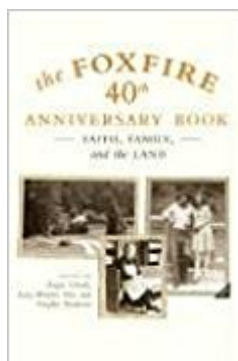


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The Foxfire 40th Anniversary Book: Faith, Family, And The Land



Synopsis

An anthology of Appalachian crafts, culture, and wisdom of simple living. In 1966, an English teacher and students in Northeast Georgia founded a quarterly magazine, not only as a vehicle to learn the required English curriculum, but also to teach others about the customs, crafts, traditions, and lifestyle of their Appalachian culture. Named Foxfire after a local phosphorescent lichen, the magazine became one of the most beloved publications in American culture. For four decades, Foxfire has brought the philosophy of simple living to readers, teaching creative self-sufficiency, home crafts, and the art of natural remedies, and preserving the stories of Appalachia. This anniversary edition brings us generations of voices and lessons about the three essential Appalachian values of faith, family, and the land. We listen to elders share their own memories of how things used to be, and to the new generations eager to preserve traditional values in a more complicated world. There are descriptions of old church services, of popular Appalachian games and pastimes, and of family recipes. Rich with memories and useful lessons, this is a fitting tribute to this inspiring and practical publication that has become a classic American institution.

Book Information

Series: Foxfire

Paperback: 560 pages

Publisher: Anchor; 1st Printing edition (September 12, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307275515

ISBN-13: 978-0307275516

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #731,222 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Folkcrafts #271 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Mythology & Folklore #339 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Rural

Customer Reviews

For four decades, Foxfire magazine has been documenting and preserving the life and culture of Southern Appalachia. Drawing on the magazine's published talks by local high school students with elderly rural inhabitants, the books have explored the crafts, cooking, music, gardening and stories that have been passed down through the generations. The focus in this anniversary volume is on

devotion to religion, family and the land. Collecting pieces from 40 years' worth of the magazine, the book inevitably covers topics covered in previous Foxfire collections, including snake handling, childhood toys and recipes. But the spoken words remain captivating, eloquent if plainspoken. It's clear that most of the respondents feel, as Eunice Hunter does, that "religion is everything to me." Many of the subjects speak movingly of their belief in the Bible, the power of the Devil, and Judgment Day. Prefatory comments from the editors are more admiring of the culture described (even whipping children as a form of discipline) and condemning of modern society than they are informative and objective. Best to overlook them and let the Appalachian elders speak for themselves. B&w photos. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Foxfire, the eerie phosphorescent glow emitted by decaying logs in dark woods, struck the Georgia high-school students charged with starting a magazine in 1966 as the ideal symbol of the bright but slowly fading traditions of Appalachia. What began with a small group of teenagers interviewing "local old timers" evolved into a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Appalachian folklore and knowledge, and the renowned series of Foxfire books, each a collection of wisdom both practical and spiritual. To celebrate the fortieth anniversary of this influential cultural movement, Foxfire editors have assembled a treasury of stories, ruminations, advice, natural remedies (for asthma, "swallow a handful of spider webs rolled into a ball"), and recipes (potato candy)--the life lessons of men and women of few possessions but a wealth of know-how, faith, and humor. These self-sufficient folks have lived intimately with nature, finding grace in even the harshest of circumstances, and cultivating dedication to hard work, good times, and, most of all, each other. As Anna Howard says, "Kindness and love is th' main thing." Donna Seaman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I love the Foxfire books. We should always learn from our elders especially those that are still living their life the same way as the did in the pass without a lot of progress cluttering it up. Most of these books are things we would need if we lost all the material things we have today; just to survive. These books were written by students who searched out their elders to see how they did things in the past, I hope they never stray away from the style they have been using. We must preserve the past in order to survive the future. Would you be able to preserve your food for your family if there were no supermarkets; would you know how to butcher or grow a garden and can it if you had no freezer? Would you know how to start a fire with no matches or lighter? Build a stone wall that

would last your lifetime? Make your clothes if there were no stores to buy them from? Make a quilt or curtains for your windows? The list goes on. These books may not have all the answer but, they sure have a lot to offer. Enjoy the easy reading.

Started leafing thru book and about 45 min. later stopped(for now). Loved reading the stories about marriages-and how they talked. I'm 81 and can remember listening to my aunts/uncles tell of their "grownin up" days in/around Okla. Am going to enjoy reading the accounts of life back when life was so simple and families stayed together. Thanks for memories. Have all the Foxfire books so far.

As in all the past volumes, there is a wealth of information along with a often ignored peek into our past. Way back when...before cellphones and television.I don't know how, but I had missed buying this 40th anniversary book for some reason. Now my collection is complete. I have read the entire collection at least three times. Some content I can relate directly to, and other content is familiar from stories passed down by grandparents and parents.An often startling insight into life less than 100 years ago. My, how far we've come in those years. It is a shame most of our trip has been down hill.

Love all the Firefox books.

great book

This book is just as good as it's predecessors. I am always amazed that the producers and publishers of this series keep coming up with such interesting history and sociological studies. The only drawback is the production quality has drifted over the years but you are still getting a nicely done soft cover book and the price is more than reasonable. I never tire of reading and re-reading any of the Foxfire series.

Love this book. This book gives you the true experience of how daily life is for those that live in the Appalachian areas up until the 1980's or maybe even today in some areas.

Get all the Foxfire books. Each contains new and different self-reliant, self- surviving information on many topics that people have forgotten how to do.

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