Suggestions for Further Reading

A list of sources on André Michaux for general readers
Also visit www.michaux.org on the internet

Biography


Primary source material, this is the earliest account of Michaux’s life written by a contemporary and originally published in French in 1804. This reprint includes both the original French, an early English translation, added notes, map, bibliography and a chronology of Michaux in North America.


The only full-length biography, a simply invaluable beginning for future research. A detailed study of the lives of both Michaux drawn from many primary sources. The careers of Michaux father and son interlock so seamlessly that many casual observers have believed that they are the same individual. This carefully annotated work covers the full careers of both men. The bibliography is outstanding.

Michaux in Collective Biographies


“Michaux and the Spanish Conspiracy” is an exciting account of Michaux’s life centering on his involvement in the “Genet Affair” of 1793.


A modern naturalist recounts Michaux’s story as she travels to some of the same localities in the southeast Michaux visited two hundred years earlier.


Includes separate chapters on André Michaux and his son François André; the reading level is appropriate for middle school & high school.


One long, stirring chapter is devoted to André Michaux and his son.

Michaux’s Place in the History of Plant Exploration


Michaux is included in this history of plant exploration around the world.


Michaux in the context of three centuries of French plant exploration.


The chapter on plant explorers of North America briefly mentions Michaux.

Briefly highlights the Michaux-Jefferson connection.


*Michaux is included in this sweeping history.*


*Grand natural history writing in the old style. Captures the spirit of the French botanist, but a few of the details given here have been corrected by later researchers.*


*Mихaux in the context of the botanical exploration of all North America. The illustrations, from the collections of the Library of Congress, are magnificent.*


*Includes an analysis of Michaux's work by a leading contemporary scholar.*

**Useful Special Sources**


*Describes Michaux's contributions to gardens and places his Charleston nursery garden in the larger context of Charleston's illustrious gardening history.*


*An examination of the "Genet Conspiracy" in the context of US diplomacy in the 1790's.*


*The introduction to this reprint of Michaux's FLORA has a wealth of detail. The late Joseph Ewan was the most important scholar of botanical history active in the late twentieth century. This is his most extensive writing on André Michaux.*


*Full text of the stirring speech Kuralt delivered at the bicentennial celebration of Michaux's 1794 climb of Grandfather Mountain.*


*A bibliography of all editions of all books by the Michauxs issued prior to 1900. Precise descriptions useful for rare book buyers.*


*Translates and examines Michaux's 1788 Florida journey in detail. The historical background, Michaux's routes of travel and his plant discoveries are carefully examined. Also translates the portion of Michaux's journal after his shipwreck on the coast of Holland in 1796 until its last entries in Paris in 1797 and several letters from Michaux to colleagues in France.*

**Selected Magazine Articles Since 1990**

Reviews Michaux’s career with special emphasis on his contributions to lowcountry gardens. Color and half-tone illustrations include a detail of P.J. Redoute’s drawing of Pinckneya from the Michaux Flora.


Tennessee chooses the yellowood tree Michaux discovered near the Cumberland River in 1796 as the state’s bicentennial tree in 1996.


Reinterprets the route of Michaux’s explorations on Roan Mountain and links Michaux’s 18th century explorations to 19th century visits by naturalist John Muir and botanist Asa Gray.


Highlights Michaux’s extensive NC travels and the discovery of the bigleaf magnolia. Reports on the 2002 symposium sponsored by the AMIS consortium.


Examination of some of the plants Michaux is credited with introducing into southern gardens. Color illustrations.


Overview of Michaux’s career. Reports the planned celebration on the bicentennial of his climb to the summit of Grandfather Mountain, NC in 1794. Color illustrations of some of his plant discoveries.


Describes the careers of Michaux father and son, color illustrations.


The leading botanical historian of SC describes Michaux’s career. This article includes a partial list of the plants Michaux discovered in SC. and has color illustrations.


Follows and interprets Michaux’s journal accounts of his travels in Georgia in 1787 and 1791 with a brief mention of the 1788 journey.

André Michaux’s North American Journal


This is in the original French with English introduction and footnotes. Most of the footnotes are concerned with plant identification. This is the only complete publication of Michaux’s extant American journals. All of André Michaux’s journals have never been completely translated into English and published.

“Portions” in the title of this source is somewhat misleading. This is the entire extant journal. The original handwritten copies are archived at the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia. The original journals were donated to the society in 1824 by Michaux’s son François-André.

Excerpts From Michaux’s Journal in English Translation

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   English translation of the portions of Michaux’s journal describing his trips into Kentucky. Even with the omissions, this is very valuable. Users should nonetheless beware that Michaux’s sojourn in Philadelphia after his return from Kentucky in December 1793 is not included here, nor are any of Michaux’s 1794 travels. All of the 1795-96 journey is translated. Some of the information given in footnotes by Thwaites has been revised by others, notably by Samuel Cole Williams in his study of Michaux’s travels in Tennessee.


   Translates a small portion of Michaux’s journal from western VA.

Dugger, Shepherd H. The Balsam Groves of Grandfather Mountain. Boone, N.C: [Reprint], 1934.

   Translates Michaux’s journal account of his 1794 visit to NC including the celebrated climb of Grandfather Mountain and visits to Salisbury and Fayetteville. Some plant data is edited out of this otherwise excellent translation.


   Translates small excerpts from Michaux’s journal accounts from NC.

Seaborn, Margaret M. ed. André Michaux’s Journeys in Oconee County, South Carolina in 1787 and 1788. Walhalla, SC: Oconee County Library, 1976.

   Translates and annotates portions of Michaux’s journal describing his initial visits to the southern frontier. Follows the interpretation of C.S. Sargent regarding Michaux’s discovery of the rare plant Shortia galacifolia. Seaborn’s translations are the basis for the reinterpretation of the discovery of Shortia published in the botanical journal CASTANEA by R. Zahner and S.M. Jones in 1983.


   Reprints an exciting portion of Seaborn’s translation of Michaux’s journal.


   Translates and examines Michaux’s Florida journey of 1788 in detail. His routes of travel and plant discoveries are carefully examined. Also translates the portion of Michaux’s journal after his shipwreck on the coast of Holland in 1796 until its last entries in Paris in 1797 and several letters from Michaux to colleagues in France.


   Uses the translation of Thwaites (1906, 1966) for Michaux’s 1793-1796 journeys in TN, but provides fresh, and sometimes corrective annotations. Williams takes no notice of Michaux’s journey in 1789.

Internet Site


   A wealth of biographical information, plant lists, photographs and links to other sites.

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Compiled by Charlie Williams, Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County, NC 2004