



# Wild Rides and Wildflowers: Philosophy and Botany with Bikes

*Scott Abbott, Sam Rushforth*

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Two university professors set out to repeatedly bike the Great Western Trail, observing and writing about its variations with every season. The accounts of their adventures, however, refuse to be limited to flora and fauna. In Wild Rides and Wildflowers, Abbott and Rushforth share their deeply personal explorations of the male psyche, true friendship, biking, and botany.

"Abbott and Rushforth have a knack for entertaining readers."

—BOOKLIST

"[*Wild Rides*] becomes about more than riding bikes and admiring nature throughout the four seasons. It also provides an intimate glimpse into the minds and hearts of two men, and the outcome is both surprising and refreshing."

—DESERET NEWS

"A highly versatile, smart, entertaining, incredibly informative book for readers of all ages and interests...[Abbott and Rushforth's] literary counterpoint and harmonizing are as humorously engaging as they are elucidating."

—THE UTAH REVIEW

"Ride along with Sam and Scott through spectacular landscape and share their vast knowledge of its many plants and creatures and the way their lives—and ours—turn with each new season."

—Chip Ward, author of *Canaries on the Rim: Living Downwind in the West*

"It's like *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* meets *Desert Solitaire* in Utah County."

—Scott Carrier, author of *Running After Antelope*

"Come fall in wonder with nature and humankind as these two scholars and mountain bike enthusiasts explore flora, fauna and the follies of life, love, friendship and aging. Abbott and Rushforth are brash and beautiful, their observations clear-eyed, precise and soulful. By the end of the ride you'll understand more about Utah's landscape and two men's hearts than you ever imagined."

—Brooke Adams, former editor of the *Salt Lake Observer* and *Salt Lake Tribune* reporter

"Sometimes you have to get on the bike and go out with the wild things if you're going to get there at all. Scott Abbott and Sam Rushforth show us the way. Mount up. Here's our ticket to ride."

—Charles Bowden, author of *Blues for Cannibals*

"Following the conversations and adventures of Scott and Sam in this work was a delight—my only complaint is that I was stung by an absolute desire to join them. The gusto and passion they have for this land comes through on every page."

—Steven L. Peck, author of *The Scholar of Moab* and *A Short Stay in Hell*

**"Imagine Plato's *Phaedrus* and a field guide to Utah fauna and flora left in an inside pocket of a sweaty, oft-used CamelBak get acquainted and copulate. The wise progeny, scratched and scented, philosophizing its way out, would be *Wild Rides and Wildflowers*, coauthored by Scott Abbott and Sam Rushforth."**

—Larry Menlove, for *The Provo Canyon Review*



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