

Michigan Notable Books

Available at the Redford Township District Library

The Michigan Notable Books program annually selects 20 of the most notable books published in the year. The selections are reflective of Michigan's diverse ethnic, historical, literary, and cultural experience.

This program has roots stretching back to Michigan Week 1991. The Library of Michigan has had primary responsibility for this program since the 2002 awards. Before 2004, the program was called Read Michigan.

source: www.michigan.gov/notablebooks

2011 Selections

Nonfiction

Blues in Black and White: The Landmark Ann Arbor Blues Festivals by Michael Erlewine (781.643 LIV)

Chrysler's Turbine Car: The Rise and Fall of Detroit's Coolest Creation by Steve Lehto (629.222 LEH)

Detroit Disassembled by Andrew Moore (977.434 MOO)

A Michigan Polar Bear Confronts the Bolsheviks: A War Memoir by Godfrey J. Anderson (947.084 AND)

Mine Towns: Buildings for Workers in Michigan's Copper Country by Alison K. Hoagland (728.097 HOA)

Picturing Hemingway's Michigan by Michael R. Federspiel (813.52 FED)

Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Redefining an American City by John Gallagher (307.341 GAL)

Sawdusted: Notes from a Post-boom Mill by Raymond Goodwin (BIO GOODWIN)

Sixty to Zero: An Inside Look at the Collapse of General Motors and the Detroit Auto Industry by Alex Taylor III (338.762 TAY)

The Sweetness of Freedom: Stories of Immigrants by Stephen Ostrander and Martha Bloomfield (977.403 OST)

Working Words: Punching the Clock and Kicking Out the Jams ed. by M.L. Liebler (810.9 WOR)

Wounded Warrior: The Rise and Fall of Michigan Governor John Swainson by Lawrence M. Glazer (BIO SWAINSON)

You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know: A True Story of Family, Face-Blindness and Forgiveness by Heather Sellers (BIO SELLERS)

Fiction

Apparition & Late Fictions by Thomas Lynch (Fiction Lynch [Short Stories])

The Detroit Electric Scheme by D.E. Johnson (Fiction Johnson)

Eden Springs by Laura Kasischke (Fiction Kasischke)

Freshwater Boys by Adam Schuitema (Fiction Schuitema [Short Stories])

The Hanging Tree: A Starvation Lake Mystery by Bryan Gruley (Fiction Gruley [Mystery])

Lord of Misrule by Jaimy Gordon (Fiction Gordon)

To Account for Murder by William C. Whitbeck (Fiction Whitbeck [Mystery])

2010 Selections

Nonfiction

- Annie's Ghosts: A Journey into a Family's Secret* by Steve Luxenberg (306.875 LUX)
- Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing* by Arnie Bernstein (977.404 BER)
- Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin (307.768 GRA)
- Have a Little Faith: A True Story of a Last Request* by Mitch Albom (296.7 ALB)
- Isadore's Secret: Sin, Murder, and Confession in a Northern Michigan Town* by Mardi Link (364.152 LIN)
- Michigan's Columbus: The Life of Douglass Houghton* by Steve Lehto (551.092 LEH)
- Orlando M. Poe: Civil War General and Great Lakes Engineer* by Paul Taylor (BIO POE)
- Our People, Our Journey: The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians* by James M. McClurken (977.4 MCC)
- Pandora's Locks: The Opening of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway* by Jeff Alexander (577.63 ALE)
- Roses and Revolutions: The Selected Writings of Dudley Randall* by Dudley Randall (818.54 RAN)
- Stitches: A Memoir* by David Small (BIO SMALL)
- Travelin' Man: On the Road and Behind the Scenes with Bob Seger* by Tom Weschler (BIO SEGER)
- Up the Rouge!: Paddling Detroit's Hidden River* by Joel Thurtell, photographs by Patricia Beck (508.774 THU)

Fiction & Poetry

- American Salvage: Stories* by Bonnie Jo Campbell (SS CAM)
- The Art Student's War* by Brad Leithauser (FIC LEI)
- The Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit* by Michael Zandoorian (SS ZAN)
- Season of Water and Ice* by Donald Lystra (FIC LYS)

