

SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
YOUR SOURCE FOR INFORMATION, INSPIRATION, AND ENTERTAINMENT

# ***Toward a Sustainable Future***

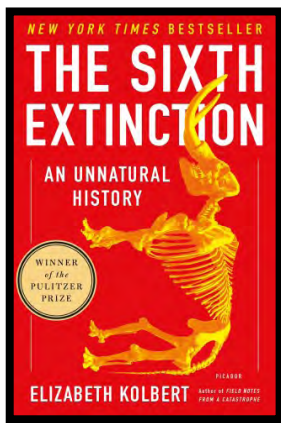


*Toward a Sustainable Future*

As part of our current long-range plan, based on hearing from dozens of residents about their aspirations for our community, Saratoga Springs Public Library has adopted a Sustainability Initiative. For us, sustainability occupies the curious juncture of preservation and progress: how do we sustain the character of our community, preserve what is best about both our natural and built resources, grow responsibly, and maximize current and future generations' ability to live, work and play in our shared environment?

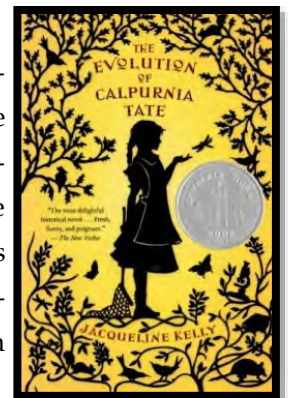
With an eye toward being more environmentally conscious, being the best possible stewards of our financial resources, supporting the people and organizations that lend to our community's character, and providing programs and services to help everyone thrive individually and collectively, we've kicked off our sustainability initiative by setting these two lofty goals:

- **Goal 1. The library will minimize its environmental impact.**
- **Goal 2. Residents of the library's service area will be empowered to productively engage in dialogue about, and have the resources to ensure, a more resilient future.**



This year's SaratogaREADS! selection, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* has been chosen to help address both of those goals. Meticulously researched, and fascinatingly told, *The Sixth Extinction* explores five previous mass extinction events that have led to the demise of species from dinosaurs to dodo birds (or, rather, the great auk), and rings a loud warning bell about the current rapid rate of man-made climate change and its global impact. With side-trips into astrophysics, paleontology, and evolution, this Pulitzer Prize Winner is sure to spark wonder along with the worry, and perhaps inspire work on a pressing problem.

Speaking of inspiring reading, the 11-year-old heroine of our SaratogaREADS! Junior Companion, *The Evolution of Calupurnia Tate*, becomes fascinated by the differences she notices between grasshoppers during a hot, 1899 Texas summer. When she asks her cantankerous Grandfather, a naturalist, what accounts for the distinctions, he sets her on the path of discovering for herself. Driven by curiosity, and inspired by Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*, Callie discovers an affinity for science, despite her mother's attempts at domestication. This Newbery Honor Book is certain to inspire a sense of scientific adventure in readers of all ages.



## **2018 SaratogaREADS! Calendar of Events**



### ***Dinosaur Day!***

Saturday, January 6, 2018 Beginning at 10AM,

Throughout the Library

Drop in and help assemble large dinosaur puzzles, which will be on display in the library during this year's SaratogaREADS! season.

### ***Extinction: A Question of Adaptation (Where did all the Elephants Go?)***

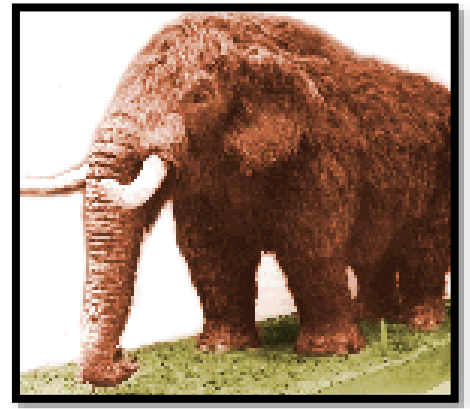
Noon, Thursday, January 11, 2018 Tom Lake, NYS DEC Hudson Riv-

er Estuary Program's Consulting Naturalist, explains how past episodes of climate change led to the demise and extinction of large land

mammals and other wildlife. The most recent extinction event, the Laurentide Ice Sheet, covered Saratoga Springs with 10,000 feet of ice,

the last of eight known Ice Ages. Lake will discuss how and why we

lost Hudson Valley animals such as the stag-moose, mastodon, mammoth, giant beaver, ground sloth, and flat-headed peccary to extinction, and then others like woodland caribou and American elk via extirpation.



