

relevant for ethnobotanical fieldwork). Finally, part 5 “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” bundles two concluding chapters that focus on a major factor driving the degradation of ecosystems and their services.

Ninan has done a great job bringing together diverse papers on the economic, institutional, and social challenges that both scientists and policy makers are facing in the conservation of biodiversity. Therefore, this is a highly recommendable book, as it provides a broad overview of all possible applications of the ESS concept. However, those who expect a general theoretical introduction to the concept of ESS are better off with the MEA (2005) publication. Perhaps a ‘unifying’ introduction before each overarching theme could have added a bit more consistency. Overall, I recommend “Conserving and Valuing Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity” for ecological economists, conservationists and all ethnobotanists who want to think outside the box.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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#### **Beyond Developmentality. Constructing Inclusive Freedom and Sustainability.**

Deb, Debal. 2009. Earthscan, Dunstan House, 14a St. Cross St., London EC1N 8XA, UK; 22883 Quicksilver Drive, Sterling, VA 20166-2012; [www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk). xxiv + 583 pp. (paperback). USD 48.95. ISBN 978-1-84407-712-0.

The intention of this book is to categorize a certain pattern of behavior based on political myths entrenched in economic exploitation that Deb terms, “developmentality.” He demonstrates its evolution into the overarching management system that is the source of the planet’s ecological

and socio-economic woes and to expose the myths that have been used to perpetuate these problems. Deb challenges the comparison of the neo-classical economic argument with sociopolitical and ecological reality with: “Will you accept a post-dated check drawn on a liquidated bank?” (p.2)

He highlights the conspicuous omission of the significant component of ‘responsibility’ in the development of and use of technology, in Marxist theory. Thus, he makes a compelling and valid distinction between *intelligence* and *consciousness* when discussing issues of technological advancement (particularly post-industrial revolution), governance, resource management (again, humans are included here) and how this impacts global, national, and local management decisions.

After elucidating a chronological and ideological progression of the influential elements that led to the current disconnect and dissension that can essentially be broken down into ‘environmentalism’, capitalist imperialism, ‘globalization’ and how these translate into “developmentality”, he openly enters into a more subjective discussion of the reality of changing paradigms through ideologies. He suggests that through an honest assessment of the production methods, resulting products, and actual utility (taking long term resource availability and alienation into account in this process of valuation) we can break free of an illusion of wealth and scarcity that is the basis for global disparity both in human and ecological systems.

His overarching goal is to demonstrate how humans have arrived at a technological choke-point which has two basic outcomes: ecological breakdown OR conscious adaptive management with a reliance on the functionality of natural systems as a basis for quality of life. His more practical goal is to dispel the myths that brought humans to such a precarious state and show that it is not only possible but inevitable that we change our management perspective one way or the other. In my opinion, he did what he set out to do in both a factual and humanitarian manner; his subjectivity and biases are clearly stated and do not undermine the credibility to the alternate viewpoint that he suggests. The disconnect between what brought us here and how we can reach that state of political and social maturity is the focal point of current research and, while he cannot address that, here, he does seem to give a firm, honest, and finally cautiously hopeful encouragement for researchers, concerned world

citizens, and others with respect to our human ability to achieve a more respectful, long-term existence. In addition, the book is efficient and accessible in its format; it is useful as a work in its individual sections as well as in its entirety. It is also affordable.

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**The Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the South-eastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico, Volume 3.** Cheatham, Scooter, M. C. Johnston, L. Marshall, contributions from J. Sublett, D. Garrett, S. Jones, and T. Chumley. 2009. *Useful Wild Plants, Inc.*, 2612 Sweeney Lane, Austin, TX 78723; <http://www.usefulwildplants.org/>. xvii + 617 pp. (hardcover). USD 140. ISBN 978-1-887292-03-0.

This third volume of useful wild plants consists of 23 genera presented alphabetically from *Canna* to *Celtis*. As in previous volumes, genera and species are described in detail together with common names, distribution maps in different colors based on frequency, and high resolution color photographs. Following this treatment, economic uses of species within genera are provided in great detail and breadth, fully referenced. Coverage also includes uses beyond the continent when species ranges extend there. To research and bring together these ethnobotanical data with so broad a spectrum is possibly unique in the annals of economic botany today, and the authors have now successfully completed this task for the third time.

I have selected *Carya* (89 pp.) to outline coverage, largely because nine of its species are native to the temperate forests of North America and all have economic value. The remaining six species are found in southeastern Asia. The best known is *Carya illinoensis*, pecan, derived from the Algonquin word *pakan*, native to Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky south and southwest to eastern Texas with scattered populations in eastern Mexico. Pecans are of great economic importance and are predominantly cultivated in the southeastern United States, although cultivation extends west to California and north to South Dakota and

throughout most of Mexico. Colored plates illustrate pistillate and staminate branches of the species and another of a small cluster of nuts.

Pecan and other hickories were of immense importance to Native Americans and were among the earliest significant botanical discoveries of early Europeans in eastern North America, as *Carya* was not native to Europe. These spectacular hardwoods amazed explorers by providing not only large and delicious nuts, but also unusually tough and beautiful wood for tools and construction. Today, pecan is not only commercially important for its nuts and as a source of wood for furniture, but also in landscaping.

Prehistoric uses and sites in the United States are detailed using evidence of consumption from coprolites and intestinal contents. This is followed by discussions of the popularity of pecans among Native Americans and settlers from the 18th century to date. The nuts provide oils, foods, and also nutmeats for making pecan pies.

*Carya* species were also valued in domestic medicine by natives and settlers alike. For example, powdered bark was the best hemostat then available. The bark was also astringent and used to cleanse and promote healing of wounds and as a general or specific tonic. Many more uses, particularly from the past, are provided.

As I concluded in my earlier review nearly a decade ago, this series is the ultimate reference for researchers, educators, and the informed public who wish to know the extent that plants in the United States and northern Mexico, and beyond, impact our lives. The third and previous volumes are strongly recommended with great enthusiasm to all members of our Society.

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**Fundamentals of Tree-Ring Research.** Speer, James H. 2010. The University of Arizona Press, 355S. Euclid Avenue, Suite 103 Tucson, AZ 85719; [www.uapress.arizona.edu](http://www.uapress.arizona.edu). xxiv + 333 pp. (hardcover). USD 59.95. ISBN 978-0-8165-2684-0.

This comprehensive textbook features the many topics and subfields involved in tree ring