

SPRING 2016

Outside Bozeman

Southwest Montana's Outdoor Journal

CATCH & RELEASE

AN ETHIC INVESTIGATED

Spring Honey-Holes | Wilderness Crusader | Killer Creekboating | Tobacco Root Traverse



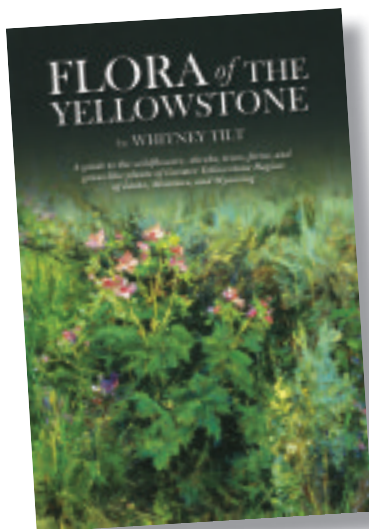
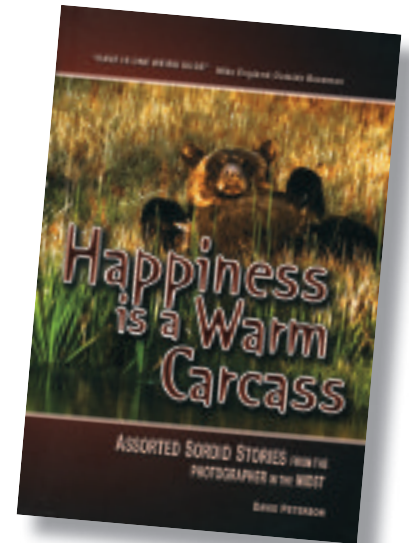
Vernal Volumes

Spring book reviews *by the editors*

While the trails are muddy and temps hover in the 50s, take some couch time and do a little reading. We've got a selection here that will inspire you to get out once summer rolls around.

Happiness is a Warm Carcass

I was handed *Happiness is a Warm Carcass* (Farcountry Press, \$15) with explicit instructions (by a certain O/B editor) not to get the cover dirty. With raised eyebrows and warning in hand, I flicked through a few random pages of David Peterson's book, realizing immediately that I'd have trouble not snorting my half-chewed bison burger across its pages. Peterson's collection of "assorted sordid stories" is a provocative and hilarious look at his escapades in Yellowstone National Park. My eyes were rapidly drawn to "fake vomit," "corpulent" dining-room attendants, and "lady-type" wildlife photographers. I particularly loved Peterson's subtle (and not so subtle) "shadenfreude" (if I had to look it up, so do you) in the "amputated finger, meat slicer, and the every part of the buffalo" story. (Don't panic though; it's set in an employee kitchen). This is a guts-and-all, self-deprecating portrait of the Park, from a man that "customized" his mini-van with a baby seat and a Tommy Tippy sippy-cup to make it look like he wasn't sleeping in it illegally! Simply put, a must-read. —DEBBIE DREWS



Flora of the Yellowstone

As an amateur botanist who bores my husband with plant names wherever we go, I was excited to take a look at Whitney Tilt's new field guide, *Flora of the Yellowstone* (Gallatin Valley Land Trust, \$25). As he notes in his introduction, it's hard to find a comprehensive guide to the plants of the unique Greater Yellowstone region. This volume is well put together and accessible, providing a plant-spotter's guide, while retaining its botanist credentials as a technical manual. It features a flower-color guide for easy ID, and a really nice glossary of plant terminology. I particularly liked the section on grasses, as these are not often covered in other plant guides. I would have liked to see more images of the plants when not in flower, but to be fair you can't cram everything into a handy field guide. The book's a nice size, although for me it's probably still a bit heavy to haul around. But not being one to let feminism get in my way, it's a good reason to make hiking a family activity, and let the love of my life carry my books. —DEBBIE DREWS

Foraging the Mountain West

While we're on plants, *Foraging the Mountain West* (HOPS Press, \$30) is another book I've been waiting for. It is a treasure chest that had me enthralled from the outset, and I found it really hard to close. Thomas J. Elpel and Kris Reed have done an excellent job at showing what food can be found while foraging out and about, in both an informative and fun way. This is *the* survival manual to carry on any expedition. Trouble is, it's so packed with goodies that it's hard to find what you need right away—I'd have liked a quick-reference section of some kind. I get it though, that the authors don't want to make it too easy, and get sued if someone eats a fly-agaric omelet with water hemlock salad. At \$30 it's perhaps a bit pricey, but a great book, and hobby, to dive into. —DEBBIE DREWS

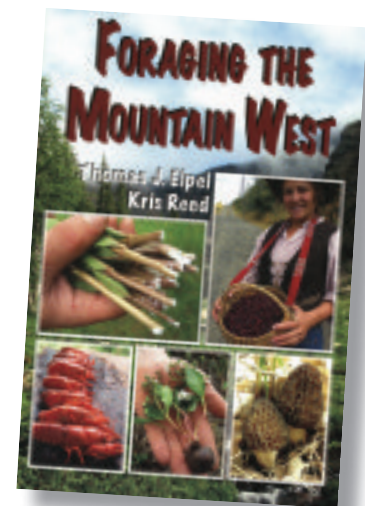


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