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.*


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 thoughtfully considered appreciation 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