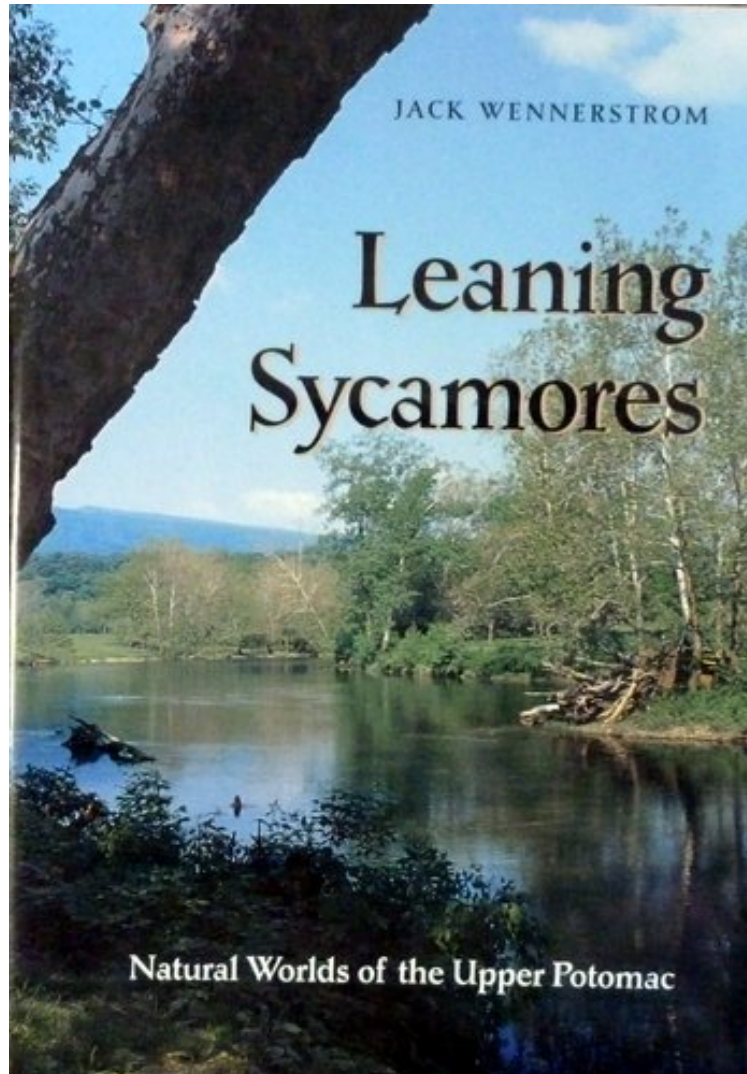


(Download pdf ebook) Leaning Sycamores: Natural Worlds of the Upper Potomac

Leaning Sycamores: Natural Worlds of the Upper Potomac

Jack Wennerstrom

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Jack Wennerstrom : Leaning Sycamores: Natural Worlds of the Upper Potomac before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Leaning Sycamores: Natural Worlds of the Upper Potomac:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Potomac Solitaire By Howard This is a jewel of a book. Seriously. I regard it as the "Desert Solitaire" (Edward Abbey) or "Common Ground" (Robert Finch) of the Upper Potomac region, not only in genre but also in style. Sadly, this book is unfairly neglected, if the review count and the fact that it is out of print are any indication. I stumbled upon it when I was browsing in my local library and I consider myself lucky to have found it. In 10 delightful chapters, the author weaves his personal journeys (mostly drifting in a rubber raft on the

Potomac, but also some overland excursions) with the natural and human histories of the region. As I also do some hiking/walking in this region, I find it fascinating as it opens my eyes and shows me what to look for in my future trips. The author's mastery of the English language is also highly commendable. In style I find similarities between this book and the two aforementioned ones, and, alas, not surprisingly, *Walden* (Thoreau). The last chapter recounts a long drifting and overland journey that reminds one of Jack Kerouac's "stream-of-consciousness" style (*On the Road*). Even the illustrations in this book are of very fine quality. I finished reading it in earnest and now only wish it had a few more chapters! I also wish the author had written more books of this type (I understand he has also written "*Soldier's Delight Journal*" which I will check out soon). If you are interested in the natural history of this region, please do yourself a favor and get a copy of this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By A. Brodsky very informative for those curious

"The persistent theme... is water and trees," Jack Wennerstrom writes of the upper Potomac. "The recurring signposts of gnarled and woody glory are the sycamores, which lean along the banks like static titans... great flawed and broken windmills to be tilted at by madmen. I am one of those madmen." Jack Wennerstrom's passionate and abiding interest in the Potomac makes him the ideal guide to the river and its environs. In *Leaning Sycamores*, he invites us to explore the rugged beauty and rich human history of the Potomac's upper reaches. The flow and rush of the current, the leaning bankside trees, the rocks and flowers, the people, places, and wildlife -- all are lovingly observed and connected in his warmly personal account. In ten gracefully written chapters, Wennerstrom describes the river's geology and natural history, its long record of human habitation, and the ecology of its plants and animals. He relates memorable encounters with people who live and work along its banks, as well as time spent alone, fishing, rafting, and hiking. He writes of the magic of moving water and its powerful effect on mind and spirit.

"Wennerstrom's writing is at its best when he extols the joy of simply messing about in boats -- in this case, an inflatable dinghy in which he fishes and explores, drifts and ponders. He sees the river as a healer of spirits and a weaver of spells, and manages to put into languid prose the essence of that healing, the scent and succor of its flow." -- *Bird Watcher's Digest* "What has saved the tall sycamores of the Upper Potomac, Jack Wennerstrom theorizes, is their failure to lend themselves to human convenience... Too bad for utilitarians, but bully for lovers of majesty." -- *Washington Post Book World* About the Author Jack Wennerstrom is a freelance writer, dedicated angler, and amateur naturalist whose work has appeared in numerous national publications. He is the author of *Soldier's Delight Journal* and a contributing editor at *Bird Watcher's Digest*.