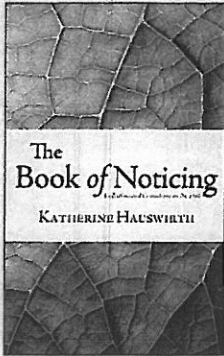


aerate the lake, but nonpoint source runoff, invasive species, and public access are among critical issues deserving further discussion.

Regardless of any limitations, this book should enhance the experience of anyone with an opportunity to enjoy Lake Waramaug. Indeed, Robinson's technique of keen observation from a fixed point over time provides valuable inspiration to lake lovers everywhere.

* THE BOOK OF NOTICING: COLLECTIONS AND CONNECTIONS ON THE TRAIL



By Katherine Hauswirth. Pawcatuck, Connecticut: Homebound Publications, 2017. 128 pages

BY DAVID K. LEFF

If you've ever wondered whether real experiences in nature are possible in a settled community or even on a short walk with the dog, this book provides the proper dose of encouragement. Katherine Hauswirth succeeds in her fervent hope she will

"find ways to see, with alert and appreciative eyes, the places that might otherwise go unnoticed." Join her in these pages on adventures near home and find yourself welcomed into a world of heightened awareness that will enrich even the shortest and most casual jaunt outside.

A native New Yorker, for two decades Ms. Hauswirth has made her home in Deep River, where she has found inspiration in nearby phenomena of nature. Published in Connecticut Woodlands, The Christian Science Monitor, The Wayfarer, and elsewhere, she has been awarded residencies at writer naturalist Edwin Way Teale's Trail Wood home in Hampton, Connecticut, and at Acadia National Park in Maine.

Without being a scientist or flora and fauna expert, Ms. Hauswirth proves that a sense of wonder is the best asset to exploring nature. She's unafraid to admit she doesn't know something and possesses the curiosity and tenacity to get the answers she needs to enhance her explorations. She had "an inaccurate habit of calling basically every needled tree a pine." But once she studied the distinctions among pines, spruces, firs, and other conifers, she opened herself to new worlds, from taxonomy to the value of various cones for birds and squirrels.

No phenomena seems beneath her notice, and she develops deep empathies. She even engages in a sort of communion with slugs, wishing she too "were so permeable as to take the earth into me." As the subtitle suggests, her mind is often wonderfully busy making connections. A discussion of ants, for example, jumps to veganism, factory agriculture, and primatologist Jane Goodall. Ms. Hauswirth often enhances her observations with cultural references. In a chapter on ferns she notes, "The plants linger under the eaves" of poets and she mentions Dylan Thomas, Ted Hughes, Thomas Hardy, and others.

Buried tree roots, oak galls, frogs, hornets, vernal pools, mushrooms, and so many other things attract Ms. Hauswirth's attention.

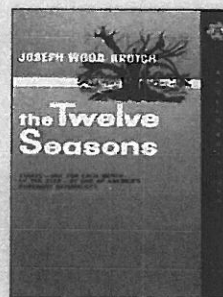
They provide both attachment to the natural world and grounding for her life in general. It's little wonder that she invokes conservation biologist E. O. Wilson's term *biophilia*—"love of living things"—as part of her creed.

The restless habit of noticing has enlarged Ms. Hauswirth's sense of wonder and turned a seemingly ordinary place into an extraordinary one. She describes the work of Edwin Way Teale as conveying "a deep sense of unabashed joy and enthusiasm for observation and learning." It is also true of her work and serves as a model for all of us.

CLASSIC ENVIRONMENTAL BOOKS

Second of a continuing series

BY ERIC LEHMAN



THE TWELVE SEASONS

By Joseph Wood Krutch.
New York, New York: William Sloane Associates, 1949

Originally from Tennessee, Joseph Wood Krutch first came to rural Connecticut while teaching in New York, writing for *The Nation*, and composing biographies of such men as Henry David Thoreau. Mr. Krutch started out as a deeply pessimistic thinker, but found "great joy" in the natural world and began to change his mind. Most of his nature books focus on the Southwest, where he retired after decades exploring Connecticut. However, his 1949 book *The Twelve Seasons*, titled by his friend, critic and fellow Nutmegger Mark Van Doren, brims with observations and investigations of our familiar landscape.

It is a "country man's calendar," with reflective chapters that zoom in to the level of bacteria and out to the moon. Mr. Krutch ruminates on the mysteries of hibernation and the day the "peepers" wake up. And yet, he never allows himself to become sentimental or mystical, keeping a wry humor with lines such as, "The most serious charge which can be brought against New England is not Puritanism, but February." Connecticut conservationist Edwin Way Teale called it "infinitely more" than rigorous natural history, a thoughtful consideration of humans' place in the universe. Read this classic collection of essays, and you will find yourself thinking out loud, too.

—Eric D. Lehman, author of *Afoot in Connecticut*

BOOK
REVIEW!