

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Conifer Country

Michael E. Kauffman, 2012. Kneeland (CA): Backcountry Press. 206 pp. ISBN 978-0-578-09416-8 \$24.95 paper.

Being a trailblazer at heart, I normally have little use for the plethora of hiking books on the market. But when Michael sent me a copy of *Conifer Country*, I couldn't resist reading it. I was a little disappointed that the rest of the biota was left out, because botanical endemism is particularly high in the Klamath Range. Of course, the author had to focus his efforts and, with 39 conifers recorded in the region (even without the Del Norte pine, which is still in question),



he had more to work with than in any other temperate mountain range of its size on the planet. The first part of the book covers climate, geology and the tree species. Well over half of the book is dedicated to Klamath conifers and their distribution and his maps are the best yet. I found some mis-statements in the section describing the conifers. For example, in the section for gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) (pages 84-86), the 500 to 2,500 ft. elevation range should be from nearly sea level to 7,000 feet elevation (at Sawtooth Peak, Inyo County), and that the pine is dependent on fire to regenerate is misleading because both birds and rodents are involved. The description of its distribution in Oregon as outlier populations that naturalized from plantings for food or landscaping in recent human history was refuted in a 2009 article in this journal (*Kalmiopsis* 16:1-14). On page 99, the author states that an underlying band of serpentine that runs east to west from the mountains to the coast north of the Chetco is an edaphic barrier to northward movement of redwoods. These serpentine belts actually run north to south; rather than inhibited by this substrate, coast redwood thrives on weathered serpentine-derived soils. Then on page 113, he comments that "Alaska-cedar trees do not reach significant size in the Siskiyou—I've never seen one more than 35' tall." I've seen Alaska cedars 70 feet tall and nearly 3 feet in diameter on Whiskey Peak in the Oregon Siskiyou. These and a few other errors will be corrected in the second edition, coming soon.

The remainder of the book is all about hikes, but not to worry, none of these is anywhere as long as the Pacific Crest Trail or the Desert Trail, which both extend from the Mexican border and to the Canadian border. If you are a teacher, with a three month vacation, you might have enough time to complete the PCT in one season, or you can complete a half dozen of the 29 hikes listed in *Conifer Country*. The author is a teacher and clearly he has put his time to good use by writing this intriguing book (that is not only for teachers). The important thing to remember is to select hikes that are within your capability and time frame and be prepared to deal with the elements and strenuous climbs. Be sure to take time to smell the conifers and explore the geology and hydrology. When you are fit enough, you may want to do the Iron Man hike *a.k.a.* the 400-mile Bigfoot Trail mentioned at the end of the book. If you push so long

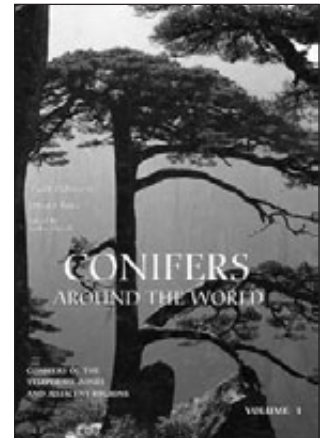
and hard that you think you've just seen Bigfoot, it's time to take a break! Is he really out there? Well, you will just have to take the trail and discover for yourself.

This book is well written and very readable, the color photography is superb and just enough black and white photos to draw you into the mountains to see the real colors. Would I recommend that you buy the book, well no, not unless you get off your duff and put it to good use! This guide to the Klamath Mountains can give you an experience of a lifetime. Don't pass up the opportunity, and be sure to take the book with you (carry it in a zip-lock bag to keep the elements out). —*Frank Callahan, Siskiyou Chapter.*

### Conifers around the World: Conifers of the Temperate Zones and Adjacent Regions

Zsolt Debreczy and István Rácz, edited by Kathy Musial. 2012. 2 vols. ISBN (Vol. 1) 978-963-219-063-1; (Vol. 2) 978-963-219-064-8 (Vols. 1-2) 978-963-219-061-7-0. 1089 pp. DendroPress Ltd., Budapest, Hungary. \$250.00 hardcover.

