

BOOK REVIEW

CINDY TALBOTT ROCHÉ, RICHARD E. BRAINERD, BARBARA L. WILSON, NICK OTTING, AND ROBERT C. KORFHAGE. 2019. **Field Guide to the Grasses of Oregon and Washington.** (ISBN-13: 978-0-87071-959-2, pbk). Oregon State University Press, 121 The Valley Library, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-4501, U.S.A. (**Orders:** osupress.oregon-state.edu, 1-800-621-2736). \$35.00 US, 488 pp., 8 drawings, maps and color photos throughout, glossary, references, index, 6" × 9".

Field Guide to Grasses of Oregon and Washington is a comprehensive source of information on all 101 genera and 376 species, subspecies, and varieties of grasses known to occur in the natural environment of Oregon and Washington. It covers the entire spectrum from *Achnatherum hendersonii* to *Zizania palustris*. It is a thorough reference for all the ecoregions in both states and is the first extensive treatment of grasses for the area west of the Cascade Mountains.

The book includes a dichotomous key as well as species accounts, multiple color photographs, and distribution maps for each species. It also contains tips on identification, discussions of plant parts and botanical terms related to the unique structural components of grasses, and an extensive glossary.

Nomenclature follows that of the *Flora of North America* in nearly all cases. As such, some of the scientific names of plants may be unfamiliar to those who have become comfortable with the names they learned previously. Name changes and reclassification of grass genera can be frustrating and annoying, but they will continue and become even more frequent as science and technology advance and, as we learn more about the genomics of grasses. Fortunately, the authors have provided an index which includes synonyms that may be more familiar to some users.

Species accounts include botanical descriptions, phenology, growth habits, clues to identification, typical habitats, persistence of flower parts, and other pertinent information such as whether the species is endemic, native, or exotic.

Grasses are notoriously difficult to identify because of their small, modified plant parts which are less well known than the parts of the more colorful and noticeable flowering plants. Grass identification can be mystifying even to experienced botanists. Throughout the book, there are multiple examples of exceptional macrophotography selected to emphasize the often inconspicuous, but most significant distinguishing physical characteristics of each species to aid in identification.

This book will be an important field or desk reference for those working in the grasslands of the Pacific Northwest. It can also be a useful resource for other regions because of the macrophotography with labels of distinctive parts of grass plants, as well as other features of the book. Grass identification becomes less challenging by using the key in combination with the remarkable photography, useful distribution maps, and well written species accounts.

Grasses are so widespread that they tend to fade into the background in most landscapes resulting in "grass blindness" by casual observers. *Field Guide to Grasses of Oregon and Washington* highlights the diversity, variability, and qualities of grass species and provides the user with an increased awareness and greater appreciation of this vital resource.—*Dan Caudle, Resident Research Associate, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*

BOOK NOTICES

JESSE CANCELMO. 2016. **Glorious Gulf of Mexico: Life Below the Blue.** (ISBN-13: 978-1-62349-374-5, flexbind). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, 4354 Lewis St., College Station, Texas 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** tamupress.com, 1-800-826-8911). \$30.00 US, 156 pp., 194 color photos, 5 maps, index, 10" × 11".

N. ABDULHASAN, ANNA BACHMANN, AZZAM ALWASH, AND ALI LAMI, COMPILERS. 2017. **Key Biodiversity Areas of Iraq: Priority Sites for Conservation and Protection.** (ISBN-978-0988651463, hbk). Tablet House Publishing, 3823 Vista Blanca, San Clemente, California 92672, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.amazon.com, www.nhbs.com, www.koeltz.com). \$45.00 US, 296 pp., full color maps, figures, photographs, bibliography, index, 8½" × 11".

DAVID YETMAN, ALBERTO BÚRQUEZ, KEVIN HULTINE, AND MICHAEL SANDERSON. 2020. **The Saguaro Cactus: A Natural History.** (ISBN-13: 978-0-81654004-4, pbk). The University of Arizona Press, 1510 E. University Blvd., P.O. Box 210055, Tucson, Arizona 85721-0055, U.S.A. (**Orders:** uapress.arizon.edu). \$19.95 US, 208 pp., references, index, 5½" × 8½".