

BOOK REVIEW 2003 - #2

Chadde, Steve W. A Great Lakes Wetland Flora: A Complete Guide to the Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Upper Midwest. Second Edition. 2002. vi + 648 pages; dichotomous keys; descriptions; illustrations; references; illustration credits; appendices; index. PocketFlora Press, Laurium, Michigan. Soft Cover. ISBN 0-9651385-5-0. Price: US\$ 30.95. Available from PocketFlora Press, 436 Hecla Street, Laurium, MI 49913.

Already, we have available the second edition of Chadde's useful manual, A Great Lakes Wetland Flora. The first edition was published rather recently (1998), and was reviewed here [93 (4): 309-310, 2000]. The second edition takes the same effective approach as the first edition in the systematic treatment of the types of wetland communities and the floristic elements of the upper Midwest. However, the current edition has numerous noteworthy changes and new features, which have improved its utility over the previous edition.

At first, one notices the manual's longer and narrower dimensions resulting in a more convenient pocket or side pouch book for field activities (ca. 22 x 13 x 4 cm). The dichotomous keys now have paired Arabic numerals for each set of couplets, which facilitates their usage. In addition to some new illustrations, the former illustrations are enhanced, improved with respect to selected structural details, and critical structures are labeled for selected species throughout the manual. Two to several illustrations may occur on a single page or on part of a page, but there is no confusion as to what species the illustration belongs, because each is clearly labeled with its Latin name and its common name. Also, illustrations are usually placed within a page or two of their corresponding written descriptions.

The paragraph descriptions of species follow the same format where major structural features (stems, leaves, flowers, etc.) are in bold print and thus quickly located, which is often desirable when comparing species. Habitat and range information are now included in the paragraph descriptions of species, but are easily found by different symbols at the beginning of their respective sentences. Particularly noteworthy are the annotations for selected species located in the ruled-off left-hand margins (2.5 cm) adjacent to their corresponding descriptions. These annotations may address one or more of the following: toxicity, conservation concerns (endangered or threatened), and comments of special interest. In addition to the annotations, marginal spaces are used for illustrating selected structural features as well. This is especially helpful in the treatment of *Carex*, where the perigynium is illustrated with each species description.

The introductory coverages of the major vascular plant groups (ferns and fern allies, gymnosperms, angiosperms, and some subcategories) are enlarged. But it is in these parts of the book where some noticeable errors occur with respect to terminological usage, especially in the treatment of the ferns and fern allies. The author's photographs are new additions, well selected, and support textual materials especially in the treatment of types of wetland communities and major vascular plant groups.

The second edition of Chadde's manual, A Great Lakes Wetland Flora, is most welcome. And in spite of some criticism, this manual is indispensable for essentially anyone work-

ing with, or interested in learning about, aquatic and wetland plants of the upper Midwest.

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