This enormous work is the most ambitious and comprehensive treatment of conifers ever realized. As the outcome of 2,000 field days through the temperate world by the authors and scores of volunteers during more than sixteen years, the two volumes weigh a total of 14 pounds and comprise 1,089 glossy 9- by 12.5-inch pages, 474 range maps, 541 taxa of 56 non-tropical conifer genera, 1,300 drawings, and over 3,700 photos. In Volume 1, conifers are introduced in a strikingly illustrated discussion entitled "About Conifers" that includes the age of discoveries, conservation, classification and identification, above-ground morphology, distribution, and climate. Next is a discussion of families (by Robert A. Price) and genera among conifers that fills 43 pages. The authors recognize seven families: Araucariaceae, Cephalotaxaceae, Cupressaceae, Pinaceae, Podocarpaceae, Sciadopityaceae, and Taxaceae.



The world's temperate conifer forests are divided into eleven regions: Europe, continental Asia, Japan, western and eastern North America, etc. The authors describe each region's climate zones, geology, history, floristics, illustrated with photos of conifer habitats. This section sets the scene for full-page treatments of that region's conifer species and varieties, arranged in alphabetical order. These treatments are the heart of this momentous work. Each includes accepted nomenclature, synonymy, brief discussions of ecology, distribution, or notable natural-history topics, and a compressed botanical description. Each page is dominated by a large photo of the tree, always in its natural habitat, accompanied by smaller ones showing details of cones and foliage. Three fir species and a variety and a pine species, all Mexican, have Debreczy & Rácz authorship, resulting from this project. Range extensions of several species are noted, including one of 500 km for Douglas fir in southern Mexico.

Volume 2 includes a Bark Gallery of 648 tree trunks, an appendix

of taxonomic and genetic variation issues, a glossary, references, and species list. An epilogue mourns the loss or endangerment of many of the habitats depicted in this work since they were visited in the project. There are many sidebars and other features conveying a variety of information.

The basic description above does not express the level of organization, dedication and perspiration that went into the numerous expeditions into remote areas to visit all these conifer habitats, (e.g. three trips to China and two to Mexico) or the rigors of finding, isolating and photographing examples of all these taxa in whatever weather the photographer (mainly Rácz) encountered. The photographs are excellent quality. The sepia-toned drawings, mostly by Emese Bárczi, meet the highest standard of botanical art. The editor has rendered the text with remarkably few errors and clear explanations of complex matters. The style is relaxed contemporary American English usage without the awkwardness of most translations. Impeccable design and construction make these volumes a joy to explore and peruse.

No worker can be expected to agree with all of Debreczy's hundreds of taxonomic decisions or emphases. For example, I feel that natural hybridization is slighted, especially in western North American pines (Jeffrey x Coulter, Jeffrey x ponderosa, singleleaf pinyon x Colorado pinyon, knobcone x Monterey) and firs (California white x grand); animal dispersers are given short shrift; and some taxa are more or less deserving of their rank than others. But such crotchets are a scant detraction from this invaluable summary of two centuries of conifer study. —Ronald M Lanner, *Placerville, CA*.

### David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work. An Illustrated Exploration Across Two Centuries in the Pacific Northwest.

Jack Nisbet, 2012. Seattle, WA: Sasquatch Books. 192 pages. Line drawings, maps, photographs, index. ISBN 13: 978-1-57061-829-1. \$27.95, hardcover.

A few years ago, I took part in a field trip at Mount Pisgah Arboretum led by Rhoda Love. I was totally taken by the story she told of David Douglas's trek through the Willamette Valley in search of sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*). He may not have set foot on Mount Pisgah, she said, but he wasn't far from here. She piqued my curiosity about

Douglas, so when I first saw *David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work* in a bookstore, I was drawn to acquire it. I wanted to know more about the Pacific Northwest that Douglas saw, and I found the illustrations, especially the colorful line drawings of wildflowers in the book, lovely.

