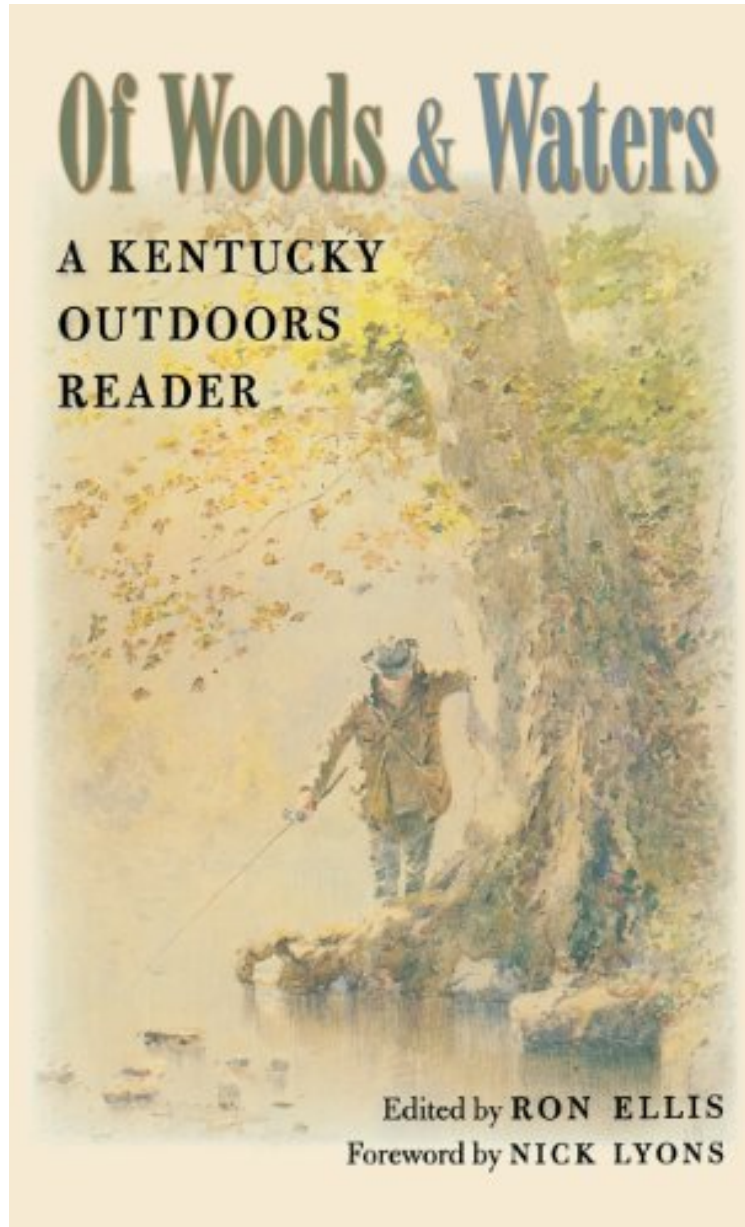


(Download) Of Woods and Waters: A Kentucky Outdoors Reader

## Of Woods and Waters: A Kentucky Outdoors Reader

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**From Brand: The University Press of Kentucky : Of Woods and Waters: A Kentucky Outdoors Reader** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Woods and Waters: A Kentucky Outdoors Reader:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. perfect gift for an outdoor hunterBy CathieMy friend called me and

said her husband loved the stories . He is an avid hunter and just loved the stories .5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. SuperbBy Hillary BillingsleyAlthough this is biased commentary, as the author so graciously included my grandmother, Margery Thomas Rouse, in the "In Memorium" section of his forward, *Of Woods Waters* is a truly exceptional collection celebrating the nature and people of Kentucky. It is a personal treasure, especially upon leaving the Commonwealth and moving to Virginia. A must-read for any true Kentuckian.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Kentucky TreasureBy Leah Maines, best-selling, award-winning author, actor, and editorThank you, Ron, for putting together such a wonderful book. If you love literature, and Kentucky, this is a must have for your private collection. What a find!

