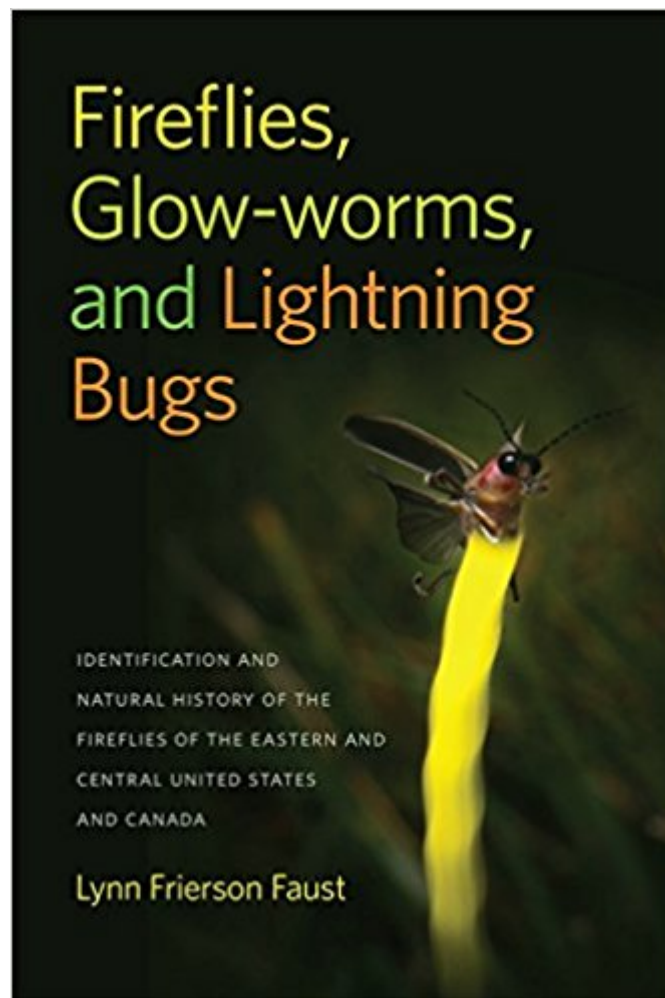




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Fireflies, Glow-worms, And Lightning Bugs: Identification And Natural History Of The Fireflies Of The Eastern And Central United States And Canada (Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book Ser.)





Synopsis

Fireflies, Glow-worms, and Lightning Bugs is the first-ever comprehensive firefly guide for eastern and central North America. It is written for all those who want to know more about the amazing world of lightning bugs and learn the secrets hidden in the flash patterns of the 75+ species found in the eastern and central United States and Canada. As an independent researcher working with numerous university teams, naturalist Lynn Frierson Faust, *“The Lightning Bug Lady,”* has spent decades tracking the behavior and researching the habitats of these fascinating creatures. Based on her twenty-five years of fieldwork, this book is intended to increase understanding and appreciation of bioluminescent insects while igniting enthusiasm in a fun and informative way. Species accounts are coupled with historical backgrounds and literary epigraphs to engage and draw readers young and old into the world of these tiny sparklers. A chart documenting the flash patterns of the various species will aid in identification. Clear photos illustrate the insects’ distinguishing physical characteristics, while habitats, seasonality, and common names are provided in easy-to-understand yet scientifically accurate language. The guide will be welcomed by everyone who wants to learn more about fireflies and glow-worms’ unique traits and fragile niche in the ecosystem. Features: Over 600 color photographs Detailed accounts and anatomical diagrams of 75+ species, as well as aids in distinguishing between similar species A first-of-its-kind flash-pattern chart that folds out on heavy-weight paper Extensive scientific details written in an understandable and engaging way Colorful common names *“Twilight Bush Baby, Shadow Ghosts, Snappy Syncs, and more”* for easy species identification based on flash patterns Tips on ideal sites and times of year for firefly watching Conservation-oriented approach

Book Information

Series: Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book Ser.

