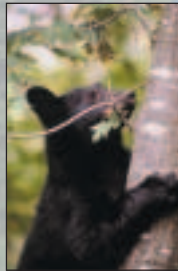


Wetland, Woodland, Wildland

A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont

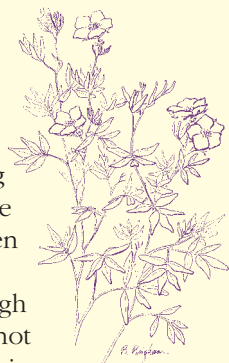


Elizabeth H. Thompson
and
Eric R. Sorenson

*Illustrated by Libby Davidson,
Betsy Brigham, and
Darien McElwain*

*The first field guide to
Vermont's natural communities.*

The concept of *natural communities* is becoming a widely accepted way to organize our collective thinking about landscapes, much as *taxonomy* has been for species and *ecology* for processes. In a way, the concept actually marries taxonomy and ecology, through an underlying premise: though distinct, organisms do not live outside an environmental context; rather, they live in association with other organisms, the assemblages predictable if we know the embracing geology, climate, and history of a place.



The authors – both preeminent Vermont field ecologists – lead us skillfully into and through the wonderful array of the state's natural communities. They provide valuable background information, descriptions of over 80 community types, their constituent species and ecological values, places to visit, and conservation considerations. And they do it all in an engaging way. While comprehensive, the book is never overwhelming. While scientific, it is well within reach of non-scientists, remaining accessible through good writing and appealing illustrations.

This book, I'd say, will attain a certain stature. As its subtitle indicates, it will indeed be a guide, but not just in the ordinary sense of the word. It will also show us how to look at landscapes differently from now on.

– Charles W. Johnson, retired Vermont State Naturalist, March 2000

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