

Recommended Resources

Books:

Poetry

Bly, Robert, editor. *News of the Universe: Poems of Twofold Consciousness*. (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1995.)

Bly's collection of 150 nature-based poems is interspersed with his brilliant essays documenting his thesis that human consciousness is only one of many kinds operating in the universe. One could build an entire course, or nature-based poetry module, on this diverse, multi-cultural collection of poems from Milton to Ginsberg and from perspectives East to West.

Dungy, Camille T. *Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry*. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009.)

Dungy's introductory essay to this collection is a brilliant response to the perceived absence of African American poets in mainstream anthologies, and a powerful corrective to the notion that African Americans are historically disengaged from the natural world. Included are poets writing out of slavery, Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement and more recent experimental poetics.

Earl, Steven. *Ichetucknee: Secret Waters*. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2009.)

Eberhart, Richard. *Florida Poems*. (Gulf Port: Konglomerati Press, 1981.)

For over a decade, Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Richard Eberhart, was poet-in-residence at the University of Florida. This collection of Florida poems, such as "Ichetucknee," features many local natural treasures. You can see and hear Eberhart read this poem, and his most famous nature-based work, "The Groundhog," on the two Eberhart DVD's in the SFC collection, *Eberhart at Eighty* and *Richard Eberhart: Writing in the Upward Years*.

O'Sullivan, Maurice and Anderson, Jane. *Florida in Poetry*. (Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1995.)

A comprehensive anthology of nature-based Florida poetry spanning the earliest poems from the Spanish encounters to the present. The "Bestiary" at the end of the book

features poems about a diverse range of Florida reptiles, birds, fish, crustaceans, insects and mammals. Many of the poems in this collection can be found on the CD-Rom *Natural Florida: In Word, Image and Deed*.

Rawlings, Marjory Kinnan. *Poems by Marjory Kinnan Rawlings*. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1997.

----. *The Wide Brim, poems*. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2003.

Fiction

Atwood, Margaret. *Oryx and Crake*. (New York: Nat E. Talese, 2003.) Atwood's dystopian fantasy explores a future world where hubris and mad science unleash strange and terrifying genetically engineered phenomenon.

Boyle, T. Coraghessan. *When the Killings Done*. (New York: Viking, 2011.)

Boyle's novel combines action packed adventure with a socially conscious, richly human tale of regarding the dominion we attempt to exert, for better or worse, over the natural world. The novel expands on the theme of Boyle's short-story, "Carnal Knowledge," featured on pages 580-593 of the *Bedford*.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Chomp*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012.

----. *Flush*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.

----. *Hoot*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002.

A Newberry Honor Book, *Hoot* takes Hiaasen's unique brand of satire and environmental consciousness into the realm of juvenile literature. The book was later adapted into a feature length film.

Rawlings, Marjory Kinnan. *Alligator Crossing*. (Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2003.

----. *Short Stories*. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1994.)

----. *North Florida Stories*. (Jacksonville: University of North Florida Press, 1990.

----. *A River in Flood, and other Florida stories*. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1998.

Non-fiction

Bartram, William. *Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia; East and West Florida....* (Salt Lake City: Peregrine Press, 1980.)

Bartram's famous *Travels* earned him world-wide recognition as a naturalist with a flair for vivid, scientifically precise descriptions of the natural world. His encounters with the springs of North Florida and their poetic depiction in *Travels* inspired Coleridge's "Kubla Khan" where the mysterious springs and caverns of Oleno become transmogrified in the poet's opium-induced verse into the "crystal palaces" and "pleasure domes." Bartram also describes his trek through the Paynes Prairie region where he encounters the local Indian tribes, large alligators and other sub-tropical wonders that fill the pages of his journal.

Burt, Al. *The Tropic of Cracker*. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1999.)

Miami Herald columnist and essay writer, Al Burt, spend the latter part of his life living in Melrose, Florida. During his long and distinguished tenure he wrote knowingly and lovingly, with a distinct touch of wry humor, about the Florida scrub and other distinct regional habitats.

