

Kauffmann, Michael Edward. 2012 (publ. May 2013). *Conifer country: A natural history and hiking guide to 35 conifers of the Klamath mountain region*. Backcountry Press, Kneeland (www.backcountrypress.com). 206 pp., ill. (some col.), col. ep. maps, 217 × 144 mm, ISBN 9780578094168 PB, \$19.95. — With 4 sect.: 17-p. intro (re. book; its use; the region; tax. diversity; adaptation; geol.; climate), 101-p. tax. pt. (def. conifer; re. maps; descr. pt.), 29 hikes (68 pp.), back matter (13 pp.—list tables, figs., col. pls.; unill. glossary; biblio.; future; bionote; no index). ◀

Three RevNots ago (*Taxon* 62: 427) I extolled the virtues of local or regional guidebooks (excursion floras), for instance, Hoppe's *A field guide to the flowers of the Alps* (2012) reviewed just above. Library holdings are usually spotty or incomplete for such popular (non-technical) guides published outside the geographical or linguistic areas of one's institution, for example, for Berkeley, respectively, for Collins/HarperCollins publications in Britain or Kosmos ones in Germany. An equally if not more elusive variant is the hiking guide. These typically have had rather little information on biology, except perhaps for well-known regions such as Joshua Tree National Park. However, hiking guides with considerable data on natural history are now appearing from dedicated and knowledgeable amateurs due to increased awareness of ecology and climate change, ready access to the Internet, convenient and economical self-publishing, and field work forfeited by professionals ensconced in the lab pursuing molecular biology.

Conifer country (2012) subtitled *A natural history and hiking guide to 35 conifers of the Klamath mountain region* by naturalist and teacher Kauffmann is an excellent recent example of a combined hiking, natural-history guide, with emphasis on the latter. The book is resplendent in its copious illustration, its well-written, indeed lyrically enthusiastic text, its descriptive detail, its astute observations, and its synthetic capability. This work is an unexpected trove befitting a geologically, climatically, and biologically complex area that is a hotspot of conifer diversity: 35 species (36 taxa).

Conifer country has four sections: (1) A brief introduction focuses on the serpentine-rich Klamath Mountains of northwestern California and adjacent southwestern Oregon, including the cismontane coastal strip. (2) The 101-page descriptive part treats 22 species (23 taxa) of Pinaceae, 11 species of Cupressaceae, and 2 species of Taxaceae. Distinguishing features are noted for similar taxa, as bark and seed-cone characteristics of *Pinus jeffreyi* and *P. ponderosa*. A key to taxa is lacking. Eighteen color plates highlight vegetative and reproductive morphology. (3) The third section describes 29 hikes in 68 pages. Each hike is rated for “conifer count” (2–32 species), “difficulty” (“easy” to “extremely strenuous,” plus “auto tour”), and “distance” [1.4–30 miles (2.3–48.3 km), plus 221 and 400 miles (356, 644 km), and a 160-mile (257-km) auto loop]. For each hike the text pages present a map, an elevational profile, a photo, and a descriptive overview, but *not* a detailed trail guide. This must be downloaded from www.conifercountry.com using a password located at the verso bottom of the specific hike described in the printed book. This is an efficient approach that saves appreciable space in the book, allows one to print out only hikes one will do, and

facilitates updating trail descriptions. However, the process should be conspicuously noted in the book. It would be a pity to take this gem of a book on a trip and have no means at one's destination to have trail guides available. (4) The back matter is standard, except for the lack of an index.

Kauffmann's visually striking and comprehensive website (www.conifercountry.com) for *Conifer country* (2012) has much additional information. There is an equally impressive website (http://pacslope-conifers.com) for his companion natural history of conifers entitled *Conifers of the Pacific slope: California, Oregon, and Washington* [cover subtitle: *A field guide to the conifers of California, Oregon, and Washington*] (2013; ISBN 9780939431403 PB, \$19.95) and treating 65 conifer species in these states plus also in Idaho, Nevada, southern British Columbia, and northern Baja California. I have not seen this book, only excerpts on the website.

Some critical comments and suggestions for the next edition of *Conifer country* are: (1) In the subtitle it should be “35 conifer species” rather than “35 conifers,” which strictly (pedantically) speaking means only 35 trees. (2) Taxa presently follow the 1993 edition of *The Jepson manual* rather than its 2012 edition; the 2012 treatment of gymnosperms has been available online (*Jepson eFlora*—see notice below) for several years. (3) The ubiquitous *Pseudotsuga menziesii* is described first.

However, I miss (or missed) an explanation for the sequence adopted for other taxa, a sequence that is neither alphabetical nor taxonomic. (4) The back verso endpaper should give an index to the 35 species (36 taxa) treated. (5) The range map shows *Pinus sabiniana* as endemic to California, thus overlooking its recent report from Jackson and Josephine Counties, southwestern Oregon [F. Callahan. 2009. Discovering gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) in Oregon. *Kalmiopsis: Journal of the Native Plant Society of Oregon* 16: 1–14, covers 1–2]. (6) The key to taxa in the Pacific-slope book should be condensed into a key for the Klamath book. (7) The elaborate website offers some improvements over the book, for example: Range maps are mostly in color on the website versus mostly in B&W in the book. The color plate on the website pairing the similar *P. jeffreyi* and *P. ponderosa* is preferable to the pairing in the book of the dissimilar *P. jeffreyi* and *P. sabiniana*.

Both conifer books are exceptionally well done and invaluable travel companions. — Rudolf Schmid, UC

Steyermark's Flora of Missouri finished by Yatskievych: 3 volumes, 3600 pages, 2726 maps, 582 plates, 20 figures
Rudolf Schmid, UC

Yatskievych, George. August 2013. *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri*. Rev. ed. Vol. 3. [Untitled.] The Missouri Botanical Garden Press, St. Louis (www.mbgpress.org), in coop. w/ The Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City. xvii, [i], 1382 pp., ill., ep. indices, map, scale, ISBN 9780915279135 HB, \$65.00 (\$52.00 to 1 Dec. 2013). [Ed. 1 by J.A. Steyermark, Nov. 1963, 2nd. corr. printing 1968, Iowa State University Press, Ames, lxxxiii, 1725 pp. Vols. 1–2 rev. ed. 1999, 2006.] — With stat. summary, 1266-p.

