
Two poems about birds create bookends for the rich content of this book. In the first, “At the Spring,” David T. Manning describes a whimsical encounter with a cardinal when the bird sits on his hand and drinks from a garden hose. In “Blue Heron,” Steven Lautermilch recounts a day in the life of a blue heron, capturing the heron at dusk particularly well. For both poems, words are tied to the land. Eubanks is good at continuously tying words to land.

*Literary Trails of Eastern North Carolina* could have been called *Literary Tales*, too. Eubanks deftly weaves biography, history, literature and art into tales about Eastern North Carolina’s authors and the literature they represent. Some of the authors included are Charles Chestnutt, Tim McLaurin, Liza Wieland, A. R. Ammons, Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, and Gerald Barrax. Every author represented in the book is fit into a tour; there are eighteen tours, with each tour covering multiple authors. Tours start off with a map that shows the path the tour takes through the landscape. While there may be some areas in cities where the tours can be done on foot, most of the book requires a car, a driver, and a navigator to complete. Also included in each tour is a selection of “Literary Landscape” notables such as bookstores, libraries and centers of cultural import. Although this guide is not intended to be exhaustive, the tours seem like the kind of activity that would fill up a leisurely day.


This book is an ideal acquisition for public libraries in North Carolina, specialized academic collections focusing on the state, and literary enthusiasts.

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