Life in the Soil: A Guide for Naturalists and Gardeners

James B. Nardi
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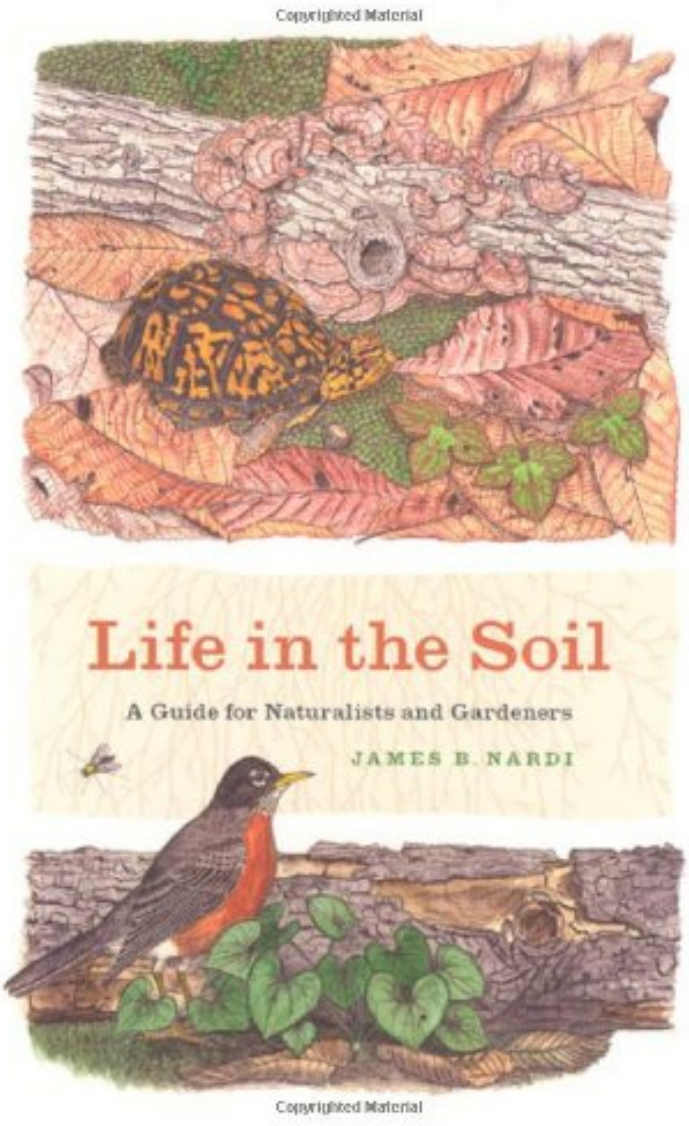

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James B. Nardi : Life in the Soil: A Guide for Naturalists and Gardeners before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life in the Soil: A Guide for Naturalists and Gardeners:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Better than `Teaming with Microbes'By CDOII was completely surprised at how interesting I found this book. After all, it's a book about soil science and its subsequent food chain - from microbes to vertebrates. Through reading 'Life in the Soil' I gained a respect and appreciation for what I previously only thought of as annoying bugs and creepy crawlies. The authors writing style makes absorbing the

technical information easy and enjoyable, and the illustrations and photos are outstanding. I liked this book far better than `Teaming with Microbes'.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Detailed and well written, very informativeBy Elisabeth R.An excellent overview of mostly the multicelled organisms in the soil and what's known of their ecological contributions. Good drawings and summary boxes for each group of critters. It will be an important handbook for me in trying to understand what it means to have healthy soil. Now to find a place that can tell me which ones are there in my own garden!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good introduction to soil scienceBy Timothy Eric RobinsonInteresting and informative. A good introduction to soil science.

Leonardo da Vinci once mused that we know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot, an observation that is as apt today as it was five hundred years ago. The biological world under our toes is often unexplored and unappreciated, yet it teems with life. In one square meter of earth, there lives trillions of bacteria, millions of nematodes, hundreds of thousands of mites, thousands of insects and worms, and hundreds of snails and slugs. But because of their location and size, many of these creatures are as unfamiliar and bizarre to us as anything found at the bottom of the ocean.Lavishly illustrated with nearly three hundred color illustrations and masterfully-rendered black and white drawings throughout, Life in the Soil invites naturalists and gardeners alike to dig in and discover the diverse community of creatures living in the dirt below us. Biologist and acclaimed natural history artist James B. Nardibegins with an introduction to soil ecosystems, revealing the unseen labors of underground organisms maintaining the rich fertility of the earth as they recycle nutrients between the living and mineral worlds. He then introduces readers to a dazzling array of creatures: wolf spiders with glowing red eyes, snails with 120 rows of teeth, and 10,000-year-old fungi, among others. Organized by taxon, Life in the Soil covers everything from slime molds and roundworms to woodlice and dung beetles, as well as vertebrates from salamanders to shrews. The book ultimately explores the crucial role of soil ecosystems in conserving the worlds above and below ground.A unique and illustrative introduction to the many unheralded creatures that inhabit our soils and shape our environment aboveground, Life in the Soil will inform and enrich the naturalist in all of us.

James Nardis Life in the Soil is a very worthy and meaningful introduction to the soil biota and their unique ecosystem.Coverage of the living forms is comprehensive, with fine graphics showing the diversity of major taxa that inhabit soils. These illustrations provide a good basis for the in-depth understanding needed if one wishes to use more advanced, complex identification keys to study any living soil groups in more detail. In addition to basic identification values for naturalists and gardeners, teachers at all grade levels also should find this an invaluable resource book for surveying field collections of soil creatures and their ecology. Furthermore, naturalists as well as educators and their students will benefit from the descriptions and illustrations of collection and observation chambers that can be used for live animals to initiate research such as population, behavioral or life history studies. Finally, the techniques for composting provide important information on the functional roles of the decomposer microcommunities of soil biota in the actual compost production. Composting presented here as a partnership between soil organisms and humans provides a vital message regarding waste reduction and recycling. Those who are environmentally inclined should read this book to acquire an understanding of our terrestrial ecosystem and the well being of the soils of the earth.