

A Roving Naturalist

Melissa Leasia July 7, 2020 :

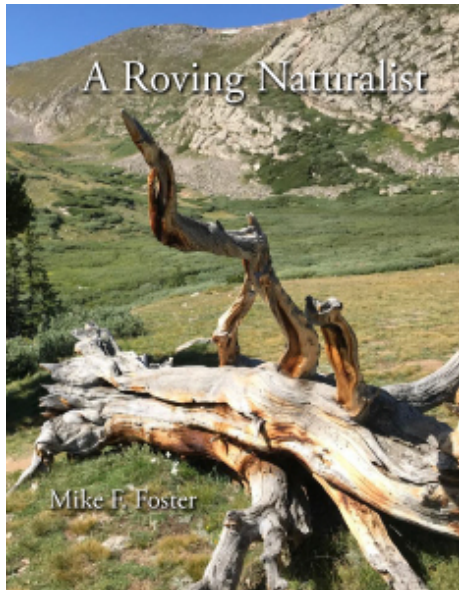


Photo by Mike Foster of Hell's Hole, a site in the Mount Evans Wilderness

Mike Foster, Evergreen Audubon member and author, has recently published a new book entitled: “A Roving Naturalist.” A handy guide to nature at numerous sites in and near metro Denver, he shares his personal experiences with animals, especially birds, and reveals the science behind each topic. The book reflects Mike’s great joy in spending time in nature while reinforcing environmental awareness and the conservation ethic that is so vital in protecting all life on our crowded and conflicted planet. If you love nature, you will enjoy this book.

Here is what our own Brad Andres says about the book:

Mike Foster forms a unique approach for a “guidebook” in his *A Roving Naturalist — Discovering Universal Principles of Life in 60 Hotspots Surrounding Greater Denver*. Rather than just furnish the usual lists of species and directions on how to get to splendid natural areas, he provides insight into how to experience the site at a much deeper level.

Rooted in his training as a historian, Mike’s commentary doesn’t just provide interesting facts about plants, animals and rocks but explains the historical significance of geologic, ecologic and human processes. Throughout the book, Mike’s clear intention is both to instill a greater appreciation of a given site and to enlighten the reader about the forces that shape life on Earth.

Along with creating this awareness, a message of conservation for future generations flows throughout the chapters.

Building on the theme of stamping out “Nature Deficit Disorder” within our current society, Mike explores sites that are readily accessible to Denver’s urban residents. By addressing natural areas in the broadest way, *A Roving Naturalist*, encourages exploration — from short visits to easily accessible urban greenspaces to day-long hikes above treeline in the Mount Evans Wilderness. Thus, the link between coloration and breeding behavior in red-winged blackbirds is as captivating for the reader as learning how white-tailed ptarmigan cope with the conditions of their alpine world.

The broad range of sites and natural (and human) history processes described in *A Roving Naturalist* make it appealing to a wide audience in the greater Denver area, Colorado, the interior west and beyond. I believe its strength lies in the education, awareness and emotional appeal that goes beyond a dry regurgitation of scientific fact. *A Roving Naturalist* will appeal to readers who want to feel a greater connection to nature or want to inspire such connection and appreciation in their family, friends or colleagues.

Mike’s book may be downloaded to your computer or other device at no cost. Visit Mike’s website: www.BirdingWithMike.com