

## BOOK REVIEW

DAN DOURSON AND JUDY DOURSON. 2019. **Wildflowers and Ferns of Red River Gorge and the Greater Red River Basin**. (ISBN-13: 978-1-94966900-8, pbk). South Limestone, 663 South Limestone Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40508-4008, U.S.A. (**Orders:** kentuckypress.com). \$39.95 US, 488 pp., 815 color photos, 68 line drawings, 8 figures, bibliography, index, 6" × 9".

Be sure to grab a copy of *Wildflowers and Ferns of Red River Gorge and the Greater Red River Basin* when you visit Red River Gorge in Kentucky. This is the most comprehensive plant field guide, focusing on wildflowers and ferns, for this region and will surely elevate your visit to Red River Gorge. It covers ~1,500 species found in this watershed with over 800 color photos as well as numerous line drawings and figures. Its flex binding and convenient size make it perfect to take in your backpack on your next adventure.

A reader can start at the beginning of the book to learn about the region or jump into the wildflower section to start identifying plants. I would make time to appreciate a delightful and personal prologue from the author and the first few chapters, which summarize the natural, human, and geologic histories and their impacts on the plant community throughout time. If you jump ahead, you may want to bookmark some of the pages that serve as self-explanatory indices including pg 47 titled "How to use this book", pg 125 titled "Native Wildflower Families of the Red River Basin", pg 127 titled "Color Key to the Wildflowers" which is based on flower color and seasonality, and pg 426 titled "Vascular Flora List of the Red River Basin". The wildflower section is arranged alphabetically by plant family, so readers that are less familiar with plant taxonomy should bookmark the "Color Key" on pg. 127. More experienced naturalists will appreciate the vascular flora list, which includes 1,573 species. Non-native plants are noted.

Since this book is a guide, expect succinct species descriptions, which include the common and scientific species names, distinguishing features, notes about the plant's habitat and location, and photos of the plant. The authors provide an incredible collection of images in this book. Each plant species has 1 to 4 high-quality images, highlighting the plant's unique features, flowers, and/or habitat.

This guide will surely inspire casual visitors through more serious naturalists to appreciate and learn more about this region's plants, ferns, mosses, algae, and fungi. For those interested in fungi, you may want to investigate *Wild Yet Tasty; A Guide to Edible Plants of Eastern Kentucky* by the Doursons and its review by Billy G. Stone.—*Kimberly Shay, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*

## REFERENCES

STONE, B.G. 2020. Book Review- Review of Dan Dourson and Judy Dourson. 2019. *Wild Yet Tasty: A Guide to Edible Plants of Eastern Kentucky*. *J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas* 14(1):46.