### ***Simple Survival Hacks: Be Prepared!***

1:00 PM, Wednesday, January 24, 2018 and repeated 7:00 PM Monday, February 26, 2018

Join librarian Trevor Oakley to get informed about basic disaster preparedness. He'll introduced the concept of "The First 72 Hours" when there's an emergency, and you'll get hands-on, fashioning fire starters & tinder devices, a tick removal lasso, soda can & crayon lantern, soda tab fish hooks, and assembling a tin-sized survival kit filled with a number of essentials. Space is limited, and registration is required.



### **Bird Research at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve**

7:00 PM, Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Join Amanda Dillon, Field Ecologist for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, for a discussion of bird banding and bird survey research efforts at the Preserve. The Albany Pine Bush protects an ecosystem that is home to 76 NY Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including 43 species of birds. The rarity and diversity of species, together with the high quality habitat, has

earned the Preserve designations as an Audubon Important Birding Area and a NYS-DEC Bird Conservation Area. Co-sponsored with Southern Adirondack Audubon



### ***Diminishing Bat Population & White-nose Syndrome***

Noon, Thursday, February 8, 2018 White-nose syndrome, a disease that has, nearly wiped out the populations of several bat species, was first discovered in Schoharie County in the winter of 2007, and spread rapidly throughout the East Coast and into the Midwest and Canada. Join biologist Al Hicks, an expert on bats and white-nose syndrome, as he traces the history of the outbreak and the dramatic effect on bat populations, using photos and startling data obtained from painstaking underground head counts.



### ***7,000 Miles to a Wilderness Ethic***

7:00 PM February 21, 2018 Join Tyler Socash, a native Adirondacker and the Outdoor Skills Coordinator of the ADK Mountain Club, for an evening of stories about his transformation after one year on the Pacific Crest Trail, Te Araroa, and the Appalachian Trail. It's a lively tale, 7,000 miles in the making, of mountaintop euphoria, unexpected trail magic, encounters with long-distance legends, heartbreak and renewal. Co-sponsored by the Adirondack Mountain Club.



### ***Who Shares These Woods and Waters With Us?***

Noon, Thursday February 22, 2018 Using pelts, bones or tracks, participants identify a variety of Adirondack mammals and develop an understanding of how humans and animals interact. Christine Campeau of Adirondack Experience: The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake examines hunting traditions and conservation laws through documents and first person accounts. Participants may even try on a real bear skin coat!

### ***Unearthing Adirondack Artifacts***

7:00 PM Wednesday, February 28, 2018 Do you like Adirondack history? Are you a collector of antiques such as glass bottles, toys and metal? Join local metal detecting hobbyist, Tim Willett for his multimedia presentation about where to search for collectibles, NY state laws regarding artifacts, and how to get permission to search old dump deposits for historically interesting items. Sample items will be on display.

### ***Tim Biello, Featherbed Lane Farm***

Noon, Tuesday, March 13, 2018 Tim Biello, proprietor of Featherbed Lane Farm in Ballston Spa, will discuss farming with only human & horse power, local agriculture, factors that influence our food choices, the impact of industrial & small farming on wildlife, and more. Following the presentation will be a SaratogaREADS! inspired book discussion of, *The Unnatural World: The Race to Remake Civilization in Earth's Newest Age* by David Biello.



