

Summer 8-1-2022

Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening: A Guide for the Deep South, Second Edition

Rebecca Rose
University of North Georgia

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



Part of the [Information Literacy Commons](#), [Scholarly Communication Commons](#), and the [Scholarly Publishing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rose, Rebecca (2022) "Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening: A Guide for the Deep South, Second Edition," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 70: Iss. 2, Article 8.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol70/iss2/8>

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.

making of the quilt or providing childcare to free white women to sew. She even thought about how the absence of slave women in the room would have altered the white women's conversations. (Surprisingly, the one scenario she didn't envision was that the possibility that the quilt was made in full by the hands of slaves.) But it was the labor of slaves that created the prosperity that allowed the Riddleys to acquire all those things for well over a hundred years.

The reality of that was often brushed aside when she was young. Growing up, Smith longed to believe that her ancestors were "nice people." Yet, she began to question the contradictions and silences in her school books and in her family's stories. When Smith worked as a copy editor, she realized her ignorance, and worked to rectify it. Smith read histories and novels written by African American authors—and by doing so, deepened her understanding of race in the American South. She also began to see more fully how her ancestors were active participants in the Southern slave society. She recounts Nat Turner's violent uprising, where rebel slaves encamped on the land of her relative, Major Thomas Ridley, noting that had he and his family been killed by the rebel slaves, she would not be here. Yet, she would not let the violence of the slave men absolve her ancestors' embrace of slavery, writing "there was always a choice, and my family made the wrong one" (p. 168).

The end of the book provides a resolution for the reader—spoiler to follow. While still saddled with the ongoing task of finding places for the last of her parents' possessions, an old friend talked Smith and Moreland into having a tag sale of their own. This suggestion resonated with Smith because her parents often had tag sales. But to make a meaningful profit, they would need to run the sale themselves. So after much cleaning, arranging, and pricing, the sale week came. The one thing Smith asked was that she not be there when it all went away. As fate would have it, Moreland had not hired enough help and he needed someone to work the cashier's table. That responsibility fell upon her. At precisely 8 o'clock in the morning, the tag sale started. On breaks she would wander through the house, rearranging the merchandise and listening to her brother talking to customers, telling stories that would end in deals. She wrote that the tag sale "was as fitting a memorial as any to the lives

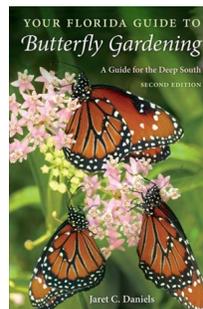
[her parents] had led" (p. 224).

The tag sale also served as resolution for Smith. As the sale progressed, it was as if she had a revelation. Instead of being sad as the objects left one-by-one, there was a sense of relief. She no longer felt the burden of the possessions. Instead, she writes, "My parents' things are not passing away by leaving me and changing owners. They are simply beginning new chapters of their long and storied lives" (p. 227).

The Sum of Trifles is filled with sadness and grief. Nevertheless, the book is a wonderfully pleasant and enjoyable read because Smith is such a talented writer. Her whip-smart sense of humor has a way of softening the sting of death and loss. This memoir is recommended for public libraries, and perhaps for those who want to reconsider their relationship to things.

Christopher Andrews, University of North Georgia

Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening: A Guide for the Deep South, Second Edition



Jaret C. Daniels
Gainesville: University Press of
Florida, 2022
ISBN: 9780813068534
256 p. \$24.95 (Pbk)

Covering butterflies and plants, this book provides a two-for-one field guide written specifically for Florida. The first chapter discusses how declining butterfly populations from climate change can benefit from informed landscaping decisions. Even small yards in cities and subdivisions can positively improve the availability of habitats by adding the right plants. The second chapter informs the reader of the four stages of the butterfly's life and that choosing plants supporting both the larvae and adult stages ensures that butterflies will return year after year. Many butterflies require specific plants for their species to thrive. For example, the book describes how the Gulf Fritillary's survival depends on the presence of passionflower varieties. The guide list for the butterfly species includes their identification criteria, behavior descriptions, habitat ranges, flight periods, and larval host plant information.

The book also contains helpful tips for the selection of plants, their placement, care, and maintenance for a successful Florida butterfly garden. The guide list of native or naturalized plants includes their description, height, bloom period, preferred growing conditions, growing range, commercial availability, role, and comments to help with making the best selection based on the plant's location on the property and other considerations.

The photographs showcase each butterfly and plant beautifully, and are contextually informative. Photos throughout the book typically show butterflies on the plants they pollinate, with several images accompanying the listing for each species. Other features worth noting in the book: a chapter devoted to Monarchs; a guide listing butterflies and the plants they require; and a guide listing trees, plants, and weeds and the butterflies they support. These guides provide a quick way to crosscheck information and details when purchasing plants to attract specific butterflies.

The primary focus of the book strictly uses a Florida lens, but information in the book can also apply to additional states located in the Deep South – as indicated in the subtitle – and beyond. In the species account section, the butterfly ranges describe regions only in Florida, but many species listed, such as the monarch, travel well beyond Florida state lines. Similarly, the list of plants that attract butterflies details Florida regions where they will thrive, but many plants on the list are native to locations outside of Florida as well. The author's discussion of the importance of choosing native landscape plantings to support at-risk butterfly populations is applicable worldwide.

This book is a wonderful resource for any public library or academic library throughout the southern region of the United States and will complement related works. Libraries outside the south with broad collections pertaining to butterflies and conservation should also consider purchasing this book for the general information it contains and for the discussion on the benefits of landscaping to attract butterflies. Readers with a wide interest in butterflies will enjoy reading about the flora and fauna exclusively native to the state of Florida. The numerous photographs are beautiful and people who vacation or travel to Florida will find this guide useful for visits to botanical gardens or landscaped areas in the south.

Daniels is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida who has authored numerous other books on birds, bees, insects, wildflowers, and gardening for other regions throughout the U.S. His expertise also includes being the curator for the Florida Museum of Natural History's McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity.

Rebecca Rose, University of North Georgia