

BOOK REVIEWS

GROWING AND PROPAGATING WILD FLOWERS

Harry R. Phillips. 1985. Edited by C. Ritchie Bell and Ken Moore. With contributions by Rob Gardner and Charlotte A. Jones-Roe in collaboration with the staff of the North Carolina Botanical Garden. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London. Illus. by Dorothy S. Wilbur. Appendices. Glossary. Index. 331 p. Softcover, \$14.95.

Written, illustrated, and edited by people who are affiliated with the North Carolina Botanical Garden at Chapel Hill, this book is filled with practical information for anyone who wants to grow and propagate native wild flowers, carnivorous plants, or ferns in the Southeast, particularly the Carolinas. The emphasis is on propagation from seeds, spores, and cuttings rather than on transplanting, but one appendix does tell how to organize a rescue mission when a good site for native plants is about to be bulldozed. My only regret about this book is that I did not have a copy 15 to 20 years ago when I was attempting to landscape my wooded yard with native shrubs, wild flowers, and ferns.—EFP

THE WILDLIFE GARDENER

John V. Dennis. 1985. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Drawings by Matthew Kalmenoff. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. 294 p. Hardcover, \$17.95.

As Dennis noted in an earlier work, *A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding* (Knopf, 1975), one of the best ways to attract birds and other wildlife is to plant the native and ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers that provide food, nesting materials, and nesting sites. In addition to information on landscaping for the birds, Dennis's new book contains chapters on attracting mammals, bees, butterflies, moths, other insects, earthworms, and reptiles and amphibians. The appendix is a very useful list of plants—small trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers—that provide food for wildlife. Although the list is not broken down by geographic regions, the author indicates where plants do best and which animals are most likely to frequent them.

In discussing wildlife that is potentially injurious to people, buildings, crops, or residential plantings, Dennis suggests protective measures. He devotes a couple of pages to squirrel-proofing feeders, but admits that the task is impossible if the animal can jump to the feeder from a nearby support. The chapter on other insects features a list of insects that help to control insect pests. In the chapter on reptiles and amphibians the author cites statistics showing that in a 10-year period bees and wasps were each responsible for more human deaths than were snakes. He pointed out that the few snakes surviving in densely populated communities are mostly small, secretive, and harmless. Nonetheless, he urges caution when snakes are encountered, particularly where urban development has recently encroached upon wildlife habitat. Dennis also has a kind word for bats and several other generally misunderstood animals. Anyone who reads this book is bound to become a better conservationist as well as a better gardener.—EFP