2-10-2017

Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia and Surrounding States

Melinda F. Matthews
University of Louisiana at Monroe

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
Matthews, Melinda F. (2017) "Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia and Surrounding States," The Southeastern Librarian: Vol. 64 : Iss. 4 , Article 11. Available at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol64/iss4/11

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.
Not surprisingly, white resistance to and anger over the rise of African American political leaders is featured in several essays and is largely what powered the political career of Wade Hampton, who would soon prove to be a major force in the successful dismantling of Reconstruction. However, as Lewie Reece points out in his 2003 essay, “Righteous Lives: A Comparative Study of the South Carolina Scalawag Leadership during Reconstruction,” native white Southerners could work cooperatively and positively with African Americans. Unfortunately, a combination of racism, Democratic opposition to Republicans, and anger at federal control as manifested by Reconstruction policies, helped overthrow South Carolina’s brief, promising experiment in racial equality.

One of the main personalities involved in the overthrow of Reconstruction was Wade Hampton, the subject of two essays (“Wade Hampton and the Rise of One-Party Racial Orthodoxy in South Carolina” published by Richard M. Gergel in 1971 and “Wade Hampton: Conflicted Leader of the Conservative Democracy?” published by Fritz Hamer in 2007). Mention of Hampton also appears in other essays. While Hampton alone cannot be said to be the sole cause of the end of Reconstruction, his cynical use of populist political techniques, cooptation of African Americans by claiming to represent their interests, and his use of the Red Shirt militia gangs to intimidate opponents and, especially, African Americans, and political dirty tricks to ensure Republican office holders were fatally weakened, makes for discouraging reading. Political dirty tricks included such actions as locking Republican state office holders out of their offices, decreasing the number of polling places, and intimidating African Americans into joining the Democratic Party (201, 202, and 204).

The growing weakness of Republican political office holders is manifest in the sad story of “Governor Chamberlain and the End of Reconstruction” by Robert J. Moore (1977). Chamberlain was a northern “carpetbagger” from Massachusetts, a white abolitionist who had served as an officer in an African American Union regiment. Unfortunately, his political power and will to resist the machinations of Wade Hampton and his supporters were not strong and the ambivalent results of the gubernatorial election of 1876 meant that South Carolina had two governors in office at once (256). Also, Chamberlain was no longer able to count on federal support. On April 11, 1877 Chamberlain finally gave up the struggle to remain in power: “The drama of Reconstruction closed with undramatic compliance by southern Republicans to the nation’s loss of will to enforce majority rule in South Carolina” (254).

*South Carolina in the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras: Essays from the Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association* would fit in well with academic and large public library collections featuring Civil War and Reconstruction, and Southern history.

*Tim Dodge*  
*Auburn University*
flower divulging its appearance and location. Within the two sections, eight hundred twenty six richly colorful pictures illustrate to readers the vivid liveliness of the wildflowers. Thirty eight gray in color pages within the two sections give further details on the wildflowers. A helpful glossary defines eighty eight words. There are sixty six references.

A handy map shows the percentage of wildflowers in Georgia that are located in the states of Texas, Kentucky, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama, too. Another map makes known Georgia’s physiographic provinces. Eleven methods are listed to stop damage to wildflowers. Associations promoting Georgia wildflowers are Riverkeepers, Nature Conservancy, Georgia Native Plant Society, Coastal Wildscapes, and Georgia Botanical Society. Kindly, an invitation is extended to become members of the Georgia Botanical Society at http://www.gabotsoc.org

Gorgeous Color Thumbnails are thirty nine beautiful vibrantly colored small photographs of the wildflowers for readers to know the names of the flowers. There are two hundred and one pictures of white wildflowers, one hundred twenty five pictures of yellow flowers, fourteen pictures of orange wildflowers, and one hundred fifteen pictures of red and maroon wildflowers. Others are one hundred thirty two photographs of pink, magenta, and lavender wildflowers, fifty three blue to bluish- purple wildflowers, seventy one purple and violet wildflowers, and sixty five green and brown wildflowers. The definition of wildflower is supplied as a plant bearing flowers not aided by humans.

The monograph makes known a list of top thirty eight locations and times to visit wildflowers in Georgia like Cloudland Canyon State park, Sittons Gulch Trail, Dade County, late Mar-late Apr. The great work shares fascinating information about the dazzling wildflowers. Wildflowers include herbs, shrubs, and vines with flowers. Wildflowers from Europe that came to America are Queen Anne’s Lace and the cornflower. Along roads are common camphor weed, beefsteak plant, and cat’s ear. More intriguing, hot and cold weather and bodies of water cause wildflowers. Wildflowers that thrive in the sunlight are sunflowers, goldenrods, and milkweeds. What’s more, unsurpassed in beauty are milkweeds, butterfly weed, and milkvines. Spring ephemerals wild geraniums, trout lilies, and mandarins are only vibrantly blossoming in the spring. Around one hundred types of rose wildflowers in Georgia consist of cherries, plums, blackberries, wild strawberries, and hawthorns. Academic and public libraries should own the book because of its perfect coverage of wildflowers in Georgia and adjoining states. The treasured book enchanting with magnificently exquisite scenic wildflowers is a most excellent tourist attraction for Georgia and neighboring states.

Melinda F. Matthews  
University of Louisiana at Monroe Library