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.**

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.
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 ethno-
botanical 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 illinoinensis, 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 south-
eastern 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 fol-
lowed 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
Unites 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
(hardcover). USD 59.95. ISBN 978-0-8165-
2684-0.

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