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## The Radiance of Small Things in Ron Rash's Writing

Carol Walker Jordan

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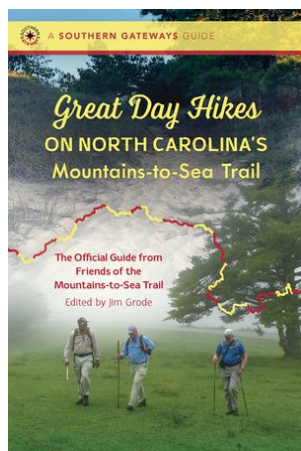
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include Brown Biggers, systems programmer, and Jenny Dale, information literacy coordinator and associate professor.

Murphy holds a master's degree in library and information science from Rutgers University and a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts from Sarah Lawrence College. Prior to joining UNCG, she served as a reference and instruction librarian at Georgia Highlands College, a visual resources curator at Queens College-City University of New York and an evening and weekend reference librarian at St. Francis College.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Great Day Hikes on North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail (Southern Gateways Guide).** Jim Grode. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-4696-5485-0. 232 p. \$24.00 (Pbk.)



This work is about the mountains-to-sea trail of North Carolina. The author resides in Asheville, North Carolina. He is the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail director. The writing style is easy to understand, and entertaining.

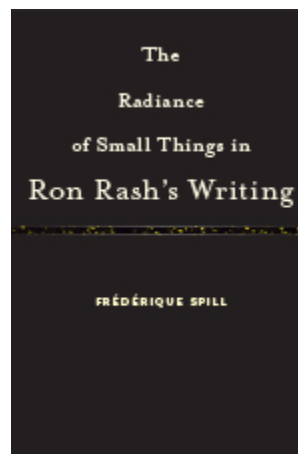
The guide describes forty hikes from The Great Smokies Clingmans Dome to Fork Ridge Trail Hike 1 to Hike 40 Jockey's Ridge State Park covering one thousand one hundred seventy five miles. Each description of a hike includes a beautiful vividly color photograph, distance, degree of difficulty, trail type, trailhead, trailhead 1 coordinates, trailhead 1 elevation, trailhead 2, trailhead 2 coordinates, trailhead 2 elevation, total elevation change, MST segment, highlights, dogs, hike overview, driving directions, hike directions, special considerations, for more information, and an excellent greatly detailed map. Very nifty and helpful to hikers is a Day hike locations and numbers map. The map shows all the cities along the mountains-to-sea trail including Asheville, Boone, Elkin, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Burlington, Durham, Raleigh, Clayton, Smithfield, Newton Grove, White Lake, Wilmington, Jacksonville, New Bern, Havelock, and Nags Head. A Hike table lists the forty hikes, MST segment,

One-way or loop distance, and difficulty. A Hike Finder provides nine types of interests including Birding and Wildlife, History Buffs, Unique Ecology or Geology, Waterfalls, Wildflowers, North Carolina's Small Towns, Water Lovers, Summer Cooldown, and Universal Accessibility, and the relating hikes. For example, a hike to see birding and wildlife is Moores Creek National Battlefield Loop.

Other intriguing things to see along the trail are ducks, waterfowls, pelicans, marsh wrens, turtles, kite flying, gliding, dwarf palmettos, nineteenth century Burgaw Presbyterian Church, songbirds, warblers, mid eighteenth century Harmony Hall Plantation, Beirut Memorial, the brick lighthouse at Cape Hatteras, three hundred sixty five types of birds at Pea Island, and the Croatan National Forest. The invaluable treasure on the mountains-to-sea trail of North Carolina is essential for academic and public libraries and excellent as a gift for hikers interested in North Carolina. The recommendation for audience is anyone interested in hiking or learning about the splendid mountains-to-sea trail of beautiful North Carolina.

*Melinda F. Matthews*  
University of Louisiana at Monroe

**The Radiance of Small Things in Ron Rash's Writing.** Frédérique Spill. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-64336-019-5. 296 p. \$49.99 (Hbk)



As a librarian that collects writings of a particular few authors, I am one of those who has collected all of the books I can acquire that are written by Ron Rash. My first experience with Ron Rash was when he accepted an invitation to serve as guest speaker at an Everett Library Friends of the Library Spring Event in early 2000. Ron was teaching a writing course at Queens College and his book, *One Foot in Eden* circulated among his students and librarians. After that first presentation and going forward through the years, it was my pleasure to invite him to other events to speak about his writings. Yes, I have followed his writing and speaking work for twenty years.