From the moment Daniel Boone first "gained the summit of a commanding ridge, and ...beheld the ample plains, the beauteous tracts below," generations of Kentuckians have developed rich and enduring relationships with the land that surrounds them. *Of Woods Waters: A Kentucky Outdoors Reader* is filled with loving tributes, written across the Commonwealth's two centuries, offered in celebration of Kentucky's widely varied environmental wonders that nurture both life and art. Ron Ellis, an outdoors enthusiast and noted writer, has gathered art, fiction, personal essays and poetry from many of Kentucky's best-known authors for this comprehensive collection. The anthology begins with famed illustrator John James Audubon's eloquent account of extracting catfish from the Ohio River and progresses through over fifty contributions by both established and emerging writers. Covering two hundred years of hunting, fishing, camping, cooking, hiking, and canoeing in Kentucky's woods and waters, these classic and original works show how writers have, as celebrated Kentucky historian Thomas D. Clark suggests, "fallen under the spell of the land." *Of Woods Waters* does not merely recount fond memories. Many authors presented in this collection echo the sentiments of the award-winning novelist and essayist Barbara Kingsolver, who writes, "Much of what I know about life, and almost everything I believe about the way I want to live, was formed in those woods" adjacent to her birthplace in Nicholas County, Kentucky. The works collected in *Of Woods Waters* serve to honor and defend what many recognize as a sadly declining way of life, one born out of genuine reverence for the beauty and bounty of nature. The contributions of Wendell Berry, Janice Holt Giles, Bobbie Ann Mason, Jesse Stuart, James Still, Robert Penn Warren, James Baker Hall, Silas House, and other esteemed authors examine the delicate balances that must be struck between humanity and nature, between progress and sustainable living. While raising these crucial questions, these writings center on connections among friends and family in Kentucky's beautiful natural surroundings. The authors spin tales of the whistling wings of ducks overhead, the heart-pounding excitement of a white-tailed buck's sudden appearance, the joy of childhood plunges into cold lake waters after hours of climbing trees, and the thrill of watching sons and daughters catch their first fish. In these writings, the bountiful Kentucky wilderness that first captivated frontier settlers remains vibrantly alive.

"A book that is long overdue, considering the rich tradition of hunting and fishing in Kentucky, and our bounty of natural resources."?Art Lander, *Outdoors Columnist, Lexington Herald-Leader*"Offering tales of fishing, hiking, canoeing"?Chevy Chaser"This is as good a volume of hunting, fishing, and nature writing as I've seen. It gathers over a century of fine writing about the central Appalachian landscape from John James Audubon's day to the present."?Gray's *Sporting Journal*"No other state offers such a variety of topics for its writers and this one, which incorporates love of the land and the love of nature, is special. This anthology may well inspire others to share tales concerning this genre, and kudos to all if it does"?James C. Claypool, *Northern Kentucky University*"An insightful and varied view of Kentucky's lush landscape from many voices, past and present. . . . Will certainly appeal to hunters, anglers, environmentalists, and those who simply enjoy the outdoors"?*Kentucky Monthly*"Filled with 74 essays, stories, and poems and more than 50 illustrations, the diverse collection is an exploration of Kentuckians' kinship with the land and an attempt to describe, even if words are inadequate, the ancestral spirit that draws us to wild places."?*Kentucky Post*"Takes your mind outside. Read enough of it and you might get out of the chair and follow."?*Lexington Herald-Leader*"A superb collection. Ellis has covered an extraordinary swath of ground with this collection, the first that I know of to so thoroughly plow through the state's deep outdoor roots."?*Louisville Courier-Journal*"A journey through time and changing landscapes, yet it has a constant"?*Northern Kentucky Challenger*"It is a journey through time and changing landscapes, yet it has a constant"?*The Sunday Challenger*"Reading *Of Woods Waters* is a sensory experience. Its fine, down-home musings stay with you long after the last page is turned."?Constance Alexander, *Murray Ledger and Times*About the AuthorRon Ellis is the author of the fictionalized memoir *Cogan's Woods*. His work has appeared in *Appalachian Life*, *Kentucky Monthly*, and the *Journal of Kentucky Studies*. A dedicated bird-hunter and fly fisherman, he lives in northern Kentucky with his wife and son.