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Biology - Botany

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The following review appeared in the November 2013 issue of CHOICE:

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Reece, Erik. **The embattled wilderness: the natural and human history of Robinson Forest and the fight for its future**, by Erik Reece and James J. Krupa. Georgia, 2013. 143p bibl afp ISBN 9780820341231, \$24.95; ISBN 9780820345697 e-book, \$24.95

The secret is out, again: a viable economy and a sustainable ecology can coexist harmoniously. Environmental writer Reece and biologist Krupa (both, Univ. of Kentucky) begin this story on a spiritual foundation, quoting John Muir and Jesus Christ. They conclude, with irony, that the faith community and the scientific establishment are caught in an economic fray, when no battle should exist. Yet short-term political interests driven by avarice have established a value system at odds with livability, human and otherwise. The authors' writing is synchronized as they alternate chapters with complementary perspectives on the humanities and sciences. They engage readers at every level so that, in the end, readers will fall in love with Robinson Forest. This is not an isolated issue, despite the focus on an eastern Kentucky mesophytic forest. Nor is it a new controversy between contrasting worldviews (see W. T. Johnson's "The Bible on Environmental Conservation," *Electronic Green Journal* 12, no. 1 [2000]). It is an essential reminder that if the "good die young" or in this case, the "pure die polluted," it is not without a fight based on interdisciplinary intellects, open minds, and passionate hearts. A valuable work on the importance of resource conservation. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All academic, general, and public library collections. -- T. Johnson, *Prescott Valley Public Library*