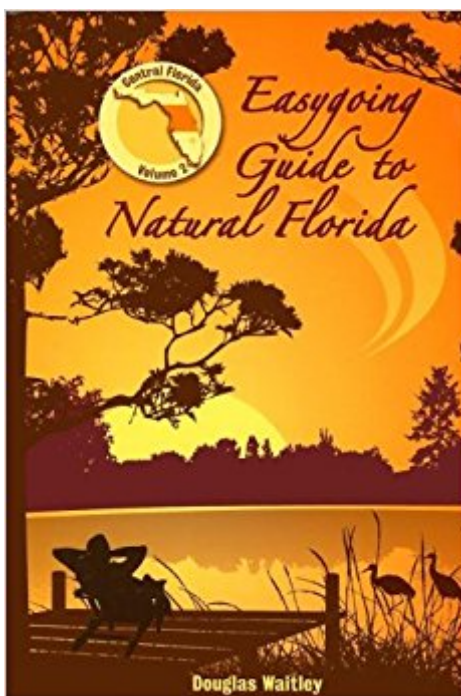


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Easygoing Guide To Natural Florida, Volume 2: Central Florida



Synopsis

Author Douglas Waitley invites you to step out of the air-conditioned shopping malls and crowded amusement parks and into Natural Florida. Reveals how to enjoy nature without discomfort.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Douglas Waitley is the author of nineteen books on Americana, ranging in subject matter from regional histories to accounts of the era of steam locomotives. He wrote two volumes of Easygoing Guide to Natural Florida and three volumes of Best Backroads of Florida, also published by Pineapple Press.

What's not to like?

For the uninitiated a Watermelon is a moniker for an environmentalist - Green on the outside, Marxist on the inside. I was hoping for a guide to natural Florida that took no particular issue with the reality that mankind - whether placed here by God or evolved by natural processes - is here on earth legitimately, and the signs of man's progress and his development of natural resources, while sometimes misguided; occasionally wicked; are by and large good, and to be celebrated, not despised. (I find it most revealing that most environmentalists are politically progressive - meaning they embrace change in government (bigger, more intrusive) and culture (more immoral), yet they despise progress - any progress - in developing the earth for human needs and wants.) In this guide

the author does indeed have a knack for leading you to the most pristine and unspoiled locales in Florida, but along the way he subtly denigrates almost any activity by modern - but not primitive - man that has altered the environment from its natural (whatever that is) state. For example, as he guides you into the Great Kissimmee Prairie in an quest for the Holy Grail-type search for a remote patch of once plentiful wiregrass, he makes repeated mention of signs which read "Beef - it's what's for dinner", erected no doubt by the Mormon ranchers that dominate the area; the same rancher-types who plowed most of the "natural" wiregrass under and replaced it with Bahia grass, better suited for cattle grazing. Inserted here is casual mention of Fort Drum - a post during the Second Seminole War; a war that saw most of the Indians "killed (or) herded off". So here we have the familiar refrain - Modern, most especially democratically organized Western, man has ruined the earth, including Florida, and wouldn't we all be better off if the Seminoles still ran free, and Florida was a giant mosquito infested swamp. If you believe that twaddle, this is the book for you. If you believe mankind is made in God's image, and while mistakes have been made, Florida is a better place today for mankind than it was 1000 years ago (when it was admittedly better for alligators) than seek a different guide book that won't burden you with guilt.

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