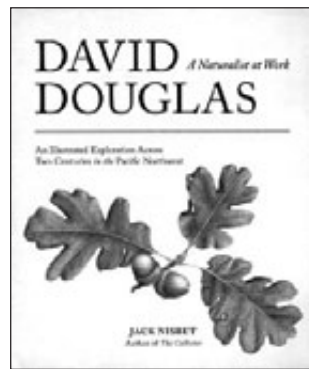
After Nisbet completed his biography of David Douglas (*The Collector*) [see review in *Kalmiopsis* 17:29-30], he became aware of how much more there was to tell about where Douglas traveled, his personality, and the plants and animals he collected or described. This book differs from *The Collector*, which was written as a biography. In his second book Nisbet uses a series of essays to connect "aspects of Douglas's work to modern reality." Nisbet pairs the adventures of a naturalist in the Pacific Northwest in the

1820s and early 1830s with his own experiences while researching Douglas's life and times two centuries later. Nisbet documents the people Douglas interacted with, the state of natural science at that time, and his excitement in describing the flora, fauna, and geography of a land that had not yet been well explored from a scientific viewpoint. The London Horticultural Society financed Douglas's journey to gather seeds and bulbs of horticultural value for the British Isles and to add to the taxonomic knowledge of the flora and fauna of the New World, and provided him letters of introduction to the Hudson's Bay Company.

In eleven essays (a prologue and ten chapters), Nisbet covers a variety of topics: Waters of the World (Crossing the Columbia Bar), Going Their Own Way (The People of the Northwest Coast), Awakening (The Roots of Plateau Culture), Science and the Company (Outsiders in the Hudson's Bay Company Empire), Invisible Kin (Mixed-Blood Families of the Fur Trade), Comrades and Miscreants (Bringing the Northwest to London), The Forest and the Trees (After the Fire), The Wise Economy of Nature (Adapting to the Landscape), The Iron Sphere (Earth's Magnetic Pulse), and Travelers (Riding the Wind).

Through these essays, Nisbet presents us with sketches, literal as well as descriptive, of the residents and explorers of the land where Douglas traveled. We meet ship captains, doctors who double as naturalists, fur traders and explorers, eminent botanists and geographers of the time, politicians/administrators/entrepreneurs who oversaw the Hudson's Bay Company's business, and native people who, for the most part, welcomed Douglas and fed his inquiring mind. We learn that native Hawaiian sailors who washed ashore after a shipwreck were the source of the name Waikiki Beach for an inlet at the mouth of the Columbia River. We are given glimpses into Douglas's gear and day-to-day tasks. Most readers of this review will be familiar with plant collecting equipment like the vasculum and plant press, but may not know how Douglas preserved animal skins using arsenic. Using the scientific instruments of the time, Douglas measured magnetic fields to determine latitude and longitude. Douglas described the native people and how they used plants and animals for food and to make clothing, baskets, and digging tools. All of the essays are richly illustrated: some are photographs of specimens sent to England by Douglas; many are lovely, colored line drawings of plants from *Edward's Botanical Register*, Hooker's *Flora*, and Richardson's *Fauna*. Nisbet is a historian so, in the back of the book, he supplies documentation in the form of a Chronology, Chapter Notes, Illustration and Caption Credits, a Bibliography and an Index.

The final chapter, "Travelers," seems particularly relevant to NPSO members with its thoughtful analysis of plant migration. He illustrates his points with lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*), a weed with a long history of human use that was already well established in the Pacific Northwest when Douglas arrived. Douglas also collected another species widely regarded as a European weed, reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), in pristine native habitats. Its subsequent invasiveness is now attributed to hybridization with European cultivars and disturbance of wetland habitats. A similar scenario is described for fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium* [*Chamerion angustifolium* according to the Oregon Flora Project]), native to both North America and northern Europe, but more aggressive in England after the introduction of New World genes. Two of our native shrubs, salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), have spread in Great Britain to form dense thickets that displace native plants.

