

## BOOK REVIEW

**Guide to the Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Tennessee.** B. Eugene Wofford and Edward W. Chester. 2002. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville. 286 pp. \$29.95 (paper). ISBN 1-57233-205-0.

Popular or semi-popular guides to wildflowers (generally herbaceous angiosperms), profusely color-illustrated, abound. And each year new ones are released (I am guilty myself of adding to the glut). In contrast, the number of guides devoted to woody plants—trees, shrubs, and woody vines—is much smaller. Thus, the publication of this attractive volume, which focuses on this important group of plants, is notable and welcome.

The Introduction gives an excellent overview of the floristics and vegetation of Tennessee, including a description of its eight physiographic provinces. The numerous references should be invaluable for anyone who wishes to pursue further the plant life of the state. There also is a useful glossary.

The main body of the guide consists of keys, the first being a key to the three groups of woody plants included: gymnosperms, monocots, and dicots (the newer eudicot category is not recognized). Following are keys, using primarily vegetative features that lead to the approximately 400 species. For each species featured, there is given flowering, fruiting times, and the distribution by physiographic provinces (rather than by a map). De-

scriptions are given mainly at the level of the family and genus rather than the species.

Most recent plant identification guides have color illustrations, either photographs taken in the field or paintings. The authors chose instead a third alternative, one not generally used: photos of freshly collected herbarium specimens. For most of the angiosperms, either flowers or fruits are shown along with the leafy branches; the acorns and hickory nuts should prove especially useful for the identification of oaks and hickories.

Compromises are the rule in the preparation and publication of field guides. One might prefer that each species have a complete description and on the same page with its illustration (rather than all the illustrations together in a separate section). But such a format would have added to the price and size of the book.

Eugene Wofford is director of the herbarium at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Edward Chester is professor of biology at Austin Peay State University. Both are highly regarded botanists at their respective institutions and are to be congratulated on this comprehensive and authoritative volume. It should fit nicely into a backpack and be useful in adjacent portions of adjoining states as well as in Tennessee.

Thomas E. Hemmerly  
Department of Biology  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132