

**The Last Wild Wolves**

by Ian McAllister  
 Greystone Books, 2007  
 ISBN 978-1-55365-242-7  
 \$45.00, 192 pp, hardcover  
 large format, color photos, includes DVD  
 www.greystonebooks.com

Author, photographer and conservationist Ian McAllister has lived on BC's north coast for 17 years, and few people have put in as much "dirt time" in the Great Bear Rainforest

as this man. His latest book introduces us to three wolf packs in the Great Bear Rainforest, and follows these packs with words and stunning images through the seasons, describing their habitats and habits. Most of us consider ourselves very fortunate to see a wolf in the wild; McAllister actually becomes intimate with packs and documents the characteristics of individual wolves.

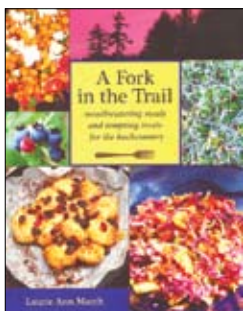
It was long assumed that grizzly bears were the apex predator on the coast, but Ian has witnessed a pack chase off a grizzly, and another time actually kill a full-grown black bear, the aftermath of which he describes as "a cross between a butcher shop and a barber shop."

McAllister describes the special relationship between wolves and humans. Half of the wolf den sites found in the Great Bear Rainforest are at or near traditional village sites. It makes perfect sense; both species need shelter from storms, access to fresh water and plenty of the very same prey species—deer and salmon.

Although wolf scat samples have been found to contain many species of birds, raven is notably absent. There is a unique symbiotic relationship between wolves and ravens—the ravens will alert wolves to the presence of, say, a dead seal, then the wolves will rip open the carcass, which ravens are unable to do.

McAllister's grasp on temperate rainforest ecology and wolf biology is astounding, and in the introduction. Dr. Paul Paquet refers to Ian's "unrelenting advocacy" on behalf of coastal wildlife and ancient forests. This book will be at home on the bookshelf of any lover of wild wolves or the majestic wilderness of BC's coast. Includes DVD by Twyla Roscovich.

Reviewed by Dan Lewis

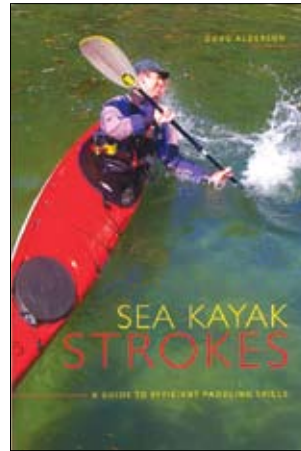


**A Fork in the Trail**

by Laurie Ann March  
 Touchwood Editions, 2008  
 ISBN 978-1-894898-66-9  
 \$19.95, 308 pp, color photos, glossary, index  
 www.touchwoodeitions.com

The subtitle of *A Fork in the Trail*—*mouthwatering meals and tempting treats for the backcountry*—pretty well sums up the contents of this book which is dedicated to helping people create gourmet meals on their wilderness adventures.

Introductory chapters discuss dehydration (benefits and how to tips), menu planning and adapting, and creating recipes for backcountry cooking. Numerous recipes are provided for breakfast, lunch, snacks, dinner and dessert, and special attention is given to more elaborate dishes, treats for canine companions and making camp food fun for kids. The recipes are presented in a clear format (one per page) with ingredients listed in one column beside instructions labeled "At Home" and "At Camp." *A Fork in the Trail* provides lots of ideas for inspired outdoor eating from someone who has "been there, done that" and has organized the knowledge gained from experience into a useful resource for backcountry chefs.

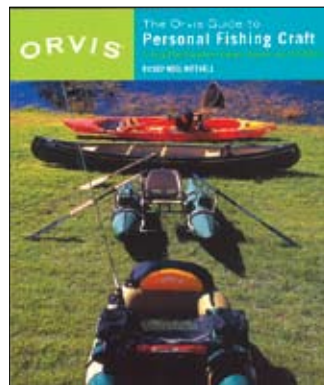


**Sea Kayak Strokes**

by Doug Alderson  
 Rocky Mountain Books, 2007  
 ISBN 978-1-894765-85-5  
 \$19.95 Cdn / \$17.95 US, 176 pp, b/w photos  
 www.heritagehouse.ca

The goal of this book is to help readers "develop paddling skills that allow each paddler to travel farther, faster, safer, while expending the least amount of energy." Although the basic act of paddling is relatively simple and easy for most beginners, it is the refinement of technique that allows one to paddle distances without undue strain and fatigue,

and to paddle out of difficulty if conditions change. *Sea Kayak Strokes* aims to help you perfect a set of efficient paddle strokes that will provide maximum propulsion and maneuverability while using the minimum amount of energy and avoiding injury. With lots of photographs to illustrate clearly written text, the following topics are explained: Edge Control, Bracing, Forward Stroke, Sweep Strokes, Rudder Strokes, Brace Turns, Draw Strokes, Rolling, Blended Strokes. This is a great resource to give your practice some systematic structure—read a chapter, go out and practice, come back and review the chapter, move on to the next skill. Of course, no book will substitute for on-water practice with an experienced teacher, but *Sea Kayak Strokes* will certainly help you take advantage of the author's paddling skill and experience as an instructor to refine your paddling technique.



**The Orvis Guide to Personal Fishing Craft**

**Fishing Effectively from Canoes, Kayaks, and Inflatables**

by Rickey Noel Mitchell  
 The Lyons Press, 2008  
 ISBN 978-1-59228-813-7  
 \$15.95, 112 pp, b/w photos, index  
 www.globepequot.com

This guide is primarily for people who love to fly fish and are looking for an alternative to wading. The solution presented by the author is to use self propelled vessels to get out on the water. He provides basic information about inflatable float tubes and pontoon boats, canoes and kayaks. Mitchell's preferred fishing craft is a kayak, and he devotes a good portion of the book to discussing paddle strokes, rigging a kayak for fishing, anchoring gear and strategies for fly fishing from a kayak. Additional chapters focus on safety (sit down, wear your PFD, choose appropriate apparel, etc.) and accessories (rod holders, leashes, nets, gear storage boxes). A conversational style and lots of personal anecdotes make this guide an easy and entertaining read, and will help fly fishers get off the shore and closer to where the fish are.