



A Natural History of North American Trees (Donald Culross Peattie Library)

By Donald Culross Peattie

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A Natural History of North American Trees (Donald Culross Peattie Library) By Donald Culross Peattie

"A volume for a lifetime" is how *The New Yorker* described the first of Donald Culross Peattie's two books about American trees published in the 1950s. In this one-volume edition, modern readers are introduced to one of the best nature writers of the last century. As we read Peattie's eloquent and entertaining accounts of American trees, we catch glimpses of our country's history and past daily life that no textbook could ever illuminate so vividly.

Here you'll learn about everything from how a species was discovered to the part it played in our country's history. Pioneers often stabled an animal in the hollow heart of an old sycamore, and the whole family might live there until they could build a log cabin. The tuliptree, the tallest native hardwood, is easier to work than most softwood trees; Daniel Boone carved a sixty-foot canoe from one tree to carry his family from Kentucky into Spanish territory. In the days before the Revolution, the British and the colonists waged an undeclared war over New England's white pines, which made the best tall masts for fighting ships.

It's fascinating to learn about the commercial uses of various woods -- for paper, fine furniture, fence posts, matchsticks, house framing, airplane wings, and dozens of other preplastic uses. But we cannot read this book without the occasional lump in our throats. The American elm was still alive when Peattie wrote, but as we read his account today we can see what caused its demise. Audubon's portrait of a pair of loving passenger pigeons in an American beech is considered by many to be his greatest painting. It certainly touched the poet in Donald Culross Peattie as he depicted the extinction of the passenger pigeon when the beech forest was destroyed.

A Natural History of North American Trees gives us a picture of life in America from its earliest days to the middle of the last century. The information is always interesting, though often heartbreaking. While Peattie looks for the better side of man's nature, he reports sorrowfully on the greed and waste that have doomed so much of America's virgin forest.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Donald Culross Peattie (1898–1964) was one of the most influential American nature writers of the 20th century. Peattie was born in Chicago and grew up in Smoky Mountains in North Carolina, which sparked his interest in the immense wonders of nature. He studied at the University of Chicago and Harvard University. After working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he decided to pursue a career as a writer. In 1925 he became a nature columnist for the *Washington Star Newspaper* and subsequently went on to pen more than twenty fiction and nonfiction books in the next five decades. Widely acclaimed and popular in his age, his legacy has been attributed as inspiring a modern age of nature writing.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dan Maes:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also be a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want really feel happy read one having theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The A Natural History of North American Trees (Donald Culross Peattie Library) is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Richard Crowe:

This book untitled A Natural History of North American Trees (Donald Culross Peattie Library) to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book store or you can order it via online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, because you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason for you to past this book from your list.

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Steve Franklin:

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