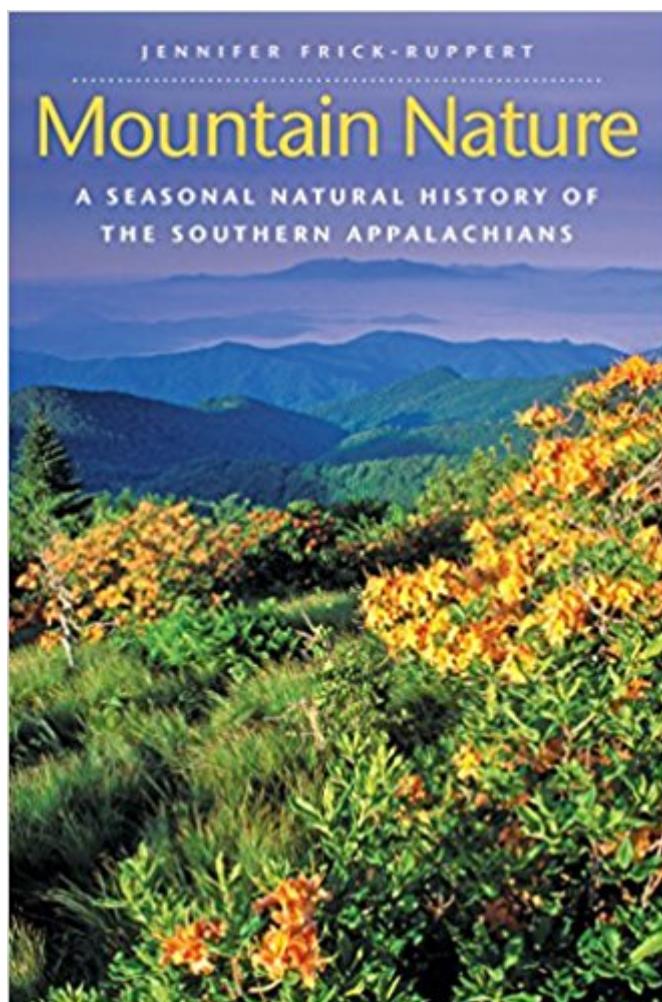


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# Mountain Nature: A Seasonal Natural History Of The Southern Appalachians



## **Synopsis**

The Southern Appalachians are home to a breathtakingly diverse array of living things--from delicate orchids to carnivorous pitcher plants, from migrating butterflies to flying squirrels, and from brawny black bears to more species of salamander than anywhere else in the world. Mountain Nature is a lively and engaging account of the ecology of this remarkable region. It explores the animals and plants of the Southern Appalachians and the webs of interdependence that connect them. Within the region's roughly 35 million acres, extending from north Georgia through the Carolinas to northern Virginia, exists a mosaic of habitats, each fostering its own unique natural community. Stories of the animals and plants of the Southern Appalachians are intertwined with descriptions of the seasons, giving readers a glimpse into the interlinked rhythms of nature, from daily and yearly cycles to long-term geological changes. Residents and visitors to Great Smoky Mountains or Shenandoah National Parks, the Blue Ridge Parkway, or any of the national forests or other natural attractions within the region will welcome this appealing introduction to its ecological wonders.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Deeply engaging and well written and should be required reading for scholars of the environmental humanities. . . . Nature enthusiasts seeking an accessible entry-point into the dazzling natural diversity of Appalachia will find Mountain Nature to be an excellent source as well; and because it covers such a wide array of subjects, even the lifelong Appalachian local will learn something new about his or her home region.--H-Net Reviews This is a volume that can be read straight through, but

it is perhaps best savored section by section as each season unfolds." --Virginia Wildlife An homage as much as a guide, a model of regional studies and a noteworthy event.--The Read on WNCA lively and engaging account of the ecology of this remarkable region. . . . Stories of the animals and plants of the Southern Appalachians are intertwined with descriptions of the seasons, giving readers a glimpse into the interlinked rhythms of nature, from daily and yearly cycles to long-term geological changes. . . . Residents and visitors . . . within the region will welcome this appealing introduction to its ecological wonders.--Southeastern Naturalist Fun and engaging. . . . This very accessible work will be of interest to a wide audience of readers, especially those who wish to enhance their enjoyment of the flora and fauna while exploring this major natural area of the US. . . . Highly recommended.--Choice

Anyone interested in nature will relish this evocative and informative book.--Timothy P. Spira, Clemson University The Southern Appalachian mountains are teeming with life--the birds and giant trees are obvious enough, but in the soil, the streams and springs, and even the tops of those tall trees, insects, fungi, salamanders, and mosses abound. The mountains would be impressive even if they, like tropical rain forests, were the same from month to month, but here the forms of life present a seasonal pageant as well. Mountain Nature takes a new perspective on this wonderful diversity, following the seasonal path from spring wildflowers to summer green to fall harvest and winter quiet.--Peter S. White, North Carolina Botanical Garden This book captured my attention immediately with the sleep patterns (or lack thereof) of animals and plants. I remained captivated by all the intricacies of nature and how interdependent we are with all species on this earth. As I look at my orchids, I know now why I have such difficulty growing them. Thanks for this wonderful insight into Mother Nature.--Katherine Skinner, North Carolina Nature Conservancy

The reviewer "Howie" provides a very excellent and accurate description of what this book is on paper. So I will speak to what the reading experience is - or was to me, at least. Jennifer Frick-Ruppert's prose and subject quickly leads one into a sort of serenity - almost an intimate conversation that is so engrossing it transports the reader into some semi-mystical world somewhere between the fog of the Smokies and the laugh of the New River. And like the wee wildflowers and busy little lives she describes, she leaves myriad anecdotes of ecological knowledge strewn about like tiny gems for the reader to find and put in their pocket. Somehow she makes the smallest tidbits of natural knowledge about the most humble things seem incredibly and delightfully important. I would have to describe "Mountain Nature" as either "wonderfully relaxing

and delightfully refreshing" or as "wonderfully refreshing and delightfully relaxing". Either one would fit it like a suede glove.

A most enjoyable read for any member of our natural community. Her commentary on the nature of Nature is an informative, understandable, brilliant scientific exposition which allows us to share her visions of the "breathtakingly beautiful" southern Appalachians.

This is the definitive guide to Southern Appalachian ecology. The book is kind of a hybrid between popular science (on ecology) and field guide. It is divided into four sections -- one for each season, and the author describes in detail the animals and plants that are most often observed in each season. The book is also furnished with some pretty good photographs to help the reader identify these animals and plants. I only wish more animals and plants (especially the latter) were documented and more photographs were included; however, I understand that could increase the volume and price of the book to impractical levels. As is, it is a keeper on my shelf that I can consult with every now and then, probably especially before and after my hiking trips. If I could complain about one thing, it is the author's liberal use of exclamation marks -- many a paragraph ends with one! (I am borrowing one here too :-)). But this is rather minor and more like a humorous silliness than an annoyance.

I enjoyed the narrative of this book but the Kindle version didn't show the plates in color. What a disappointment. For this book the print version would be a better option.

This book can't quite decide if it wants to be a nature journal or scientific treatise. I found it very informative and enjoyable.

I bought two of these for brothers that spend a lot of time outdoors. Both for work and leisure activities. Definite hit for both of them.

Would not recommend.

I've read very good reviews on this one and I wanted to learn more about my native land. There are many choices for reading about Appalachia and I would rank this among MUST reads. It's very interestingly written.

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