Paperback: 376 pages

Publisher: University of Georgia Press (March 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0820348724

ISBN-13: 978-0820348728

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #187,111 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Biology > Entomology #88 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Insects & Spiders #1104 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna

Customer Reviews

This is a true gem of a book, a celebration of fireflies in all their diversity. With her unique combination of expert knowledge, boundless enthusiasm, superb photography and above all her love of these magical creatures, Lynn Faust leads us through every aspect of their lives and emphasizes the need to enjoy, study, cherish and protect them. She has created a supremely authoritative yet wonderfully accessible guide that is sure to inspire and inform the next generation of firefly-researchers. This book will draw you into the world of fireflies and make you want to go out into the night to discover and enjoy them for yourself. (John Tyler Past Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, and author of *The Glow-Worm*)

Lynn Faust's *Fireflies, Glow-worms and Lightning Bugs* is overflowing with contagious enthusiasm for Lampyridae and other bioluminescent insects, but you won't want to spill a drop. It is a perfect brew of natural history, anecdote and careful taxonomy, sparkling with accessible-but-authoritative text and saturated with superb photography. *Fireflies, Glow-worms and Lightning Bugs* promises to be a natural history classic, and is a perfect guide to the "magical world of fireflies" in eastern and central North America. (Stephen A. Marshall author of *Flies: The Natural History and Diversity of Diptera*)

This is a book for all of us, from nature enthusiasts and backyard entomologists to beetle experts to theoretical biologists. The guide, as the author modestly calls it, packs a wealth of information and wit. Rigorous but simple, and fun to read. Decades worth of original field observations make Lynn Faust's book a priceless contribution to the study of a charismatic but poorly understood group of insects, nothing short of a scientific monograph. It will be extensively cited in research papers, no doubt, and leave you with a striking impression that fireflies are relevant to the entirety of human experience. Only someone of Lynn's insight and dedication can put humble bugs in a context that wide. She says this is the book she wanted when she first got interested in fireflies. What she came up with is exactly the kind of treatment we want for every group of organisms, to boost and nurture our fascination with nature, to show us how those tiny parts of our world work. I'm afraid, though, this book will remain a unique example for quite a while; people with skill, energy, and expertise matching Lynn's are few and far between. (Vassili Belov Contributing Editor, BugGuide.net)

Do you call them fireflies or lightning bugs? Or do you have another name for these insects that are neither bugs nor flies but

bioluminescent beetles? A new book, *Fireflies, Glow-worms, and Lightning Bugs*, by Lynn Frierson Faust takes an in-depth look at the biology and allure of these familiar night visitors. Faust is the first to offer a comprehensive look at species of the eastern and central United States. The book is unequivocally the best ever written on North American lightning bugs. . . . Faust's excellent book answers a multitude of questions about these twinkling night travelers. What do they eat? The adults of most species never eat. They only mate. Can fireflies bite us or attack plants in our gardens? Easy answer to both – absolutely not. . . . If nothing else, this book will spark memories of the childhood delight you felt when you caught lightning bugs in a jar – and then let them go. It may also encourage you to turn off the front porch light unless you're expecting visitors. (Whit Gibbons Aiken Standard) But if Faust's book doesn't make the task simple – getting down to species is not a simple job, she admits – having the *Lightning Bug Lady* by your side, with her graceful, wise, and witty advice, coupled with a plethora of incredible pictures (the cover photo, by David Hughes, of a Big Dipper firefly, a species found in our area, rocketing upward is itself worth the \$32.95 retail price of the guide), makes the job both doable and downright pleasant. (Bruce Fellman *Naturalist's Journal*)

Get better acquainted with the performers of your own backyard – “light show”

I was fascinated to learn about the synchronism of lightening bugs at Elkmont in the Smoky Mountains. Always intrigued by lightening bugs as a child chasing them in the backyard. Now many fewer around--another blight to the eco system! This book was way too scientific for me but a treasure of information. I've shared it with others and will gift it to the local library. Literally everything you will ever want/need to know about insects that make their own light.

I picked up this book because I have been fascinated with fireflies since I was a kid. As an adult naturalist, I have a new found interest in these amazing creatures, and this book is a feast of natural history, great biology, easy-to-use identification tools, and beautiful images. I highly recommend it anybody interested in bugs and nature. If you are going to buy one firefly book, THIS IS IT! The book must have over 1000 (!) color images, highly useful tools to identify and learn about the firefly species.

A field guide for amateurs and professionals alike. From the species specific flash pattern guide to phonetic pronunciation, Lynn Frierson Faust shares her passion for fireflies, and decades long

research in this beautifully illustrated guide. If you're a lifelong firefly chaser, or just a casual observer, you won't want to miss out on this remarkable book.

