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REVIEW: Best Garden Plants for Georgia

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NON-FICTION

Best Garden Plants for Georgia
by Tara Dillard and Don Williamson

This book has an attractive layout featuring photos and short descriptions of plants selected for being proven winners in Georgia gardens. Longtime residents will recognize many favorites, and they will also find others they may have heard of but not yet tried. Although the cover is busy, the interior is engaging. One plant is described on each page, with two photos showing the plant’s habit or distinctive feature, such as its flower. The authors give helpful tips about soil conditions and growth habits to help gardeners match plant and location. Some good trivia is included; for instance, Elaeagnus grows so well in Georgia that some gardeners consider it a weed. However, the authors could have included a stronger warning about English ivy—although it grows quite well, once it has smothered your trees and covered your house, you may rue the day you wished for a no-care ground cover. I also wish that native plants were always marked, as they are very definitely adapted to Georgia conditions and are unlikely to be regretted later on. Some descriptions leave the reader wanting more detail, but this book is intended as an overview. After you’ve read the highlights here, you’ll want to read more about those plants that pique your interest or just run to the nursery right away! Suitable for all ages, this book is recommended for public libraries and general-interest collections, especially in areas with many newcomers to the state. 

— Reviewed by Marie Daum
Gwinnett County Public Library

The Southern Railway: Further Recollections
by C. Pat Cates, Dick Hillman, and Sallie Loy

This book is a follow-up to the authors’ first book, Images of Rail: The Southern Railway. Whereas the first book presented a general overview of the railroad and its many aspects, this book presents a more focused look at several components of the railroad’s history. Through the author’s use of over 200 pictures and photographs, the reader is presented with a literal look at this history. The book is divided into five chapters. The first chapter gives a look at the facilities of the Southern Railway, including the Spencer Yard in Spencer, North Carolina, the John Sevier Yard in Knoxville, Tennessee, and the Inman Yard in Atlanta. Chapter two shows the history of passenger trains and equipment. This chapter includes many photos of passenger trains from around the south, including trains in Hawkinsville, Augusta, and Toccoa, Georgia. The role of the Southern Railway in World War II is the focus of chapter three. Included in this