Though I was drawn to Frédérique Spill's new book, *The Radiance of Small Things in Ron Rash's Writings*, I did not know the richness of her observations and analyses would uncover unique clues to Ron Rash the "person". Particularly the Appendix (pp. 191 -200) is a fascinating and delightful look at Ron Rash the "person". From questions such as "what is your favorite color; your favorite flavor; your favorite flower; your favorite hero in fiction; what is the book you re-read most frequently; your chief characteristic; your idea of happiness; your idea of misery." On a serious note, Spill asks, "how do you come up with the titles of your books?; now comes a fishy question: what about the overwhelming presence of trout in Southern Writing; in your work, trout reoccur whatever form of writing you pick up, it seems to me a metaphor of resilience."

I recommend this excellent piece of research and writing for readers of college and university level collections, particularly anyone with a passion for "landscape and fiction" as I describe Ron's writings. 280 pages, with Notes, Bibliography and Index 225-273.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS*

**The War on Poverty in Mississippi: From Massive Resistance to New Conservatism.** Emma J. Folwell Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2020. ISBN 978-1-4968-2739-5 (Hdbk: \$99); 978-1-4968-2744-9 (Pbk.: \$30) 312 p.



**THE WAR ON POVERTY IN  
MISSISSIPPI**

*From Massive Resistance to New Conservatism*

EMMA J. FOLWELL

In long ago school days, I remember spelling bees where I was always happy if one word I was to spell for the teacher was "Mississippi". I loved the sound of the word and enjoyed saying it. I knew little about the State of Mississippi but in those days I had an imagination created by stories I read of grand houses, beautiful ladies, riverboats, and magnolia trees. Such was my world as a 9 or 10 year old girl.

Crashing into reality later in my life and removing my rose colored glasses, I learned of a different Mississippi—one that suffered from abject poverty, citizen abuse and suffering, anger and overt discrimination between the peoples and institutions within the state of Mississippi. In her new book, *The War on Poverty in Mississippi: From*

*Massive Resistance to New Conservatism*, Emma J. Folwell leads us to see how attempts by governmental agencies, churches, and philanthropic organizations to right the "poverty" of Mississippi was at best minimally successful spanning the years of the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Folwell helps us to see that the supposed War on Poverty actually turned out to be the War on the War on Poverty as both reformers and segregationist citizens of Mississippi battled for change or for enforcing the status quo.

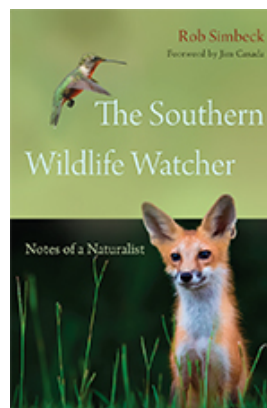
On page one of her Introduction, Folwell excerpts for us: "A paper for pariotic (sic) citizens," was a flyer distributed in the yards of Head Start teachers in Yalobusha County in the late 1960s. Its purpose was to discourage white children from attending the newly formed Head Start schools—a major effort to bring care and education to children in Mississippi. The flyer "declared that 'the worst thing is to mix with the (n---rs) by teaching in (N---) schools, and espailly (sic) those who are teaching in Head Start'". (Page 3)

Folwell challenges us to search for a meaning of "new conservatism" through the evolution and development of powers accrued to white men and black women in Mississippi. These individuals appear to have found comity through sharing leadership positions in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Their goal became to gain or to regain power and over time to subdue poverty in Mississippi.

Of great interest to explore is Folwell's Chapter Three "The Ku Klux Klan and the War on Poverty", page 72-99. Also see Folwell's final chapter, *The Demise on the War on Poverty*, page 196-211. There are a few black and white photos and some helpful map illustrations. You will find a Section Notes, a Bibliography and an Index. Recommended for public, school and academic libraries.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS*

**The Southern Wildlife Watcher: Notes of a Naturalist.** Rob Simbeck. Foreword by Jim Casada. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-164336-092-8. 168 p. \$18.99 (Pbk.)



This work is about animals and plants of the South. The author resides in Nashville, Tennessee. He has written