THE book to have if you're interested in Fireflies. Amazingly detailed information and the photos are incredible. **BUY THIS BOOK!**

I've always loved fireflies and remember being blown away as a young teenager by the overwhelming, disorienting firefly display in the graveyard at Elkmont in the Smoky Mountain National Park back in the 1960s, long before the famous synchronously-flashing fireflies became a national sensation. As soon as I heard that Lynn Faust was doing a firefly reference book, I got in line for a copy from the Georgia Press. Lynn knows fireflies better than anyone alive today. And it all started about 25 years ago when she read a report that a researcher had "discovered" synchronous fireflies flashing in unison in Asia, considered at the time a unique occurrence in the natural world. When she contacted the researcher to point out that the fireflies at Elkmont flashed together in the same way, literally in her own backyard, her report was, at first, ignored. That rebuff launched her second career as a top-flight entomologist. Not only did she prove that the fireflies in her backyard at Elkmont flashed in unison (and they did so **ONLY** in her backyard, because they didn't flash that way in the Elkmont graveyard when I was a kid, just a few thousand feet away from her home!), but she also went on to publish scientific papers at international conferences and became a sought-after commentator and consultant on the subject, relied upon by the likes of National Geographic and news outlets, including the BBC. The beauty of this field guide is that it is written by someone who is entirely self-taught on the subject, so her approach is fueled by her fascination with fireflies, not with the droll pursuit of tenure as an academic. There is a vitality and passion, and also a practicality, in the way she covers all aspects of bugs that glow in the dark. She never talks above her audience, and yet there is, in the end, a definite and genuine intelligence and sophistication in her writing that would satisfy even the most prickly scholar. She is basically a really good communicator for any reader/user of this guide, regardless of age, background or education. Each chapter of this guide begins with a literary or poetic reference to fireflies that draws one immediately into the subject. The chapters are short and focused, and they tell you everything you need to know to identify the many, many different types of glowing bugs "out there" in the night. The accompanying pictures are unfailingly helpful and instructive, and there are **LOTS** of them. There are charts and graphs of flash patterns and, best of all, common, sometimes hilarious, names that Lynn has either borrowed or created to make each type of firefly recognizable and memorable. And

that brings me to the bottom line for this review. There is joy and wonder in this guide. As you read each chapter, you feel as if you were actually on a field trip yourself, live, out in nature, on a dark and moonless night, listening to the best nature guide ever as she opens your eyes to a marvelous phenomenon. And fireflies really are marvelous. This field guide will have you convinced from page one!

This is an absolutely tremendous book. Author Lynn Frierson Faust clearly has a passion for the subject matter and has done such a fantastic job of researching and cataloging the insects we know as fireflies, glow-worms, and lightning bugs. The largest portion of the book (Chapter 8) is an identification field guide. I have to admit that most of the fireflies still look the same to me, but I look forward to capturing a couple this coming summer and checking them against the book to see what genus the luminescent insect is. There is a size chart, there is a detailed description of the insect and its habitat, there are unbelievable photos of the insect at various stages of its life, and there is a glow/flash chart detailing the number and type of flashes (and glow color) the specific fly typically displays. I own a number of different sorts of field guides, from birds to trees to dragonflies to animal scat, and this book really has the most complete tools for identification that I've ever seen. The portion of the book that is not directly related to identification is equally packed with information regarding these unique insects. My favorite section is the Frequently Asked Questions in which I learned how fireflies flash ... sort of. According to the book (and I'm simplifying) its complex chemistry and the experts are still trying to understand the specifics. I also learned that the colors of the fireflies are not all the same - though it's possible that this has as much to do with the viewer as it does with the flies themselves. The researcher noted that five people watching the same display saw five slightly different color shades. One interesting aspect in the FAQ portion was the notation that "Adult fireflies do not need to eat. They are mating machines. They exist only to find a mate and lay as many fertile eggs as possible." But one paragraph later is the notation that the researchers found "at least nine different species of fireflies ... appearing to consume nectar from toxic common milkweed blooms." Perhaps they don't need to eat, but do they consume to make themselves poisonous for protection (like the Monarch butterfly)? Every summer I sit on my back deck and watch the fireflies in my yard, which is one of the reasons I was so interested in reading this book. I live very much in the Driftless Area mentioned for the "Slow Blues" genus so you can be sure I'll be checking 'my' fireflies this summer to see if they are this particular kind. This is a remarkable book. I had hoped to give it out as a Christmas present this past year to family members who have a strong interest in nature and identification field guides but it wasn't yet released. I look forward to getting

the book as a gift for family members this year. Looking for a good book? Fireflies, Glow-Worms, and Lightning Bugs by Lynn Frierson Faust is a thorough, well-researched, tremendously illustrated (with photos) guide to one of the few insects that we still enjoy seeing and even often encourage people to catch and hold. I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher, through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

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