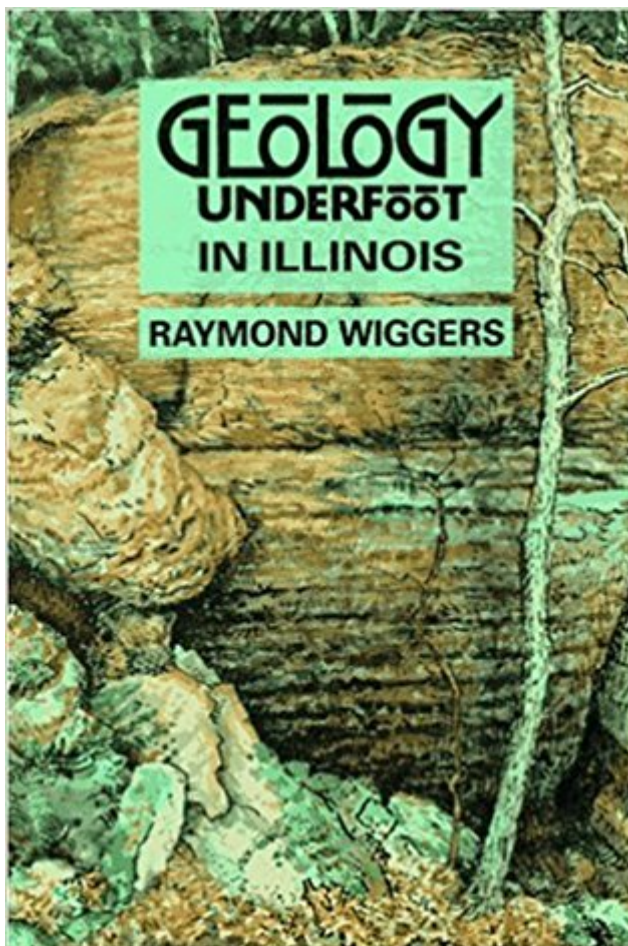


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Geology Underfoot In Illinois



Synopsis

Illinois--a flat and boring state with nothing but cornfields and crowded expressways, right? Balderdash! *Geology Underfoot in Illinois* scratches the Prairie State's surface to expose geologic diversity that stretches back more than a billion years. Enjoy an unexpected exploration of Chicago's architectural geology. Embark on a fault-seeking expedition in Mark Twain's big-river country. Or try moraine-surfing on Interstates 55 and 74. Copious illustrations and witty, page-turning prose guide readers on geologic walking or driving tours of thirty-seven sites in Illinois.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"With a touch of curiosity and *Geology Underfoot in Illinois* in hand, readers will view the state with a new sense of wonder, ideal for geology students and the non-specialist general reader with an interest in the application of geological information in and throughout the state of Illinois.

--Bookwatch

Raymond Wiggers, an Illinois native, holds a bachelor's degree in geology from Purdue University. He served as editor and curator of publications for the Illinois State Museum, as an environmental geologist for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and as a National Park Service botanist and environmental educator. Wiggers has written several books, including *The Plant Explorer's Guide to New England* and *The Amateur Geologist*. Wiggers currently resides in Beach Park, Illinois.

Great field book for understanding our local geology. Gives more insights and understanding of rocks. An important work for all rock hounds, hikers, and nature buffs.

... and he shows his affection in every word of Geology Underfoot in Illinois. Here the reader will learn, in a casual and sometimes humorous way, the history of the Prairie State, what rocks and minerals it holds, and prevailing overall, how the glaciers impacted North American terrain during the Ice Age. Because the book proceeds regionally from north to south, natives and tourists alike can follow along by car or on foot. But even if you never visit Illinois, there are juicy tidbits for you to chew on and be surprised by. Like the fact that Illinois is NOT flat. Like the bizarre origins of the Streeterville neighborhood, which was created in the 1880s only after George "Cap" Streeter grounded a ship along the Lake Michigan shoreline and encouraged construction waste to be dumped around it to form a landfill. Or what happened to the Amoco Building when its pricey Italian-quarried marble sides were exposed to the extremes of Chicago weather. Or the fact that the kitty litter capital of the world may very well be located in the southern tip of the state. Sadly, the black and white photos chosen to accompany the text miss the mark in capturing the true beauty of the sites. You'll simply have to see the places in person. The author continues to make numerous appearances at nature centers and society meetings throughout Illinois. His presentation style is likable, informative, and funny, and audience members walk away knowing more about geology than they would have guessed possible. If you get a chance to see him speak, take it. You'll find the time well spent. [This reviewer was an Illinois resident when these comments were written.]

Interesting reading for a novice like me, the Retired Film Guys.

Although not a native of this state, but having lived here for a few years, I was impressed with what I had missed while there. There is some very interesting geology here. This book is like a guide to some interesting geologic sites and events that happened here. My only complaint is that the map or sketches at the beginning of each little adventure could be better, but, as I've said I don't live in Illinois so maybe it's just me that finds some fault with this.

Very interesting!

Wanted a little more detail, very interesting essays on the geologic events that formed the areas topology, but not much on the materials involved.

I bought this book in advance of my upcoming trip to the Shawnee National Forest. My field guides to plants and animals required supplementation, as the Shawnee's rock formations are what make it a special place to hike. It's a great book -- not too heavy on dry scientific data. Instead it offers concrete advice and information easily understood by a layperson and which will add to your enjoyment of this beautiful state and its wonders. And, the author's love for Illinois and its geological wonders is evident on every page. Not surprisingly, the book discusses some of our other favorite places in the state: Lowden, Starved Rock and Matthiessen, Mississippi Palisades and Galena, and others. If you spend time in any of Illinois' state parks, or in the outdoors in Illinois, this book will add a dimension to your understanding of your surroundings. I recommend the book.

The author is (properly) defensive about his state's lack of scenic wonders. For a fact, any random square mile of Utah probably will have more visible, interesting geology than the entire state of Illinois. That being said, Mr. Wiggers manages to make what geology there is fairly interesting. I think this book would be ideal for someone who lives in Illinois. He provides thirty-seven sites spread throughout the state that could be visited on a day or weekend trip and teach you a lot about your state you probably didn't know.

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