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Hiking and Traveling the Blue Ridge Parkway – revised and expanded edition

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surprisingly, the rise of the Internet has greatly assisted the propagation of the myth of the Black Confederate soldier.

As Levin explains, it is not so much the creation of fake information, as the propagation of misinterpreted evidence via thousands of web sites that has helped bring this about. One of the most popular pieces of supposed evidence for Black Confederates is a doctored photograph of black Union soldiers. Originally published in *Civil War Times Illustrated* in 1973, the photo has been mounted on the Internet in an altered form leaving out the white commanding (Union) officer (136). In recent years, a small contingent of African Americans has signed on to the myth with the most famous, H.K. Edgerton, who has been photographed in Confederate uniform taking place in a well-publicized march from North Carolina to Texas in support of “Southern heritage” in 2002 (152).

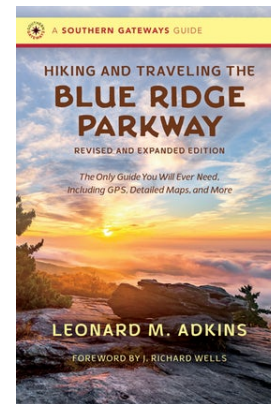
Even more recent developments ranging from the National Parks Service promoting a more accurate and nuanced story of the meaning of the Civil War and growing national support for the removal of Confederate War monuments as a result of a recent spate of hate crimes such as Dylann Roof’s murder of nine African Americans attending Bible Study in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015 or the violent demonstration involving white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017, has helped discredit the Lost Cause and the myth of the Black Confederate soldier in the eyes of many. However, Levin notes, “the mythical black Confederate narrative will continue to be embraced by those who believe it will serve their agenda” (183).

Aside from being riveting reading, Levin’s book is an excellent example of how history is truly relevant to modern American life and how it can be manipulated and twisted to promote inaccurate interpretations to further political and ideological goals. Following good historical practice, Levin’s book has numerous endnotes indicating exactly (and accurately) where he located information and quotes, and his book includes a lengthy bibliography including both primary sources and secondary sources used in the course of his research. He writes well so even the more casual, non-academic reader will find *Searching for Black Confederates* to be an accessible read.

Recommended for all academic libraries and most public libraries collecting in the areas of Civil War and African American history. This book is also an excellent example of how historical research works and the importance of how such research is interpreted.

Tim Dodge
Auburn University

Hiking and Traveling the Blue Ridge Parkway Revised and Expanded Edition: The Only Guide You Will Ever Need, Including GPS, Detailed Maps, and More (Southern Gateways Guides). Leonard M. Adkins. Foreword by J. Richard Wells. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-4696-4697-8 (Pbk: \$19.95): 408 p.



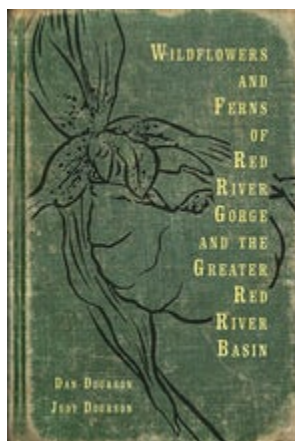
This work covers the Blue Ridge Parkway located predominantly Virginia and North Carolina. Leonard M. Adkins works for *Blue Ridge Country* as a walking columnist. Mr. Adkins trekked on five occurrences on the Appalachian Trail. The writing style is easy to understand, eloquent, and enchanting. The contents include Foreword by J. Richard Wells, Abbreviations, Trailhead Locations of Official Blue Ridge Parkway Trails, 1. Introduction, A Short History of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Parkway, How to Use this Book, The Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Advice and Precautions, Blue Ridge Parkway Regulations, 2. Rockfish Gap to the Roanoke River: Blue Ridge Parkway Miles 0-114.8, 3. The Appalachian Trail, 4. The Roanoke River to Julian Price Memorial Park: Blue Ridge Parkway Miles 114.9-296.9, 5. The Tanawha Trail, 6. Julian Price Memorial Park to US Route 441: Blue Ridge Parkway Miles 297-469.1, Appendixes A. Blue Ridge Parkway Offices, B. Inns, Lodges, and Cabins on the Blue Ridge Parkway, C. Campgrounds on the Blue Ridge Parkway, D. Blue Ridge Parkway Roadside Bloom Calendar, E. Forest Service Maps, F. Bicycling the Blue Ridge Parkway, G. Become a Blue Ridge Trail Master, Acknowledgments, Suggested Readings and Field Guides, and Index. Thirty five black and white photographs enhance the discussion of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The manual includes seventy four detailed maps. The work shares locations of all mile markers along the approximately four hundred seventy miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway. For example Mile 0. Rockfish Gap. US RT 250 and 1-64 (1,909 feet), Trails of Mount Mitchell State Park, Blue Ridge Parkway Mile 355.3 the tallest mountain, and Mile 469.1 US RT 441 and the southern terminus of the Blue Ridge Parkway where the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Oconaluftee Visitor Center is located. The descriptions of the trails usefully consist of the distance of the trail, the exertion of the trail, and how to enter the trail. In addition, the author notes what trails are the best to walk. The Blue Ridge Parkway offers horse trails and mountain bicycling.

