**Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife**

Author: *David Mizejewski*
Publisher: Creative Homeowner
Year: 2004
Member’s price: $12.20

A backyard can come alive by creating an environment with plants and spaces that attract nature’s most interesting and friendly creatures. Colorful butterflies, uplifting songbirds, and lively toads can enhance the personal garden space, giving pleasure to nature lovers of all ages. National Wildlife Federation’s *Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife* provides over a dozen step-by-step projects for families to do together, making getting back to nature easy, educational, and fun.

**Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants**

Author: *Douglas W. Tallamy*
Publisher: Timber Press
Year: 2007
Member’s price: $24.95

The pressures on wildlife populations today are greater than they have ever been and many gardeners assume they can remedy this situation by simply planting a variety of flowering perennials, trees, and shrubs. As *Douglas Tallamy* points out in this revelatory book, that assumption is largely mistaken. Wild creatures exist in a complex web of interrelationships, and often require different kinds of food at different stages of their development. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. When native plant species disappear, the insects disappear, thus impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. Fortunately, there is still time to reverse this alarming trend, and gardeners have the power to make a significant contribution toward sustainable biodiversity. By favoring native plants, gardeners can provide a welcoming environment for wildlife of all kinds. Healthy local ecosystems are not only beautiful and fascinating, they are also essential to human well-being. By heeding *Douglas Tallamy’s* eloquent arguments and acting upon his recommendations, gardeners everywhere can make a difference.

**The Bristlecone Book: A Natural History of the World’s Oldest Trees**

Author: *Ronald Lanner*
Publisher: Mountain Press Publishing Company
Year: 2007
Member’s price: $10.85

High among the cold, windswept peaks of America’s Mountain West, strange and beautiful trees grow old but never age. *The Bristlecone Book: A Natural History of the World’s Oldest Trees* brings together for the first time the captivating facts about bristlecone and foxtail pines—trees that thrive in a harsh environment and live thousands of years—with a special focus on Great Basin bristlecone pine, the oldest tree species on Earth. In this extraordinary journey into the world of bristlecones, author *Ronald Lanner* exposes trees’ inner workings, taking apart a pine to examine bark, buds, needles, cones, roots, and wood. He follows a tree’s lifespan from seedling to great old age, presenting a new interpretation of stages of growth. He explains the unusual colors and forms that make bristlecones so picturesque, describes how the forces of nature influence trees’ unique shapes, and reveals their secrets of long life. Readers will discover where to go to see these trees and how to identify them. A stunning pageant of color photos shows off bristlecones and their remarkable growth patterns, and a map shows locations of groves.
California is home to over sixteen hundred species of undomesticated bees, most of them native, that populate and pollinate our gardens, fields, and urban green spaces. In this absorbing guidebook, some of the State’s preeminent bee and botany experts introduce us to this diverse population. *California Bees & Blooms* holds a magnifying glass up to the twenty-two most common genera (and six species of cuckoo bees), describing each one’s distinctive behaviors, social structures, flight seasons, preferred flowers, and enemies. Enhancing these descriptions are photographs of bees so finely detailed they capture pollen scattered across gauzy wings and iridescent exoskeletons.

Drawing from years of research at the UC Berkeley Urban Bee Lab, *California Bees & Blooms* presents an authoritative look at these creatures, emphasizing their vital relationship with flowers. In addition to opening our eyes to the beautiful array of wild bees in our midst, this book provides information on fifty-three bee-friendly plants and how to grow them. Just a few square feet of poppies, sage, and phacelia are enough to sustain a healthy population of wild bees, transforming an urban or suburban garden into a world that hums and buzzes with life.

This mini guide measures 4.75” × 2.75” and fits neatly into pocket or backpack. It is designed as an introduction to lichens for anyone interested in the natural world. Each of the 43 color photos of California lichens is accompanied by a descriptive text. The introduction tells what lichens are and describes the three groups into which they are roughly divided. The book does not deal with chemistry or microscopic characters, other than those that can be seen with a hand lens. Finally, there is a glossary of lichen terms.

