health***, David R. Montgomery and Anne Bilke

I loved this book but you need to be a science/biology geek to love it. There was a chapter or two where I skipped through because it got too technical.

Ruth Eilers: ***The Solitary Summer***, Elizabeth von Arnim

"I want to be alone for a whole summer, and get to the very dregs of life. I want to be as idle as I can, so that my soul may have time to grow. Nobody shall be invited to stay with me, and if anyone calls they will be told that I am out, or away, or sick . . . Wouldn't a whole lovely summer, quite alone, be delightful?" von Arnim

Ruth Eilers: ***Winter Bloom*** by Tara Heavy

A quick read with predictable romantic happenings, mid-way through we are introduced to a story of survival in the concentration camps that made the book worth the read, for me.

Wilma Faerber: ***Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control***, Jessica Walliser

A book about bugs and plants, and how to create a garden that benefits from both. In addition to information on companion planting and commercial options for purchasing bugs, there are 19 detailed bug profiles and 39 plant profiles.

Wilma Faerber: ***Garden Spells***, Sarah Addison Allen

Magical apple tree – reminiscent of *The Red Garden*?

Wilma Faerber: ***My Garden (Book)***, Jamaica Kincaid

Journal of gardening – supposed to be a wonderful writer.

Wilma Faerber: ***Lives of the Trees: An Uncommon History***, Diana Wells

"Wells investigates our deep-rooted relationship with trees, the names and meanings of trees, telling their legends and lore, she reminds us of just how innately bound we are to these protectors of our planet. Since the human race began, we have depended on them for food, shade, shelter and fuel, not to mention furniture, musical instruments, medicine utensils and more." Amazon.com

Wilma Faerber: ***Ripe for Change: Garden-Based Learning in Schools***, Jane Hirsch

“Book takes a big-picture view of the school garden movement and the state of garden-based learning in public K–8 education.” Amazon.com

Wilma Faerber: ***Seedfolks***, Paul Fleischman

Group takes over a vacant lot to grow a garden – I want to do this someday.

Wilma Faerber: ***The Elves of Lily Farm: A Partnership with Nature***, Penny Kelly

A woman makes a deal with elves to grow grapes??? Real Elves!

Wilma Faerber: ***The Extraordinary Healing Power of Ordinary Things: Fourteen Natural Steps to Health and Happiness***, Larry Dossey

Long hailed as one of the founding fathers of mind-body medicine, Larry Dossey directs our attention to simple sources of healing that have been available for centuries—treasures often hidden in plain sight—from the power of optimism and of tears to speed recovery to the surprising usefulness of dirt and bugs in curing disease and infection to the benefits of doing nothing.

Wilma Faerber: ***The No-Work Garden Book***, Ruth Stout

“Secrets of the Famous Year-Round Mulch Method.” Amazon.com

Wilma Faerber: ***Time and the Gardener: Writings on a Lifelong Passion***, Elizabeth Sheldon

Really old gardener writes her memoir – she had to have learned a lot in a lifetime of gardening.

Wilma Faerber: ***Tomatoland: From Harvest of Shame to Harvest of Hope***, Barry Estabrook

Estabrook reveals how a rag-tag group of migrant tomato pickers in Florida convinced the world’s largest restaurant chains and food retailers to join forces to create a model for labor justice, and then took the necessary steps to make sure that the model really works, not only in Florida, but around the world.

Shirlee Iverson: ***An Island Garden***, Celia Thaxter

An autobiographical account of gardening on an island off the coast of Maine. The illustrations are by Child Hassam who spent time on the island. Beautiful little book.

Shirlee Iverson: ***Down to Earth with Helen Dillon***, Helen Dillon

“In this book Helen Dillon encapsulates, in her inimitable witty and accessible style, her lifetime of gardening know-how, deep love of plants and assured sense of design.” Amazon.com

Shirlee Iverson: ***My Family and Other Animals***, Gerald Durrell

“As a self-described “champion of small uglies,” English writer Gerald Durrell (1925-1995) devoted his life to writing and the preservation of wildlife, from the Mauritius pink pigeon to the Rodrigues fruit bat. *My Family and Other Animals* was intended to embrace the natural history of the Greek island of Corfu, but ended up as a delightful account of his family's experiences that were, according to him, “rather like living in one of the more flamboyant and slapstick comic operas.” Amazon.com

Shirlee Iverson: ***Pilgrim at Tinker Creek***, Annie Dillard

“Pilgrim at Tinker Creek is a series of essays that combines scientific observation, philosophy, daily thoughts, and deeper introspection with glorious prose. --500 Great Books by Women” Amazon.com

Shirlee Iverson: ***Walden***, Henry David Thoreau

Here is a classic which everyone may – or may not – have read. Thoreau removes himself from men living “lives of quiet desperation” into the woods where he lives a simple and natural life. (Though I was surprised by how many times he trotted into Concord to chat with friends!)

Shey Lowman: ***The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats***, Daniel Stone

“In the 19th century, American meals were about subsistence, not enjoyment.” David Fairchild visited 5 continents and more than 50 countries to bring back fruits, vegetables and other useful plants that could be grown by American farmers. He’s the man who brought the cherry trees to Washington D.C. and kale, mangoes, hops, peaches, avocados, pomegranates, bananas and much more to America. Fairchild was later married to Alexander Graham Bell’s daughter.

Shey Lowman: ***Gardens of the High Line: Elevating the Nature of Modern Landscapes***, Piet Oudolf & Rick Darke

I loved this book! It's about the High Line Garden in New York City. Tells the story how they were able to transform an abandoned elevated train line into a beautiful green space, lots of photos.

