

## Thor Hanson, Author and Biologist

[thorhanson.net](http://thorhanson.net)

### Short Bio:

Author and biologist Thor Hanson is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Switzer Environmental Fellow, and winner of the John Burroughs Medal. His many books include *Close to Home*, *Buzz*, *Feathers*, and the children's favorites *The Escape Artist* and *Star and the Maestro*. Thor's work has been translated into a dozen languages and earned many accolades, including the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science and three Pacific Northwest Book Awards. He co-hosted the PBS Nature series *American Spring Live*, and has appeared on programs ranging from *Fresh Air* to *Science Friday*, and *WIRED Currents*. Hanson lives with his family 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 a sought-after public speaker and media figure. He co-hosted the PBS Nature series *American Spring Live*, and has appeared as a guest on programs ranging from *Fresh Air* to *On Point*, *Science Friday*, *To the Best of Our Knowledge*, *The Splendid Table*, *The Current* (CBC), *Naked Scientists* (BBC), *WIRED Currents*, *Clear+Vivid* with Alan Alda, and *The UnBelievable* with Dan Aykroyd.

Hanson is the author of *Close to Home*, *Hurricane Lizards and Plastic Squid*, *Buzz*, *The Triumph of Seeds*, *Feathers*, and *The Impenetrable Forest*, as well as the illustrated children's favorites, *Star and the Maestro*, *The Escape Artist*, and *Bartholomew Quill*. Honors for his books have included The John Burroughs Medal, The Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science, The AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize, and three Pacific Northwest Book Awards, and his writing has been translated into a dozen languages. 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*, *Neotropical Primates*, and *Molecular Ecology*. His popular articles have appeared in publications ranging from *Audubon* and *Orion* to *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Times of London*, *The Guardian*, and *BBC Wildlife*.