

## BOOK REVIEW

CAMPBELL & LYNN LOUGHMILLER. UPDATED BY JOE MARCUS. 2018. **Texas Wildflowers: A Field Guide**. (ISBN-13: 978-1-4773-1476-0, pbk). University of Texas Press, 3001 Lake Austin Blvd., 2.200, Stop E4800, Austin, Texas 78703-4206, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.utexaspress.com, 1-800-252-3206). \$19.95, 512 pp., 320 color photos, 13 drawings, illus. glossary, bibliography, indices, 4.75" × 7.25".

While some botanists have much experience with plant identification, it's important to note that a majority of the general public does not. Although this is unfortunate, there is still a way to change this. I believe that the best effort for us to make is simply through awareness and education. Consequently, a field guide on wildflowers within the state of Texas is a good place to start.

*Texas Wildflowers* captures one's visual imagination, but also educates us on a variety of plant species. The book, originally published in 1984, has been updated in a way that allows the reader to identify species based on their distinctive colors rather than their taxonomic organization. I think the utmost important aspect when publishing a botanical guide should be that it is user-friendly. Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller did exceptional work in producing a field guide that targets a range of knowledge and gives precise details on the individual species. Joe Marcus made it even better by reorganizing and updating it.

At the beginning of the book, Marcus presents us with notes on this new edition. With more than 170,000 copies sold under the original style, this new version has been reconstructed using a color coding mechanism that combines bolded headings and the regions the plant naturally grows in. In addition, it also provides a glossary, index, illustrated glossary, bibliography, family index, and even a few pages for your very own notes. Not to mention the front and back of the field guide incorporate a seven-inch ruler using inches and centimeters, to make your measurements out in the field more efficient.

For each description, subtitles are used to organize information about that plant: plants and leaves, flowers and fruit, flowering, range and habitat. For some species, there is also a comments section where Campbell and Lynn have inserted their own personal discussion of that wildflower.

This quote was provided in the introduction and instantly stood out to me: "Photography is always rewarding, but can sometimes be tedious." In my perspective, images tend to stay with you longer and give you more of a relatable experience. They become encrypted in your brain to a point where you are able to recognize the flower by sight, by *gestalt*. This becomes engaging and motivating for a person who doesn't have sufficient knowledge in plant taxonomy. Regardless of the time it may entail, photographs make this guide excel in its long lasting education aspect.

This book reaches a diversity of ages and interests in identification of Texas plant life. This book has provided me with an extensive amount of help in learning and recognizing wildflowers while in the field. Joe Marcus has done exceptional work in updating and improving a field guide that was already wonderful. I would recommend this updated version to anyone working in the botanical field.—*Taylor Shaffer, Texas Christian University Plant Systematics Class, 2018, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*