

## Arnoldia Reviews

**Wild Wealth.** Paul B. Sears, Marion R. Becker, and Frances J. Poetker. New York: Bobbs-Merrill Co. 1971. 322 pages, illustrated. \$20.00.

Three contrasting sections by an ecologist (43 pages), a practical gardener-horticulturist (135 pages), and a flower arranger (119 pages) are correlated with over 250 drawings to describe an area near Cincinnati, Ohio and its native and cultivated plants.

Sears' essay is a rambling explanation of the factors of the environment that are present and have produced the growing conditions of southwestern Ohio. Mrs. Becker and her husband have grown an amazing array of plants on eight acres of woodland. Her account of success and failure with each species should be considered the highlight of this book. Regrettably the valuable horticultural suggestions seem to me to be lost in the literary style adopted. Mrs. Poetker's contribution begins with a chapter titled "A different kind of beauty" and then describes the preparations for arranging fresh or dried plant parts in a variety of containers.

The artist, Ms. Forberg, has sketched the arrangements and a description accompanies each indicating the materials and procedures. Subdued color wash gives variety to the illustrations and enhances the attractive layout of the book. The illustrations are mostly impressionistic. While the representations of individual species are recognizable, the plates having several plants present an unnecessary puzzle of "find the plant". Marginal captions throughout the text describe the illustrations and are generally very well written. The compositor set these in italics and then, annoyingly, has the habit of using the generic name as a common name with an initial capital letter and in the same type; e.g. *tradescantias*, and several words or lines later refers to *T. ohioensis* in roman typeface. A very complete index is supplied.

R. A. H.



1973. "Arnoldia Reviews." *Arnoldia* 33(3), 216–216.

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