Ontario Wild Flowers

By Linda Kershaw. 2002. Lone Pine Publishing, 10145-81st Ave., Edmonton, AB V6E 1W9. 144 pp., illus. $19.95.

This book will be a most valuable introduction to Ontario wildflowers not only to young people, who are just beginning to admire the plant colours as the flowers develop through the spring and summer, but also for all ages beyond.

The first five pages present a colour guide to the flowers of the 101 species presented in this book. This is followed by "Why Learn More About Wild Flowers?", "What is a Wildflower?", "Tips for Identifying Wildflowers", "To Pick or Not to Pick", "Danger, Beware!", "Organization of the Guide", "Information for Each Species", "Fun with Flowers", and "Using a Key to Identify Wildflowers". All these present useful and most informative information. The "Key to the Wildflowers in This Book" has a key layout I have never seen before. Fine line drawings of the flower parts of all the wildflowers treated in this book are a part of the key and are accompanied by the common name and the page number on which each of the 101 may be found. On each of these pages there are two beautiful pictures, the larger one which displays the plant and the smaller one which displays the close-up of the flower or flowers. Beside these flower pictures is a most interesting paragraph on the history, reproduction, uses, and association with insects, animals, and people. This is followed by a short description of the plant, its leaves, flowers, fruits, time of flowering, habitat, distribution, and suggestions about picking or not picking.

This most interesting and colourful part is followed by a glossary which describes the various parts of the plants accompanied by fine line drawings of the various parts, suggested reading of other publications, a wildflower checklist, and common and scientific family names with page numbers where they may be found and an index of common and scientific names. An excellent photo of Linda Kershaw and her family completes the work. Congratulations!

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ENVIRONMENT

Remote Sensing for Sustainable Forest Management

By S. E. Franklin. 2001. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton, 407 pp. U.S. $99.95.

This book sets new standards on forestry and remote sensing. It is a must for foresters as well as for remote sensing scholars and people interested in the management of landscapes. It is not only "about understanding pixels", it is about the world we live in and its sustainable management. It shows how peaceful satellite imagery can be used to manage one of the most precious resources for the benefit of mankind: the global forests. Remote sensing applications are often applied as a technological fix. Instead, and as emphasized in the text of this book, remote sensing and other data are still not sufficiently used by forest managers to make best-informed and wise decisions. How easy does one have to make it for the managers so that good and long-term decisions are made towards a healthy planet? Indeed, the text shows that translating remote sensing data into valuable information is not always a simple task. Forestry as well as remote sensing are multidisciplinary research fields; a concept that most agencies and their bureaucrats worldwide still have difficulties coping with. It is easy to comprehend that only a valid research design converts remote sensing data into relevant information.

Based on his successful career in the field of remote sensing, author Franklin knows his material intimately. The reader will appreciate the inclusion of the history of remote sensing. The breakthrough of remote sensing came in 1968 but challenges still remained; e.g., with aerial photography still competing with remote sensing imagery for some applications, even trying to put specific remote sensing applications into doubt. In many cases, geo-referenced pixels (from remote sensing or orthophotos) are statistically more powerful than polygons (from interpreted aerial photography). Obviously, the field of remote sensing has still not even reached its level of maturity; thus, it will become the technique of the future. However, in the field of remote sensing there is still the conflict between the producer and the user. "It can be done with Remote Sensing" but "is this of use to you"? This book definitely helps to solve that issue.

As shown in the book, remote sensing has one of its strengths in forest management applications dealing for instance with forest cover types, determination of forest conditions, landscape change detection, fire and forest defoliation. In addition, the book shows nicely how remote sensing has itself established as the method of choice for forest inventory, and estimations of biomass and even forest structure. Ecological research topics like the role of scale and of modelling are also