

BOOK NOTICE

GEORGE POINAR JR. 2016. **A Naturalist's Guide to the Hidden World of Pacific Northwest Dunes.** (ISBN-13: 978-0-87071-854-0, pbk). Oregon State University Press, 121 The Valley Library, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-4501, U.S.A. (**Orders:** <http://osupress.oregonstate.edu>, 1-800-621-2736). \$24.95, 288 pp., 652 color photographs, 6" × 9".

From the publisher: From Northern California to British Columbia, coastal dunes and beaches provide a unique habitat for plants, animals, and insects. With *A Naturalist's Guide to the Hidden World of Pacific Northwest Dunes*, hikers and beach walkers on the Pacific Coast will discover a teeming metropolis of life in what may seem a barren landscape to the inattentive eye.

Contrary to casual observation, intricate patterns of life occur in coastal dunes and along the strand. Plants, insects, and parasites abound. George Poinar's in-depth knowledge of this hidden world is unsurpassed, and his enthusiasm for it is infectious. He has been investigating and photographing specimens along the Pacific Coast for more than four decades and presents this trove of knowledge to the reader in a clear, engaging style.

Poinar exposes the small, almost blind weevils that live under driftwood and slowly degrade the wood, the omnipresent beach hoppers that leap up at every step and flee from vicious rove beetles, dune ants that search out aphids for honeydew but are attacked themselves by dive-bomber wasps. He shows why he considers Beach pea, Seashore lupine, and Coast willow keystone species because they provide food and shelter for so many different life forms.

With a focus on the associations between dune plants and other life forms, the book includes over 600 full-color photographs from the author's extensive collection. While it is accessible enough to serve as a field guide for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts, comprehensive data for biologists studying dune ecology are also included.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Hidden World of Pacific Northwest Dunes belongs on every beach house bookshelf from California to Canada. Naturalists, scientists, and anyone who walks along the coast will welcome this lavishly-illustrated reference.

George Poinar, Jr. received his PhD from Cornell with an emphasis in entomology, botany, plant pathology, and vertebrate zoology. He has taught at the University of California at Riverside, University of California at Berkeley, and at Oregon State University. He is the author of many books, including *Lebanese Amber* (OSU Press).

This nice natural history guide of the Pacific Northwest Dunes is simply filled with all things natural. The small field guide size makes it easy to carry into nature. Every animal, plant, and insect in the book is provided with excellent color photos as well as the basics: Characteristics, Habitat and range, and Comments. Some organisms are discussed in greater detail. A handy glossary is provided, and the detailed index has common and Latin names. Every child of Oregon should have a copy.—*Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*