

BOOK REVIEW

ALEXANDER NEMEROV. 2023. **The Forest: A Fable of America in the 1830s**. (ISBN 978-0-6912-4428-0, hbk, 978-0-6912-4427-3). Princeton University Press, 41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, U.S.A. (**Orders:** <https://press.princeton.edu/>). \$35.00 US, 277 pp., includes photographs; 7" × 10".

The opening chapter "Herodotus among the Trees" takes the reader back to the places, people, and events of the 1830s and describes these activities and interaction with nature. There is little here about botany, ecology, or the subject of trees that represents this time-period in United States history. The author concentrates on the people and how they lived and what they did and not on The Forest as a botanical subject. One of the topical headings "An Oak Bent Sideways" describes the Cherokee Indians Trail of Tears (1830 to 1850) and forced march from Georgia to Oklahoma. Oak trees along the way are bent as saplings the author calls "the language of trees" that serve as "trail trees" and directional markers or "road signs." These bent trees helped to guide the Cherokee and other native Americans on their way to Oklahoma.

Readers interested in learning more about botanical properties of trees and forests will be disappointed in the contents of this book. For example, Part 3, Come, Thick Night, is not about forests it is about short stories related to activities of people as exemplified by Smoke and Burnt Pine, Reading the Leaves, and Meeting in the Great Dismal Swamp. The narrative is beautifully written and the writing style is engaging but the content will have limited value for those who wanted to learn more about trees and forests.

—Harold W. Keller, Professor Emeritus, Botanist and Mycologist,
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BOOK NOTICES

FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. 2023. **Flora of North America North of Mexico, Volume 11, Magnoliophyta: Fabaceae, Part 1. Subfamilies Cercidoideae, Detarioideae, Caesalpinioideae, and Faboideae, Tribes Sophoreae to Loteae** (ISBN: 978-0-19-757797-4, hbk). Oxford University Press Inc., 198 Madison Ave., New York, New York 10016, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.oup.com). \$95.00 US, 541 pp., line drawings, 8" × 10".

FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. 2023. **Flora of North America North of Mexico, Volume 11, Magnoliophyta: Fabaceae, Part 2. Subfamily Faboideae, Tribes Robinieae to Fabeae** (ISBN: 978-0-19-757798-1, hbk). Oxford University Press Inc., 198 Madison Ave., New York, New York 10016, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.oup.com). \$95.00 US, 567 pp., line drawings, 8" × 10".

Flora of North America North of Mexico Volume 11: Magnoliophyta: Fabaceae, Parts 1 & 2 includes treatments for 1345 species in 153 genera contained.

FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. 2023. **Flora of North America North of Mexico, Volume 14, Magnoliophyta: Gentianaceae to Hydroleaceae**. (ISBN: 978-0-19-769146-5, hbk). Oxford University Press Inc., 198 Madison Ave., New York, New York 10016, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.oup.com). \$95.00 US, 505 pp., line drawings, 8" × 10".

Flora of North America North of Mexico Volume 14: Magnoliophyta: Gentianaceae to Hydroleaceae includes treatments for Gentianaceae, Loganiaceae, Gelsemiaceae, Apocynaceae, Convolvulaceae, Solanaceae, Sphenocleaceae, and Hydroleaceae.