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## REVIEW: Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring

Karen Minton  
*GALILEO*

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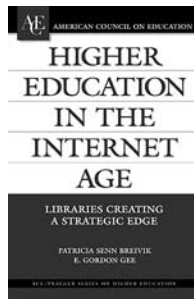
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Yonah community comes forward to help “the girls” hang on and make their business a success. With pageantry and good humor, Priscilla and Janice host harvesting parties, invent wacky gourd displays and share their home and hearts with neighbors and folks just passing through. But life wasn’t always fun and games for the pair, who struggled for years with fear of coming out of the closet, at a time when many people in larger and more liberal areas of the country would not. Not knowing what would happen, but with trust in their community and a willingness to accept the consequences, the couple’s desire to live authentically finally helps them stop hiding. *Gourd Girls* is an inspiring memoir, frankly told and generously packed with anecdotes about life in rural northeast Georgia. It will be a welcome addition to public library collections in Georgia. ►►

— Reviewed by **Teresa Pacheco**  
*Northeast Georgia Health System*

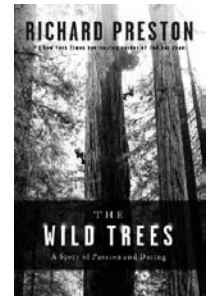
**Higher Education in the Internet Age** by Patricia Senn Breivik and E. Gordon Gee (American Council on Education, 2006; ISBN 0-275-98194-0, \$49.95).



This edition is a revised and updated version of the 1989 *Information Literacy: Revolution in the Library*. The information covered is a result of the successful collaboration between the authors: a visionary and experienced library dean and an innovative university president. This partnership of university administrators is one of three key components that Breivik and Gee feel are essential in higher education today. The ability that libraries have to facilitate change and to develop a shared vision of the future are listed as imperative components for the evolution of education. In the age of information, the authors see an enormous potential for libraries to play a strategic role in achieving campus goals. Additional highlights include trends in reforming instruction, service, and leadership, and a discussion of funding alternatives and cost considerations. The material is relevant to all phases and levels of higher education in its review of the importance of resource-based instruction, implications of the Internet, research productivity, service to the community, collections/digitization, and leadership. This is a scholarly work, with each chapter yielding notes and references for further research. Individual examples and case studies are included to illustrate initiatives and offer a range of creative solutions. ►►

— Reviewed by **Dr. Rachel A. Schipper**  
*Georgia College & State University*

**Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring** by Richard Preston (Random House, 2007; ISBN 1-4000-6489-9, \$25.95).



Botanists estimate that the largest redwoods are more than 2,000 years old, but dating by annual growth rings is not possible, because the oldest redwoods are hollow. The tallest are between 350 to 380 feet high, 35 to 38 stories. Until the 1980s, when humans first began exploring the giant redwoods, it was assumed that life was sparse in the canopy of the redwood forest. In fact, the trees’ first explorers found whole ecosystems of life, including the expected lichens, ferns and insects, but also voles, salamanders, huckleberries and even other trees, such as laurel and hemlock. In *Wild Trees*, the story of the exploration of individual trees as if they were mountains or countries is told as Preston follows the botanists and naturalists who climb the largest and tallest organisms in the world. The personal stories of the tree-climbing scientists who search for the tallest trees are interspersed with the history of the redwood forest, the ecology of the forest floor and the canopies of the trees, and the techniques and gear of climbing as a sport. To research this book, Preston learned how to climb giant trees himself and even camped out in them. While the sometimes forced re-enactments of the climbing expeditions become repetitious, the account of the lost world of the tree-top environment is compelling and showcases Preston’s ability to draw wonder and drama from the science of his topic. ►►

— Reviewed by **Karen Minton**  
*GALILEO Support Services, Library Services*

## FICTION

**Down Town** by Ferrol Sams (Mercer University Press, 2007; ISBN: 0881460729, \$25.00).

A ride with Ferroll Sams *Down Town* is a trip unlike any you can imagine. This tale is told through the eyes of life-long resident James Aloysius “Buster” Holcombe Jr. It is a humorous and poignant tapestry of narratives set in a small Georgia town. Sams uses a full arsenal of wit, wisdom and plain old Southern charm to engage his readers in the lives of an unforgettable set of characters.

