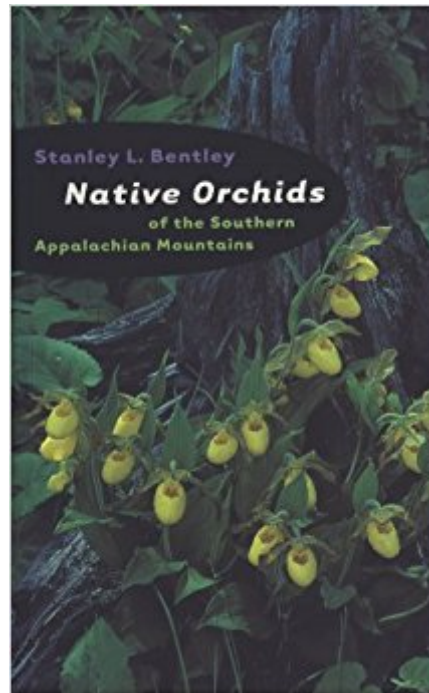




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Native Orchids Of The Southern Appalachian Mountains



Synopsis

This authoritative guide showcases the unmatched beauty and diversity of the native orchids of the southern Appalachian mountains. Based on Stanley Bentley's many years of nature study, it covers the 52 species--including one discovered by Bentley and named after him--found in a region encompassing western Virginia and North Carolina and eastern West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The entry for each orchid provides the plant's scientific and common names, a description of the flower (including color, shape, and size), and information on the time of flowering, range, and typical habitat, all in the context of the southern mountains. A range map accompanies each description, and Bentley's own superb photographs are an additional aid to identification. Using straightforward language yet incorporating the most up-to-date scientific information and nomenclature, the book will be welcomed by amateur naturalists or professional botanists looking for species in the field and by those who simply enjoy photographs of beautiful wildflowers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is quite a treat . "SIDA"

The combination of habitat information derived from the author's experience and beautiful photographs places this volume among the best of the regional orchid treatments. It will be of use to professionals and amateurs alike who want to know more about Appalachian orchids.--John V. Freudenstein, Ohio State University Although the southern Appalachians are known to botanists and wildflower watchers as a botanical paradise, it will probably surprise and then delight many people

to discover that over fifty species of orchids are native here. This book is the best treatment of these unique and fascinating plants available anywhere. The orchids have complex and decidedly three-dimensional flowers (owing to coevolution with insect pollinators) and the photography here is truly outstanding. Getting to know the orchids in our own backyards will lead to a deeper appreciation of the biological diversity around us. This book challenges all of us to explore more places, examine the world with more care and focus, and learn to preserve these hidden treasures.--Peter S. White, Director, North Carolina Botanical Garden, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Filled with great photography of 52 species of orchids found in the mountains of southern Appalachians. . . . This book is quite a treat for you amateur naturalists or professional botanists who happen to live, vacation or botanize in the southern Appalachians.--SIDA

In addition to magnificent photographs, this guide equips enthusiasts with a range map for each of the 52 encyclopedia-style plant entries.--Meridian

This latest book on native orchids is a real gem, one of the best --Systematic Botany

A welcome and invaluable addition. It is the first book that focuses in detail on the extensive orchid flora of these ancient and beautiful southern mountains. But this is no dry academic text. It is written in a conversational, sometimes almost folksy style based on the author's 25 years of experience in seeking out and photographing the orchids of his native Southern Appalachians. This makes the text easily accessible to the average reader. . . . Sparkling, crisply focused photographs.--Orchids--The Magazine of the American Orchid Society

I have recently started looking more for orchids around my area to photograph and this is a great book to have for anyone on that quest. First of all, the photographs are truly beautiful and inspiring, and secondly the book provides valuable information on where to look for these rare beauties of nature. It also mentions special aspects of orchid conservation, with the author's deep connection and concern for these plants showing through.

The book is roughly divided into two parts: Part 1 contains general information on orchids including when and where to look for them, while part 2 contains detailed descriptions of each orchid species. The book ends with a glossary and an index with common and scientific names. The pictures used are of excellent quality and come in a variety of sizes, with several full-page images. Some aspects of the book that I find highly useful are an overview table with flowering periods of all the orchids, and maps along with the plant descriptions highlighting the counties where each species can be found.

My only concern with this book would be that the plant descriptions are sorted alphabetically by scientific names, which may not be the most user-friendly organization. Having this part sorted by morphological features, e.g. flower shape and color, would make it easier to use as a field guide for a lay person trying to identify an unknown

plant. Since the index is also sorted alphabetically, it does not seem necessary to follow the same order in the species list. However, since the number of plants covered is limited (52) and most are very unique, it should not take a lot of time to thumb through the pages looking for a match.

The absolute best book on native Orchids of the Appalachians. Very enjoyable reading. Highly recommend to any naturalist

Exactly what I needed to research the native orchids around here. Quick and painless service. Thanks so much! I would order from you again,

Very nice book with great photos and information. The author knows his stuff and has been at it for many years.

Great great book very informative! I'll say it again, Great book

I bought this one as a replacement for my copy that grew "legs". I'll never see that original book, but now that I have another copy, I'm happy!

My love for wild flowers has sent me around the United States to enjoy their beauty in their natural habitat. I have relished the alpine plants of Colorado at elevations up to 14,000ft and wild lilies and irises along the rugged coast of Maine. Little did I know what botanical treasures lay within a mile of my own home in western N.C. and how much joy my children and I would experience as we searched for those marvelous creations known as orchids. In my opinion Stanley Bentley has given us the best regional book for the southern Appalachians (I own all the available books for my region). His combination of genuine and knowledgeable enthusiasm as well as years of experience in the field provides a tremendous guide for the novice or long time wild flower enthusiast alike. So what is the big deal about orchids, sometimes known as the jewel of the plant kingdom? Simply stated: exotic beauty, diversity of design (shape and form), and fascinating life cycle (that mysterious underground fungus dependency thing). Up for a botanical treasure hunt among the splendor of the southern Appalachians? Let Stanley be your guide, you will not be disappointed. But beware, once the "orchid bug" bites you may find yourself crawling through thickets, slogging through swamps, and scaling up steep ridges, mumbling latin to yourself, and having the time of your life!

This turns out to be an outstanding book and I'm very happy to have it. The text is pleasant to read, written in a friendly and personal way. The pictures are crisp and beautiful, and laid out nicely alongside the text for easy access while reading the description. One outstanding feature is the detailed habitat information based on the author's years of field experience in observing the habitats of each of these orchids. Another stand-out is that the author has done the photography himself, resulting in pictures that support and complement the text very well. I checked several books on orchids and wildflowers while trying to identify an orchid in my forest (which turns out to be a lily-leaved twayblade), and I found this book to be the best. In summary, I'm impressed with this book. I hope it will set a new standard for other books on regional wildflowers.

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