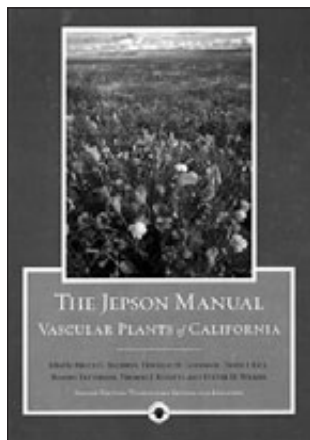


I recommend this book to anyone who enjoyed Nisbet's first book about David Douglas and to those who want to delve deeper into his world as well as into the natural history of the world around us today.  
—Mary Beth Averill, *Emerald Chapter*.

### The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition.

Bruce G. Baldwin, Douglas H. Goldman, David J. Keil, Robert Patterson, Thomas J. Rosatti and Dieter H. Wilken, editors. 2012. ISBN 978-0-520-25312-4. 1568 pp. University of California Press. Berkeley. \$125.

Twenty years ago, in 1993, I reviewed the new Jepson Manual in the third issue of *Kalmiopsis*. Now the second edition of California's definitive flora The Jepson Manual (TJM2) is published and available as both hard copy and electronic book. Like the first edition the 1500+ pages of TJM2 means it is no field manual. The quality paper appears to be well bound, but the book lacks a dust jacket. Only time will tell how well the volume will stand up to the unintentional abuse that floras receive by users that are constantly switching back and forth from keys to description to illustration and back again under a variety of environmental conditions. (The digital version allows the user to do this "flipping back and forth" using links.)



The second edition retained many of the features of the first edition, but with some nice additions and needed omissions. TJM2 updated discussions of the Geographic Subdivision of California and the Geologic, Climatic and Vegetation History of California. These sections have ecological value beyond the presentation of the flora. TJM2 no longer has a discussion of the pronunciation of scientific names, nor does it list the horticultural value for various species. Horticultural information was moved to an online database. Other acknowledgements of the digital age are inside the front cover: smart phone QR (Quick Response) codes for online access to the Jepson Flora Project and the Consortium of California Herbaria.

Modern enthusiasms for genetic and phylogenetic analysis accepted by the editors resulted in re-classification of vascular plants at the family level. These changes will perplex many users, especially older individuals who still struggle with accepting previous family names for the ones they learned in college, e.g., Brassicaceae for Cruciferae or Lamiaceae for Labiatae. The family classification appears inside the back cover and its facing page as a cladogram, which you can imagine as representing a figurative branching tree. This tree shows how TJM2 is organized to follow current understanding of vascular plant phylogeny. There are eight main branches (or clades) familiar to most readers (Lycophytes, Ferns, Gymnosperms, Eudicots, and Monocots), and some new ones, including Nymphaeales, Magnoliids, and Ceratophyllales. Each clade branches again and again, eventually terminating like some golden fruit in a family name that is either familiar or new. A number of genera formerly included in the Liliaceae have been placed in a different family e.g., *Camassia*, *Chlorogalum*,

*Hastingsia* and *Leucocrinum* are now in the Agavaceae and a number of former Scrophulariaceae (e.g., *Mimulus*, *Penstemon*, *Digitalis* and *Collinsia*) are now lodged in the Plantaginaceae. The main problem for most users will be to learn where their favorite taxon moved. To their credit, the editors chose to arrange the families, genera, and species in alphabetical order within their higher group making locating them a little easier.

In the cladogram asterisks indicate that a family comprises only non-native taxa (not part of the native California flora): \* indicates naturalized, at least in part, or \*\* which indicates waifs only. Mercifully, the family name at the end of each branch is followed by the page number where the family occurs in the text. I will be very surprised if users find this particularly useful. The index might be clumsier than the cladogram, but quicker because it is alphabetical. Alternatively, download one of the several available alphabetical lists of family names with TJM page numbers. As with all changes, there will be grumbling until new things are learned and the old if not forgotten, at least set aside and the new accepted.

