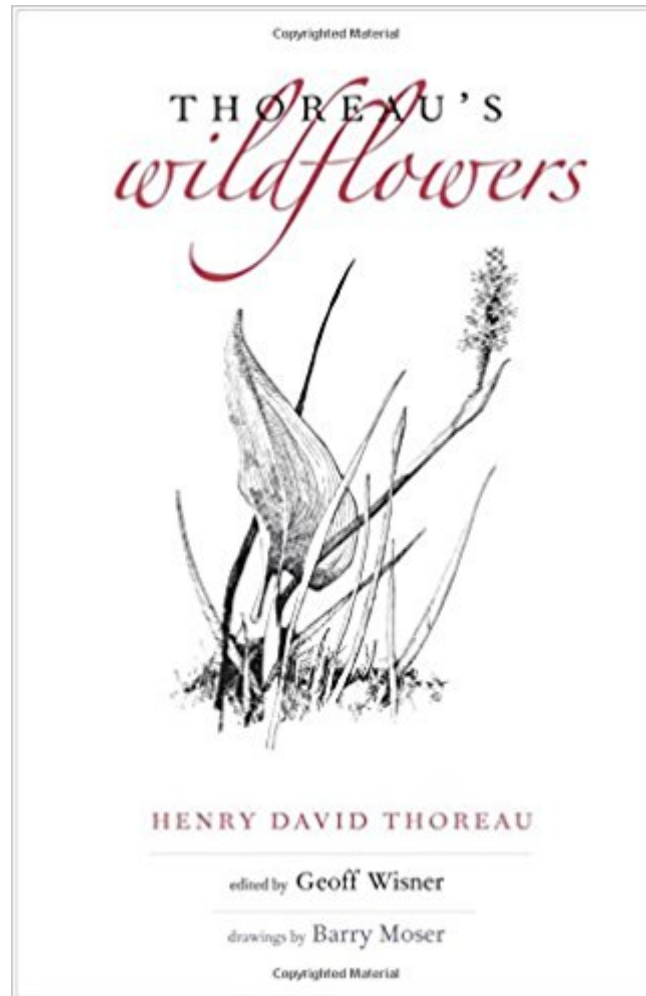




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Thoreau's Wildflowers



Synopsis

The first collection of Thoreau's writings on the flowering plants of Concord, with more than 200 drawings by renowned artist Barry Moser. Some of Henry David Thoreau's most beautiful nature writing was inspired by the flowering trees and plants of Concord. An inveterate year-round Rambler and journal keeper, he faithfully recorded, dated, and described his sightings of the floating water lily, the elusive wild azalea, and the late autumn foliage of the scarlet oak. This inviting selection of Thoreau's best flower writings is arranged by day of the year and accompanied by Thoreau's philosophical speculations and his observations of the weather and of other plants and animals. They illuminate the author's spirituality, his belief in nature's correspondence with the human soul, and his sense that anticipation of spring, of flowers yet to bloom, renews our connection with the earth and with immortality. Thoreau's Wildflowers features more than 200 of the black-and-white drawings originally created by Barry Moser for his first illustrated book, Flowering Plants of Massachusetts. This volume also presents "Thoreau as Botanist," an essay by Ray Angelo, the leading authority on the flowering plants of Concord.

Book Information

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"Thoreau's Wildflowers collects some of Thoreau's best botanical observations, pairing his prose with black and white drawings by illustrator Barry Moser. The text is drawn from Thoreau's two-million-word journal, a work so massive that few have made their way through it. Most readers of Thoreau's Wildflowers will be meeting these musings

on plants for the first time. • Danny Heitman, Wall Street Journal “The botanical diary is richly illustrated with Barry Moser’s beautiful, very accurate black-and-white drawings. . . . This book will appeal to nature enthusiasts, fans of Thoreau, and those interested in botanical illustration. • Choice “One of the most remarkable animal-books of the season. . . . Geoff Wisner follows up his 2016 book Thoreau’s Wildflowers with an even more enchanting volume from Yale University Press. . . . Readers of Thoreau’s Animals [will be] drawn in by Thoreau’s masterfully insightful observations and helped considerably by the lovely drawings throughout done by Debby Cotter Kaspari. • Steve Donoghue, Christian Science Monitor “Thoreau’s excursions through the woods of Concord were made with a true sauntering of the eye. • Geoff Wisner’s Thoreau’s Wildflowers is a sauntering through the landscape of Thoreau’s journals leading the reader to new discoveries of otherwise overlooked fruit. • Jeffrey S. Cramer, editor of Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition “This beautifully illustrated book brings Thoreau’s voice to life, yielding a fascinating glimpse into the rich botanical world that thrived in New England 150 years ago and that still graces the landscape today. • Elizabeth Farnsworth, New England Wildflower Society “Wisner’s seasonal compilation of Thoreau’s prolific wildflower observations coupled with Ray Angelo’s heralded profile of Thoreau as Botanist provide a delightful read and invaluable resource. • Cherrie Corey, Concord naturalist and photographer

Geoff Wisner is an author, editor, book reviewer, and contributor to publications including the Christian Science Monitor and the Quarterly Conversation. He is author of A Basket of Leaves and editor of African Lives. He lives in New York City. Barry Moser has illustrated or designed more than 300 books. His edition of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland won the National Book Award in 1983. He lives in western Massachusetts.

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