

VOLO BOG

STATE NATURAL AREA

- **Second Saturday of each month, 10:00 – 11:30 am**
- **Zooming and In-person Book Discussions for adults and teens**
- **To register, request the zoom link by emailing us at dnr.volobog@illinois.gov and tell us your name.**
- **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 with the Friends of Volo Bog**

28478 W. Brandenburg Road
Ingleside, IL 60041

Of Bogs & Books

Engaging Conversations since 1994

SUMMER 2022 VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2

Summer Selections

June 11—Magdalena: River of Dreams: A Story of Colombia by Wade Davis

Travelers often become enchanted with the first country that captures their hearts and gives them license to be free. For Wade Davis, it was Colombia. Now in a masterly new book, Davis tells of his travels on the mighty Magdalena, the river that made possible the nation. Along the way, he finds a people who have overcome years of conflict precisely because of their character, informed by an enduring spirit of place, and a deep love of a land that is home to the greatest ecological and geographical diversity on the planet. Only in Colombia can a traveler wash ashore in a coastal desert, follow waterways through wetlands as wide as the sky, ascend narrow tracks through dense tropical forests, and reach verdant Andean valleys rising to soaring ice-clad summits.

Both a corridor of commerce and a fountain of culture, the wellspring of Colombian music, literature, poetry, and prayer, the Magdalena has served in dark times as the graveyard of the nation. And yet, always, it returns as a river of life.

At once an absorbing adventure and an inspiring tale of hope and redemption, Magdalena Braids together memoir, history, and journalism to tell the epic story of Colombia. - *an Amazon Review*

July 9—Swamplands: Tundra Beavers, Quaking Bogs, and the Improbable

World of Peat by Edward Struzik *International Bog Day is the fourth Sunday each July ;0)*

In a world filled with breathtaking beauty, we have often overlooked the elusive charm and magic of certain landscapes. ... peatlands—often go unnoticed for their ecological splendor. They are as globally significant as rainforests, and function as critical carbon sinks for addressing our climate crisis. Yet, because of their reputation as wastelands, they are being systematically drained and degraded to make way for oilsands, mines, farms, and electricity.

In Swamplands, journalist Edward Struzik celebrates these wild places, venturing into windswept bogs in Kauai and the last remnants of an ancient peatland in the Mojave Desert. The secrets of the swamp aren't for the faint of heart. Ed loses a shoe to an Arctic wolf and finds himself ankle-deep in water during a lightning storm.

Swamplands highlights the unappreciated struggle being waged to save peatlands by scientists, conservationists, and landowners around the world. An ode to peaty landscapes in all their offbeat glory, the book is also a demand for awareness of the myriad threats they face. It urges us to see the beauty and importance in these least likely of places-. Our planet's survival might depend on it. - Adapted from *an Amazon Review*

August 13—Silent Earth: Averting the Insect Apocalypse by Dave Goulson

Drawing on thirty years of research, Goulson has written an accessible, fascinating, and important book that examines the evidence of an alarming drop in insect numbers around the world. "If we lose the insects, then everything is going to collapse," he warned in a recent interview in the New York Times—beginning with humans' food supply. The main cause of this decrease in insect populations is the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides. Hence, Silent Earth's nod to Rachel Carson's classic Silent Spring which, when published in 1962, led to the global banning of DDT. This was a huge victory for science and ecological health at the time.

Yet before long, new pesticides just as lethal as DDT were introduced, and today, humanity finds itself on the brink of a new crisis. What will happen when the bugs are all gone? Goulson explores the intrinsic connection between climate change, nature, wildlife, and the shrinking biodiversity and analyzes the harmful impact for the earth and its inhabitants.

But it is not too late to arrest this decline, and Silent Earth should be the clarion call. Smart, eye-opening, and essential, Silent Earth is a forceful call to action to save our world, and ultimately, ourselves. - Adapted from *an Amazon Review*