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Book Review of Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee: The Complete Winter Guide to Their Identification and Use, by Jones, Ronald L. and B. Eugene Wofford

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Book Reviews

Kathy Campbell, Book Reviews Editor

Jones, R. L. & Wofford, B. E (2013). *Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee: The Complete Winter Guide to Their Identification and Use*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky. 224 pages. ISBN: 9780813142500

If you ever wanted to know anything about the woody plants of Kentucky, Tennessee, and most of the Southeast, then this is the book for you. *Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee: The Complete Winter Guide to Their Identification and Use* includes trees, shrubs, and woody vines. This volume covers only plants native to the areas covered, as well as naturalized, non-native plants; in other words, plants that were here when Europeans settled America and those from other regions of America.

The book is divided into an Introduction with all kinds of information about woody plants in general and even has a section on uses for woody plants, such as food, medicine, fiber, and weapons. There are icons for each use that accompany relevant plant descriptions. The four appendices list plants for each specific use. I thought this is the most fascinating section of the book. Also included are Keys to Keys and Genera, Generic and Species Accounts, 630 beautiful, detailed plates, and indexes for each section.

In the Introduction, the authors provide a handy guide about how to use the book, their sources of information, and format and abbreviations. Everything is clear and very user friendly. All important terms are bolded, making it easier for the reader to know of what to take note.

The Key to the 630 plates is highly descriptive, but does not give page numbers to the correlating plate pages. This is the only complaint I have about the book as it would be nice to be able to refer to a page number rather than a small plate number if going back and forth between the descriptions and the plates. Descriptions include the botanical names of each plant, the geographical regions in which the plant can be found, and details of plants, down to the size of their buds. The plates are 3x2 inch photos of each plant on a white background, which highlights the details of the plants. Each plate also includes the botanical names.

Since the book can be read by a novice or an expert, one of the Indexes includes common names for the various plants along with the correlating plant number. There are several plants that I did not realize were considered woody plants, like rosemary, until I browsed through the index of common names.

Ronald L. Jones is a Foundation Professor of Biological Sciences and curator of the herbarium at Eastern Kentucky University and B. Eugene Wofford is a Research Professor and director of the herbarium at the University of Tennessee. The guide is surprisingly straightforward considering it was written by two academics. Anyone who enjoys winter hiking and camping would find this book very useful, as well as professors of biology, and people who are just interested in plants in general. *Woody Plants* would be a great addition to public, academic, and school libraries.

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