

Cumberland County Libraries Join Longwood Gardens' 2021 Community Read



Mechanicsburg, Pa. – Cumberland County book and nature lovers are encouraged to participate in Longwood Gardens' 8th year of the Community Read - a program designed to encourage reading for pleasure and to start a conversation. In 2021, we ask readers to discover how one finds a passion for nature and to explore what can become of that spark.

For 2021, Longwood Gardens announces these selections: *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* and *Ruby's Birds*.

The Community Read's adult selection is *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* by J. Drew Lanham. Birds are a lifelong passion for Lanham, and in *The Home Place*, he also examines his personal history and struggles. Readers follow his journey as a successful wildlife ecologist who along the way uncovers lessons about legacy and his own need to inject a deeper sense of human caring into his life and work.

For younger readers, the selected book is *Ruby's Birds* by Mya Thompson. In this delightful story, a little girl discovers her spark – birds - in her own city neighborhood. They enliven her world and excite her about nature. Her own journey begins.

Carolyn Blatchley, library system executive director, comments, "Cumberland County's public libraries have built a strong partnership with Longwood Gardens through the

Community Read. Readers will be inspired to get outside and engage with the natural world. *The Home Place* is available in print, eBook and unlimited eAudio loans. *Ruby's Birds* is a quality publication with a guide to 14 common birds and birdwatching tips."

Visit your local Cumberland County Library and check out and read one (or both!) of these books. Share with your family and friends. Start a discussion. And visit www.CumberlandCountyLibraries.org for a complete list of Longwood Gardens' Community Read special programs taking place at libraries and online throughout the region from March through May 2021.

The Cumberland County Library System (CCLS) in Pennsylvania has seven local libraries, one branch facility, a system administrative office, and a non-profit foundation. The library system provides service to more than 250,000 people in Cumberland County, PA and a small portion of Franklin County, PA.

Mechanicsburg, PA—January 15, 2021