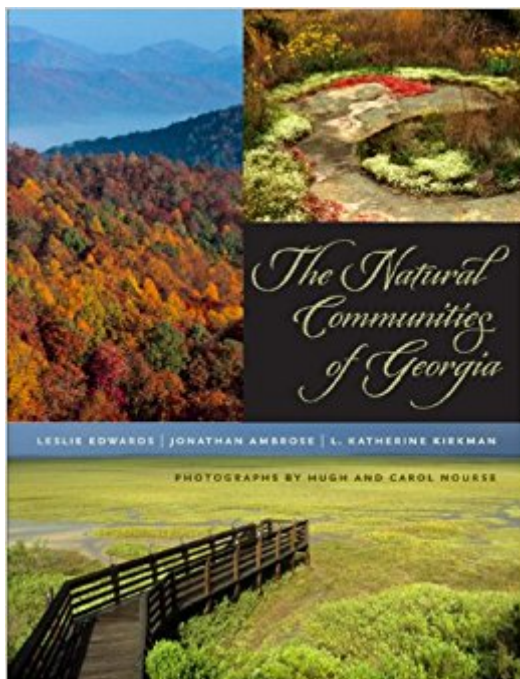


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# The Natural Communities Of Georgia



## Synopsis

The *Natural Communities of Georgia* presents a comprehensive overview of the state's natural landscapes, providing an ecological context to enhance understanding of this region's natural history. Georgia boasts an impressive range of natural communities, assemblages of interacting species that have either been minimally impacted by modern human activities or have successfully recovered from them. This guide makes the case that identifying these distinctive communities and the factors that determine their distribution are central to understanding Georgia's ecological diversity and the steps necessary for its conservation. Within Georgia's five major ecoregions the editors identify and describe a total of sixty-six natural communities, such as the expansive salt marshes of the barrier islands in the Maritime ecoregion, the fire-driven longleaf pine woodlands of the Coastal Plain, the beautiful granite outcrops of the Piedmont, the rare prairies of the Ridge and Valley, and the diverse coves of the Blue Ridge. The description of each natural community includes Traits that make it interesting and significant Physical factors and ecological processes that determine the distribution and characteristics of each community Typical plant communities Representative or noteworthy animals Sidebars that discuss particularly interesting features With contributions from scientists who have managed, researched, and written about Georgia landscapes for decades, the guide features more than four hundred color photographs that reveal the stunning natural beauty and diversity of the state. The book also explores conservation issues, including rare or declining species, current and future threats to specific areas, and research needs, and provides land management strategies for preserving, restoring, and maintaining biotic communities. *The Natural Communities of Georgia* is an essential reference for ecologists and other scientists, as well as a rich resource for Georgians interested in the region's natural heritage. Major support for this project was provided by the AGL Resources Foundation. Additional support was provided by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. In-kind support was provided by the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway and Georgia State University.

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## Customer Reviews

Back in the late 1970s, the late Dr. Charles Wharton, one of Georgia's most respected naturalists, published *Natural Environments of Georgia*. . . . Now, inspired by Wharton's earlier work, three of Georgia's top naturalists—Leslie Edwards, Jonathan Ambrose, and Katherine Kirkman—have led a collaborative effort to update, expand and refine the classifications and descriptions of the state's natural habitats. The result is a magnificent new book, the *Natural Communities of Georgia*, published by the University of Georgia Press. (Charles Seabrook *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*) Anyone interested in Georgia's natural places, plants, and animals will find a treasure trove in this book. But once you open it up, don't expect to sit around for long. You may find that, like me, you now desperately want to visit all 66 of these natural communities. (Grant McCreary *Atlanta Audubon*) With contributions from scientists who have managed, researched, and written about Georgia landscapes for decades, the guide features more than four hundred color photographs that reveal the stunning natural beauty and diversity of the state. . . . *Natural Communities* is an essential reference for ecologists and other scientists, as well as a rich resource for Georgians interested in the region's natural heritage. (Southeastern *Naturalist*) The *Natural Communities of Georgia* is an exciting, detailed portrait of our state's natural environment. . . . This book, sound in its science, will intrigue readers of every age and interest: from fisherman to hikers to farmers and gardeners. (M. C. Tufts *Northeast Georgia Living*)

Leslie Edwards is a lecturer at Georgia State University. Jonathan Ambrose is an assistant chief in the Nongame Conservation Section, Wildlife Resources Division, of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. L. Katherine Kirkman is a scientist of plant ecology at Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway.

If you ever wondered about life in Georgia from a natural science point of view, this book will answer

most, if not all, of them. It is a treasure trove of information that will help you identify various flora and fauna in the different regions, understand what lies beneath the ground as well, and problems of the present and future. Great resource if you teach or are just curious to know more.

Great reference book for environmental professionals working in Georgia as well as budding naturalist and environmental professionals. This book provides a basic understanding of the plant communities within Georgia considering ecoregion and geology. The reference site locations are an added bonus. Highly Recommend this publication.

The book was completely beaten up by the time it arrived (probably should have been shipped in a box rather than envelope), but the content itself is amazing! I love the way it is organized. Wasn't expecting such a lengthy goon though! Nearly 2 inches thick!

For those interested in diving into the natural communities of Georgia this an excellent reference. Well illustrated and packed with information. Too big to carry in the field but an excellent reference to have in the car, camp, or home.

This is a incredibly thorough resource and guide to the natural communities of Georgia. There is a great review on YouTube where you can learn more about this impressive book:

<http://youtu.be/H8pkishecNw>

Well written and organized reference publication of Georgia's natural environment and a continuation of Dr. Charles Wharton original 35 year old research.

The Natural Communities of Georgia is greatly improved from its predecessor, the Natural Environments of Georgia. It is soundly based on the ecological communities described in the National Vegetation Classification System (reference: NatureServe.org). The book is logically organized, covering the wide range of ecosystems in Georgia (from the mountains to the sea), describing what makes them unique, characteristic plants and animals, and dynamics over time. The color photographs integrated with the narrative greatly improve the book's readability. My only complaint is the book's size, weight and price, which makes me reluctant to take it into the field when I study the magnificent ecosystems of Georgia first hand.

Whether or not you already own Charles Wharton's The Natural Environments of Georgia, this attractive and comprehensive reboot belongs in the collection of every avowed southeastern naturalist! Be warned though, at more than 670 colorful and well-organized pages this tome is no field-guide.

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