

## **Recommendations from the A Rocha Community**

*Compiled for A Rocha USA's "Resources for Sheltering at Home"*

### ***All Shall Be Well: Awakening to God's Presence in His Messy, Abundant World* by Catherine McNiel**

"Reflections on God's redemptive work through the cycles and seasons of the year. Thoughtful and deep. I loved it." *Recommendation from Sandy Fox.*

### ***Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

"It has awoken a desire in me to understand the inter-relationships between 'all' things. Robin Wall Kimmerer is a Potawatomi woman who is a professor of botany. She uses each chapter to explore the world view of her people, living in the American culture and the relationships between plants and humans. Her language is gorgeous and has a groundedness that brings a hopeful vision, to me, of how we as humans can begin to live in beneficial relationships with the natural world. She also tells you how her culture has lived with the plants and it has opened my eyes to the resources right around me that I can steward where I am." *Recommendation from Jaime Gjerdingen.*

### ***Dissident Discipleship* by David Augsburger**

"The subtitle of the book is 'A spirituality of self-surrender, love of God, and love of neighbor.' It's a somewhat Anabaptist approach to Christian faith but excellent read for any follower of Jesus looking to reclaim their faith from superficial and self-absorbed piety." *Recommendation from Jason Fowler.*

### ***The Overstory* by Richard Powers**

"It is fiction, and it tells stories of people/families and trees and then starts to weave them together – showing trees as beings that participate in the community of the world. When I was young, my mom read me *The Little White Horse*, *Linnets and Valerians* and *The Blue Hills* by Elizabeth Goudge and, I believe, those stories imparted into me the Celtic worldview that Nature participated with us. So, to me, there was no division between Nature and humans. To me, *The Overstory* was a surprise of finding a modern adult book that brings me back to that world." *Recommendation from Jaime Gjerdingen.*

### ***She Explores* by Gale Straub**

"This book is an exuberant examination of women who have found a way to embrace and love the outdoors. It has short (2-4 page) profiles of each woman, with lots of breath-taking photography, and can be read quickly or leisurely. The women have many different profiles and ways to love the outdoors. They are of all ages, backgrounds, and races. Some are photographers, some musicians, some scientists, some just wanderers. And there's not a hint of scolding in the book. Enjoy!" *Recommendation from Sheryl Westwick.*

### ***The Song of Albion Trilogy* by Stephen Lawhead**

"Stephan Lawhead is a very good writer. This particular series is infused with Celtic lore. I love Celtic culture. He also merges Christianity into the narrative, which I also love. As an English major, I appreciate how well written all his books are — grammar, punctuation, spelling, construction." *Recommendation from Diane Warfield.*

***The Unsettling of America* by Wendell Berry**

“Giving me much to chew on. As an American Christian, I grew up with a certain propensity toward consumerism but lately am very much reconsidering that view, especially as it harms the Creation, of which we are stewards.” *Recommendation from Joel T. Hutton.*