On the other hand, those who prefer going back to the 1970s might like some of the changes in the former Gramineae (Poaceae). *Stipa* is back, and includes all its former members (which had been split into *Hesperostipa*, *Achnatherum*, *Nassella*, etc.). The fescues are all back together again, including the cultivated fescues, tall and meadow (*F. arundinacea* and *F. pratensis* are *Schedonorus* in Flora of North America), and all the annual fescues (*Vulpia*), as well as *Leucopoa kingii*. Our Oregon fescue (*F. roemerii*) is gone, submerged into *F. idahoensis*. Then the lumping process goes even further: the former *Lolium* ryegrasses are also fescues, now *Festuca perennis* (which includes *L. multiflorum*) and *F. temulenta*. *Podagrostis* is gone, returned to *Agrostis*. Crested wheatgrass is still *Agropyrum cristatum*, but the other *Agropyrum* species of the 1970s are mostly *Elymus* here, e.g., *E. repens*, *E. smithii*, *E. trachycaulus*, *E. lanceolatus*, *E. ponticus*. Our beautiful native vanilla grasses (*Hierochloë*) remain submerged in *Anthoxanthum* with the weedy vernal grasses (as in Flora of North America).

The question for Oregon botanists is "Should I spend that much money for TJM2?" The answer might be yes, depending on the proximity of your botanizing sphere to California, or if you are keenly interested in the California flora and want to know how the collaborators classified and named it. Unfortunately, as a big complicated book, TJM2 has a big complicated errata list: [http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/JM12\\_errata.html](http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/JM12_errata.html). Most Oregon botanists are probably hoping that the wait for our Oregon Flora will not be too long; it will be more important to us to see how the Oregon Flora Project handles the nomenclature, classification, and identification of Oregon's vascular plants which, so far, is not following the California lead. —Frank Lang, *Siskiyou Chapter*.

### Oregon Geology: Sixth Edition.

Elizabeth L. Orr and William N. Orr, 2012. Corvallis (OR): Oregon State University Press. 304 pp. ISBN 978-0-87071-681-0. \$24.95 paper.

All botanists who are serious about understanding the native and introduced flora of a region should have, along with their floras and field guides, at least one good geology book on the reference shelf. Based on my recent experiences as editor of this journal in having to arbitrate disputes over geology in manuscripts, the Orrs' Sixth Edition Oregon Geology would be my choice of a reference.



This book is an Oregon classic and, because this is the sixth edition, you can be sure that most of the errors that creep into the publication process have long since been corrected. Since the previous edition in 2000, the overall shift in geologic thinking has been toward tectonics and away from general geology and economics. Thus, the Orrs place more emphasis on the geologic hazards of earthquakes and tsunamis, both of which are more directly relevant to ordinary citizens, than on gas and mineral reserves (still relevant, but indirectly).



There are two obvious ways that one might organize the material for a book on geology: chronologically or geographically. The authors chose to tell the long history of Oregon's geology by region, which makes the information more accessible to botanists whose map reading skills may be better than their fluency in the language of geologic time. The authors chose to tell the long history of Oregon by region, which makes the information more accessible to botanists whose map reading skills may be better than their fluency in the language of geologic time. After an introductory chapter (Life on the Edge), the book comprises nine chapters: Blue Mountains, Klamath Mountains, Basin and Range, Owyhee Plateau, High Lava Plains, Deschutes-Umatilla Plateau, Cascade Mountains, Willamette Valley and Coast Range & Continental Margin. Closing out the book are a long list of references and a comprehensive index.

