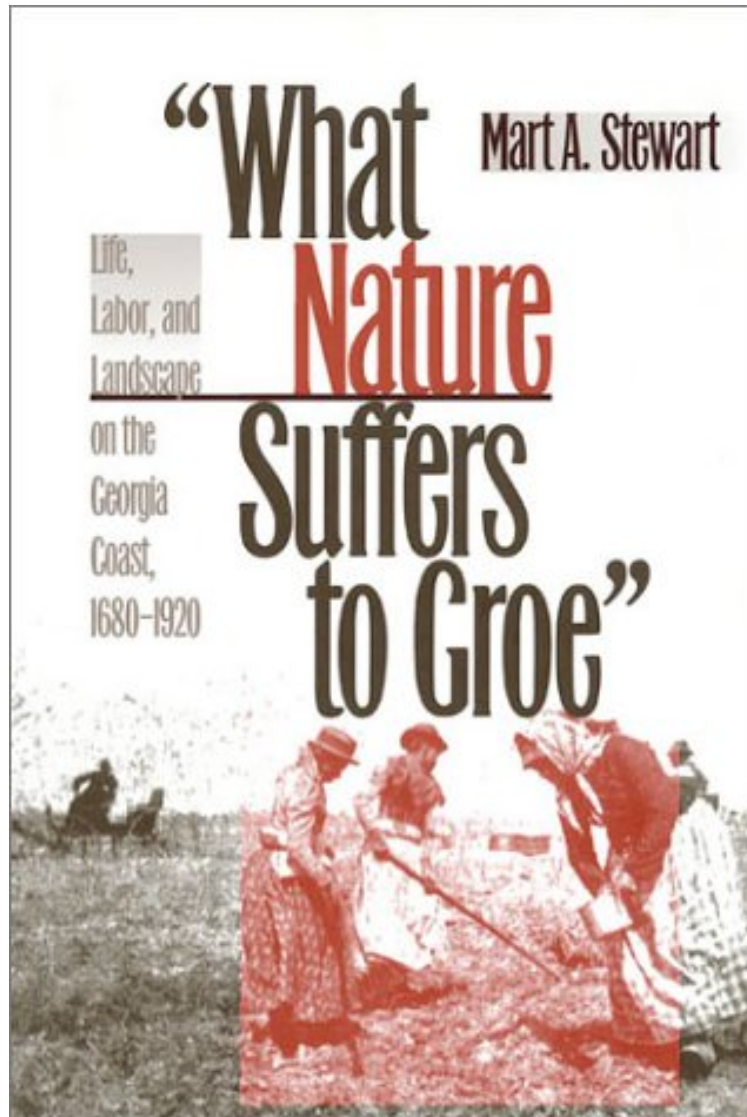


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What Nature Suffers to Groe: Life, Labor, and Landscape on the Georgia Coast, 1680-1920 (Wormsloe Foundation Publication Ser.)

Mart Stewart

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Mart Stewart : What Nature Suffers to Groe: Life, Labor, and Landscape on the Georgia Coast, 1680-1920 (Wormsloe Foundation Publication Ser.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Nature Suffers to Groe: Life, Labor, and Landscape on the Georgia Coast, 1680-1920 (Wormsloe Foundation Publication Ser.):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy lenrocit was great4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Nature and humans on the Georgia coastBy Frederic P. FittsIn "What Nature Suffers to Groe," historian Mart Stewart has crafted a superb and a prize-winning book!The general reader interested in the fascinating and complex relationship between nature and culture will delight in this book. Professor Stewart writes clearly with careful attention to detail. He provides a nuanced understanding of the many ways economic, social, and environmental interactions re-shaped one another along the Georgia coast from 1680 to 1920. For those interested in environmental history, in Southern history, in cultural and racial narrative, or for those who seek a skillfully and persuasively told story of humans' complicated attempts to shape the natural world long before the Army Corps and Katrina, I commend this book to you.And for scholars interested in solid research, consider what Harvard professor John Stilgoe commented to me: "This book has some of the finest footnotes I've ever read." But the bottom line for everyone is that this is a damn good story told by a first-rate historian, and you'll enjoy reading it!Ted FittsBoston University1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Good How-To on Being a Georgia Planter in the Olden DaysBy Ashley CharltonThe subject of this book is not new: the historical implications of the social the life and the economic the labor and landscape systems of the Georgia coast from 1680-1920. But Mart Stewart incorporated other disciplines such as geography, botany and even etymology to make connections that had never been made before. This book used an environmental history perspective to show how the Georgia inhabitants depended on the land and attempted to manipulate it to suit their needs, while at the same time the realities of the land challenged these expectations, which in turn affected the relationship between different groups of people, especially planters and slaves. Stewart portrayed it as a triangle of power between masters, slaves and the land. His argument that, of the three, the land had the most influence over time is convincing due to the strength of the environmental evidence. However, the biggest selling point of the book its interdisciplinary nature ended up being its biggest downfall. At times Stewart got caught up in the minute details of the agriculture when he could have been much more to the point and cut the book down by a third. I now know how to cultivate long-strand cotton thanks to this book. Therefore, I would mainly recommend this book to agricultural historians interested in this Southern plantation history. That being said, this book filled in gaps in the more traditional sources by putting more emphasis on the landscape itself to further develop the larger historical narrative.

