

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Formerly an interpretive naturalist for the U.S. Forest Service, Gary Ferguson has been a freelance writer for the past twenty years. He has written articles for publications including *Vanity Fair*, *Outside*, *Sierra*, *Modern Maturity*, *Field & Stream*, *Big Sky Journal*, *E*, *Men's Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times* and publications of New York's Children's Television Workshop. He is also a regular contributor to the book division of *National Geographic*. Having authored fifteen books on nature and science, his goal as a writer is to chronicle the impact of the natural world on human lives. Gary's award winning May 2003 National Geographic title, **Hawks Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone** profiles critical environmental issues in the most remote place in the lower 48. It won both the 2004 Pacific Northwest and 2004 Mountains and Plains Booksellers Awards. In 2004 W.W. Norton released his critically acclaimed title, **The Great Divide: The Rocky Mountains in the American Mind**. In April 2005 he co-authors **Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone** with Doug Smith.

During the past several years Gary has appeared on hundreds of radio and television shows across the country. He is a regular presenter at such bookstores as Village Books in Bellingham, Elliott Bay in Seattle, Powell's in Portland, Black Oak Books in Berkeley, and The Tattered Cover in Denver. His commentaries and essays can be heard on National Public Radio affiliates throughout the country, including NPR's *Living on Earth*.

Besides being an award-winning writer, Gary has built a solid reputation as an engaging speaker. He offers a variety of talks to writing groups, universities, and environmental, social and outdoor organizations across the country. Audiences for his talks and keynote addresses include the National Geographic Lecture Series, Outdoor Writers Association, the Association for Experiential Education, and the Whidbey Island Writers' Conference.

COMMENTS

One of the most engaging speakers we've ever presented.
Greg McGruder, National Geographic Society

An excellent keynote address...Gary is a very compelling speaker and has a wonderful presence with large and small groups. I found him very engaging and could tell by the response of the audience that they were all captivated. THANK YOU!!! for all you brought to the 29th Annual AEE International Conference. Hendricks Davis, Association for Experiential Education

Gary had a strong impact not only on the campus but in the community at large, due in part to his public presentations that drew people from miles around. As a teacher, a writer, and a man, Gary gets my highest recommendation. Dr. Jim Peterson, Randolph-Macon Woman's College

In ten years of teaching and countless guest lectures, I have never enjoyed learning about a subject more than I did from Gary Ferguson. His talk was both informative and inspiring!
Dr. William Lowry, Washington University, St. Louis

I offer an enthusiastic recommendation for Gary Ferguson, and encourage you to contact him in regard to a future reading or workshop. His presentation was superb . . . Corby Skinner, The Writer's Voice

Gary is an articulate, dare I say mesmerizing, speaker . . . (he) kept the rapt attention of an audience for two hours. I'd have him back any time! Chantal Seely, Multnomah County Library, Portland, Oregon

Thank you for your insightful words. We have had very positive feedback regarding your presentation...your speech was a key component to making our conference a quality experience for all who attended! Tom Stuessy, Wilderness Education Association

We have had such good feedback on your presentation at our conference, that we feel you are a must for another conference! Jeri L. Dobrowski, National Federation of Press Women

A true professional, and a most compelling talk.... his enthusiasm, knowledge and passion for the written and spoken word is phenomenal. We highly recommend Gary Ferguson for all audiences.
Cheryl Schwartz, Association for Experiential Education

Gary was great! I felt like I had known him for years. His easy-going manner, quick wit and soothing voice made for a wonderful accompaniment to the general good feeling of our awards banquet. I simply could not be happier with the upbeat tone to his keynote address and how he left everyone in the organization feeling very reflective on their careers, while also being reassured they were "doing the right thing." Thanks again! Steve Eshbaugh, Montana Environmental Education Association

Gary is truly one of the best speakers, writers and friends of the earth and its inhabitants...he reconnects us to our spirit (and) mesmerizes an audience.
Andy Anderson, National Association of Therapeutic Schools & Programs

We got many, many compliments on you during the show. Your speech was so uplifting and a great way to kick off the Outdoor Retailer show. Great job.... Ingrid Niehaus, Lowa Boots USA

Terrific... relevant and engaging. We are looking forward to having him back!
Liz Davis, Denver Museum of Nature & Science

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Colorado Mountain Club, April 2005
Special Event: *Decade of the Wolf*

Outdoor Writers Association, June 2004
Annual Conference Keynote Address: *The Promise of the Wild*

National Geographic Lecture Series, October 2003
In the Heart of Yellowstone

Montana Education Association, October 2003
Annual Conference Keynote Address: *Sustaining the Fire of Environmental Education*

Naropa University, September 2003
Wilderness Symposium Keynote Address: *Lights of Passage*

Montana Environmental Education Association, March 2002
Annual Conference Keynote Address: *The Promise of the Wild*

