

SNMA Library
April 21, 2021

Queer and/in Nature: Gardens, Farms, and Environments

LGBTQ people have a long history of engaging with the natural world in meaningful and thoughtful ways. Through gardening, farming, representing nature, and inhabiting rural environments, queers have understood their identities and experiences as entangled with ecological concerns. The SNMA has a unique range of books that deal with these topics, including memoirs, novels, cultural criticism, biographies, short story collections, and art books, particularly from the 1980s to the present.

Marcia Bonta, *Women in the Field: America's Pioneering Women Naturalists* (College Station, TX: A & M University Press, 1991).

Biographies of 25 women naturalists from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries.

Michel Marc Bouchard, *Tom at the Farm* (Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2013).

A psychological thriller about a gay man visiting his deceased lover's parents' farm.

J. Michael Clark, *Beyond Our Ghettos: Gay Theology in Ecological Perspective* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1996).

A gay elaboration on ecofeminism and liberation theology.

Colette, *Flowers and Fruit* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1986).

A collection of botanical portraits.

Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd, *Our Life in Gardens* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009).

A collection of essays about gardens and plants from two well-known gay garden designers.

R. Tripp Evans, *Grant Wood: A Life* (New York: Knopf, 2010).

A biography of the famous American regionalist "farmer-painter."

Will Fellows, ed., *Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996).

A collection of stories of gay men who grew up on farms in the Midwest.

Catherine Friend, *Hit by a Farm: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love* (New York: Marlowe & Company, 2006).

A memoir of farming and lesbian love.

Melanie Hoffert, *Prairie Silence: A Memoir* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2013).

An account of reconciling gay identity and an appreciation of rural life.

- Derek Jarman, *Modern Nature* (Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1994).
Journals about gardening and AIDS, written from 1989 to 1990.
- Josh Kilmer-Purcell, *The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers* (New York: Harper, 2010).
A memoir of the Fabulous Beekman Boys.
- Robert Mapplethorpe, *Flowers* (Boston: Bulfinch Press, 1990).
A collection of the artist's later flower images.
- Janet McClellan, *Windrow Garden* (Tallahassee: Naiad Press, 1998).
A lesbian romance novel that takes place on a farm in Kansas.
- Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands and Bruce Erickson, *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010).
An interdisciplinary collection of essays on queerness and the environment.
- Adam Nicolson, *Sissinghurst, An Unfinished History: The Quest to Restore a Working Farm at Vita Sackville-West's Legendary Garden* (New York: Viking, 2010).
A memoir by Sackville-West's grandson about his restoration of her celebrated garden in England.
- Katia Noyes, *Crashing America: A Novel* (Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 2005).
The story of a street punk exploring America and farm life.
- Irene Reti and Valerie Jean Chase, ed., *Garden Variety Dykes: Lesbian Traditions in Gardening* (Santa Cruz: HerBooks, 1994).
A book of poems, essays, stories, and photos by lesbian gardeners.
- Rhonda Rhodes, *Foolishness, They Called It* (Canton, OH: Heart Wings Publishing, 2003).
A novel about three lesbians vacationing on an organic farm in Asheville, NC.
- Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell, *Beekman 1802 Heirloom Cookbook* (New York: Sterling Epicure, 2011).
The cookbook of the Fabulous Beekman Boys.
- Vita Sackville-West, *Some Flowers* (New York: H.N. Abrams, 1993 [1937]).
The author's descriptions of 25 of her favorite flowers, accompanied by watercolors by Graham Rust.
- Nicole Seymour, *Strange Natures: Futurity, Empathy, and the Queer Ecological Imagination* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2013).
A study of how contemporary queer fiction shed light on environmental concerns.
- Daniel T. Spencer, *Gay and Gaia: Ethics, Ecology, and the Erotic* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1996).

A book of criticism that weaves together liberationist politics, environmental concerns, and Christian ethics.

Clyde Phillip Wachsberger, *Into the Garden with Charles: A Memoir* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012).

A memoir of gardening and love.