

BOOK NOTICE

STEVE HOUSER, LINDA PELON, AND JIMMY W. ARTERBERRY. 2016. **Comanche Marker Trees of Texas**. (ISBN-13: 978-1-62349-448-3, flexbound). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, Lewis Street, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.tamupress.com, 1-800-826-8911). \$35.00, 224 pp., 123 color and 6 b/w photographs, 11 b/w drawings, 6 maps, 1 graph, glossary, bibliography, index, 6" × 9¼".

From the publisher: In this unprecedented effort to gather and share knowledge of the Native American practice of creating, designating, and making use of marker trees, an arborist, an anthropologist, and a Comanche tribal officer have merged their wisdom, research, and years of personal experience to create *Comanche Marker Trees of Texas*.

A genuine marker tree is a rare find—only six of these natural and cultural treasures have been officially documented in Texas and recognized by the Comanche Nation. The latter third of the book highlights the characteristics of these six marker trees and gives an up-to-date history of each, displaying beautiful photographs of these long-standing, misshapen, controversial symbols that have withstood the tests of time and human activity.

Thoroughly researched and richly illustrated with maps, drawings, and photographs of trees, this book offers a close look at the unique cultural significance of these living witnesses to our history and provides detailed guidelines on how to recognize, research, and report potential marker tree candidates.

Steve Houser owns Arboriological Services, Inc. in Dallas. **Linda Pelon** is professor of anthropology at McLennan Community College in Waco. **Jimmy W. Arterberry** is Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Comanche Nation.

The authors begin their book by defining Indian marker trees. They were trees used to guide Native American in daily life and are considered national treasures. The authors tell this fascinating history of Native Americans in 15 chapters ranging from qualifying and recognizing and submission of a potential Indian marker tree of official consideration to the taxonomy of marker trees. Not all marker trees are alike. They range from Turning Trees to Burial Trees. So, the next time you are in the wilds of Texas, keep your eyes peeled and you might just come across a rare marker tree. The book is beautifully illustrated with color photos, sketches, and maps.—*Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*