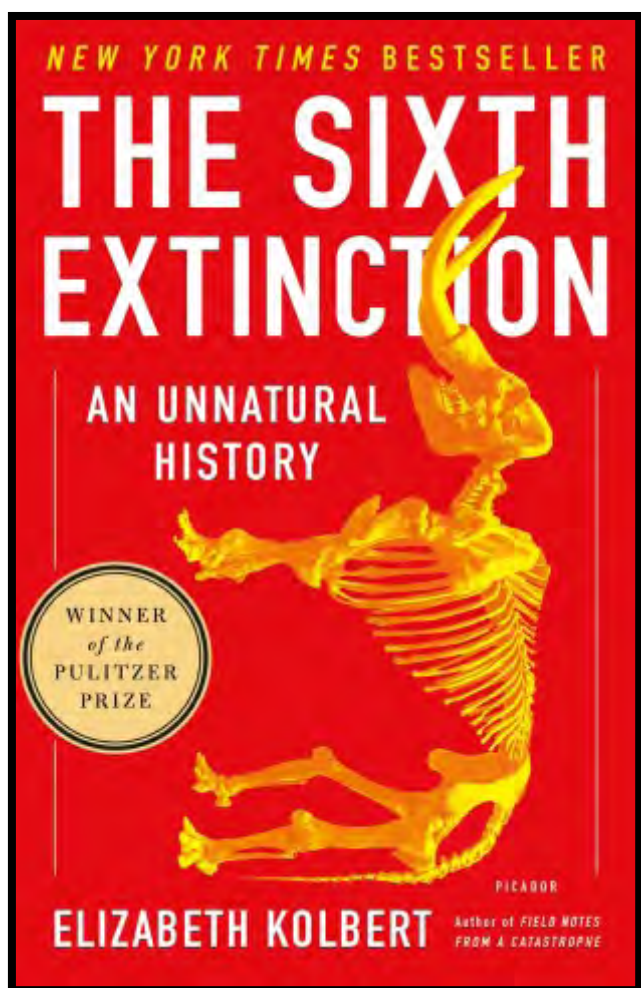
*3 Minutes to Midnight and Holding: A Study of Earth's Five Mass Extinctions*

7:00 PM Monday, March 26, 2018 Science educator Paul Phillips will lead a discussion of the causes and consequences of the five mass extinctions of life that have previously occurred, as well as the question of a sixth extinction which may already be underway. Are we living in the Anthropocene epoch, the age of man, where new species become extinct even before they are discovered?



***Discussions of The Sixth Extinction***

We are proud to offer multiple library-sponsored opportunities to discuss this year's SaratogaREADS! Selection at locations throughout our service area.



**Books and Tea Books Discussion Group**

3:30PM Thursday, January 18, 2018 . Susman Room  
The library's regular monthly group.

**SaratogaREADS! at Greenfield Community Center**

7:00 PM, Thursday, February 15, 2018 Registration begins on Jan. 2 through our online calendar. If you are an educator seeking professional development hours, please indicate that in your registration notes.

**SaratogaREADS! at Gavin Park**

6:30 PM, Wednesday, March 7, 2018 Registration begins on Feb. 1 through our online calendar. If you are an educator seeking professional development hours, please indicate that in your registration notes.

**SaratogaREADS! at the Saratoga Senior Center**

3:00PM Tuesday, April 24, 2018. For the over-50 crowd. Senior Center membership is not required for this event, nor is registration .

## Related Non-Fiction Discussions

7:00 PM, Thursday January 18, 2018

Discussion of *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren at Harvey's Pub

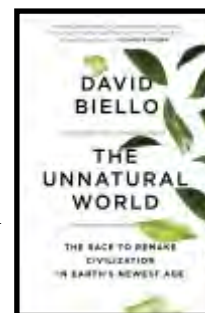
Join the "Books and Brews" crew for a discussion of this memoir of celebrated plant biologist, Dr. Hope Jahren, her love of nature as a young girl in Minnesota, her complicated relationships with men, and her rise to prominence as a scientist.



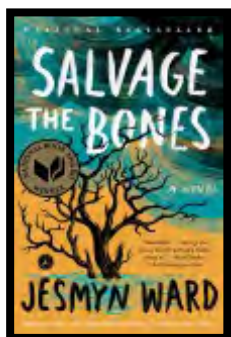
1:15 PM Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Discussion of *The Unnatural World: The Race to Remake Civilization in the Earth's Newest Age* by David Biello

After the Noon program about Featherbed Lane Farm, stay for a discussion of this work by scientific journalist Biello, who explores the idea of the Anthropocene era, in which the greatest force on nature is mankind, and profiles several people working to mitigate our effects on climate and the environment.