2009 Selections

Nonfiction

- Asylum for the Insane: A History of the Kalamazoo State Hospital* by William A. Decker, M.D. (362.2 DEC)
- "Jiffy" A Family Tradition: Mixing Business and Old-Fashioned Values* by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds (338.476 REY)
- Looking for Hickories: The Forgotten Wildness of the Rural Midwest* by Tom Springer (508.78 SPR)
- Measure of the Heart: A Father's Alzheimer's, a Daughter's Return* by Mary Ellen Geist (BIO GEIST)
- The Model T: A Centennial History* by Robert Casey (629.222 CAS)
- Ninety Years Crossing Lake Michigan: The History of the Ann Arbor Car Ferries* by Grant Brown, Jr. (386.6 BRO)
- A Picturesque Situation: Mackinac Before Photography, 1615-1860* by Brian Leigh Dunnigan (977.492 DUN)
- Ravens in the Storm: A Personal History of the 1960s Antiwar Movement* by Carl Oglesby (959.704 OGL)

Roadie: The Misunderstood World of a Bike Racer by Jamie Smith (796.62 SMI)

Sirens of Chrome: The Enduring Allure of Auto Show Models by Margery Krevsky (629.2 KRE)

Summer Dreams: The Story of Bob-Lo Island by Patrick Livingston (791.068 LIV)

Toledo War: The First Michigan-Ohio Rivalry by Don Faber (977.103 FAB)

War as They Knew It: Woody Hayes, Bo Schembechler, and America in a Time of Unrest by Michael Rosenberg (796.332 ROS)

When the Church Becomes Your Party: Contemporary Gospel Music by Deborah Smith Pollard (782.254 POL)

Wreck of the Carl D.: A True Story of Loss, Survival, and Rescue at Sea by Michael Schumacher (917.74 SCH)

Fiction & Poetry

The English Major by Jim Harrison (FIC HAR)

The Expeditions by Karl Iagnemma (FIC IAG)

Children's

Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka by Jon Scieszka (JBIO SCIESZKA)

Who's Jim Hines? by Jean Alicia Elster (JFIC ELSTER)

2008 Selections

Nonfiction

The Father of All Things: A Marine, His Son, and the Legacy of Vietnam by Tom Bissell (959.704 BIS)

Iggy Pop: Open Up and Bleed by Paul Trynka (BIO POP)

Paper Tiger: One Athlete's Journey to the Underbelly of Pro Football by Ted. A. Kluck (796.332 KLU)

The Red Parts: A Memoir by Maggie Nelson (362.88 NEL)

Stealing Buddha's Dinner: A Memoir by Bich Minh Nguyen (BIO NGUYEN)

Sweetie Pies: An Uncommon Collection of Womanish Observations, with Pie by Patty Pinner (641.865 PIN)

Write it When I'm Gone: Remarkable Off-the-Record Conversations With Gerald R. Ford by Thomas M. DeFrank (973.925 DEF)

Fiction & Poetry

A Primer on Parallel Lives (poetry) by Dan Gerber (811.54 GER)

Returning to Earth by Jim Harrison (FIC HAR)

Up in Honey's Room by Elmore Leonard (FIC LEO)

Children's

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis (JFICTION CURTIS)

One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II by Lita Judge (J940.531 JUD)

