

## **Guides to the Trees and Forests of Colorado, and Guides for Colorado Naturalists**

### **Guides to the Trees and Forests of Colorado**

Cain, Kathleen. *The Cottonwood Tree*. Johnson Books, Boulder, 2007.

Carter, Jack and Marjorie C. Leggitt. *Trees and Shrubs of Colorado*. (March 2006), 370 pages. “The number of woody plants described has been doubled to 295 species, with the keys and descriptions rewritten and scientific names updated. The book is expanded to include 120 new illustrations and a new section of 185 color photographs.”

Elmore, Francis H., and Jeanne R. Janish. *Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Uplands*. Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, Tuscon; 1976. The area covered by this book includes the southern fifth or so of Colorado. Includes detailed drawings for identification.

Feister, Roberta. *A Tree of Wonder*. Summit County Historical Society, Fairplay, Colorado, 1995. The Bristlecone pines of Colorado.

Kershaw, Linda, Andy MacKinnon, and Jim Pojar. *Plants of the Rocky Mountains*. Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver; 1998. Good details about some trees, plus hundreds of other plants, with good photographs.

Kelley, George. *A Guide to the Woody Plants of Colorado*. Pruett Publishing, Boulder, Colorado. 1970. A nice guidebook with brief detailed descriptions of Colorado trees and shrubs.

Lamb, Samuel H. *Woody Plants of the Southwest*. Sunstone Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1975. A good guide to the trees of the southwestern US including the New Mexico - Colorado border.

Lanner, Ronald M. *The Pinon Pine A Natural and Cultural History*. University of Nevada Press, Reno, Nevada, 1981. A popular account of the Pinyon pine in history and in the present day.

Marr, John W. *Ecosystems of the East Slope of the Front Range in Colorado*. University of Colorado Studies Series in Biology No. 8, University of Colorado Press, Boulder, 1961. The basics of forest ecology in this region, with details of particular studies in the area. Still valuable after 50 years.

Murphy, Alexandra. *Graced by Pines: The Ponderosa Pine in the American West*. Mountain Press Publishing, Missoula Montana. 1994. the Ponderosa pine in its natural settings across the American west: history, biology, uses, fire, etc.

Pielou, E. C. *The World of Northern Evergreens*. Cornell University, 1988. The area covered by this book begins at 45 degrees north latitude, remote from Colorado, but some of the information also applies to Colorado trees and forests. Pielou is a top naturalist and writer.

## Tree Books

Peattie, Donald Culross. *A Natural History of Western Trees*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston Mass; 1956. The finest descriptions of western trees and their settings. More literature than a field handbook, and a book about wilderness and the environment. Quite a large volume with accurate yet artistic drawings of the trees. Good information on the uses of each kind of tree and its place in the history of the west.

Schnieder, Al. *Southwest Colorado wildflowers, ferns, & trees*. <http://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com/>.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS. 2010. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory. *Fire Effects Information System* (<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>). A very detailed compilation of information available online about the trees of the Rocky Mountains. Each tree has some ten to twenty pages of information, including citations to professional investigations.

Veblen, Thomas T., and Lorenz, Diane C. *The Colorado Front Range: A Century of Ecological Change*. Univ. of Utah Press. Salt Lake City, 1991. Descriptions of life zones and plant succession along the Front range, and an investigation of changing forest types in the area based on pair photographs taken decades apart. Comparison of the photographs reveals remarkable changes in the past century. Discussions of the history and role of wild fire in the region.

Weber, William A., and Ronald C. Wittmann. 2011. *Colorado Flora: Eastern Slope and Colorado Flora: Western Slope*. University Press of Colorado; 4<sup>th</sup> edition, two volumes. about the 2001 edition: "This book is currently the bible for taxonomic nomenclature in CO. There is a significant amount of discussion when it comes to assigning names to various plants, but Dr. Weber presents a balanced approach that combines mainstream scientific thought with his own extensive field experience." "No photos. Does have a lot of line drawings of species. But if this book is to be of any value to you, you have to learn to read the botanical keys."

Brunstein, F. Craig, 2006, *Growth-form characteristics of ancient Rocky Mountain bristlecone pines (Pinus aristata)*, Colorado: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5219, 90 p., online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2006/5219/>, accessed April 9, 2007.

## Guides for Colorado Naturalists

Beidleman, L., R. G. Beidleman, and B. E. Willard. 2000. *Plants of Rocky Mountain National Park*.

Benedict, Audrey DeLella, 2008. *The Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Rockies: Colorado, Southern Wyoming, and Northern New Mexico*, Fulcrum. A very well-written and complete guide to the natural life of this area. Includes descriptions of the important plants and animals and their relationships. Also has geology and climate.

Benyus, Janine M., 1989; Fireside. *The Field Guide to Wildlife Habitats of the Western United States*. Simon and Schuster, New York. Excellent descriptions of some of the primary animals, birds, and plants and their relations, grouped by habitat, with advice on where to find habitats and how to see the animals.

Emerick, John C. 1995; *Rocky Mountain National Park Natural History Handbook*. Rocky Mountain Nature Association / Roberts Rinehart, Niwot, Colorado. A fine short handbook covering plants, animals, geology, and forest types, with abundant photos by some of the best photographers in Colorado. Text is brief but successful in summarizing the material. Useful for adjacent areas as well.

Huber, Thomas P., 1993. *Colorado: The Place of Nature, The Nature of Place*. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, Colo. Describes all factors of the environment - geology, climate, weather, plants, animals, human effects, and so on - for twelve locations in Colorado. A pleasant and informative introduction to the natural history of the state. Many citations for further reading about each area.

Knight, Douglas H., 1993. *Mountain and Plains: The Ecology of Wyoming Landscapes*. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven. This book is a summary of the ecology of Wyoming, and applies to parts of neighboring states that share the same regional ecosystems. It is a very thorough review of the professional literature on Rocky Mountain forests. Easy to read, at college level, for the person who wants detailed explanations. This book does not provide any plant identification. Includes a very extensive bibliography.

Kricher, John C., 1993. *A Field Guide to the Ecology of Western Forests*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Mass.

Mutel, Cornelia Fleisher, and Emerick, John C., 1992. *From Grassland to Glacier The Natural History of Colorado and the Surrounding Region*, 2nd edition, Johnson Books, Boulder, Colo. A guide to the plant and animal life of Colorado. Emphasis is on the most common plants and animals, and their interactions. Similar scope to Audrey Benedict's book without being so comprehensive.

Alden, Peter. 1999. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Rocky Mountain States*. Knopf.

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