

BOOK REVIEW

Roadside Geology of Ohio. Mark J. Camp. 2006. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, MT. 410 p. \$25.00 paperback (ISBN: 0-87842-524-1).

Roadside Geology of Ohio is University of Toledo Geology Professor Dr. Mark Camp's second book in Mountain Press's Roadside Geology series. The series' six-by-nine-inch paperback format and vision-friendly text and graphics make the books easy to use while traveling. Instead of chapters in a book or a map in an atlas, books in this series feature driving routes within a book's featured state, such as "I-71: Columbus to Cincinnati" in *Roadside Geology of Ohio*. In Camp's book, each route has an overview map, usually with several geologic or historic features labeled on it (e.g., the western Ohio quarry that supplied Ohio's representative building stone in the Washington Monument), and a few pages describing the geology along the route.

If you have forgotten what you learned about geology in high school or college, Camp has included a 33-page introductory overview of some geologic concepts, particularly those relative to the geologic history of Ohio. The author, however, avoids using excessive technical jargon in the guide. Although many readers skip the preface of a book, this reviewer encourages reading the preface to *Roadside Geology of Ohio*. In less than four pages, Camp explains how he divided the state into four regions based roughly on the geology present in each region. Mark Camp is also interested in Ohio's history. This book is a very nice blend of both his passions, capturing the essence of Ohio's geology and geology's role in Ohio's history and development.

The four geographic regions that Camp describes are: "Western Ohio—The Till Plains" (pp. 34-147), "Ohio Uplands—The Allegheny Plateau" (pp. 148-303), "Lakeshore Ohio" (pp. 304-341), and "The Ohio Valley—A Product of the Ice Age" (pp. 342-379). For each geographic region, Camp expands on his introductory overview of geology by including a discussion on the geology, bedrock formations, and ice age deposits and features specific to the region, as well as geologic and historic events significant to the region. In the "Road Guide" section of each region, travelers can find answers to their questions about which type of rock lies beneath the road or is exposed in a road cut.

There is not an overview map showing all of the route locations; instead, the 25 separate roadside routes featured in the book are listed under the "Road Guide" subheading within their respective geographic regions listed in the "Contents" (pp. v-vi). In addition to a route's map and text, there are numerous sidebars on points of geologic, historic,

and economic interest that are quickly accessible or visible from most of the routes. This well-illustrated book has numerous historic and present-day black-and-white photographs highlighting Ohio's variable geology and how geology played a role in the state's development. The maps of the roadside geology routes and the figures and diagrams used throughout the book are rendered in an easy to use muted, multicolor format, and the roadside maps are clearly labeled with text identifying various geologic features or points of interest. In addition to the aforementioned textural and pictorial features, the book includes a glossary (which, in this reviewer's opinion, would be more helpful if terms were highlighted within the guide's text), a list of additional reading material, and a thorough index.

This reviewer has two chief complaints regarding the book. The first is that the geologic features or points of interest indicated on the routes are not linked to mileage markers or distance traveled. Linking route elements to mile markers or distance traveled would make this generally user-friendly guide even better. The second is the lack of citations for both figures and information used throughout the book to describe Ohio's geology. Granted the lack of citations is part of what makes the book easy to read, but along with Camp's list of "Additional Reading," it would make the book a much more useful resource if he had included a list of publications used while writing the book. Even though using citations would slightly diminish Camp's succinct descriptions and discussions of Ohio's geology, it would allow inquisitive readers to more efficiently obtain additional information on an aspect of Ohio's geology that interests them.

Overall, this book will be a valuable asset to anyone living in or visiting Ohio who wants to make traveling through the state both entertaining and educational. Unfortunately, proper use of the guide requires at least two people, one to read the book and another to drive.

Those interested in purchasing *Roadside Geology of Ohio* can contact Mountain Press at <http://mountain-press.com/> or call (406)-728-1900. The book is also available through the Ohio Division of Geological Survey, E-mail: geo.survey@dnr.state.oh.us; on the web at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/geosurvey/>; or call (614)-265-6576.

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