

BOOK REVIEW

JENNIFER OGLE, THEO WITSELL, AND JOHNNIE GENTRY. 2021. **Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Arkansas**. (ISBN-13: 978-0-912456-00-3, pbk). University of Arkansas Press/ Ozark Society Foundation, P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203, U.S.A. (**Orders:** uapress.com). \$29.95 US, 536 pp., 1,500+ color photos, 2 maps, 46 figures (including plant identification and illustrated glossary), visual photographic guide to genera, bibliography, index to common and scientific names, 6" × 9".

To sum up the overall quality of this book in one word: WOW! Given that the authors of this book are three highly recognized experts on the Arkansas flora, it is no surprise on the excellence of this book. With over 1500 photographs, this is surely one of the most thoroughly photographed accounts of all native and non-native trees, shrubs, and woody vines of any state in the southeast and Gulf Coast. The ecological introduction is a snapshot of the natural communities of Arkansas and highlights the anthropogenic impacts on the natural landscape. One positive aspect of the book is the repeated reference to the importance of fire on maintaining the natural communities and why fire suppression at various times throughout history had such a significant adverse influence on unique habitat types.

The species accounts are extremely well written and includes information, where applicable, on characteristics of each species bark, stem, leaf, inflorescence, flower, fruit, habitat, and special notes on its distribution, rarity, identification, natural community types where found, wildlife and human uses, or unique tidbits on its history of discovery in Arkansas. The exhaustive treatment of non-native, exotic, or invasive species and the threats they pose on the State's flora is worth the purchase of the book alone!

For many species the authors provide close-up field characters that distinguish the covered taxon from similar species. The illustrations of oak acorns (pages 215, 233) and hickory nuts (pages 264–265) are helpful in comparing the fruits of each species that are drawn to scale. Lists provided in the back of the book are especially useful for anyone who is interested in an overview of species of conservation concern (pages 472–476), and potentially harmful invasives (pages 477–479). Another asset to the book is the list of recent taxonomic name changes as it is difficult with advances in genetic analyses to keep up with the constantly changing nomenclature (pages 480–481). The key to the genus *Crataegus* spp. (pages 333–339), originally provided by *Crataegus* expert Ron Lance, is one of the most exhaustive and thorough treatments of this genus in the Ozarks and Ouachitas.

There are a few things that could be done to make the book an even more impressive treatment. For individuals who are not familiar with major groups in Arkansas, continual examination of photos in the visual guide to genera can be exhausting. A dichotomous key to genera in the beginning of the book would enable the reader to more confidently locate the appropriate genus. Species accounts for the 12 nothospecies of *Crataegus* provided in the key on pages 333–339 would make the book more complete, especially given that many are potential species of conservation concern. Another negative aspect of the book is the failure to cover only 11 of the known 24 species of *Rubus* that have been documented in the state. These disappointments, however, should be considered minor given the overall quality of the book and the nominal price (\$29.95). With the wealth of information and stunning photographs contained in the *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Arkansas*, this book should be on the shelf of every botanist, naturalist, ecologist, and enthusiast of Arkansas' rich natural heritage.—Paul M. McKenzie, 2311 Grandview Circle, Columbia, Missouri 65203, U.S.A.