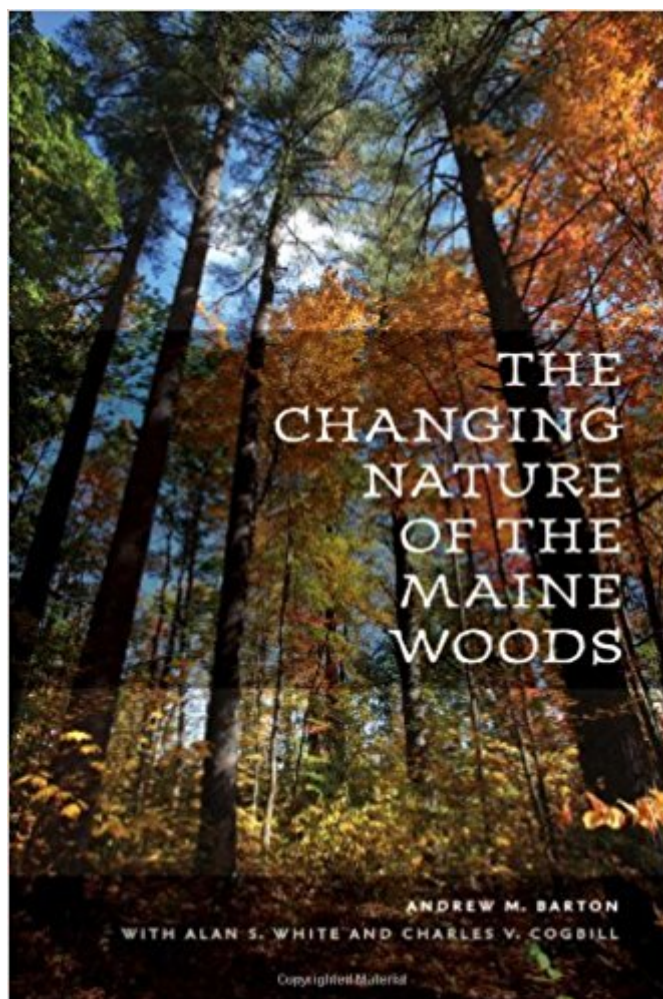


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The Changing Nature Of The Maine Woods



Synopsis

The Changing Nature of the Maine Woods is both a fascinating introduction to the forests of Maine and a detailed but accessible narrative of the dynamism of these ecosystems. This is natural history with a long view, starting with an overview of the state's geological history, the reemergence of the forest after glacial retreat, and the surprising changes right up to European arrival. The authors create a vivid picture of Maine forests just before the impact of Euro-Americans and trace the profound transformations since settlement. Ambitious in its geographic range, this book explores how and why Maine forests differ across the state, from the top of Mount Katahdin to the coast. Through groundbreaking research and engaging narratives, the authors assess key ecological forces such as climate change, insects and disease, nonnative organisms, natural disturbance, and changing land use to create a dramatic portrait of Maine forests' past, present, and future. This book both synthesizes the latest scientific discoveries regarding the changing forest and relates the findings to an educated lay and academic audience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Barton's detailed, 304-page text offers a dynamic look at the ever-changing landscape of the state's expansive forests, following its unique evolution over thousands of years. . . . Touching on diverse, in-depth scientific pursuits, Barton's book aims to be a true resource for naturalist and nature lover alike." —Daily Bulldog, Franklin, ME
"A wealth of historical and scientific information."
"Kennebec Journal" —What is clear after reading the book is that these forests and the landscape of Maine have never been truly stable but have been influenced by natural events —

some in the deep past and some more recently “ as well as by the direct and indirect presence of humans. The book is special because, in a single heavily sourced treatment, readers can get an overview of the complex interactions that determine the fate of the forests in this particular spot on the globe.” “Choice” Writing such a work as this is nearly a lost art. It is neither a technical monograph aimed at a specialist audience nor a broad primer for a lay audience; nor is it a textbook. A willingness and ability to attempt a multifaceted, multidisciplinary set of stories about a forest region is rare. A fairly extensive rummage of the bookshelf is needed to find peer works. . . . Barton, White, and Cogbill have earned their place on this list.” Environmental History

“This book is the single best guide to the Maine Woods since Henry David Thoreau. It is an indispensable resource for scientists, land managers, historians, teachers, students, naturalists, sportsmen, and nature lovers alike.” (Bill Roorbach, author of Temple Stream and Big Bend, winner of the Flannery O’Connor Award) “Very readable and accessible, the authors’ personal research and observations gives The Changing Nature of the Maine Woods authenticity.” (Malcolm Hunter, University of Maine) “This is simply an excellent and enjoyable book. . . . The material is engaging, important, and remarkably comprehensive. These guys know their landscape and recognize what anyone needs to know to understand it today and begin to manage and conserve it for tomorrow.” (David Foster, director of the Harvard Forest) “In this book you will discover how geology, climate, and human activity over millenia have shaped the forests of Maine, what research scientists have learned over the last few decades about Maine’s amazingly diverse forest communities, and what the present challenges and future prospects for the Maine woods are. The Changing Nature of the Maine Woods is, quite simply, an indispensable reference for anyone who cares deeply about the fate of this great ten-million-acre forest that is both a key resource in Maine’s economy and the heart and soul of the Pine Tree State.” (Robert Kimber, author of Upcountry: Reflections from a Rural Life)

Readable and comprehensive. A good reference on diverse topics from the pre-settlement forest to climate change.

This book is by several ecologists with considerable experience in the northeastern woods, as scientists and teachers. These authors are the "Dream Team" on this subject. Their writing is easy to read and understand, though, and does not drown you in science -ese. The book provides a general regional history of changing vegetation, and analyzes different ecological regions within

Maine. The authors present a good deal of technical information but much of it is in boxes and notes, which makes the book well adapted to the nontechnical reader. I'm sure this book will find wide use. The analysis in the book will be generally applicable and interesting to readers across the Northern Forest -- as far as New York -- and possibly even in adjacent areas of Quebec and New Brunswick.3 Cheers to the Press for making this available on Kindle.- Viking

My family is very interested in the potential health benefits of mushroom in the Northeast and this is the best book on this topic that I have found. It has a good balance of prose and fact; most of the other books on mushrooms are either overly technical, questionable from the fact perspective and/or so poorly written it is painful to read. This book is articulate, well organized and informative. High quality, well labeled photography helps, too.

The main author, Dr. Andrew Barton is my plant biology teacher at the University of Maine Farmington. This book is not one I would read unless I had to. However the little bit he required us to read seemed pretty good. It did bore me, however I am also not a fan of this sort of stuff.

Well thought out and presented with helpful graphics. Lots of good information about the history of the Maine Woods that's not readily available.

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