California is one of the most ecologically rich and diverse regions of North America, and home to hundreds of species of mushrooms. In *California Mushrooms*, mycologist experts *Dennis Desjardin, Michael Wood,* and *Fred Stevens* provide over 1,100 species profiles, including comprehensive descriptions and spectacular photographs of 650 species. Each profile includes information on macro- and micromorphology, habitat, edibility, and comparisons with closely related species and potential look-alikes.

Although the focus of the book is on mushrooms of California, over 90% of the species treated occur elsewhere, making the book useful throughout western North America. *California Mushrooms* also provides information on when and where to find mushrooms; guidelines on how to collect and identify mushrooms; keys to species; and overviews of nomenclature and taxonomy, morphology and phylogeny, fungal ecology, biology of mushrooms, and mushroom toxins. This complete reference covers everything necessary for the mushroom hunter to accurately identify over 650 species.
**California’s Fall Color: A Photographer’s Guide to Autumn in the Sierra**  
Author:  *G. Dan Mitchell*  
Publisher:  Heyday Press  
Year:  2015  
Member’s price:  $9.40

Every autumn, the Sierra Nevada glows red and golden with aspens, cottonwoods, dogwoods, maples, and oaks. In this guide, landscape photographer *G. Dan Mitchell* shows you: where to find the best fall foliage in the Eastern Sierra, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite Valley, and destinations off the beaten track; how to photograph fall color with any camera, from a smartphone to a DSLR; techniques for handling the special challenges of capturing fall color; over 65 color photographs of fall color that will inspire you to create your own images. Experience the Sierra at its best—brisk air, vibrant colors, and fewer crowds—and take home expertly crafted souvenirs of your own making.

**Conifers of California**  
Authors:  *Ronald M. Lanner, Eugene O. Murman*  
Publisher:  Cachuma Press  
Year:  1999  
Member’s price:  $24.95

*Conifers of California* is the first book entirely devoted to the State’s native cone-bearing trees and shrubs. Richly illustrated, it serves as both a natural history and field guide. Each species’ narrative is accompanied by a full-page color botanical illustration, photographs from the wild, detailed identification information, and a range map. California is home to more than 50 native species of pines, firs, spruces, junipers, hemlocks, and other conifers. *Conifers of California* covers the State’s world-renowned cone-bearers, such as coast redwood, giant sequoia, and bristlecone pines, and also features its many other rare and unusual conifers, such as Torrey pine, Santa Lucia fir, and Brewer spruce.

**Common Dragonflies of California: A Beginner’s Pocket Guide**  
Author:  *Kathy Biggs*  
Publisher:  Azalea Creek Publishing  
Year:  2009  
Member’s price:  $6.00

A field guide to the identification of common dragonflies and damselflies within California. Introduces California’s 100 most common species with photos, flight seasons, descriptions, habitats, distribution, checklist, glossary, references, index, and more. Fits in your pocket. Very compact form with a tremendous amount of information. *Kathy Biggs* is the author of four dragonfly-related books. *Ray Bruun* has been photographing dragonflies since 2001.
Dragonflies of North America: A Color and Learn Book with Activities
Author: Kathy Biggs
Publisher: Azalea Creek Publishing
Year: 2007
Member’s price: $2.20

Color and learn about the gorgeous dragonflies and damselflies of North America. Beautiful intricate illustrations with descriptions and information on dragonfly biology and life history. Coloring pages for 37 common species of dragonflies and damselflies includes activities: crossword puzzle, other word games, and cut-out finger puppets. Small colored images for all the pages are provided on the inside covers, and on a companion website. Companion website shows photos, descriptions, and provides links to geographic distribution maps.

Field Guide to Manzanitas: California, North America, and Mexico
Authors: Michael Edward Kauffmann, Tom Parker
Publisher: Backcountry Press
Year: 2015
Member’s price: $20.95

Manzanita’s center of biodiversity is in the California Floristic Province, where they are the “rock stars” of woody shrub diversity. Ranging from the Sierra Nevada mountains to coastal bluffs along the Pacific, from temperate rainforests along the North Coast to arid mountain slopes in southern California, a wealth of manzanita species and subspecies can be found in an astonishing array of environments.

