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Adventures in the Wild: Tales from Biologists of the Natural State

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From Brand: University of Arkansas Press : Adventures in the Wild: Tales from Biologists of the Natural State before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adventures in the Wild: Tales from Biologists of the Natural State:

The true tales in this collection will take readers from the chicken houses of Arkansas to the caves of Venezuela and Mexico to the coast of Alaska. These fifteen adventures range from amusing to life threatening. Some are filled with

suspense and danger in exotic places, while others document more routine but important biological field and lab work. Meet the roommate with the rash that wouldn't go away, a friendly bull, some blind cave fish, killer whales, drug smugglers, and hairy roots that are used to produce new medicines. Read about researchers crawling through rotten-egg-smelling muck in search of an elusive mosquitofish, diving into the cold black water of the White River in search of mussels, flying with bush pilots in Alaska, and working with David Attenborough in Arkansas. Here are teachers and researchers, biologists all, all from one university, real people who get their feet wet and their hands dirty in the pursuit of knowledge.

From Booklist What do most people know about scientific research? They would probably describe a white-coated scientist with beakers in a laboratory. Although this stereotype does hold true for some types of biological research, ask the Arkansas State University's faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences, and they will tell you of a much different scenario. Photographing reptiles and amphibians in the field, swimming with the tiny Pecos gambusia fish, collecting flies in poultry houses, and meeting Sir David Attenborough as he filmed salamanders near Hot Springs take the reader along on the scientific quest. These forays into what makes field research fun, as well as what makes researchers tick, will be sought out by fans of popular science writing. --Nancy Bent "The stories in this book . . . illustrate the excitement associated with the field work carried out by biologists around the world every day. The stories reveal the exhilaration felt by biologists when discovering new information and collecting new specimens of plants and animals . . . [and] show us how important biological collections are for the understanding and conservation of our natural heritage worldwide." —Cristián Samper, from the foreword "Very readable, witty, informative, well-edited and nicely done by the multiple authors, divided among various interests, aquatic versus terrestrial, botanical versus zoological." —Henry W. Robison, Southern Arkansas University