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## Book Review - Roadside Geology of Georgia

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## Off the SHELF

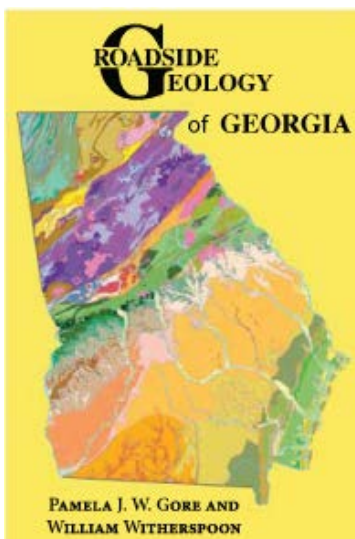
**Roadside Geology of Georgia** by Pamela J. W. Gore and William Witherspoon. (Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, MT, 2013: ISBN 9780878426027, \$24.00)

There's gold in "them thar hills," kaolin in the Coastal Plains, and granite in the Piedmont. Yes, Georgia is a state with quite a varied landscape. Dahlonega is the site of the nation's first gold rush; Sandersville is known as the Kaolin Capital of the World; and Elberton "competes with a town in Vermont for the title Granite Capital of the World." In *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, one of the latest books in the popular Roadside Geology series, Pamela Gore and William Witherspoon take the reader on a road trip through the state to discover the many earthly treasures Georgia has to offer.

Organized similarly to a travel guide, this book provides background into how the landscape of the state was formed. It describes the tectonic shift in terms that everyone can understand and informs the reader how the mountains, valleys, and gorges developed—Georgia's Tallulah Gorge is the "fourth-deepest canyon east of the Rocky Mountains." This book provides details into the geology and, in some cases, the flora and fauna that are dependent upon the geology in the five physiographic provinces of Georgia—the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Blue Ridge Mountain Province, Valley and Ridge Mountain Province, and the Appalachian Plateau. Readers can follow along the highways in the different provinces and observe the changing geology.

Interspersed among the text are more than 250 full-color pictures, figures, and maps that add to

the depth and understanding of the prose. There are photographs of various rock formations and the fossils found within them, such as fairy crosses formed by staurolite, the state mineral of Georgia. A geologic time scale details the major geologic events that affected Georgia from the Mesoproterozoic period, when Georgia's oldest rocks were formed, through the formation of the barrier islands in the Quaternary Period.



Stories on how the distinctive geology of each region played a crucial role in Georgia history provide added interest. The authors provide descriptions on how several Civil War battles were decided by the terrain, as well as how the rocks and minerals in the different areas are used by the locals. An appendix provides a listing of museums and exhibits found in various cities around the state that are specifically geared toward geology and fossils, and the glossary helps to explain some of the geologic terms found within the book.

Written by Pamela Gore, Professor of Geology at Georgia Perimeter College, and William Witherspoon, Geologist at the Fernbank Science Center in the DeKalb County School System, this book is a highly recommended addition to any public or academic library. Although filled with extensive research on the terrain and geology of Georgia, the engrossing text makes this an engaging read for both researchers and laypersons interested in finding out about the geology of Georgia.

*Melissa E. Johnson is Electronic Resources and Serials Librarian at Georgia Regents University*