Ripple, Jeff and Susan Cerulean. *The Wild Heart of Florida: Florida Writers on Florida's Wildlands*. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1999.)

This anthology of Florida nature-based essays features a broad range of natural habitats as experienced and described by noted authors such as Patrick Smith, Archie Carr, Al Burt, Janiesse Ray and Al Burt, to name a few.

Audio-visual resources

***Archie Carr: In Praise of Wild Florida*. DVD, 28 minutes, 1987. Produced by Bill Suchy and Steve Robitaille for the Florida Defenders of the Environment.**

This film features passages from the Florida writings of the late Dr. Archie Carr, a leading sea turtle researcher and Florida's most prolific and renowned natural history writer. The film is narrated by former SFC English Professor, John Ames, and features interviews with former Senator, Bob Graham, and authors Peter Matthiessen (*Far Tortuga*) and Russell Hoban (*Turtle Diary*). The Special Features menu includes a slide show Carr images and an extensive bibliography of Carr's writings. For a comprehensive collection of Carr's Florida writings see *Archie Carr: A Naturalist in Florida: A Celebration of Eden* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996) with an introduction by E. O. Wilson.

***Natural Florida: In Word, Image and Deed.* CD-Rom Produced and edited by Dr. Steve Robitaille for the Florida Defenders of the Environment with funding from the Florida Humanities Council.**

This CD-Rom contains some 500 artworks spanning over 500 years of Florida history, each work inspired by some facet of natural Florida. The CD is organized both by bioregion and genre and contains art, photography, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, architecture, antique postcards, 18 songs inspired by natural Florida. Each bioregion includes an essay describing the natural features and environmental history of that region.

***Never Cry Wolf.* VHS, 105 minutes, 1984.**

Based on the book by Farley Mowat.

***Seven Ways to Kill the Suwannee.* DVD, WUFT, 1981. Written and produced by Steve Robitaille.**

This 1981 documentary is still, sadly, relevant to the pressures facing Florida's rivers and other water resources. Segments such as those reporting potential water transfer from the Suwannee to South Florida, as well as the impact of chemical discharges into the river, chronicle issues which continue to negatively impact our state.

***To Build A Fire.* DVD, 56 minutes, 1999.**

Adapted from the short story by Jack London.

***Water's Journey.* DVD, 2006 Produced by Wes Skiles and Karst Productions.**

This inventive documentary by the late scuba-diving explorer, Wes Skiles, takes viewers above and below ground, tracing the path of the underwater springs and caverns systems of Devil's Ear just north of Gainesville. The film is as thrilling as it is informative and no one who watches it will ever forget just how magnificent and threatened are the aquifers that supply both vital nourishment and recreational pleasure.

***Wild Alachua.* DVD, 28 minutes, 1999. Produced by Steve Robitaille and Leslie Gaines for the Florida Museum of Natural History series, *Expedition Florida*.**

This documentary takes viewers to some of Alachua County's most beloved natural and historical sites, including under water exploration in Devil's Ear cavern with the late Wes Skiles, Paynes Prairie with photographer John Moran, Devil's Millhopper, the Marjory Kinnan Rawlings homestead and the Dudley Farm, a Civil War era working farmstead.

***The Wild Heart of Florida.* DVD, 28 minutes, 1998. Produced by Steve Robitaille and Leslie Gaines for the Florida Museum of Natural History series, *Expedition Florida*.**

Inspired by the anthology by the same name, edited by Jeff Ripple and Susan Cerulean, these documentary features segments with several of the state's most acclaimed non-fiction nature writers and the landscapes they love to write about. Included are Peter Matthiessen with whooping cranes in Kissimmee, Carl Hiaasen in the Florida Keys, Janisse Ray in long-leaf pine country, and photographers Jeff Ripple and Clyde Butcher in search of the rare ghost orchid in the Fackahatchee Swamp.

Seasons in the Swamp. Florida Power & Light, Video Services, 1988.

Explores the hidden worlds of the Big Cypress Swamp.