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Ephemeral by Nature: Exploring the Exceptional with a Tennessee Naturalist (Paperback)

By Stephen Lyn Bales

University of Tennessee Press, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In this captivating collection of twelve essays, a testament to a lifetime s fascination with the outdoors and its myriad wonders, naturalist Stephen Lyn Bales examines a variety of flora and fauna that in one way or another can be described as ephemeral -that is, fleeting, short-lived, or transient. Focusing on his native East Tennessee, Bales introduces us to several oddities, including the ghost plant, a wispy vascular plant that resembles a rooster s tail and grows mainly in areas devoid of sunlight; the Appalachian panda, an ancestor of today s red panda that wandered the region millions of years ago and whose fossil remains have only recently been discovered; and the freshwater jellyfish, a tiny organism that is virtually invisible except for those hot summer days when clusters of them bloom into shimmering medusae, sometimes by the thousands. Other essays consider such topics as the plight of the monarch butterfly, a gorgeous insect whose populations have dropped by 90 percent in only the last two decades; the reintroduction of the lake sturgeon, one of nature s most primitive and seldom-seen fish, into the waters...



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