



Of Bogs & Books

Engaging Conversations since 1994

Winter 2022 – 2023 Volume 29, Number 4

VOLO BOG
STATE NATURAL AREA

- Second Saturday of each month, 10:00 – 11:30 am
- Book Discussions for adults and teens
- In-Person at VBSNA with a Zoom Option
- 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 with the Friends of Volo Bog

Volo Bog State Natural Area
28478 W. Brandenburg Rd.
Ingleside, IL 60041
815-344-1294

Masks always welcome and sometimes required (following State of Illinois guidelines)



Winter Selections

December 10 – *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach

“What’s to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Three hundred years ago, animals that broke the law would be assigned legal representation and put on trial. These days, as New York Times best-selling author Mary Roach discovers, the answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science: the curious science of human-wildlife conflict, a discipline at the crossroads of human behavior and wildlife biology.

“(Ms.) Roach tags along with animal-attack forensics investigators, human-elephant conflict specialists, bear managers, and “danger tree” faller blasters. Intrepid as ever, she travels from leopard-terrorized hamlets in the Indian Himalaya to St. Peter’s Square in the early hours before the pope arrives for Easter Mass, when vandal gulls swoop in to destroy the elaborate floral display. She taste-tests rat bait, learns how to install a vulture effigy, and gets mugged by a macaque.

“Combining little-known forensic science and conservation genetics with a motley cast of laser scarecrows, langur impersonators, and trespassing squirrels, Roach reveals as much about humanity as about nature’s lawbreakers. When it comes to “problem” wildlife, she finds, humans are more often the problem—and the solution. Fascinating, witty, and humane, *Fuzz* offers hope for compassionate coexistence in our ever-expanding human habitat.”
- An Amazon Review

January 14 – *The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light* by Paul Bogard

“A starry night is one of nature’s most magical wonders. Yet in our artificially lit world, three-quarters of Americans’ eyes never switch to night vision and most of us no longer experience true darkness. In *The End of Night*, Paul Bogard restores our awareness of the spectacularly primal, wildly dark night sky and how it has influenced the human experience across everything from science to art.

“From Las Vegas’ Luxor Beam -- the brightest single spot on this planet -- to nights so starlit the sky looks like snow, Bogard blends personal narrative, natural history, science, and history to shed light on the importance of darkness -- what we’ve lost, what we still have, and what we might regain -- and the simple ways we can reduce the brightness of our nights tonight.”
- An Amazon Review

February 11 – *What It’s Like to Be a Bird: From Flying to Nesting, Eating to Singing — What Birds Are Doing, and Why* by David Allen Sibley

“In *What It’s Like to Be a Bird*, David Sibley answers the most frequently asked questions about the birds we see most often. This special, large-format volume is geared as much to nonbirders as it is to the out-and-out obsessed, covering more than two hundred species and including more than 330 new illustrations by the author. While its focus is on familiar backyard birds—blue jays, nuthatches, chickadees—it also examines certain species that can be fairly easily observed, such as the seashore-dwelling Atlantic puffin.

“David Sibley’s exacting artwork and wide-ranging expertise bring observed behaviors vividly to life. (For most species, the primary illustration is reproduced life-sized.) And while the text is aimed at adults—including fascinating new scientific research on the myriad ways birds have adapted to environmental changes—it is nontechnical, making it the perfect occasion for parents and grandparents to share their love of birds with young children, who will delight in the big, full-color illustrations of birds in action.

“Unlike any other book he has written, *What It’s Like to Be a Bird* is poised to bring a whole new audience to David Sibley’s world of birds.
- Adapted from an Amazon Review