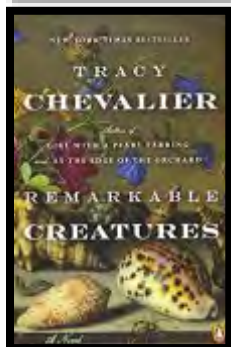
## Related Events: "Books & Tea" Fiction Discussions



To complement this year's SaratogaREADS! Selection of a non-fiction title (which the group will discuss on January 18, 2018) the Books and Tea season will focus on novels with themes related to the main selection and Junior companion, including the effects of revolutionary historical changes in society, the sciences, and the weather. *"Books and Tea" meets in the Susman Room at 3:30 PM on the third Thursday of each month.*

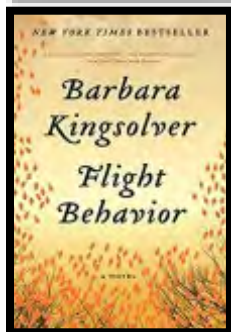
**December 21, 2017 Discussion of *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward**

Set in the Mississippi Gulf Coast as Hurricane Katrina bears down, this devastating first novel by a recent MacArthur "Genius" Grant winner shines a light on rural poverty.



**February 15, 2018 Discussion of *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier**

This sweeping story of two English women from distinct classes, their shared passion for fossils, and how their discoveries ignite religious fervor and a scientific revolution is sure to appeal to lovers of historical fiction.



**March 15, 2018 Discussion of *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver**

A woman stumbles across the stunning sight of millions of monarch butterflies on her way to an adulterous assignation in a valley near her Appalachian home, and the implications for her, her hometown, and nature itself are myriad.



## MARQUEE EVENTS

*An Evening with Elizabeth Kolbert* 7PM Friday, March 2, 2018

Skidmore College Gannett Auditorium



We are delighted to welcome Elizabeth Kolbert back to Saratoga Springs to discuss *The Sixth Extinction*, and her experience writing and researching this Pulitzer-Prize-winning study of mass extinction events and how humankind is contributing to the rapid rate of change that presages another. A staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1999, and author of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man Nature and Climate Change*, Ms. Kolbert has been widely recognized for her journalism. In addition to the winning the Pulitzer Prize, *The Sixth Extinction* was a *New York Times* Top Ten Book of the Year and an American Library Association Notable Book, and tops *The Guardian's* list of the 100 Best Nonfiction Books of

All Time. She is the Class of 1946 Environmental Fellow-in-Residence at Williams College.

*An Afternoon with Sue Halpern and Bill McKibben*

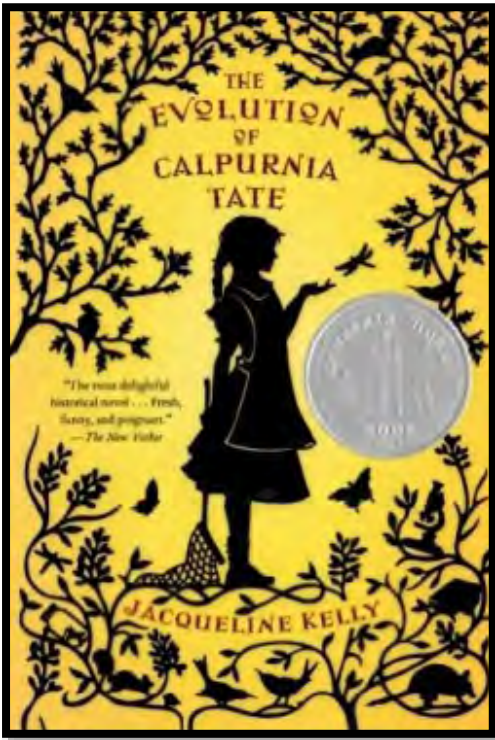
2:00PM Saturday, March 24, 2018 H. Dutcher Community Room

Husband and wife journalist and novelist team Sue Halpern and Bill McKibben come to town to celebrate the release of Ms. Halpern's new novel, *Summer Hours at the Robbers Library*, which follows the November, 2017, release of Mr. McKibben's first novel, *Radio Free Vermont*. Mr. McKibben is the author of countless writings about climate change, and the founder of 350.org, an activist group committed to renewable energy resources; Ms. Halpern is the author of several works of fiction and narrative-nonfiction, and her articles have appeared in magazines ranging from *Rolling Stone* to *The New Yorker*. They are both on the faculty of Middlebury College where she is a Scholar-in-Residence in the Department of English and American Literatures and he is the Schuman Distinguished Scholar in the Department of Environmental Studies.



