

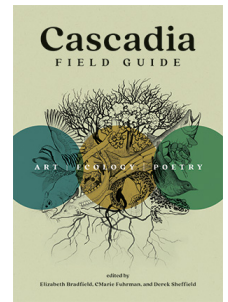
Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, Poetry

Elizabeth Bradfield, CMarie Fuhrman, Derek Sheffield

ISBN: 978-1-68051-622-7

[Mountaineers Books](#), 2023

www.cascadiaguide.com



“Lit with Wit” Book Club, Wenatchee, WA

Discussion Questions and Book Club Activities for *Cascadia Field Guide* – for you to use or use as a springboard for your own!

Questions:

1. How did you or do you choose to read this book? (*prompt-- start to finish, by ecosystem, by category of being like birds or trees, randomly, or?*)
2. Please share a favorite poem or narrative that spoke to you and explain why.
3. What did you like or dislike about the structure of this book? (*prompt—it is a combination of cultural and ecological ways of knowing, it blends art and science*)
4. Discuss the editors’ decision to capitalize all beings in Cascadia.
5. How is the book an invitation (or a teaser) to explore the natural world? Does it inspire you to get outside into Nature? Would you take the book with you as a reference?
6. What are your thoughts about the importance of indigenous or Native American thinking in the guide? (*prompt—anthropocentric worldview is that “man has dominion over the earth and all the plants and animals.” How does this compare with the book’s biocentric worldview that beings are our relatives? Which resonates more for you?*)
7. How does the art enhance your engagement with the guide? Would you have liked to see anything done differently?
8. This is not an exhaustive guide of beings in Cascadia, so are there any of your favorites that you would like to see added? Which being was most surprising for you? (eg. Ice Worm p. 268).
9. In the Introduction, the editors describe their understanding of Cascadia as “a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects” (page 16). Was this your experience reading the guide and can you give examples of the subjectivity or agency expressed by the non-Human beings?
10. Some of the poets mentioned aspects of their life experience, loss, and death, reacting to memories and interactions with other beings. Were you touched or troubled by a particular picture, poem, or story? Did you experience any reactions or memories that you are willing to discuss or share?
11. Discuss the ways that conservation and climate change are woven throughout Cascadia.

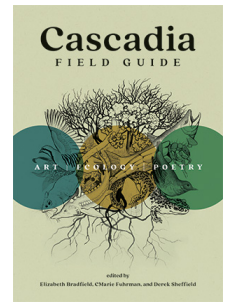
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12. Did you notice any other uses of humor, such as the mention of pockets and the Pocket Gopher? (page 290)
13. How did your experience with beings change or evolve in response to reading this book? Did you remember something that you had forgotten about wildness?
14. On page 114, “Inside the Terrarium” or page 172, “Neighbors” what insight do we gain by considering that humans keep themselves apart, living inside glassed in boxes?
15. See the map on page 12. How effective is the use of Cascadia watershed as the way to make a boundary for this bioregion instead of counties, states or countries?
16. If you live in a town or city, consider the beings that continue to live here too. How much wild is left? Do you appreciate coyote or crow more after reading Cascadia?
17. Gratitude, page 363: “This guide is indebted, first to the land and beings who hold these stories.” What do you think about adding land acknowledgements for beings?

Activities to deepen your experience the book:

- *Write your own Cascadia Cento, page 11. Individually collect phrases while reading the book and organize them into a cohesive unit or have each book club member bring a favorite line written on a strip of paper and work as a group to make sense of them together.*
- *Read out loud the pantoum on page 137 to better understand the lyricism in this four-line stanza poetic form in which the second and fourth lines of each stanza serve as the first and third lines of the next stanza.*
- *On page 15, “...welcome to a new way of seeing: where poetry, art, and ecology might work together to envision not just a place, but a rich engagement with place.” Make or bring a photo or your own painting, drawing, poem, or story to share with your book club.*
- *“It is our hope, and our experience, that your senses will work in combination with your imagination to make pure Cascadian magic!” Try a guided sensory discover walk: <https://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Be%20Out%20There/Schoolyard%20Habitats/sensdiscwalk.pdf>*