Some of the foliage seen are white oaks, trilliums, oak trees, rhododendron, rosehips, blueberries, raspberries, persimmons, blackberries, strawberries, lady slipper’s flowers, hickory, violets, bloodroot, hemlocks, green ferns, birch, and maple. Other plant life consists of jewelweed,

tulips, mountain laurel, firs, poplar trees, white violets, wild mustard, cherries, black locust, apples, Solomon's seal, wild geraniums, chickweeds, mayapples, and lilies. Animals to perhaps observe are catbirds, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, black-billed cuckoos, blue jays, hairy woodpeckers, warblers, hawks, vultures, eagles, otters, black bears, woodpeckers, falcons, cougars, and kingfishers. More animals noticed are barn swallows, seeing loons, geese, ducks, sandpiper, songbirds, deer, rabbits, bobcats, squirrels, raccoons, butterflies, bald eagles, trout, frogs, Acadian flycatchers, snapping turtles, gray foxes, opossums, hummingbirds, and dragon flies. A few of the locations to be aware of are Mabry Mill, Science Museum of Virginia, Mill Mountain Park, Roanoke, Groundhog Mountain, Grandfather Mountain, Mount Mitchell State Park, Pilot Mountain, Blue Ridge Music Center, Doughton Park, Old Fiddler's Convention, and Rex Theater. Other places are Stone Mountain, Blowing Rock, Mile High Swinging Bridge at Grandfather Mountain, Mount Pisgah, Brown Mountain Lights, Wiseman's View, Little Switzerland, Museum of North Carolina Minerals, Stoney Bald Overlook, George W. Vanderbilt's home Biltmore in Asheville, and Pinnacle Trail. Additional spots comprise Otter Lake, Dancing Creek, Maury River, Irish Creek, James River, White Rock Falls, Bluff Mountain, Wintergreen Ski Resort, Wintergreen, Virginia, George Washington Forest, Jefferson National Forest, Humpback Rocks and Mountain Trail, and Rivanna Trail. The author suggests visitors check out the Blue Ridge Parkway Destination Center near Asheville that teaches how to use the Blue Ridge Parkway. The recommendation for audience are individuals interested in the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Blue Ridge Parkway compendium should be added to public and academic libraries and is great as a gift.

Melinda F. Matthews
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Wildflowers and Ferns of Red River Gorge and the Greater Red River Basin. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-94-966900-8 (pbk: alk.paper); 478 p. \$39.95.



This work is about ferns, plant life, and wildflowers in the Kentucky Red River Gorge and the Red River Basin. Authors Dan Dourson and Judy Dourson helped organize and assist The Kentucky Annual Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge State Resort and wrote *Red River Gorge's Wild Yet Tasty*. Contents include Acknowledgements, Prologue, Chapter 1: Prehistoric History, Chapter 2: Cultural History, Chapter 3: Geology, Chapter 4: Ecoregions, Chapter 5: Habitats of the Red River Basin, How to Use the Book, Chapter 6: Non-Flowering Organisms, Terrestrial Green Algae, Fungi or Mushrooms, Slime Molds, Lichens, Bryophytes, Chapter 7: Plant Life of Red River Basin, Chapter 8: Ferns, Club Mosses, Spike Mosses & Quillworts, Chapter 9: Grasses, Sedges & Rushes, Chapter 10: Wildflowers Families of the Red River Basin, Color Key to the Wildflowers, Basic Vegetative Parts of Flowering Plants, Species Accounts, Chapter 11: Vines, Shrubs and Trees, Chapter 12: Expected or Uncertain Plants of RRB, Glossary, Bibliography, Species List, Index of Common Names, Index of Scientific Names, Safety Tips While in the Woods, and About the Authors. The Bibliography consists of twenty-five references. A glossary reveals thirty-two terms.

The history of the Red River Gorge is detailed with excellent pictures. The fine points of the creation of the Red River Gorge along with superb illustrations are included. Around one thousand seventy-four beautiful bright vivid color photographs of the plant life makes the work all the more intriguing. A description accompanies each photograph telling the family the plant life belongs to, where the plant life is located, what the leaves look like, and what the flowers or plants look like. Examples of the beautiful color pictures are gorgeous big leaf magnolias with giant leaves and lovely umbrella magnolias. Maps include "Level IV Ecoregions of Kentucky Showing County Lines and Towns", "Geologic map of Kentucky, with a cross section showing the regional upward arching of the bedrock.", "Paleogeographic reconstruction of Kentucky approximately 320mya when the Corbin sandstone was being formed." And "Ecoregions of Kentucky."

The Red River Gorge is one of the best sites for hiking rocky areas. Every year, the area makes four million dollars because of guests. The number of sightseers every year is half a million. Recommended for individuals and researchers interested in the Red River Gorge and Red River Basin history and plant life. People desiring to explore and spot plant life in the Red River Gorge area will be absolutely delighted with the splendid complete listing and sunny perky color pictures of the vegetation. This work is a masterpiece on Kentucky's Red River Gorge is definitely a must for public and academic libraries.

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