*A book sale and signing will follow both events.*

## ***Junior Companion Discussions and Activities***



### **Discussion of *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate***

6:30 PM Wednesdays, February 7 and 14, 2018 (Snow Date 2/15)

H. Dutcher Community Room

We are delighted to once again partner with Skidmore College to offer discussion opportunities for this year's SaratogaREADS! Junior companion title. Students in grades 4-6 who reside in the Saratoga Springs City School District are invited to participate in a 2 night program. Each night, participants will discuss the 2018 SaratogaREADS! Junior companion selection, in groups facilitated by a leader trained by the Skidmore College English Department.

Light refreshments will be served on both nights. Registration is required by sending an email including first and last name, parents' name, grade, teacher and school to [saratogareadsjr@gmail.com](mailto:saratogareadsjr@gmail.com) beginning December 15, 2017. Participants will receive a book to keep. Space is limited.

### ***Animal Tracking and Snowshoe Hike***

11:00 AM. Monday, February 19, 2018

Join Environmental Educators from Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park on a family snowshoe hike in Congress Park. For children ages 5-12 accompanied by an adult. Meet in the Crawshaw Story Room to receive footprint identification cards and loaner snowshoes, courtesy of Wilton Wildlife. Please bring your own snowshoes if you have them. If there is no snow we will hunt for mud tracks and then head indoors for related activities. Register in the Children's Room or by calling 518-584-7860 ext. 305.



### ***Fantastic Fossils with the Dirtmeister***

11:00 AM, Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Explore the science behind the discovery of dinosaurs and other living creatures of the past with Steve Tomecek. Touch dinosaur bones and more! No registration required. For ages 5 and up.





### ***Owl Prowls***

6:00 PM February 21, March 2, March 7, and 6:30 PM March 16, 2018

Assemble at Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park (80 Scout road) for a presentation on owls followed by an Owl Prowl to listen for owls. For participants ages 5 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight and snowshoes if possible. Some loaners will be available. Facilitated by an Environmental and Conservation intern from Wilton Wildlife. Register for one prowls, or all, in the Children's Room or by calling 518-584-7860 X305

### ***SaratogaREADS! Jr. at the Tang Museum***

10:30 AM, Friday, February 23, 2018 Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College

Do an art project with the Tang Museum based on the SaratogaREADS! Junior Selection. For ages 6 and up. Program will take place at the Tang Museum. Register beginning December 4, 2017

### ***SaratogaREADS! Jr. Preschool Storytime and Art Project***

2:00 PM, Friday, March 9, 2018 Children's Room

Children ages 42 months-5 years will enjoy stories and a new hands-on craft activity led by a children's librarian.

### ***Habitat Hunters!***

2:00 PM Saturday, March 10, 2018 H. Dutcher Community Room

What is a habitat? Who lives there? Meet a live animal from our living collection and explore how season relates to habitat. This program, presented by CMOST, reflects the conditions of the season it is presented in. For example – in winter children will learn about hibernation and in spring they will learn how the change in season affects the animal inhabitants. Children will use natural building materials to make a habitat for an animal. For grades K-1 and caregivers. Please register children only. Registration begins February 2, 2018.

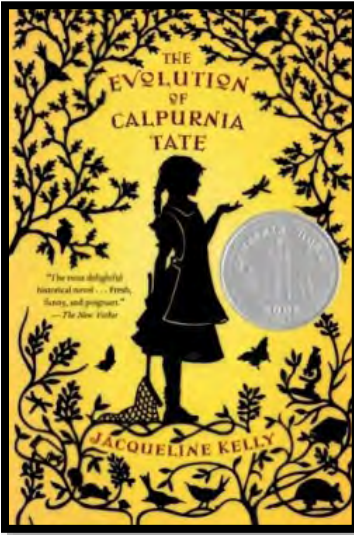


### ***SaratogaREADS! Goes to the Farmers' Market***

9:00 AM, Saturdays, February 24 and March 24, 2018 Saratoga Farmers' Market at Lincoln Baths

Come to the Farmers' Market on Saturday Feb 24 and March 24 to make a SaratogaREADS! -related craft presented by a Children's Room Librarian.

## ***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate Discussion Guide***



The author uses quotes from Darwin's *The Origin of Species* to introduce each chapter. What purpose do these introductions serve? Is the quote used for the first chapter relevant to Calpurnia's excitement about nature? How does Darwin's quote, "When a young naturalist commences the study of a group of organisms quite unknown to him, he is at first much perplexed to determine the differences to consider..." relate to Calpurnia?