Read Michigan & Michigan Notable Books Selections, 1996-2007

Nonfiction

- Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age* by Kevin Boyle (345.73 BOY)
- Art in Detroit Public Places* text by Dennis Alan Nawrocki, photographs by David Clements (708.174 NAW)
- Beast of Never, Cat of God: The Search for the Eastern Puma* by Bob Butz (599.752 BUT)
- Before Motown: A History of Jazz in Detroit 1920-60* by Lars Bjorn (781.65 BJO)
- Beyond Glory: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling, and a World on the Brink* by David Margolick (796.83 MAR)
- Booking Passage: We Irish and Americans* by Thomas Lynch (305.891 LYN)
- Burning Rainbow Farm: How a Stoner Utopia Went Up in Smoke* by Dean Kuipers (364.177 KUI)
- Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder* by Steve Lehto (364.152 LEH)
- The Detroit Almanac: 300 Years of Life in the Motor City* ed. by Peter Gavrilovich and Bill McGraw (977.4 DET)
- Detroit Then and Now* by Cheri Y. Gay (977.434 GAY)
- Discovering the Peoples of Michigan* (series)
 African Americans in Michigan (977.4 WAL)
 Albanians in Michigan (305.891 TRI)
 Italians in Michigan (305.851 MAG)
 Jews in Michigan (977.4 CAN)
- A Distant Thunder: Michigan in the Civil War* by Richard Bak (973.709 BAK)
- The Dodge Brothers: The Men, the Motor Cars, and the Legacy* by Charles K. Hyde (629.222 HYD)
- The Final Season: Fathers, Sons, and One Last Season in a Classic American Ballpark* by Tom Stanton (796.357 STA)
- The Ford Century: Ford Motor Company and the Innovations that Shaped the World* by Russ Banham (338.762 BAN)
- The Forests of Michigan* by Donald I. Dickmann and Larry A. Leefers (634.909 DIC)
- Fresh Water: Women Writing on the Great Lakes* ed. Alison Swan (810.997 FRE)
- Ghost Towns of Michigan* by Larry Wakefield (977.4 W)
- Grit, Noise, & Revolution: The Birth of Detroit Rock 'n' Roll* by David A. Carson (781.66 CAR)
- Hemingway in Michigan* by Dr. Constance Cappel (813.52 HEM)
- Hiawatha's Brothers; A Wildlife Retrospective* by Louis J. Verme (508.774 VER)
- Historic Cottages of Mackinac Island* by Susan Stites and Lea Ann Sterling. Photography by Lanny Sterling and Lea Ann Sterling (728.72 STI)
- The History of Michigan Law* ed. Paul Finkelman and Martin J. Hershock (349.774 HIS)
- House of Fields: Memories of a Rural Education* by Anne-Marie Oomen (977.459 OOM)
- In Harm's Way: the Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of its Survivors* by Doug Stanton (BOOK ON TAPE 940.54 STA)
- Interlochen: A Home for the Arts* by Dean Boal (780.797 BOA)

Keewaydinoquay: Stories from My Youth by Keewaydinoquay Peschel (BIO Keewaydinoquay)

Lake Michigan Passenger Steamers by George W. Hilton (386.542 HIL)

Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan by Lynn M. Steiner (635.951 STE)

A Legacy of Champions: The Story of the Men Who Built the University of Michigan Football by Joe Falls, et. al. (796.332 LEG)

Legends of Light: A Michigan Lighthouse Portfolio photographs by Ed Wargin (387.155 WAR)

The Life & Wisdom of Gwen Frostic by Sheryl James (BIO FROSTIC)

The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas by Jerry Dennis (977 DEN)

Made in Detroit: A South of 8 Mile Memoir by Paul Clemens (BIO CLEMENS)

Magic Moments: A Century of Spartan Basketball by Jack Ebling and John Farina (796.323 EBL)

Michigan Agricultural College: The Evolution of a Land-grant Philosophy 1855-1925, by Keith R. Widder (378.774 WID)

Michigan Shadow Towns: A Study of Vanishing and Vibrant Villages by Gene Scott (REFERENCE 977.4 SCO)

Michigan: The Spirit of the Land text by Kathy-Jo Wargin, photos by Ed Wargin (OVERSIZE 977.4 WAR)

Michigan Wildflowers in Color by Harry C. Lund (582.13 LUN)

Michigan's Heritage Barns by Mary Keithan (779.4 KEI)

Michigan's Town and Country Inns by Susan Newhof (917.7 NEW)

Mighty Fitz: The Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald by Michael Schumacher (917.749 SCH)

The Muskegon: The Majesty and Tragedy of Michigan's Rarest River by Jeff Alexander (977.45 ALE)

Off to the Side: A Memoir By Jim Harrison (BIO HARRISON)

100 Years at Mackinac: A Centennial history of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, 1985-1995 by David Armour (977.4 ARM)

Peninsula: Essays and Memoirs from Michigan ed. by Michael Steinberg (810.803 PEN)

The Place of the Pike (Gnoozhekaaning): A History of the Bay Mills Indian Community by Charles E. Cleland (977.004 CLE)

Public Gardens of Michigan by Miriam Easton Rutz (712.509 RUT)

