



Travels with Foxfire: Stories of People, Passions, and Practices from Southern Appalachia

Foxfire Fund Inc

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The new volume in the classic, million-copy-selling series celebrates the stories of men and women from across Appalachia. An Anchor Original.

Since 1972, the Foxfire books have brought Appalachia to hundreds of thousands of readers. *Travels with Foxfire*, the sixteenth book in the series, once again captures the music, the history, and the food (and drink!) of the region, through the stories of men and women from throughout the region. Across more than thirty entries, we discover the secret history of NASCAR (it involves bootleggers), hear from perhaps the world's foremost expert on privies, and uncover old family recipes for Buttermilk Corn Bread, Apple Fritters, barbeque sauce, and more. A rich compendium of the collected wisdom of the artists, craftsmen, musicians, and moonshiners who call Appalachia home, *Travels with Foxfire* is a joyful celebration of a distinctly American culture.

Travels with Foxfire: Stories of People, Passions, and Practices from Southern Appalachia Details

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From Reader Review Travels with Foxfire: Stories of People, Passions, and Practices from Southern Appalachia for online ebook

Karl says

“Travels with Foxfire” is the latest in the series that had its beginning back in 1966 when the high school English class at the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee school in northeast Georgia began a magazine about the mountain ways and culture of southern Appalachia. This latest book, written by Phil Hudgins with assistance from Foxfire student Jessica Phillips, follows the author as he travels southern Appalachia interviewing colorful characters. The more than 30 interviews include such topics as; farming, logging, hunting, stock car racing, moonshining, outhouses, drive-in theatres, food and various forms of the music of the region. Cooking enthusiasts will enjoy the numerous recipes reprinted from southern Appalachian cookbooks.

Melise Gerber says

Although I knew of the Foxfire Fund, I have never read any of their earlier publications. However, I love reading oral histories, and as a craftsperson who loves all sorts of traditional handcrafts such as basketmaking, spinning and knitting and jewelry making, I am always interested in reading about people who continue traditions that have been handed down through generations.

I enjoyed reading each of the stories in this book, but overall, I found the entire book somewhat disappointing because it felt too much as if each was barely skimming the surface of each person’s story. I have recently been watching the Netflix television show “Queer Eye,” and in an odd way, this has given me an insight into what seems to be missing from Travels with Foxfire.

I had heard quite a bit about the rebooted television show, and how the new series was consistently quite moving. Now that I have watched quite a few episodes, I understand why. The five stars of the show are gay men, who spend a week with a person who has been nominated to receive a makeover, by a friend or loved one. The makeover includes advice and support regarding fashion, hair and skin care, cooking, home improvement and “culture,” all provided within a one week period.

The show is filmed over the course of the week, and edited into a 45 minute episode. Obviously, viewers are only seeing a very small percentage of the interactions between the show’s stars and their nominee during that week, but what has become apparent is how much these men really strive to understand and respect the person they have met that week, and how each experience is truly emotionally valuable for both the person receiving the makeover, and for the stars of the show. They strive to understand the reasons each person has become someone in need of a makeover, and their work is always focused on helping resolve those underlying issues, not just making external, cosmetic changes.

And that focus is what I felt was missing from Foxfire. Each of the chapters introduced the reader to an intriguing person, but I felt as if I really only understood the most superficial elements of that person by the end of their chapter. I think I would have enjoyed it more if there had been fewer people highlighted in the book, and a more in-depth examination was made of each of the subjects so that I felt as if I knew each of them better by the end of their chapter.

I received an advanced reading copy from Foxfire Fund via NetGalley. Thanks!

Kristine says

Travels with Foxfire, compiled by Phil Hudgins & Jessica Phillips, is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in early August.