A Flora of Lava Beds National Monument, California
Author: Sean B. Smith
Publisher: CNPS Press
Year: 2015
Member’s price: $4.90

A Flora of Lava Beds National Monument by Sean Smith is for botanists and plant enthusiasts alike who wish to explore this spectacular volcanic area. Join Sean on this adventure and see why this area is so special from a botanical standpoint.
Growing California Native Plants, Second Edition  
Authors: Marjorie G. Schmidt, Katherine Greenberg  
Publisher: University of California Press  
Year: 2012  
Member’s price: $26.15

First published thirty years ago, the long-awaited second edition of *Growing California Native Plants* is the ideal hands-on native plant guide for both experienced and novice gardeners. In addition to the voluminous knowledge contributed by Marjorie G. Schmidt, now deceased, Katherine L. Greenberg has taken note of the vibrant state of today’s horticultural scene, adding plants and ideas that were little known when the book first appeared. Lavishly illustrated with 200 new color photographs, drawings, maps, and charts, this concise and easy-to-use reference covers trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, bulbs, grasses, and vines, and includes a plant selection guide for quick reference. The authors, whose combined experience spans six decades, take California’s summer-dry climate and restricted water supplies into account and provide helpful notes on companion plants and gardening with wildlife. Practical and informative, *Growing California Native Plants* is a valuable reference for gardeners everywhere in California and an enjoyable book simply to explore.

Introduction to California Plant Life  
Authors: Robert Ornduff, Phyllis M. Faber, Todd Keeler-Wolf, Peter Gaede  
Publisher: University of California Press  
Year: 2003  
Member’s price: $15.00

California’s unique plants range in size from the stately coast redwoods to the minute belly plants of the southern deserts, and in age from the 4,000-year-old bristlecone pines to ephemeral annuals whose life span can be counted in weeks. Available at last in a thoroughly updated and revised edition, this popular book is the only concise overview of the State’s remarkable flora, its plant communities, and the environmental factors that shape them.

- 188 color photographs illustrate plants and typical plant communities around the State.
- New chapters give expanded discussions of the evolution of the California landscape, recent changes in California’s flora, and more.
- Introduces basic concepts of plant taxonomy and plant ecology through clear examples, and covers topics such as soil, climate, and geography.

Mount Shasta Wildflowers:  
A Field Guide Featuring the Paintings of Edward Stuhl  
Authors: Edward Stuhl (Artist), Linda Freeman, Ken Goehring, Michael Zanger, Jane Cohn  
Publisher: Wise Women Ink  
Year: 2015  
Member’s price: $22.45

This guide (with the watercolor paintings of Edward Stuhl) makes it easy to identify and enjoy the wildflowers that grow on Mount Shasta, with a color index, keys and charts, up-to-date botanical information, and an illustrated glossary. The book includes a map, trail information, and biographical information about the artist, and covers topics such as soil, climate, and geography.
Mushrooms for Dyes, Paper, Pigments & Myco-Stix

Author: Miriam C. Rice
Publisher: Mushrooms for Color Press
Year: 2008
Member’s price: $21.65

By the late, great Miriam C. Rice, with illustrations by Dorothy M. Beebee. This book details the history, development, and science of mushroom arts. It both tells and shows how to extract substances from mushrooms that allow an artist to make textile dyes, paper sculpture or plain paper, watercolors and crayons for drawing. Beebee’s pen and ink drawings appear throughout and color photos of mushroom arts accompany each section. Always eager to expand her knowledge of what she might find in natural substances, Rice devised a way to turn mushroom-extracted pigments into drawing tools, the result being her invention and development of “Myco-Stix.” This book introduces this new drawing tool to artists everywhere. Mushrooms for Dyes, Paper, Pigments & Myco-Stix will delight, instruct, and inspire seasoned artists and newcomers alike. 162 pages, softcover.

Native Ferns, Moss, & Grasses: From Emerald Carpet to Amber Wave, Serene and Sensuous Plants for the Garden

Author: William Cullina
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Year: 2008
Member’s price: $24.25

William Cullina’s fresh and informative take on identifying and caring for native plants comes full circle in Native Ferns, Moss, & Grasses, the third book in a series (which also includes Wildflowers and Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines) that combines encyclopedic information about North American species with practical instruction. Cullina notes that ferns, moss, and grasses are the green canvas for colorful blooms: they bring a level of refinement and sophistication that no flower can match, and no garden is complete without them. Native Ferns, Moss, & Grasses offers a thorough discussion of plant hardiness, and for each species the natural range, type of soil, and habitat in which the plant thrives is indicated. The book concludes with complete information on where to buy featured plants and suggested species for various uses and spaces.

Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California

Authors: M. Nevin Smith
Publisher: University of California Press
Year: 2006
Member’s price: $24.70

Nevin Smith has spent his life growing plants and exploring the wild California landscape. A highly respected horticulturalist and practitioner who is also a gifted writer, Smith shares his years of experience growing native California plants in this lively, informative book. Rather than being a systematic “how-to” manual, Native Treasures combines Smith's personal thoughts, sometimes maverick opinions, and matchless expertise with practical advice on selected groups of native plants and their culture. The author explains how California’s diverse terrain, climate, and geology support a wealth of plant species—more than 6,000—and offers suggestions for designing with most of the major natives in cultivation, as well as with some more obscure but garden-worthy groups. With an engaging narrative and a wealth of illustrations, this ode to beauty and diversity celebrates California’s rich store of native plants and encourages readers to visit them in their native haunts and invite them into their gardens.

- Describes the use of plants in varying landscapes and gardens
- State of the art propagation techniques
- Beautifully illustrated with color photos and line drawings
Just imagine all of nature, mountains, prairies, and oceans lying on your bed as a patchwork quilt! Take flora and fauna in their unique habitats, fold them up and you have a book, this book. Earth's major habitats are spread before you, ready to be examined. This patchwork quilt of nature covers the whole Earth, your home—yours to learn about, to enjoy, to care for, and to love. Definitely a book for an adult to share and discuss with a child or a small group, and the activities at the end will deepen the learning experience. Grades 2–4.

Handy identification guide to berries found growing along the Pacific Coast. Drawings and diagrams make for quick and easy use in the field, using major characteristics of each species.

These pocket-sized Nature Study Guides describe plants and animals in easy-to-understand language. They include drawings, keys, terms, symbols, and glossaries. Each book covers a specific region.

Full color guide to over 100 of the most commonly seen wildflowers in Sacramento County, California. Chris Wassermann’s exquisite water color paintings of the flowers show you all the glorious detail. Jan Fetler’s photos of the plant in a natural setting help you see where to look for the sometimes elusive flowers.
The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic
Author: Sarah Reichard
Publisher: University of California Press
Year: 2011
Member's price: $13.65

In his influential A Sand County Almanac, published at the beginning of the environmental movement in 1949, Aldo Leopold proposed a new ecological ethic to guide our stewardship of the planet. In this inspiring book, Sarah Hayden Reichard tells how we can bring Leopold’s far-reaching vision to our gardens to make them more sustainable, lively, and healthy places. Today, gardening practices too often damage the environment: we deplete resources in our own soil while mining for soil amendments in far away places, or use water and pesticides in ways that can pollute lakes and rivers. Drawing from cutting-edge research on urban horticulture, Reichard explores the many benefits of sustainable gardening and gives straightforward, practical advice on topics such as pest control, water conservation, living with native animals, mulching, and invasive species.

The book includes a scorecard that allows readers to quickly evaluate the sustainability of their current practices, as well as an extensive list of garden plants that are invasive, what they do, and where they should be avoided.

The Redwood Forest: History, Ecology, and Conservation of the Coast Redwoods
Author: Save-the-Redwoods League
Editor: Reed F. Noss
Publisher: Island Press
Year: 2000
Member's price: $24.15

Evidence is mounting that redwood forests, like many other ecosystems, cannot survive as small, isolated fragments in human-altered landscapes. Such fragments lose their diversity over time and, in the case of redwoods, may even lose the ability to grow new, giant trees. The Redwood Forest, written in support of Save-the-Redwood League’s master plan, provides scientific guidance for saving the redwood forest by bringing together in a single volume the latest insights from conservation biology along with new information from data-gathering techniques such as GIS and remote sensing. It presents the most current findings on the geologic and cultural history, natural history, ecology, management, and conservation of the flora and fauna of the redwood ecosystem.

