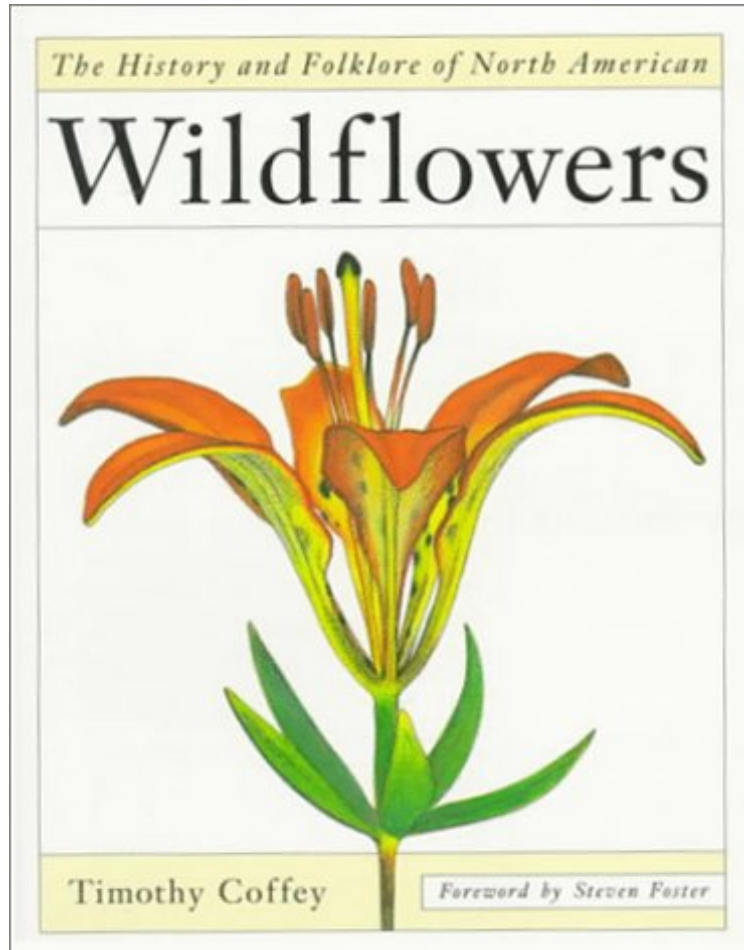


The History and Folklore of North American Wildflowers

Timothy Coffey

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Timothy Coffey : The History and Folklore of North American Wildflowers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History and Folklore of North American Wildflowers:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. so for that I was very pleased, but I was seeking a book that had ...By SSThis book has a lot of authoritative information about plants herbs and their traditional uses, so for that I was very pleased, but I was seeking a book that had plant lore, like appalachian or native american folk narratives involving plants, and this book is not that. There are brief bits of lore for many plants, but this book is more academic. I recommend it as a good book for people interested in acquiring some solid factual knowledge about North American Wildflowers.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So I was somewhat disappointed.By William MoskoffThere were two pages that were heavily marred by the scribbling of a child. So I was somewhat disappointed.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy Alissa M. DennisSweet book but not that great.

This highly entertaining reference book presents the popular lore, social history, and practical uses of nearly seven hundred native flowers.

From Booklist For this book, plants were chosen from those listed in standard guides, such as Peterson and Audubon Society publications. Entries discuss about 700 plants from over 90 families. Plants featured were those used by the Indians and/or colonists. Arrangement is by family according to evolutionary development, i.e., the oldest (lizard's-tail) to most recent (orchid). For each of the entries, basic information includes the common name, the Latin name and its translation, and any vernacular names. One or more paragraphs quote what various writers have observed about the plant. For example, the entry Houseleek (13 vernacular names, including hen-and-chickens) refers to a Roman belief alluded to by William Bullein (1562), mentions its use in Ireland (citing Grigson, 1955), and quotes Thoreau's 1850 description. There are one or two illustrations per page, line drawings reprinted from Britton and Brown's *Illustrated Flora* (1896). The 10-page introduction discusses scope, major sources consulted, indexing, illustrations, and sources of vernacular names. Included are a glossary and a brief section of biographies (Pliny the Elder to Jacob Bigelow). A 12-page bibliography of books and articles and two indexes (personal names and plant names) conclude the book. The History and Folklore is less than the title suggests. It is basically a compilation of folklore the author found in the sources consulted, including occasional poems. Treatment is not comprehensive or detailed. The line drawings, with neither color nor indication of scale, are more interesting than informative. This source is most appropriate for home-browsing use; it is an acceptable purchase for public and academic libraries. Only botanic collections with comprehensive collections need feel constrained to acquire. About the Author With more than 40 years of experience in the herbal field, Steven Foster is author, co-author, and photographer of seventeen books. He lives in Eureka Springs Arkansas, in the heart of the medicinal plant-rich Ozarks.