

Thor Hanson, Author and Biologist

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Short Bio:

Author and biologist Thor Hanson is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Switzer Environmental Fellow, and winner of the John Burroughs Medal. His books include *The Impenetrable Forest*, *Feathers*, *The Triumph of Seeds*, and *Buzz*, as well as the illustrated children's favorite, *Bartholomew Quill*. Honors for Thor's writing include The Phi Beta Kappa Award and two Pacific Northwest Book Awards, and his many media appearances have included NPR's *Fresh Air*, PRI's *Science Friday*, *Book Lust* with Nancy Pearl, and *The Current* on CBC. Hanson lives with his wife and son on an island in the Pacific Northwest.

Full Bio:

Thor Hanson was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, where he now lives on an island with his wife and son. He caught his first salmon at age four, and often collected a wide array of temporary summertime pets, from caterpillars and tadpoles to garter snakes, hermit crabs, and tree frogs. His early interest in the natural world steered him towards a career in conservation biology. Hanson received his bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands, his master's from the University of Vermont's Field Naturalist Program, and his doctorate in a joint program through the University of Idaho and the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza, Costa Rica.

Hanson's research and conservation activities have taken him around the globe. He has studied Central American trees and songbirds, nest predation in Tanzania, and the grisly feeding habits of African vultures. He served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda, where he helped establish the mountain gorilla tourism program in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, and he has also helped manage a brown bear tourism project for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. He often works at the interface between natural and human systems, and has conducted research on habitat fragmentation, endangered species, and the ecological impacts of warfare.

Hanson is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Switzer Environmental Fellow, and an independent conservation biologist based in the San Juan Islands. In addition to his writing, he teaches field courses, reviews for academic journals, consults for conservation groups and government agencies, and is a sought-after public speaker. Hanson's many media appearances have included NPR's *Fresh Air*, *Book Lust* with Nancy Pearl, PRI's *Science Friday* and *The World*, and *The Current* on CBC.

Hanson is the author of *Buzz*, *The Triumph of Seeds*, *Feathers*, and *The Impenetrable Forest*, as well as the illustrated children's favorite, *Bartholomew Quill*. Honors for his books have included The John Burroughs Medal, The Phi Beta Kappa Award, The AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize, and two Pacific Northwest Book Awards. He has also been nominated for The Samuel Johnson Prize and twice for The Washington State Book Award. Hanson's academic work includes co-editorship of the volume *Warfare Ecology*, as well as dozens of papers in such journals as *BioScience*, *Conservation Biology*, *Environmental Conservation*, *Neotropical Ornithology*, and *Molecular Ecology*. His popular articles and essays have appeared in publications ranging from *Audubon*, *Orion*, and *BBC Wildlife* to *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Miami Herald*, and *The Huffington Post*.