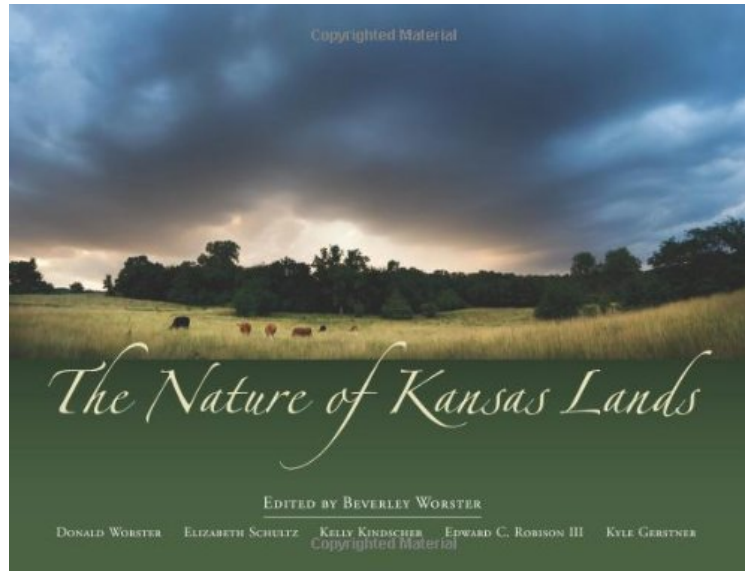


The Nature of Kansas Lands

Elizabeth Schultz, Kelly Kindscher

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Elizabeth Schultz, Kelly Kindscher : The Nature of Kansas Lands before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nature of Kansas Lands:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Lovely Book on the Beauties of Kansas By James Barton Phelps If you drive - or fly - across the State of Kansas - either way, East or West - you may get the feeling of same-old, same-old. And I don't blame you. It's pretty flat; no big views like Colorado; just grassland prairie, wheat and cattle and prairie dogs, maybe some corn; green in spring; hot - real hot and muggy - in summer; dead brown in the fall and snow covered white in the winter - and cold, real cold; and always a flat horizon in the far distance that you never seem to meet. But get off the freeway or get off the airplane and rent a car at Goodland or Salina or Topeka and drive around a bit - off the road and off the map - and you will see things of beauty you never thought existed - or could exist - in a place like this. Those things are what this book is about. It's not really a coffee table book, although it could pass for one - right size, lovely pictures, quick facts and a text, which, if you want to read and not just look at pictures, describes in some detail the beauty of the Kansas landscape. It was a lovely and thoughtful 95th birthday gift from my loving nephew and was produced by or under the auspices of the Kansas Land Trust, which seeks to cause Kansas landowners to create preservation easements on their land so as to preserve Kansas lands; and it falls half way between a picture book and an evocative word picture of the work of the Land Trust and the beauties of the environment in which it operates. It has some negatives too. The title is much too academic sounding. Better: "Beauties of the Kansas Landscape" or something like that. And it was overly concentrated with the land within a day's drive in all directions from Lawrence in northeast Kansas. I would have liked to see more of Western Kansas and the northern border with Nebraska. And I had a problem with the written text: call it personal, call it eccentric, but I simply do not like a text of a travel narrative written in the first person present tense. Give me a Paul Theroux "as I was going to this small town I saw... this and that" every time. So I recommend the book? Absolutely. If you're a Kansan or from Kansas - and by way of disclosure I'm a fourth generation Kansan on my mother's side, the boy who left home in northeast Kansas in

1934 for an out of state education and subsequent out of state career - or even (God Forbid!) you have never been in and don't intend to be in Kansas -- it's a lovely addition to your bookshelf. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. stunningBy book babeAnyone who thinks Kansas is nothing but straight highways and wheat fields needs to spend some time with this book. I grew up in Kansas, but had no idea there was so much astonishing beauty there. This book would make a great gift for Kansas friends who may take their state for granted. They won't after seeing these photos. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful photography!By M. HARDTHaving stopped outside Eureka Springs, Arkansas to view Edward Robinson's photography, I was very glad to see that .com is carrying a book with some of his Kansas landscapes. If you, as I, miss Kansas with its rolling prairies, this book can take you back home.

Heading west on I-70 through Kansas, travelers can experience surprising changes as eastern deciduous forests give way first to tallgrass, then shortgrass prairie interspersed with canyonlands. But beyond the highway there's even more to discover: picturesque farms, river valleys, and gypsum bluffs that make the Sunflower State a natural wonderland boasting expansive beauty and rich biological diversity. This book testifies to Kansas's natural abundance through spectacular color photography and sumptuous prose. Sponsored by the Kansas Land Trust, *The Nature of Kansas Lands* focuses on the world of nature that awaits us just beyond our fences: waterways, woodlands, grasslands, farmlands, and high plains. It's been carefully crafted to encourage residents and visitors alike to explore backcountry roads, learn more about native flora and wildlife, and generally open their eyes to the state's wild beauty and ecological complexity. Turn the pages of this book and you'll immediately be struck by 46 stunning color landscapes by Edward Robison, capturing scenes as serene as a wetlands fog or a night star hanging over the prairie or as dramatic as a threatening storm. Meanwhile, more than two dozen wildlife close-ups by Kyle Gerstner bring you face-to-face with prairie chickens and bison, red-tailed hawks and collared lizards. Seventeen evocative essays by Elizabeth Schultz lead you on forays into Kansas's diverse landscapes, interpreting not only the nature of the land but also the nature found on it. Sidebars by biologist Kelly Kindscher complement Schultz's impressionism with a bevy of facts about wildlife and weather, forests and farming. This gorgeous book reveals a side of life in Kansas that beckons us to explore, enjoy, and learn more about the state's rich natural heritage.

These wonderful essays, photographs, and naturalists facts reveal a side of life in this state that we need to spend more time exploring. The book should open our minds and senses to the world that lies just beyond our fence lines. Donald Worster, author of *A River Running West* An engaging book that combines lyrical and evocative prose pieces with handsome photography. Elizabeth Dodd, author of *Prospect: Journeys and Landscapes* The photographs are terrific and show Kansas in new ways. Rex Buchanan, coauthor of *Roadside Kansas* From the Back Cover "These wonderful essays, photographs, and naturalist's facts reveal a side of life in this state that we need to spend more time exploring. The book should open our minds and senses to the world that lies just beyond our fence lines."--Donald Worster, author of *A River Running West* "An engaging book that combines lyrical and evocative prose pieces with handsome photography."--Elizabeth Dodd, author of *Prospect: Journeys and Landscapes* "The photographs are terrific and show Kansas in new ways."--Rex Buchanan, coauthor of *Roadside Kansas* About the Author Beverley Worster is president of the Kansas Land Trust. Donald Worster is author of the award-winning *The Dust Bowl* and other books in environmental history. Elizabeth Schultz is professor emeritus of English at the University of Kansas and a columnist for the Kansas Land Trust's *Stewardship Notes*. Kelly Kindscher is associate scientist for the Kansas Biological Survey. Edward C. Robison III is the photographer author of *The Kansas Landscape I and II*. Kyle Gerstner's photographs have appeared in *Kansas!*, *Birding Magazine*, *America* 24/7, and other publications.