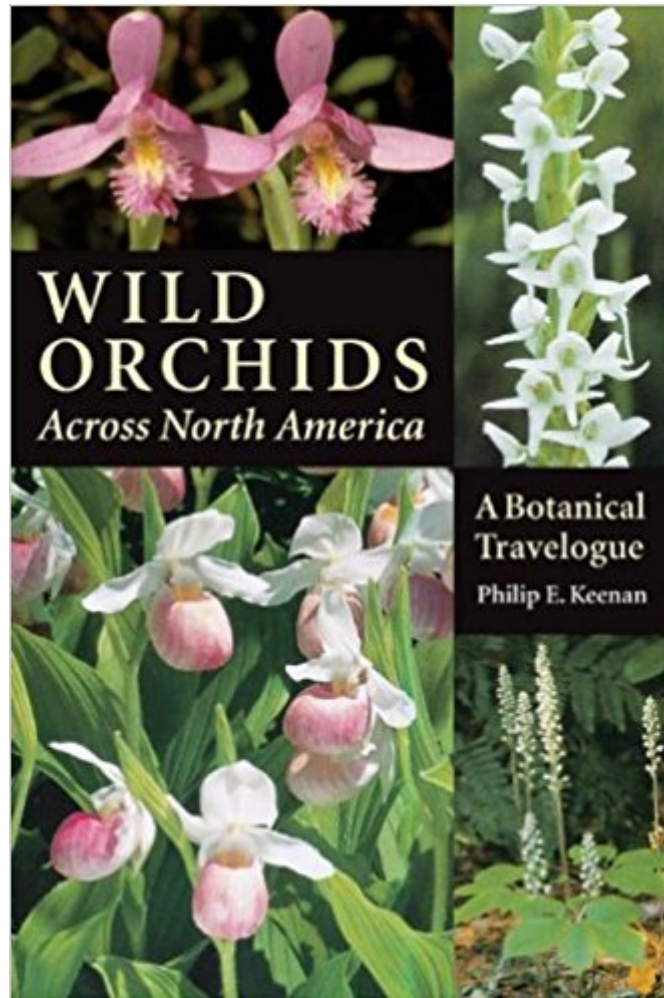




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# Wild Orchids Across North America: A Botanical Travelogue



## Synopsis

Appealing to conservationists, travelers, orchid lovers, and naturalists alike, the author takes his readers on an incredible journey to pursue the 145 temperate American orchid species in their native habitats. This chatty account of his field trips in Canada and the U.S. is intended both to document many of our native species and to inspire others to respectfully explore the wealth of orchids. Includes 170 superb color photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are about 145 orchid species representing 35 genera in North America. Keenan documents most of them in striking color photographs taken in their native habitats during his 100,000-mile drive. An engaging text in the form of a travelogue complements the photographs. Arrangement is geographical: Alaska, Canada, New England, mid-Atlantic, Midwest, the Southeast, and the West. An orchid checklist has a helpful guide to pronunciation. Readers can follow Keenan's remarkable 100,000-mile trip merely by turning the pages. George Cohen --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This is a fascinating book, both as a study of wild orchids and as a study of enthusiasm itself." - The New York Times Book Review"

I enjoyed the stories and pictures contained in this book about the orchids of North America. It

should be noted that this book is unique in that it is not a field guide. Locations are vaguely referenced and no maps are given. However, the book is not meant to be a field guide. The stories are interesting and make me want to go out in the field on a cool, rainy morning and hunt for orchids.

Wonderful and informative!

Great book at a great price!

Memoirs and travelogues have long been a popular vehicle for sharing personal experiences on a wide variety of subjects. Most natural history tomes of this type are very general and have little specific information to generate vivid images for the reader. Not so with Philip Keenan's assemblage of more than two decades of traveling throughout most of North America in search of many of the wild orchids of that continent. Keenan's descriptive prose is a fitting complement for his brilliant full-color images of wild orchids taken in situ from coast to coast. Having accompanied him on many of these forays I can say that each vignette or anecdote brings me back to the day of discovery! For those who have not been there, his photographs will give you a taste of what can be waiting for you. Both the very rare and the frequent and familiar are treated with the same reverence and respect. For those who have lived in the Northeast the wide-spread pink lady's-slipper is still to be admired as much as the rapidly decreasing fairy-slipper. Keenan takes us to such diverse places as Newfoundland, Alaska (and its breathtaking Kodiak Island), the pinelands of New Jersey, and the open savannas of southeastern North Carolina. A few days in the 'sky islands' of southeastern Arizona yield several sought-after species. Although not a rabid 'life-lister' as are so many in various natural history fields, Keenan appreciates each new species and joins many of us in completing the study of all species within a genus. This volume is both an excellent addition to the native orchidist's library or a perfect gift for anyone who appreciates nature. I can think of no other book on native orchids, or wildflowers in general, that would be as ideal as a first volume to intrigue and infect someone with an appreciation for the natural world around them. PMB

Now in paperback for the first time, *Wild Orchids Across North America: A Botanical Travelogue* is offers detailed information concerning orchid biology, ecology, history, and conservation for nature lovers and gardeners alike. Full-color photographs throughout reveal the beauty of these wonderful flowers, making *Wild Orchids Across North America* a stunning visual treasury as well as a

repository of information on all things orchid. The emotion that author and North American Native Orchid Alliance founding member Philip E. Keenan has for these captivating blossoms shows through in his exquisite attention to detail. Highly recommended especially for orchid lovers.

I have had the rare satisfaction of experiencing a manuscript about orchids that would be the envy of any writer on any subject, and a pictorial feast that certainly would put Keenan right up there as the Ansel Adams of orchids when it comes to photography. And somewhere up there Rachel Carson must be smiling down and thinking, "Well done Mr. Keenan", for, like Carson, Keenan has great concern for our voyage through time on our spaceship earth and, in a most disarming manner, alerts us to our ecological responsibilities without being overbearing about it. This is not just about orchids - it's about life.

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