

ENDORSEMENTS

for *Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change*

This exquisite book celebrates California's native wildflowers for what they are: works of art, honed over millennia, with the same right to exist as everything else. The first step toward conservation is education, and the respectful work presented here is a fine start. In the end, it boils down to this: how diminished our world would be without flowering plants, and how foolish we all would be to allow even a single one to slip away. After all, when we save other species, we're actually saving ourselves.

Joel Sartore, National Geographic photographer and founder of the Photo Ark

Our only long-term hope is to live in harmony with the natural world that sustains us. There simply is no other option. If the beauty and wisdom documented in this extraordinary book do not inspire us and guide us to find new ways to do this, nothing will!

Doug Tallamy, professor of entomology, University of Delaware, and author of Bring Nature Home

The photography is wonderful, but what really makes the book so special and goes so far beyond some other books that showcase the beauty of plants is the writing that goes with it. That comes from such a good spread of people and perspectives and manages the perfect balancing act between properly acknowledging the threats and pointing towards solutions. The package of ideas in words and images is beautiful and compelling.

Stephen Blackmore, Queen's Botanist and chair of Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Beauty and the Beast arrives as potent medicine for our souls. Marrying art and science while lifting a chorus of diverse voices, this beautiful book will inspire and move you toward greater action on behalf of life itself. As we face climate and extinction crises, this book will buoy your heart and offer an updraft under your wings.

Nina Simons, author and cofounder of Bioneers

Nita and Rob's portrait of California's wondrous plant diversity is gorgeous and eye opening. This book will encourage love for this planet's magnificent and diverse living species and a desire to fight to save life on Earth.

Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity

We are not just looking for pretty picture. We are looking for photographers who use their work to help further a conservation cause. We were all struck by the stunning photos and the combination of art and activism that was reflected in the book.

Sierra Club 2020 Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography

It was a pleasure hosting Rob and Nita for A 27-Year Wildflower Journey, their talk on wildflower photography and climate change. They drew a large audience eager for behind-the-scenes photography secrets and insights on the future of California's wildflowers. Peppering in anecdotes and pragmatic tips, they kept listeners engaged and uplifted, even while discussing climate change in our state. We are glad to continue working with Rob and Nita by showcasing their stunning photographs in our newest exhibit.

Judy Gradwohl, President and Chief Executive Officer, San Diego Natural History Museum



TESTIMONIALS:

for Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change

"Your book 'Beauty and the Beast' is the most beautiful book ever on California wildflowers. It is stunning and will open people to appreciate the flowers around us, and the effects of climate change on them and all nature. Thank you both for it! With appreciation."

Deirdre K.

"I was recently gifted with your wonderful book and want to share my excitement for your extraordinary accomplishment. Thank you, THANK YOU for 'Beauty and the Beast!' It is a gigantic contribution toward the mindset our world needs to face the realities of climate change and nature abuse. You deserve respect and admiration, and let me say to others: 'Get this book.' It's big, heavy, and beautiful, but far more than just a coffee table book. Innovative photographic techniques and subject matter. Gorgeous, full page photographs. And rich with up-to-date science, geographic history, natural history."

Alana U.

"The writings and photographs are absolutely spectacular. I'm what you call an 'amateur' behind the camera but seeing books such as these gives me inspiration. It also primes my cause of 'global climate change.'"

Nancy B.

"OMG... your book is a masterpiece. First I cried at the beauty of the flowers, then I felt kinship with the stories... especially Wendy Tokuda's description of broom pulling. My sentiments exactly, only expressed better than I could hope to. This book belongs in every school, library, and home."

Pat W., retired fire captain

"In the Spring of 2021, the Los Altos History Museum hosted the exhibit *Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change* (traveled by Exhibit Envoy). It is a stunning exhibit featuring the breathtaking photography of Rob Badger and Nita Winter, along with accompanying labels that challenge visitors to help protect our natural wonders. Nita and Rob's deep appreciation for nature comes through in each photograph. They shoot with love, perfectly capturing California's many ecological regions in all their unique splendor. The exhibit is beautiful and inspiring, calming but urgent. It is a true labor of love dedicated to celebrating and protecting our beautiful planet.

Rob and Nita also gave a wonderful virtual talk for the Museum, which was incredibly popular and well-received. They offered a behind-the-scenes look at their 27-plus-year journey photographing wildflowers in California and the West, taking us along with them through deserts and mountains, valleys and coasts. Even through a virtual platform, attendees were transported by Nita and Rob's stories and photos, making us all feel like we were traveling the state and experiencing California's natural beauty firsthand. Rob and Nita are knowledgeable yet humble, witty and gracious, and their passion for protecting nature is inspiring. It is truly a delight to listen to their stories and see California through their eyes."

Dr. Amy Noel Ellison, Exhibition Curator, Los Altos History Museum

