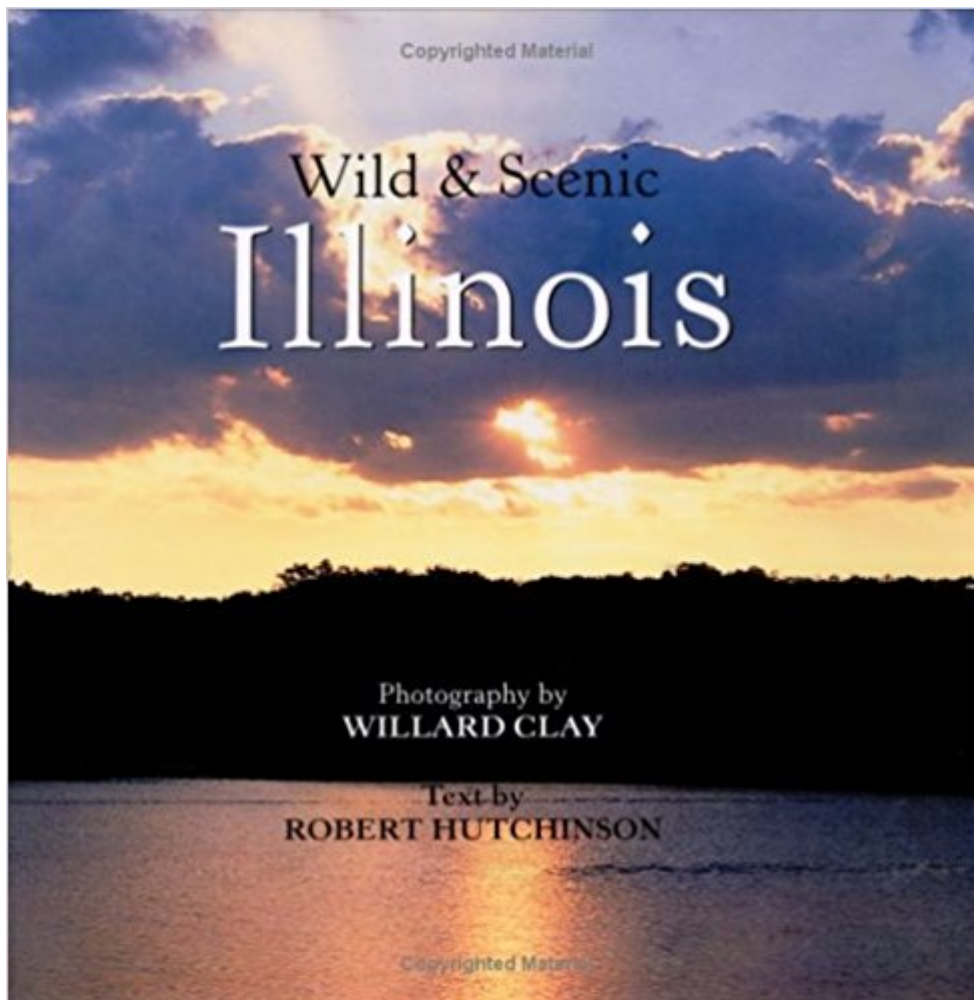


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# Wild & Scenic Illinois



## Synopsis

Corn State. Prairie State. Garden of the West. Each of these nicknames for the State of Illinois has a truth to tell. But not the whole truth. The world-class lens of Willard Clay reveals secrets about his home state that justify another nickname: the State of Hidden Delights. For WILD & SCENIC ILLINOIS, Willard Clay has crisscrossed the state's byways and trails in his search for the rare, the beautiful, the seldom-seen jewels of the Illinois landscape. WILD & SCENIC ILLINOIS is the most discerning and the most rhapsodic portrait of the natural face of Illinois ever published. Clay has gleaned his images from every province in Illinois, ranging across all seasons, times, and natural subjects. The photographs are systematically grouped into Illinois's various landscape provinces, described in an informative text by naturalist Robert Hutchinson. In the photographer's introduction, Willard Clay shares his tips for tackling the technical challenges of shooting the landscape of Illinois. Formerly a professor of botany, Clay traces the source of his photographic inspiration to his close and patient observation of the face of nature.