Historical and informative essays having to do with the region of Appalachia (Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Kentucky). On the surface, it feels like a southern, mountainous Prairie Home Companion or segments of This American Life with really special, talented people (i.e. hobbyists, in the church, athletes, and cooks) told in a yarnful way (emphasis on length, since this is a tome of a book) amid a charming, candid use of photography. My favorite chapters are about Dori Sanders, the Tiger Drive-In, Eve Miranda, and Hedy West.

Sherry Tinerella says

Travels with Foxfire is a new addition to the Foxfire family of publications. This volume shares the stories of folks across Southern Appalachia and is true to the Foxfire mission to preserve the diverse traditions of the region. Each of these stories attest to the unique way of life carried on by the people of this special geographical area. The book is an entertaining documentation of stories that were told between families, friends, and neighbors who then passed them along through the generations. Topics of these stories cover everything from foraging and cooking to art and music. This is a great addition to any library collection and a great way to introduce Foxfire to new audiences.

Cat says

If you are a fan of Foxfire you may enjoy this one. I have collected the Foxfire books since the early 70's and have enjoyed reading and re-reading them over the years. Great how-to books! This one isn't quite what the earlier ones were, but Appalachia has changed over the years, nothing stays the same. Much of the older culture is gone now, along with it's people. Still, even with all of the changes, it's interesting to read about the changes and learn how somethings have stayed the same.

I received a Kindle ARC in exchange for a fair review from Netgalley.

Betty says

'Travels With Foxfire' is a lovely addition to the Foxfire series of books. I've been reading the Foxfire books over and over since the very first editions came out in the early seventies. Since I lived my early years not that far from the Appalachian Mountains, it was like going home reading these stories.

'Travels With Foxfire' spends most of the book recounting the lives of different people that had and still have made a difference in this region's history. This is so important since without this effort, much of this history could be lost.

Reading the story of Dori Sanders was like sitting down and reminiscing with an old neighbor. I can't wait to try some of her recipes. Learning about the history of Southern Appalachian music was fun too. If you love to read about the history and culture of people and places, this is the book for you. And after you are finished with this book, go back to the first Foxfire books and get those as well. You will not only have a great time reading, but will be also helping to preserve the oral history and culture of our country.

Kendra says

Another lovely installment in the Foxfire series, full of information and personal stories surrounding life in the Appalachians, including foodways and recipes, music, politics, farming, building, and much more. The Foxfire books are gems, appealing to general readers and useful for scholars of oral history and folkways.

Dsbook says

I have read all of the Foxfire books. This book was just interviews with people but it taught so much about the history of The Great Smoky Mountains and the people who settled there. I really enjoyed this book

Lili says

From Netgalley for Review:

I grew up reading my mom's Foxfire books, it was the thing to read if you were into naturalism/survivalism and lived in the south. We did not quite live in Appalachia, but we lived on the edge and visited it quite a bit to see family, so reading these stories about the people from this region keeping a way of life alive was nostalgic. The original books were more instruction with stories scattered about, Travels with Foxfire is more the opposite, so while it was very much so a walk down memory lane, I found myself missing the original series. If you want to learn more about the people that live in Appalachia or that was your favorite part of the OG series, definitely give this book a read, and definitely give the old series a read, it is a treasure!

Debbie says

This book is a collection of interviews with people who live in the Appalachia region. Most of these people were in their 60s or 70s, though some were younger. We're given a short biography of their life plus some stories they shared about a certain topic. The speaker often assumed that the reader was already familiar with what they were talking about. For example, the Southern Gospel performers never really explained what that type of music was, they just debated if its popularity was waning and told some funny stories from their performances. This book is more for people who want to reminisce about "You remember when..." than for people interested in learning details about how people used to live.

The book included some people with odd hobbies, successful authors (including cookbook authors), hunters, herbal gatherers, artists, singers/writers, and people who had been involved in moonshine production, stock car racing, drive-in movie theaters, and water dowsing. Overall, the stories were interesting and amusing, but

I'd hoped for something a bit more informative.

I received an ebook review copy from the publisher through NetGalley.