The first time Calpurnia and Granddaddy go to the riverbank together, Calpurnia learns that she shares the name with "Pliny the Younger's fourth wife, the one he married for love.... There's also the natal acacia tree, genus *Calpurnia*, a useful laburnum mainly confined to the African continent. Then there's Julius Caesar's wife, mentioned in Shakespeare." Does the name "Calpurnia" suit her? Why or why not?

Much of the book's action is set in the heat of summer. How might the weather affect the characters?

This novel is set in 1899. We learn a lot about Granddaddy through his war stories, but he never mentions the name or purpose of the war. Which war did he fight in? How do Granddaddy's experience in that war affect his relationship with Viola? Is their relationship unusual for that time? How does Viola fit into the Tate family?

Calpurnia is the only daughter of six sons. She is expected to learn cooking, sewing, knitting, and other domestic skills to be a good wife and mother. In chapter 8, Granddaddy and Calpurnia examine a fuzzy, probably poisonous, caterpillar. When Calpurnia questions the "sting" of the caterpillar, Granddaddy replies, "I suppose you could touch him and find out. Which raises an interesting point: How far are you willing to go in the name of science?" How does this question relate to Calpurnia's struggle with her mother about a woman's role in the household?

Throughout the novel, Calpurnia is always claiming Granddaddy and Harry as "mine" and she is always nervous when other people come between her and them. Why does she react this way?

Viola calls Calpurnia "Miz" for the first time as she instructs her to mix the ingredients to make apple pie. As Calpurnia is introduced more and more into womanhood by her mother and other women in her life, how does her relationship with Viola change?

After trying this latest pecan alcohol experiments and claiming it to be unsuccessful, Granddaddy says, "The day the experiment succeeds is the day the experiment ends. And I inevitably find that the sadness of the ending outweighs the celebration of success." How does this comment relate to Granddaddy's reaction upon receiving the letter from the Smithsonian?

The year 1900 begins with a rare snowstorm. What does this symbolize for Calpurnia and her family? Does it seem like Calpurnia will continue her observations in science or is she more likely to become the woman her mother wants and expects her to be?

***Questions provided by the publisher.***

# ELIZABETH KOLBERT

**Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist and Author of**  
***Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change***



Elizabeth Kolbert traveled from Alaska to Greenland, and visited top scientists, to get to the heart of the debate over global warming. Growing out of a groundbreaking three-part series in *The New Yorker* (which won the 2005 National Magazine Award in the category Public Interest), *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* brings the environment into the consciousness of the American people and asks what, if anything, can be done, and how we can save our planet. She explains the science and the studies, draws frightening parallels to lost ancient civilizations, unpacks the politics, and presents the personal tales of those who are being affected most—the people who make their homes near

the poles and, in an eerie foreshadowing, are watching their worlds disappear. *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* was chosen as one of the 100 Notable Books of the Year (2006) by *The New York Times Book Review*. Her most recent book, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, a book about mass extinctions that weaves intellectual and natural history with reporting in the field, was a *New York Times* 2014 Top Ten Best Book of the Year and is number one on the *Guardian's* list of the 100 Best Nonfiction Books of all time. *The Sixth Extinction* also won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in the General Nonfiction category and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle awards for the best books of 2014. As with *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*, *The Sixth Extinction* began as an article in *The New Yorker*.



## ***SaratogaREADS! Inspired Events***

### ***SaratogaREADS! Book Fair at Barnes & Noble Bookstore***

Saturday, December 16, 2017

Shop at the Wilton Square Barnes and Noble on Saturday, December 16, and when you present your voucher, which will be available at the Friends of Saratoga Springs Public Library table in-store, a portion of the proceeds will go to the Friends to help support SaratogaREADS! programming!

### ***Bus Trip to the American Museum of Natural History***

Saturday, March 10, 2018

Hop on a bus with us, as we head to New York City for a visit to the American Museum of Natural History, home of an astounding collection of paleontological discoveries showcasing the history of many species come and gone.

Departure times and ticket prices TBD: watch the SaratogaREADS! website ([www.saratogareads.org](http://www.saratogareads.org)) for updates.

### ***Thank you to our partners and supporters:***

Skidmore College

Saratoga Springs City School District

The Town of Greenfield

The Town of Wilton

Saratoga Farmers Market

Saratoga Senior Center

Northshire Bookstore

Barnes and Noble Booksellers

*and especially*

**Friends of Saratoga Springs Public Library!**



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