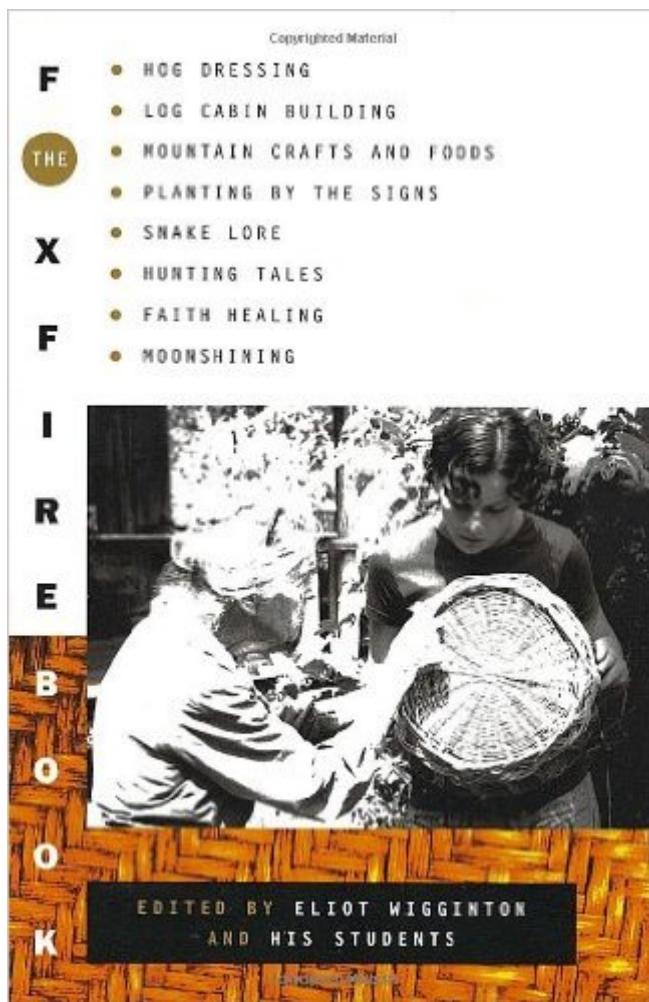


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# The Foxfire Book: Hog Dressing, Log Cabin Building, Mountain Crafts And Foods, Planting By The Signs, Snake Lore, Hunting Tales, Faith Healing, Moonshining, And Other Affairs Of Plain Living





## **Synopsis**

In the late 1960s, Eliot Wigginton and his students created the magazine *Foxfire* in an effort to record and preserve the traditional folk culture of the Southern Appalachians. This is the original book compilation of *Foxfire* material which introduces Aunt Arie and her contemporaries and includes log cabin building, hog dressing, snake lore, mountain crafts and food, and "other affairs of plain living."

## **Book Information**

Series: *Foxfire*

Paperback: 384 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (243 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,351 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 inÂ  Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Rural #11 inÂ  Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology #87 inÂ  Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

## **Customer Reviews**

The *Foxfire* series is the creation of English teacher Elliott Wigginton (Wig) who made it a point to have students participating in his program interview older folks to find out how they did things in everyday life. And even though this is the work of high school students, the writing is clear, concise, informative, and very readable. Good writing is good writing. Each volume is like a time capsule, capturing the wisdom and know-how from individuals born around the turn of the 20th century. And while the focus is based around the inhabitants in and around Rabun County, Georgia, this information shows life as it was in America circa the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. After reading several of these volumes, I think what appealed to me most of all was the fact that these older folks in the 80s and 90s weren't viewed as forgotten relics of a bygone era. They were treated with respect and dignity, and their memories treated as the treasures that they indeed are. It's a shame nowadays that we don't have more publications like *Foxfire* that highlight the knowledge gained from our older population. So many folks in their 70s, 80s, and 90s sit alone at home, or nursing

homes forgotten and alone. They are untapped resources of great stories and wisdom. Fortunately for us, the people at Foxfire realized the value of these individuals and preserved some of those stories for future generations to cherish and enjoy. If you have an interest in 19th century knowledge and an appreciation or an interest in how things used to be, you cannot do without this series.

Don't get me wrong the entire series is amazing. Book one is the best and one of the more practical. The chapter on log cabin building was my inspiration to build my own cabin. At least 75% of the cabin was directions from this very book. Reading a Foxfire (any of them) does something to you that's hard to explain. I think of Foxfire books as almost a self-help guide that teaches you how to slow down for a minute. I recommend this book for anybody with high blood pressure or some kind of anxiety problem. It's therapeutic. These students met some really neat people of Appalachia. We can't let this way of life fade away as it almost has in my hometown, Knoxville.

My great-grand parents and my grandparents and even most recently my 97 year old aunt did live and think like this. I at the age of 52 now have planted by the signs all my life since age 8. My mother believed in a lot of the old remedies in this book. My mother's mother was part Cherokee Indian and they too passed along a lot of what was in the book. If things continue on the same tract as they are going now, we will probably be doing this very same thing real soon. The only problem, the young generation of today do not know how to do any of the stuff in the foxfire book and just laugh at us oldies when we try to tell them how it was and may very well be in the future. I hope they never have to experience this way of life. They will never make it. I have an issue I purchased in 1972 . I can't tell you how many time I have referred to it regarding some of the remedies and the food. A person can make a great quilt from this also. Never tried the still "ha, ha"

The Foxfire books are a wonderful thing and we are so lucky to have them. Many of the ways, crafts, planting lore, animal lore, and as the book says "affairs of plain living" are preserved here. This particular volume includes different wood and its uses, Mountain Recipes, Slaughtering Hogs, weather signs, faith healing and so very, very much more. This is a wonderful recording of life the way it was and probably never will be again. The book is quite well written and has faithfully recorded even the dialect of these wonderful people, from which so many of us sprung. That is a big part of the charm of these works. This book includes actual interviews with folks from that region of the country which I am sure are long dead now. Their knowledge would be completely lost without works such as this. Another generation or two and it will all be completely gone. Thank goodness

we have recordings such as this. Recommend this one highly.

My father tried to teach me from the moment I would pay attention, until the time I "knew it all", about simplicity. When I was in boy scouts, I read all kinds of books. The problem with most is that most people have no kind of base to start from. The whole foxfire series tells a story of the way life used to be. If you are into "outdoors" type books or life style, it captures the wonder of it all. Most books of this nature tend to get technical leaving what was interesting behind, fun. Around the time I was getting burnt out on tech books, my father found original foxfire books. Now all of the tech books mean more to me than ever before. They approach simple living "camping" from an entirely different vantage point. Now it's time to get my own set.

If you've never heard of the Foxfire series, then you are in for a treat. By all means, you have an interest in the lore of the Smokey Mountains, Appalachian culture, or if you just want to learn the "way it was", then start reading these books. Subjects ranging from folk medicine, ghost stories, cooking, woodslore and much more. If you are involved in "living history" or you work for a recreated farm/museum, these books are a gold mine of information. The text can be a bit difficult to follow, but this is because it is written the way these people still speak. If anything, it adds to the authenticity and charm of the series. Even if you never attempt to build a log cabin, or make "leather britches beans" you're sure to find a "hearin' helpin'" of good reading.

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