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Wildflowers and Ferns of Red River Gorge and the Greater Red River Basin

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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.

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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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