Shey Lowman: ***The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World***, Andrea Wulf

The acclaimed author of *Founding Gardeners* reveals the forgotten life of Alexander von Humboldt, the visionary German naturalist whose ideas changed the way we see the natural world—and in the process created modern environmentalism. One of the *New York Times* 10 Best Books of the Year. Amazon.com

Shey Lowman: ***Reading the Landscape of America***, May Theilgaard Watts

A naturalist's classic. Essays about the Indiana Dunes and many areas in Illinois. Watts also wrote many of the plant and animal keys that are still in publication.

Shey Lowman: ***The Snoring Bird: My Family's Journey Through a Century of Biology***, Bernd Heinrich

Heinrich has written many naturalists books, many I have read and enjoyed. This book about his background is especially interesting. He writes about the *Snoring Bird*: "It contains history of WWII, a story of coming to America, one of a difficult but understandable father-son relationship. It is a biography of my father and the changing science of life as well as the life in our century." Complete list his books:

<http://www.thenaturalistsnotebook.com/books-by-bernd/>

Shey Lowman: ***Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web***, Jeff Lowenfels & Wayne Lewis

I loved this book! Not too technical, lots of useful information. It changed the way I garden and manage my personal landscape.

Joan Oliver: ***Earthy Joys: A Novel***, Philippa Gregory (Part 1)

"Gregory brings to life the passionate, turbulent times of seventeenth-century England as seen through the eyes of the country's most famous royal gardener John Tradescant", includes tulip madness. Amazon.com

Joan Oliver: ***Gardeners Bed Book***, Richardson Wright

First published in 1929, *The Gardener's Bed-Book* is a much beloved gardening classic by the renowned editor of *House & Garden* magazine in the 1920s and '30s. Each of its 365 perfectly sized little essays is meant to be read in *bed* at night ...

Joan Oliver: ***Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older***, Sydney Eddison

"Sydney Eddison draws on her own forty years of gardening to provide a practical and encouraging roadmap for scaling back while keeping up with the gardening activities that each gardener loves most." Amazon.com

Joan Oliver: ***Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses***, Robin Wall Kimmerer

Living at the limits of our ordinary perception, mosses are a common but largely unnoticed element of the natural world. *Gathering Moss* is a beautifully written mix of science and personal reflection that invites readers to explore and learn from the elegantly simple lives of mosses.

Joan Oliver: ***In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto***, Michael Pollan

"Pollan's bracing and eloquent manifesto shows us how we can start making thoughtful food choices that will enrich our lives, enlarge our sense of what it means to be healthy, and bring pleasure back to eating."

Amazon.com

Joan Oliver: ***Miss Rumphius***, Barbara Cooney (a children's book)

Barbara Cooney's story of Alice Rumphius, who longed to travel the world, live in a house by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful, has a timeless quality that resonates with each new generation. The countless lupines that bloom along the coast of Maine are the legacy of the real Miss Rumphius, the Lupine Lady, who scattered lupine seeds everywhere she went. *Miss Rumphius* received the American Book Award in the year of publication.

Joan Oliver: ***Onward and Upward in the Garden***, Katharine S. White

"You don't have to be a gardener to love this collection of essays. White observes that a talent for the soil and a taste for writing and editorializing often go together, and she proves it—creating her own distinctive voice in the process." Newsweek

Joan Oliver: ***The Gardener***, Sarah Stewart (a children's book)

Lydia Grace Finch brings a suitcase full of seeds to the big gray city, where she goes to stay with her Uncle Jim, a cantankerous baker. There she initiates a gradual transformation, bit by bit brightening the shop and bringing smiles to customers' faces with the flowers she grows. But it is in a secret place that Lydia Grace works on her masterpiece -- an ambitious rooftop garden -- which she hopes will make even Uncle Jim smile. Sarah Stewart introduces readers to an engaging and determined young heroine, whose story is told through letters written home, while David Small's illustrations beautifully evoke the Depression-era setting.

Barb Schaefer: ***Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening***, Louise Riotte

This gardening classic was first published in 1975, and now a second generation of gardeners who prefer pest-resistant planning to chemicals will find a place for it on the shelves. Not only does it tell what to plant with what, but also how to use herbal sprays to control insects, what wild plants to encourage in the garden...

Amazon.com

Barb Schaefer: ***Second Nature: A Gardener's Education***, Michael Pollan

"This isn't so much a how-to on gardening as a how-to on thinking about gardening. It follows the course of the natural year, from spring through winter, as Pollan, an editor at Harper's, chronicles his growth as a gardener in Connecticut's rocky Housatonic Valley. Starting out as a "child of Thoreau," he soon realized that society's concept of culture as the enemy of nature would get him a bumper crop of weeds and well-fed woodchucks but no vegetables to eat." Amazon.com

Barb Schaefer: ***The Four Season Farm Gardener's Cookbook***, Barbara Damrosch & Eliot Coleman

I just thought this might be a fun read for the cooks among us. (Not me, but I like to read about cooking).

Barbara Damrosch and Eliot Coleman are America's foremost organic gardeners. Today they are the face of the locavore movement, working through their extraordinary Four Season Farm in Maine.

Barb Schaefer: ***The Garden Awakening: Designs to Nurture Our Land and Ourselves***, Mary Reynolds

This is described as a step by step manual for creating a garden in harmony with the life force of earth. The author describes how to create a garden that is not only a solitary space but an expanding living ecosystem. It is also a beautiful book that is both art and inspiration.

Marcy Wessels: ***Victory Gardens for Bees: A DIY Guide to Saving the Bees***, Lori Weidenhammer

Who knew modern civilization may be brought down, not by plagues or war, but by bees? Or, more correctly, by no bees? This book investigates the growing problem of bee mortality and offers practical measures we can all take to help.