One of the most valuable parts of the book is the chart on pages 10 and 11 in the Life on the Edge chapter. (Life on the Edge refers to Oregon's position on the leading edge of a moving crustal plate.) The chart displays clearly the relationship between time and space in Oregon geology. Along the left vertical axis is geologic time (by era, period, epoch, and millions of years ago) from the Archean through the Holocene. Horizontally, the middle column is Western Oregon and Cascades and the right column is Eastern Oregon. Below each of these headings are the formations and events (terraces, volcanism, glaciations, etc.). Put a tab on this page when you get your book, so you can refer back to it to keep your bearings while reading the material about specific locations, as this is "the big picture." I'm sure I'm not the only botanist who can't always remember the relationship of the Eocene to the Pliocene.

The other most valuable aspect of this book is the abundance of line drawings, maps and photographs. There is no color inside the book, but that doesn't detract from the value of the illustrations. (It only detracts from the price, which is a good thing.) New to this edition are the human interest biographical sketches and photographs of noteworthy geologists whose work contributed to this volume. For example, I learned that Mark Ferris, a native of Medford and raised in nearby Phoenix, grew up in the shadow of the Eocene Payne Cliffs Formation, which is the view out my front window.

This book is packed with so much fascinating information about parts of Oregon that I'm going to pack it in the utility box in the back of our 4Runner so we have it with us every time we travel the back roads of Oregon. —*Cindy Roché, Siskiyou Chapter.*

## Walking Distance - Extraordinary Hikes For Ordinary People.

Robert and Martha Manning. 2012. ISBN 978-0-87071-683-6. 248 pp. Oregon State University Press. \$35 paper.

Having walked some of the world's better-known trails, I was intrigued with this book when I first saw it advertised in the OSU Press catalogue. The title immediately piqued my interest as I am always looking for a new hiking adventure. Here was a book with thirty walking routes scattered around the world, of which I had completed only two. As I turned the pages, my bucket list lengthened, and I found a wealth of information to get me started planning my next big hike.

The title of the book combines the terms "Walking Distance" and "extraordinary Hikes." I was puzzled because I always considered my long distance foot travels as hikes not walks. However, after checking with the dictionary, the difference became clear and I understood why the author used both terms. Walking is defined as travel on foot at a moderate pace; hiking is walking a great distance. So if you like to walk, and want to extend your miles into long distances, and like to travel afar, then this book will divulge many new opportunities for you.

The brief introduction provides the essential basics for those who haven't done a long distance walk before, including how to walk, planning a long-distance walk, clothing, gear, food, way finding and walking ethics.

The thirty extraordinary hikes described in the book include eleven routes here in the United States, with the remainder in other countries around the world, ranging from New Zealand and Australia to Europe and South Africa. There is one in Peru and another in Turkey. From rugged



mountain hikes at high altitudes, pastoral hikes through country landscapes of Europe, to spiritual walks across an entire country, the book offers hikes that vary in ruggedness and amenities. The descriptive pages offer hiking opportunities for different skill levels and interest. The hike descriptions are like hors d'oeuvre before a big dinner. There is just enough information to whet your appetite for the full meal to follow. To enjoy the main course of actually doing the hike, one will have to do additional planning using the section entitled "further reading" at the end of each chapter. I have walked a couple of the routes that are in the book and find the authors have covered the basics rather well. Each walk description includes a general location map, length, types of accommodations (commercial, huts/refuges, camping), availability of baggage transfer, if there is an opportunity to walk the distance in sections and the degree of challenge. Since the authors have traveled all the routes described in the book, they offer their personal insights to each of the trail's attributes and nuances.

Botanizing and walking fit together like hand in glove. Here is a book that can enhance your exploration of the world's flora and variety of ecosystems by offering you a collection of paths guaranteed to be well-managed and well-marked. Most of the trail descriptions discuss the ecosystem through which you will be walking, unusual botany, wildlife, or historic aspects of the walk and point out any precautions that should be taken. With the information in this book and some careful planning you can latch onto your hiking poles, grab your wildflower field guide and start walking in places you might not otherwise have ventured. —*Robert Korfbage, Siskiyou Chapter.*