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Naturalist's Guide To The Atlantic Seashore: Beach Ecology From The Gulf Of Maine To Cape Hatteras (Naturalist's Guide Series)



Synopsis

From the North Carolina's Outer Banks to Maine's rocky coast, this comprehensive guidebook covers the ecology, wildlife, plants and ocean creatures in full-color photographs and vivid detail. No other book includes all of the plants, animals, and terrain along this stretch of coastline, making this a must-have for anyone who lives or recreates near the Atlantic. The diverse habitats of the seashore, from the Rocky Shores to Sandy Beaches, Estuaries, Tidal Flats, Salt Marshes, Seagrass Meadows, and the Open Ocean are explored in detail in this user-friendly guide and natural history. The easy-to-use layout, comprehensive index, water-resistant cover and guaranteed binding make this a beautiful volume of natural history and biodiversity. Scott W. Shumway is a professor of biology at Wheaton College. He lives in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's unusual to find a book with this depth of scientific detail that is nonetheless completely accessible to the non-scientist. Our family vacations near the Maine coast every summer, and we make day trips to the Massachusetts and Connecticut shores regularly -- this book gives us the information we need to really understand and enjoy what we're seeing as we explore tide pools and estuaries. Parents whose children are curious about what they find as they explore the beach will find this guide indispensable, as will home schooling families who are looking for an educational guide to the shore. You won't be disappointed!

I really love this book! I have other guides to the Atlantic Seashore and this fills a gap because it goes into depth on the topics it covers. This book is organized as to major habitat types which is informative in itself. You will find chapters on Rocky Shores, Sandy Beaches, Estuaries, Tidal Flats, and so on. As a regular visitor to Cape Cod I found the entries delightful and informative. For example I didn't know that the common periwinkle was introduced to North America from Europe circa 1840 by colonists in Nova Scotia. I also found a very large hermit crab on my last visit to the Cape in September 2014 and thought it must be very old - until I read an entry in this book explaining that the crabs inhabiting periwinkle shells and oyster drills are a different species than their much larger cousins who inhabit whelk shells. And did you know that the Atlantic Surf Clam can live up to 31 years and grow to 9 inches? The book is filled with many such nuggets of information that will be of interest to the weekend naturalist.

When I get a chance to spend time outdoors in a beautiful place, I'm always drawn to a bookstore or library afterward to find out more. And I'm almost always disappointed. It's hard to find books about nature or place that are not too cute, too literary, or set up like a catalog. (No disrespect to people who like these formats.) A book that shows the relationships between things, at a reasonable level of detail, with a good but not overwhelming reference list -- that's heaven sent. The photos are nice-looking and informative without being so large that they drive up the price. It totally hits the "wow, I'd like to know more about that" spot. I wish I could find a way to say the following without criticizing other approaches, so again, no disrespect intended: It's not about the author's feelings -- or about politics -- or about some rigid system imposed by a remote university -- it's about the beach. Fun. Informative. Awesome.

This book is so much more than your typical field guide. It not only helps identify different organisms, it explains how they live, interact, and function in the beach community. The photographs are superb, the text easy to read and entertaining, and the book has all the neat seaside critter "stories" that are so engaging: How starfish eat (oops, I mean sea stars - they extrude their stomach into their prey); How shells get those small round holes in them that make them perfect for stringing on necklaces (created by a Moon snail). Lots of ecology, life history and conservation. A must have for anyone who spends time at the shore!

A superlative resource for anyone looking for information on the Mid-Atlantic coast. My young sons and I collect specimens from our local beach and bay, and even though we have done so our entire

lives we still need help in identification, and this book by far has been our most constant resource. Dr. Shumway has even taken time from his busy schedule to personally answer emails to help us with our efforts. The book is very easy to follow and reference, the descriptions are straight to the point and accurate.

I first got the book from the locale library...I enjoyed it so much I renewed it for another 24 days...brought it back overdue...and did not mind- paying the fine. I knew I had to have my own copy...I read it twice cover to cover over two months and I've gone to the Long Island Sound beaches and bays four times so far this Spring.....

I live on the coast of Maine (on an island, in fact) and have been a beachcomber all my life. I knew (or thought I knew) a fair amount about marine biology, weather patterns, tides, and so forth. This book answered a lot of questions I forgot I had! That pinkish coral-like crusty stuff all over the sea bottom? Coralline. How to tell the difference between rockweed and knotted wrack, why mussels and barnacles are so predictably layered on the rocks... Loved it!

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