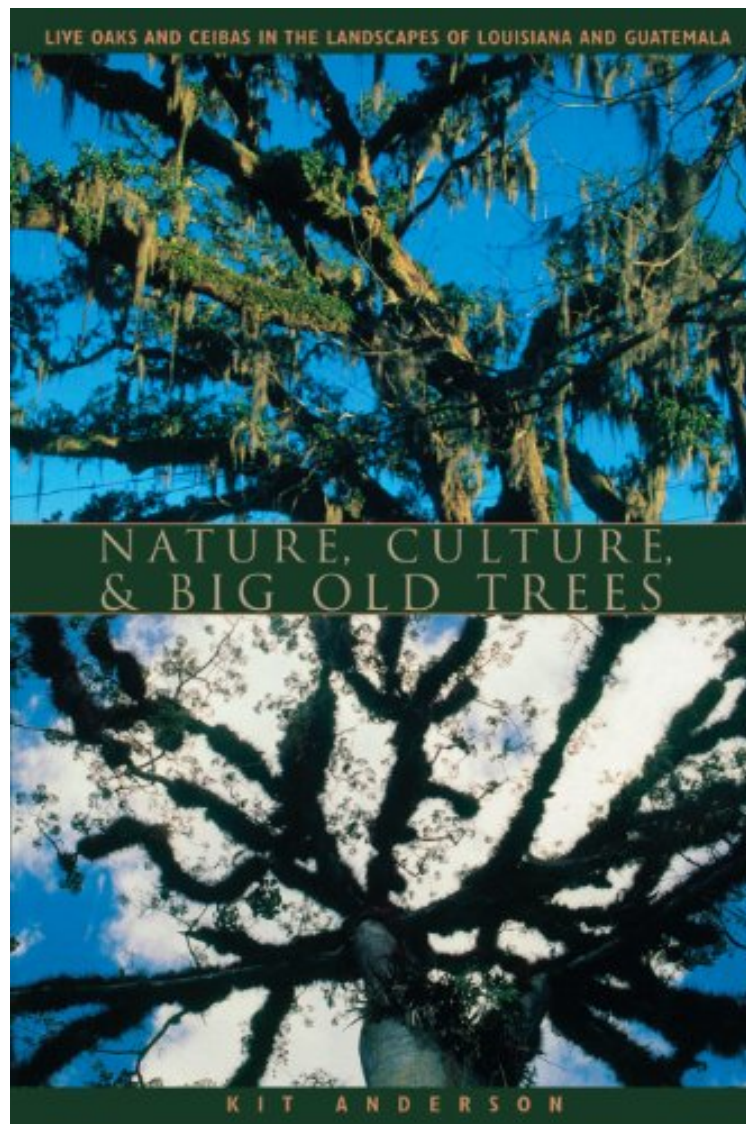


[DOWNLOAD] Nature, Culture, and Big Old Trees: Live Oaks and Ceibas in the Landscapes of Louisiana and Guatemala

Nature, Culture, and Big Old Trees: Live Oaks and Ceibas in the Landscapes of Louisiana and Guatemala

Kit Anderson

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#3942293 in Books 2004-02-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .75 x 6.001, .72 #File Name: 0292702132199 pages | File size: 58.Mb

Kit Anderson : Nature, Culture, and Big Old Trees: Live Oaks and Ceibas in the Landscapes of Louisiana and Guatemala before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nature, Culture, and Big Old Trees: Live Oaks and Ceibas in the Landscapes of Louisiana and Guatemala:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More about how Guatemalan and Louisianian culture regards big old

trees than the trees themselves. By Lyndon Brecht This is a fairly short book that seems to have its origins in her dissertation on these trees. It's an imaginative cross-cultural comparison of the history, use and cultural attitudes towards big old trees--Louisiana and Guatemala. Because her fieldwork was done in the 1990s her book is a little out of date, although cultural attitudes probably don't change much in a couple of decades. In each context, big old trees are admired, looked after and feature as part of the local landscape. There appears to be a tendency to overestimate a large tree's age. The book is really cultural anthropology. I found it fairly interesting because of a personal interest in ancient trees. It's not quite light reading. Preview the book before you buy it, unless cultural anthropology appeals to you.

Big old trees inspire our respect and even affection. The poet Walt Whitman celebrated a Louisiana live oak that was solitary "in a wide flat space, / Uttering joyous leaves all its life without a friend a lover near." Groves and alleys of live oaks remain as distinctive landscape features on Louisiana's antebellum plantations, while massive individuals still cast their shade over churches, graveyards, parks, and roads. Cajuns have adopted the "Evangeline Oak" as one of their symbols. And the attachment that Louisianians feel for live oaks is equaled by that of Guatemalans for ceibas, the national tree of Guatemala. Long before Europeans came to the Americas, the ceiba, tallest of all native species, was the Mayan world tree, the center of the universe. Today, many ceibas remain as centers of Guatemalan towns, spreading their branches over the central plaza and marketplace. In this compelling book, Kit Anderson creates a vibrant portrait of the relationship between people and trees in Louisiana and Guatemala. Traveling in both regions, she examined and photographed many old live oaks and ceibas and collected the stories and symbolism that have grown up around them. She describes who planted the trees and why, how the trees have survived through many human generations, and the rich meanings they hold for people today. Anderson also recounts the natural history of live oaks and ceibas to show what human use of the landscape has meant for the trees. This broad perspective, blending cultural geography and natural history, adds a new dimension to our understanding of how big old trees and the places they help create become deeply meaningful, even sacred, for human beings.

"...[A]n eloquent book that uses two species of large trees, live oaks in Louisiana and ceibas in Guatemala, to demonstrate the multiple ways that humans have transformed, and in turn have been transformed by, their environments." (Journal of Cultural Geography) "Dr. Anderson convincingly demonstrates why big old trees loom large in our cultural stories and individual imaginations: they are landmarks, benchmarks through time, and cultural talismans or touchstones. . . . Anderson is an engaging writer who delights in her subject; her enthusiasm is contagious. Gary Paul" (Nabhan Director, Center for Sustainable Environments, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff) "Dr. Anderson convincingly demonstrates why big old trees loom large in our cultural stories and individual imaginations: they are landmarks, benchmarks through time, and cultural talismans or touchstones. . . . Anderson is an engaging writer who delights in her subject; her enthusiasm is contagious. Gary Paul" (Nabhan Director, Center for Sustainable Environments, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff) About the Author Kit Anderson is a cultural geographer and ethnobotanist who holds a Ph.D. in geography from Louisiana State University. She is a former editor-in-chief of National Gardening Magazine and author of numerous articles on people and plants. In addition to teaching at the University of Vermont, she offers consulting on people-plant topics.