

Follow the Forest Reading List

Reading about forests can be like getting lost in the woods and becoming entangled in something bigger and older than ourselves. This reading list emerges from the belief that we need to preserve the countless and imperiled stories of forests, particularly those that remind us to treat our remaining forests as indispensable. This falls in line with Follow the Forest's mission of connecting people to the land we live on and rallying behind our mission of protecting a vast wildlife corridor throughout the Northeastern US.

This reading list combines the infinitely complicated task of W.S Merwin's literal poem, *Unchopping a Tree*, with stories of the faithful whose actions, like unwavering prayers, carry with them the full weight of the forests they protect. These are stories about how we can come together behind our forests. How our communities respond continues to be a measure of our shared humanity and powers of empathy. Together, we can Follow the Forest and make a lasting difference in our communities.

Forest Ecology

- *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben
- *Mycorrhizal Planet: How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility* by Michael Phillips
- *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change our Minds & Shape Our Futures* by Merlin Sheldrake
- *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by Suzanne Simard
- *Sprout Lands: Tending the Endless Gift of Trees* by William Logan
- *The Long, Long Life of Trees* by Fiona Stafford
- *Changes in the Land* by William Cronon
- *Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees* by Nancy Ross Hugo
- *The Trees in My Forest* by Bernd Heinrich
- *The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live & Why They Matter* by Colin Tudge
- *Reading the Forested Landscape* by Tom Wessels

- *Forests Adrift: Currents Shaping the Future of Northeastern Trees* by Charles Canham
- *Brilliant Green: The Surprising History and Science of Plant Intelligence* by Alessandra Viola and Stefano Mancuso
- *What a Plant Knows* by Daniel Chamovitz

Non-Fiction

- *The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors* by David G. Haskell
- *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature* by David G Haskell
- *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *Conversations with Trees* by Stephanie Kaza
- *The Wild Trees* by Richard Preston
- *Sylva, or A Discourse of Forest-Tress and the Propagation of Timber in His Majesty's Dominion* by John Evelyn
- *American Chestnut: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree* by Susan Freinkel
- *The Story of Trees* by Kevin Hobbs and David West
- *Wildwood: A Journey Through Trees* by Roger Deakin
- *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold
- *American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation* by Eric Rutkow
- *The Tree* by John Fowles

Fiction and Poetry

- *Unchopping a Tree* by W. S. Merwin
- *Tree Lines* by Michael and Valerie Cohen
- *The Overstory* by Richard Powers
- *The Baron in the Trees* by Italo Calvino
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
- *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett
- *Wolf Willow* by Wallace Stegner
- *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono
- *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* by J. R. R. Tolkien

Children's Books

- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Arana and the Mother Tree* by Alyssa Bonilla
- *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss
- *The Night Tree* by Eve Bunting
- *Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa* by Jeanette Winter

The Forest as Sacred

- *Sacred Trees* by Nathaniel Altman
- *Holy Trees and other Ecological Surprises* by Lucy Goodison
- *To Speak for the Trees: My Life's Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to a Healing Vision of the Forest* by Diana Beresford-Kroeger
- *The Golden Spruce: A True Story of Myth, Madness, and Greed* by John Vaillant
- *American Indian Myths and Legends* edited by Richard Erdoes and Alfonso Ortiz