

May 2018

Wild South Carolina: A Field Guide to Parks, Preserves and Special Places

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Recommended Citation

Winchester, Stacy L. (2018) "Wild South Carolina: A Field Guide to Parks, Preserves and Special Places," *South Carolina Libraries*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 2 , Article 10.

Available at: https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/scl_journal/vol3/iss2/10

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Wild South Carolina: A Field Guide to Parks, Preserves and Special Places

Abstract

Stacy Winchester reviews *Wild South Carolina: A Field Guide to Parks, Preserves and Special Places* by Liesel & Susan Hamilton with Photographs by Tori Steyne.



BOOK REVIEW

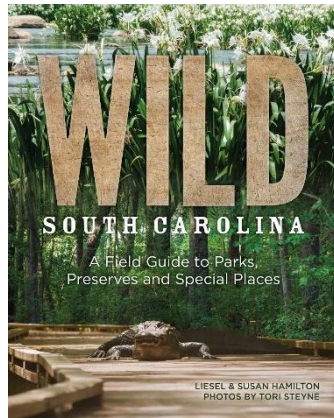
Wild South Carolina: A Field Guide to Parks, Preserves and Special Place

Liesel & Susan Hamilton with Photographs by Tori Steyne

Hub City Press, 2016, 19.95

Written by the mother-daughter team of Certified Master Naturalists Susan Hamilton and Liesel Hamilton, *Wild South Carolina: A Field Guide to Parks, Preserves and Special Places* condenses a lot of useful information into an easy-to-use, well-organized primer for many of South Carolina's natural areas. As Liesel Hamilton states in the introduction, after taking classes to become naturalists, "We made a pact to go on a journey – just us in the great outdoors – visiting as many state parks, wildlife refuges, historic sites, heritage preserves, county parks, and other natural areas as we possibly could." The result of their journey is this book, which highlights South Carolina's amazing natural places and diversity.

Wild South Carolina provides information on 38 nature destinations throughout the state. Locations are organized by region: Piedmont/Mountains, Midlands/Sandhills, and Coastal Plain/Coastal Zone. Users of this guide will find attractive color photographs of each place and a number of useful features to get an overall view of available amenities and activities at a glance. The authors include easily understood symbols to help users know which attractions are available at any given destination, be it swimming, boating, hiking, camping, or other activities of interest. In addition, they helpfully include whether a fee is required for entry. Nearby attractions and the optimal time to visit are highlighted for each site. Included in the write-up for each



destination are descriptions of geological features, plants and animals that may be spotted, man-made structures, and details about the available activities.

Although trail and park maps are not included in this book, websites for each destination are provided, and maps can often be located there. Readers looking for a book with maps to take on their hike might wish to try *Hiking South Carolina*, by Clark and Dantzer. The dimensions of *Wild South*

Carolina (8 x 0.8 x 10 inches) are larger than many field guides, making it more appropriate to take on a day trip than on a long hike that would require stowing it in a backpack.

Readers will undoubtedly learn something new about each location, even if they are already familiar with the site. Reading about these destinations from naturalists' perspectives will make users keenly aware of the state's amazing ecology.

This book is recommended for adults and young adults and is suitable for public and academic libraries. The writing style is easily readable and the font is larger than in some other guides, providing an enjoyable reading experience for any selected location. *Wild South Carolina* will be a great addition to any South Carolina library's local recreation collection or any nature lover's personal bookshelf.

Stacy Winchester is the Sciences and Engineering Librarian at the University of South Carolina's Thomas Cooper Library.