

Midlands Arbor Day
“Books That Opened Our Eyes”



A Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold

This is the environmentalist's Bible. Every would-be naturalist should own it.

The River of the Mother of God, by Aldo Leopold, J. Baird Calicott, Susan L. Flader

Compiled 50 years after Leopold's death, it shows the evolution of his thoughts from a teenager to a phenomenal natural observer.

Remarkable Trees of The World, by Thomas Pakenham

Beautiful pictures and inspiring words - worthy of anyone's coffee table.

Looking for Longleaf: The Fall and Rise of an American Forest, by Lawrence S. Early

Longleaf pine once flourished across the south in park-lake forests of astonishing beauty and diversity - the most extensive forest ecosystem of North America. This book blends human and natural history to reveal the compelling story of these magnificent trees and also addresses current conservation and restoration efforts.

The Eternal Frontier, by Tim Flannery

This book examines the North American continent through 65 million years - from the Yucatan meteor to the present. It closes with the observation that life began in the water and we have not yet learned to appreciate it.

1491, by Charles Mann

Mann premises that there were more people in the Americas (pre-colonialism) than were in Europe, and they had a more sophisticated lifestyle. The natives did not have genetic resistance to European diseases. The America the Europeans inherited had only recently been depopulated.

Island at the Center of the World, by Russell Shorto

Our history books tell us the English founded New York City. It is more likely that the Dutch influence set the course for the City we know.

Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water, by Marc Reisner

This is a tale of water's importance and how the environment is altered by the few for personal wealth.

Unquenchable, by Robert Glennon

The latest book on the Nation's water crisis, gives examples of successful water transfer programs and a game plan for dealing with water management policy.

The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World, by Michael Pollan

Apples, tulips, marijuana, and potatoes: Sounds like a Dutch shopping list, but it's really a quick index to the subjects of Pollan's new book. One day, while working in his garden, the author began to wonder how his role as a sower of seeds differed from that of the bumblebee that was pollinating a nearby apple tree; his musings inspired these tales of botanical transformation.

Flushed: How the Plumber Saved Civilization, by Hodding Carter

A humorous look at how dependent we are on waste disposal. We do not have it right and we have a long way to go.

The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring, by Richard Preston

Interweaving the life stories of several scientists and tree enthusiasts, Preston provides a loose but compelling history of the last several decades of conservation, focusing on the preservation of these majestic trees. Readers will be impressed with the way Preston makes trees such an intriguing topic. He navigates the scientific explanations, while sharing his sense of awe at these behemoths.

The Legacy of Luna: The Story of a Tree, A Woman and the Struggle to Save the Redwoods, by Julia Hill

This is Hill's story of how she came to be a "tree-sitter" in Luna, a 200' tall, 1000 year old redwood tree. The 25 year old activist did not set out to tree-sit, but when it became clear that there was no other way to prevent the Pacific Lumber Company from logging a redwood forest in Humboldt County, CA, she stayed for 738 days. The politics, the power, and the people make this an undeniably absorbing story.

Trees of Georgia and Adjacent States, by Claude L. Brown & Katherine Kirkman

Useful throughout the southeast, north of Florida - this field guide identifies 205 species and varieties, with keys and complete plant descriptions that highlight differences between similar taxa.