## Book Information

Series: Wild & Scenic

Hardcover: 168 pages

Publisher: Browntrout Publishers (June 15, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1563139421

ISBN-13: 978-1563139420

Product Dimensions: 12.3 x 12.4 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,417,464 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Travel > United States > Illinois > General](#) #674 in [Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Travel with Pets](#) #1556 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nature & Wildlife > Landscapes](#)

## Customer Reviews

"As much a work of natural history as art, this gorgeous coffee-table book is an armchair traveler's delight." -- Illinois Heritage (Sept.-Oct. 2004)"These compelling images are a feast for the eyes. This volume is essential to any library of Illinois history." -- Illinois State Historical Society Certificate of Excellence (April 2006)Hundreds of glorious full-color photographs provide a nice, natural

progression through the state. The text offers detailed analysis and history. -- Library Journal, August 2004

"When it came time to find, explore, and photograph nature in our home state of Illinois, the prospect seemed daunting. Was there actually any pristine, unspoiled nature remaining in the state of Illinois? We put this question, which we feared was oxymoronic, to the experts at the Illinois Nature Conservancy and at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the agency charged with managing the Illinois State Park system. We gave pundits at both organizations a detailed map of the state of Illinois and asked them to circle any areas 'worthy of being photographed' for an exhibit-format book on Wild & Scenic Illinois. The results were totally unexpected. Our map was a dense honeycomb of little circles. 'Really, there are that many locations worthy of exploration by a landscape photographer?' In this passage from his preface, Willard Clay discloses his initial incredulity that Illinois could be thick on the ground with photogenic opportunity. At the end of his eight-year campaign to run down all those opportunities, Clay is a believer. In this book, he gives us his proofs that Illinois is not only one of the most beautiful states in the Union, but that Illinois offers its people and other creatures countless sanctuaries for the solitary enjoyment of unblemished nature. One of our country's premier landscape photographers, Clay established his national reputation in the starkly spectacular settings of the arid West. But he always came home to Illinois with an enhanced appreciation for the subtle epiphanies latent in its undulating landforms and lush flora. As his mastery of his art matured, the technical challenge of revealing the veiled intimacies of the natural face of Illinois became a professional obsession. Clay has relied as much on scientific system as on inspired intuition to put this book together. He charted his eight-year field campaign in such a way as to ensure complete coverage of the landscape diversity of Illinois. For, despite its undeserved reputation for blandness, Illinois does have an impressive variety of landscapes. The state is divided by scientists into four landform provinces. These seven provinces are subdivided into fourteen landform sections. Clay has organized his Wild & Scenic Illinois portfolio to represent every one of Illinois's landform provinces and sections. These are usefully described in an introduction by naturalist Robert Hutchinson. Extended captions supply unexpected depth to the breadth and beauty of Clay's images.

IF YOU LIVE IN ILLINOIS, HAVE LIVED IN ILLINOIS, OR BEEN PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY A VISIT TO THIS VARIED AND MARVELOUS STATE THIS IS A GREAT BOOK TO OWN AND TO GIFT. YOU ARE GOING TO FIND THE STATE DIVIDED INTO AREAS YOU LIKELY HAVE

NEVER KNOWN, YET SO BEAUTIFULLY PHOTOGRAPHED AND WRITTEN ABOUT THAT YOU WILL WANT TO EXPLORE AND SEE MORE OF IT ON YOUR OWN AND SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY..THE PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLARD CLAY AND THE TEXT BY ROBERT HUTCHINSON WILL DRAW YOU IN TO THE SECRET PLACES IN ILLINOIS THAT THEY HAVE FOUND AND WISH TO SHARE WITH THE READER.....ENJOY

My husband & I were born & raised in Illinois. We always knew it is a beautiful state, but these pics are fantastic. Makes us want to spend a couple weeks just searching out all the pics in this book.

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