"What Nature Suffers to Groe" explores the mutually transforming relationship between environment and human culture on the Georgia coastal plain between 1680 and 1920. Each of the successive communities on the coastthe philanthropic and imperialistic experiment of the Georgia Trustees, the plantation culture of rice and sea island cotton planters and their slaves, and the postbellum society of wage-earning freedmen, lumbermen, vacationing industrialists, truck farmers, river engineers, and New South promotersdeveloped unique relationships with the environment, which in turn created unique landscapes.The core landscape of this long history was the plantation landscape, which persisted long after its economic foundation had begun to erode. The heart of this study examines the connection between power relations and different perceptions and uses of the environment by masters and slaves on lowcountry plantationsand how these differing habits of land use created different but interlocking landscapes.Nature also has agency in this story; some landscapes worked and some did not. Mart A. Stewart argues that the creation of both individual and collective livelihoods was the consequence not only of economic and social interactions but also of changing environmental ones, and that even the best adaptations required constant negotiation between culture and nature. In response to a question of perennial interest to historians of the South, Stewart also argues that a "sense of place" grew out of these negotiations and that, at least on the coastal plain, the "South" as a place changed in meaning several times.

This is, in short and without exception, the best environmental history of an agricultural landscape that I have read. Mart A. Stewart has an eye not only for details of a place, but also for the complex web of interactions, natural and social, that go into its creation. He has so linked the social history of the peoples of coastal Georgia with their construction of the land that only the most obtuse historian would attempt to separate them again. (Richard White University of Washington)Scholars in disciplines from colonial studies to agricultural history to landscape studies will find it a stunning achievement . . . Sumptuously rich in detail woven by its author into many larger arguments that demonstrate the enduring power of place, and especially what ecologists call 'natural systems,' through gradual and traumatic social change. (American Historical)Establishes Stewart's credentials as a leading authority on the history of the southern lowcountry and a leading practitioner of the craft of environmental history. (Florida Historical Quarterly)The impressive way in which North American historians, following such luminaries as Donald Worster and Bill Cronon, have started to engage with the land is shown in this book. . . . There are two audiences for this book: the 'local', who will be fascinated by the detail of what exactly happened when and to whom, and the wider group, for whom the general conclusions fit into a wider construction of the main types of relationship between the material and the ideational. But as an example of detailed scholarship on what produced for various times a sense of place, this book will have an honourable place on the shelves of historians and of historical geographers whose interests extend beyond the purely social and political. (ECUMENE)A pleasure to read . . . By bringing the techniques of

environmental history to bear upon lowcountry Georgia, Mart Stewart has performed a valuable service. (Slavery and Abolition)A nuanced and meticulously researched account . . . This is a landscape that has undergone extraordinary transformations and retransformations in the past 300 years. Mart Stewart has described and analyzed them with great skill and subtlety. (Geographical)There is much to like in this volume. The prose is consistently enviable. The author's exposition of the intricate workings of the wet-rice plantations is deft as well. (Journal of Southern History)A detailed and thoroughly readable case study of some important themes in a particularly appropriate local setting . . . Many more such books are needed. (Southern Cultures)About the AuthorMart A. Stewart is a professor of history and Affiliate Professor, Huxley College of Environmental Studies, at Western Washington University.