The Radioactive Boy Scout: The True Story of a Boy and His Backyard Nuclear Reactor by Ken Silverstein (BIO HAHN)

Rockin' Down the Dial: The Detroit Sound of Radio by David Carson (384.54 CAR)

Ruin and Recovery: Michigan's Rise as a Conservation Leader by Dave Dempsey (333.72 DEM)

Ships of the Great Lakes by James Barry (977 BAR)

Singing in a Strange Land: C.L. Franklin, the Black Church and the Transformation of America by Nick Salvatore (BIO FRANKLIN)

Soapy: A Biography of G. Mennen Williams by Thomas J. Noer (BIO WILLIAMS)

A Stronger Kinship: One Town's Extraordinary Story of Hope and Faith by Anna-Lisa Cox (305.896 COX)

The Story of Reo Joe: Work, Kin, and Community in Autotown U.S.A. by Lisa M. Fine (331.762 FIN)

Superior: Journeys on an Inland Sea by Gary and Joan McGuffin (917.74 MCG)

Toast of the Town, the Life and Times of Sunnie Wilson by Sunnie Wilson with John Cohassey (BIO WILSON)

Wheels for the World: Henry Ford, His Company, and a Century of Progress, 1903-2003 by Douglas Brinkley (BIO FORD)

White Hurricane: A Great Lakes November Gale and America's Deadliest Maritime Disaster by David G. Brown (977 BRO)

William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate by Dave Dempsey (BIO MILLIKEN)

Wire to Wire: Inside the 1984 Detroit Tigers Championship Season by George Cantor (796.357 CAN)

Women and the Lakes: Untold Great Lakes Maritime Tales by Frederick Stonehouse (920.72 STO)

Fiction & Poetry

Guilty at the Rapture (poetry) by Keith Taylor (811.54 TAY)

The Lake, the River & the Other Lake: A Novel by Steve Amick (FIC AMI)

Mr. Paradise: A Novel by Elmore Leonard (FIC LEO)

Nicotine Kiss: An Amos Walker Novel by Loren D. Estleman (MYS EST)

Please Don't Come Back From the Moon by Dean Bakopoulos (FIC BAK)

Saul and Patsy by Charles Baxter (FIC BAX)

Saving Daylight (poetry) by Jim Harrison (811.54 HAR)

The Summer He Didn't Die by Jim Harrison (FIC HAR)

The Tarnished Eye: A Novel of Suspense by Judith Guest (FIC GUE)

True North: A Novel by Jim Harrison (FIC HAR)

An Unquiet Grave by P. J. Parrish (PB PAR)

The Widower: A Novel by Liesel Litzenburger (FIC LIT)

Winter of the Wolf Moon by Steve Hamilton (MYS HAM)

Children's

Big Annie of Calumet: A True Story of the Industrial Revolution by Jerry Stanley (J331.895 S)

Bucking the Sarge by Christopher Paul Curtis (TEEN FICTION CURTIS)

Donutheart by Sue Stauffacher (JFICTION STAUFFACHER)

The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell by Kathy-Jo Wargin (J917.749 W)

Harry Sue by Sue Staffacher (JFICTION STAFFACHER)

An Orange for Frankie by Patrician Polacco (JE POLACCO)

A Place Called Home: Michigan's Mill Creek Story by Janie Lynn Panagopoulos (JE PAN)

Detroit Biography Series for Young Readers

Albert Kahn: Builder of Detroit (J BIO KAHN)

First Lady of Detroit: The Story of Marie-Therese Guyon, Mme. Cadillac
(J BIO CADILLAC)
Reuther Brothers: Walter, Roy, and Victor (J920 REU)

Girl in Blue by Ann Rinaldi (JFICTION RINALDI)

The Legend of Mackinac Island by Kathy-Jo Wargin, illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
(J398.209 W)

Leonardo's Horse by Jean Fritz (J730.92 FRI)

The Log Cabin Church by Ellen Howard (JE HOW)

M is for Mitten: A Michigan Alphabet by Annie Appleford ([ABC] JE APP)

Summer of the War by Gloria Whelan (JFICTION WHELAN)

Under Michigan: The Story of Michigan's Rocks and Fossils by Charles Ferguson Baker (J557.74 BAR)