Leading experts—including Todd Dawson, Bill Libby, John Sawyer, Steve Sillett, Dale Thornburgh, Hartwell Welch, and many others—offer a comprehensive account of the redwoods ecosystem, with specific chapters examining the history of the redwood lineage, from the Triassic Period to the present, along with the recent history of redwoods conservation life history, architecture, genetics, environmental relations, and disturbance regimes of redwoods terrestrial flora and fauna, communities, and ecosystems aquatic ecosystems landscape-scale conservation planning management alternatives relating to forestry, restoration, and recreation. The Redwood Forest offers a case study for ecosystem-level conservation and gives conservation organizations the information, technical tools, and broad perspective they need to evaluate redwood sites and landscapes for conservation. It contains the latest information from ground-breaking research on such topics as redwood canopy communities, the role of fog in sustaining redwood forests, and the function of redwood burls. It also presents sobering lessons from current research on the effects of forestry activities on the sensitive faunas of redwood forests and streams. The key to perpetuating the redwood forest is understanding how it functions; this book represents an important step in establishing such an understanding. It presents a significant body of knowledge in a single volume, and will be a vital resource for conservation scientists, land use planners, policymakers, and anyone involved with conservation of redwoods and other forests.
**Trees and Shrubs of California**
Authors: John David Stuart, John O. Sawyer
Publisher: University of California Press
Year: 2001
Member's price: $24.55

California's varied landscape is characterized by a spectacular abundance of plant life, including a magnificent variety of trees and shrubs. This is the first book to combine the trees and shrubs of California in one accessible field guide. *Trees and Shrubs of California* identifies and describes native California tree species and most common shrub species. The text is complemented by more than 200 beautiful line drawings, 300 range maps, and 40 color photographs.

In their introduction, the authors discuss the dominant vegetation types, climates, principal landforms, and elevations of California's ecological regions. They explain the classification system and nomenclature used in the book, which includes both scientific and common plant names and is based on the 1993 edition of *The Jepson Manual*. The authors also provide a step-by-step explanation of how to use the dichotomous keys to identify plants and distinguish between trees and shrubs.

This user-friendly field guide minimizes technical terms and includes a checklist, making it an invaluable resource on California's profuse vegetation.

**Ecology, Conservation, and Management of Vernal Pool Ecosystems: Proceedings from a 1996 Conference**
Editor: Carol W. Witham
Publisher: CNPS Press
Year: 1998
Member's price: $14.50

Proceedings from a 1996 conference includes 30 interdisciplinary papers and is considered a valuable resource for vernal pool conservation.

**Wild Suburbia: Learning to Garden with Native Plants**
Author: Barbara Eisenstein
Publisher: Heyday Press
Year: 2016
Member's price: $13.50

With large, full-color photographs and diagrams, *Wild Suburbia* guides you through the process of transforming your lawn into a peaceful habitat garden abounding with native plants. Barbara Eisenstein not only provides clear, practical advice based on her decades of experience working with native plants, she also shares personal stories of her own gardening renovation projects—both triumphs and missteps—to encourage the beginning native gardener to experiment with water-saving, easy-to-grow plants that deepen a connection to place. This guidebook contains: 9 reasons to grow native plants; 3 approaches to gardening, tailored to your lifestyle; in-depth descriptions of the top 20 native plants; 6 lawn-removal methods; steps for designing your landscape; garden calendar; planting suggestions for chaparral, scrub, moist, dry, evergreen, coastal, and clay soil gardens; and more.
Wildflowers of the Trinity Alps
Authors: Ken DeCamp, Julie Kierstead Nelson, Julie Knorr
Publisher: Backcountry Press
Year: 2016
Member’s price: $22.00

Wildflowers of the Trinity Alps features plants found within the premier wilderness areas of northwest California’s Klamath Mountains. This collection is representative of the most common, beautiful, and unique species in one of the most biodiverse temperate mountain ranges in the world.

The Klamath Mountains are a fascinating and botanically diverse area situated at the crossroads of the Coast Range, Modoc Plateau, Sacramento Valley, Cascade Range, and Sierra Nevada the Klamath Mountains and hold representative species from each. Combine that with their attendant geology, topography, and climate, and the floristic diversity is second to none for a temperate region.

- 505 species, subspecies, and varieties of wildflowers
- Over 700 full-color images organized by flower color
- Localized, detailed species descriptions
- Destinations to find flowers throughout the year