Wilderness Education Association, Bloomington, Indiana, February 2002
Annual Conference Keynote Address: *The Promise of the Wild*

National Conservation Training Center, West Virginia, February, 2002 and April, 2004
Special Presentation: *Spirit of the Wild and In the Heart of Yellowstone*

National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs, Florida, January 2002
Annual Conference Closing Speaker: *Shouting at the Future*

Association for Experiential Education, Charleston, West Virginia, November 2001
Annual International Conference Keynote Address: *Rites of Passage: Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World*

Outdoor Retailer, Salt Lake City, August 2001
Breakfast Keynote: Through the Woods: *The Promise of the Wild*

Mental Health Association of Montana, Spring 2001
Annual Conference Special Presentation: *The Hero's Journey: Wilderness Therapy and Myth*

The Murie Center's Spring Earth Festival, Jackson, Wyoming, Spring 2001, 2003 & 2004
Special Presentation: *Healing in the Wild; In the Wild Heart of Yellowstone; The Great Divide*

Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Montana, Spring 2000
Special Presentation: *The Promise of the Wild*

NOTABLE BOOK REVIEWS

The Great Divide: The Rocky Mountains in the American Mind
2004 W. W. Norton

The mountains are under increasing environmental duress, and Ferguson is an important voice on these issues.

Publisher's Weekly

[Ferguson] writes with great insight . . . before you head West, dip into this fine book.

Chicago Tribune

One of the West's most facile writers.

Denver Post

Hawks Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone
2003 National Geographic Adventure Press

Engaging and elucidating prose ... a sharp and ironic sense of what it's like to live in the American outback, twenty-first century style.

Natural History Magazine

A dazzling portrait ... Edward Abbey-esque, full of snappy vignettes and chiseled writing.
San Francisco Chronicle

Mournful and defiant as a wolf howl... an eloquent tribute to a threatened place and its lone protectors.

Los Angeles Times

A riveting examination of the wild ...

Tampa Tribune

Winner, 2004 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award
Winner, 2004 Mountains & Plains Booksellers Award for Nonfiction

Shouting at the Sky: Troubled Teens & The Promise of the Wild
1999 St. Martin's Press

This book will make you look at the world – yours and others' – differently. I'm grateful to him for having written it.

Rick Bass

Through the Woods: A Journey Through America's Forests
1997 St. Martin's Press

These woodland interludes are quick and bright, dazzling amid the bosky gloom. Writing so powerful that it's hard not to share the author's delight to be back in the woods.

Kirkus (starred review)

Whether he's lying down to watch a sun-dewed plant entrap an insect or paddling out into the middle of a lake to exchange yodeling calls with a pair of loons, Ferguson exudes a delighted, boyish enthusiasm. By the end, you may find you've been seduced from the buzz and clutter of your life and won over to the "certain old brand of quiet" he set out to find.

New York Times

Prose as inviting and uplifting as a walk in the woods. With a sense of discovery, humor, and a deep reverence for his subject, Ferguson reclaims the natural world for himself, and for the reader as well.

Publishers Weekly

Winner, 1997 Lowell Thomas Awards

Spirits of the Wild: The World's Great Nature Myths
1996 Clarkson-Potter/Falcon, 2000

A raft of fabulous stories . . . provocative creation myths from all corners of the globe.

Kirkus Reviews

Refreshing portraits of nature as seen by other people in the past.

Publishers Weekly

The Yellowstone Wolves: The First Year
1996 Falcon Press

Gary Ferguson tells the story of the wolves' first year with a naturalist's rigor, a local's compassion, a writer's heart, and an outdoorsman's soul.

Pam Houston

What a story it is: Adventure, tragedy, survival and hope, all told in the clear, simple voice of a person who knows the wolves' new home as well as few others.

Pete Fromm

Walking Down the Wild: A Journey Through the Yellowstone Rockies
1993 Simon & Schuster

A clear-eyed vision of what's at stake in the battle over wilderness in America. This is a terrific book.

William Kittredge

Nature writing at its very best. America, the beautiful, has never seemed more wondrous.

Winston-Salem Journal

HONORS & AWARDS

2004 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award *for*
Hawks Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone

2004 Mountains & Plains Booksellers Award for Nonfiction *for*
Hawks Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone

1997 Lowell Thomas Award *for*
The Sylvan Path: A Journey Through America's Forests

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association, Top Ten Writers of 1996

New York City Public Library, Best Books of 1996 *for*
Spirits of the Wild: The World's Great Nature Myths

National Association for Interpretation, Excellence in Interpretive Media Award *for*
Montana National Forests

National Association for Interpretation, Excellence in Interpretive Media Award *for*
A Kid's Guide to Boston's Freedom Trail (with Jane Ferguson)

Please email Gary's literary publicist [Judy McHale](#)