

Of Bogs & Books

Engaging Conversations since 1994

Spring 2023

Volume 30, Number 1

VOLO BOG STATE NATURAL

- **Second Saturday of each month, 10:00 – 11:30 am**
- **Book Discussions for adults and teens**
- **In-Person & Zoom Options**
- **To register or to request the zoom link email us at dnr.volobog@illinois.gov and tell us your name and phone number.**
- **Natural History, Outdoor & Environmental Literature**
- **Books range from classic to contemporary**
- **Selections may be found at local libraries, book stores and on-line**
- **Look for our**
 **Facebook Group**
- **Sponsored by IDNR at Volo Bog SNA & the Friends of Volo Bog**
- **Be well, friends!**

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Spring Selections

March 11 — Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World

by Katharine Hayhoe

“Called “one of the nation's most effective communicators on climate change” by The New York Times, Katharine Hayhoe knows how to navigate all sides of the conversation on our changing planet. A Canadian climate scientist living in Texas, she negotiates distrust of data, indifference to imminent threats, and resistance to proposed solutions with ease. Over the past fifteen years Hayhoe has found that the most important thing we can do to address climate change is talk about it—and she wants to teach you how.

In *Saving Us*, Hayhoe argues that when it comes to changing hearts and minds, facts are only one part of the equation. We need to find shared values in order to connect our unique identities to collective action. This is not another doomsday narrative about a planet on fire. It is a multilayered look at science, faith, and human psychology, from an icon in her field—recently named chief scientist at The Nature Conservancy.

Drawing on interdisciplinary research and personal stories, Hayhoe shows that small conversations can have astonishing results. *Saving Us* leaves us with the tools to open a dialogue with your loved ones about how we all can play a role in pushing forward for change.”

- An Amazon Review

April 8 — Vanilla: Travels in Search of the Ice Cream Orchid

By Tim Ecott

“From the golden cups of Aztec emperors to the ice cream dishes of US presidents, vanilla has mystified and tantalized man for centuries. The only orchid that produces an agriculturally valuable crop, vanilla can mask unpleasant tastes and smells, but also makes pleasant tastes stronger, smoother, and longer lasting. Because it has over four hundred separate flavor components, choosing premium vanilla beans is as complex as judging the aroma and taste of fine wine. Vanilla finds its way into over half of all dessert products sold worldwide, as well as the finest perfumes, well-known brands of rum and vodka, and even Coca-Cola and Pepsi. Americans consume more vanilla than anyone else on Earth—a fact that has forced growers and traders to mount armed guards over their plants in the tropical jungle. The traders who travel the world in search of America’s favorite flavor are a small and secretive elite. Vanilla is a globetrotting adventure that follows buccaneers, aristocrats, and gourmets, all in search of the ice cream orchid.”

- An Amazon Review

May 13 — Sparrow Envy: Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts

by J. Drew Lanham

“You are a rare bird, easy to see but invisible just the same.” That thought is close at hand in *Sparrow Envy: Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts*, as renowned naturalist and writer J. Drew Lanham explores his obsession with birds and all things wild in a mixture of poetry and prose. He questions vital assumptions taken for granted by so many birdwatchers: can birding be an escape if the birder is not in a safe place? Who is watching him as he watches birds?

With a refreshing balance of reverence and candor, Lanham paints a unique portrait of the natural world: listening to cicadas, tracking sandpipers, towhees, wrens, and cataloging fellow birdwatchers at a conference where he is one of two black birders. The resulting insights are as honest as they are illuminating.

- An Amazon Review