

BOOK REVIEWS

RICHARD B. PRIMACK. 2002. **Essentials of Conservation Biology: Third Edition.** (ISBN 0-87893-719-6, hbk.). Sinauer Associates, Inc., 23 Plumbtree Road, Sunderland, Massachusetts 01375, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.sinauer.com, orders@sinauer.com, 1-413-549-4300, 1-413-549-1118 fax). \$69.95, 698 pp., numerous figures, graphs, images, tables, 7.25" × 9.5".

RICHARD B. PRIMACK. 2006. **Essentials of Conservation Biology: Fourth Edition.** (ISBN 0-87893-720-X, hbk.). Sinauer Associates, Inc., 23 Plumbtree Road, Sunderland, Massachusetts 01375, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.sinauer.com, orders@sinauer.com, 1-413-549-4300, 1-413-549-1118 fax) \$82.95, 585 pp., numerous figures, graphs, images, tables, 8.75" × 11.25".

The books, *Essentials in Conservation Biology* (3rd and 4th editions), are each divided into 22 chapters that clearly define what is meant by conservation biology, and each use detailed images, graphs, and tables to explain current issues and applications in this fairly new field.

There are only a few minor differences in the two editions, the main one being that the author continues to update each edition by providing the reader with current information within the field. In the Third Edition, the author provides a detailed introduction to the major concepts and problems in conservation biology. This book also includes information on hotspots or areas where immediate conservation is needed due to the threats to local flora and fauna. In the Fourth Edition, the author provides several new figures to better explain how the field has evolved in 4 years time. This edition also provides a glossary and an Instructors Resource CD.

I found these books to be a very interesting and quite informative read. The author clearly describes how conservation biology is very diverse and must incorporate an array of fields to help address current conservation problems and create solutions. I enjoyed the smaller size of the Third Edition, but realized that the new and larger size of the Fourth Edition was necessary in order to include the updated figures and information. This book is ideal for any introductory courses on Conservation Biology or any person that is interested in learning more about the intricate issues addressed in this relatively newer field and their possible applications.—Keri McNew, MS Biology, Project Manager, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 East 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.

GLENN KEATOR AND ALRIE MIDDLEBROOK. 2007. **Designing California Native Gardens: the Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens.** (ISBN 978-0-520-23978-4 hbk.; 978-0-520-25110-6 pbk.). University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94704, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.ucpress.edu, California Princeton Fulfillment Center, 1445 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing, NJ 08618, U.S.A., 1-609-883-1759; 1-609-883-7413 fax). \$65.00 hbk., \$27.50 pbk., 352 pp., 364 illustrations, 7" × 9 3/4".

This book should be an inspiration to California gardeners and landscape architects whether in planning new gardens or renovating existing ones. It is also a practical manual. Taking into consideration twelve principal plant communities, from desert to coastal plains to mountains, the authors construct gardens, some in very challenging situations, and all using native plants of their respective regions.

The plants are indicated by common and by scientific names with planting notes and special features that explain their desirability and/or difficulties in using them. In addition to the photographs of individual plants, there are suggested plans, elevated drawings, and photographs of completed gardens. The authors even give attention to retrofitting urban Los Angeles with coastal scrub plantings, including green roofs. For each of the plant communities, there is a "places to go" section which includes state parks and preserves, other scenic areas, and a few public gardens where the native plants may be observed in natural habitat.

The four appendices list sources for native plants and seeds, public gardens that feature native plants, a calendar for garden activities, and a glossary of terms.—Joann Karges, Texas Christian University Library (retired), Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.



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