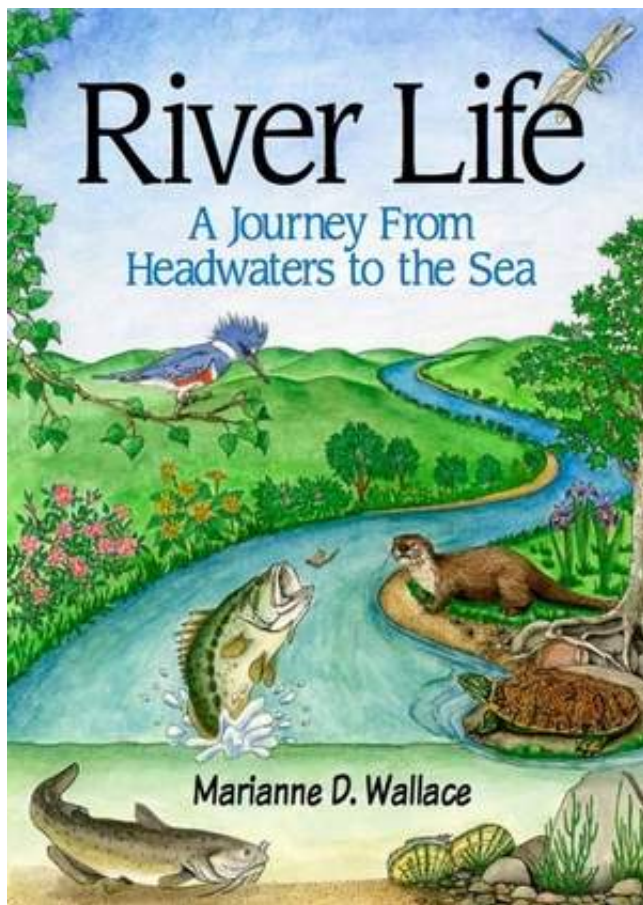


# Book review | 'River Life '

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Marianne D. Wallace, a writer and illustrator of nature-related publications and books for children, creates a joyful learning experience with “River Life: A Journey From Headwaters to the Sea.” With poetic prose and colorful illustrations she traces the Allegheny, Ohio and Mississippi rivers during different seasons, describing interaction among the water, aquatic life, plants, birds in the sky, trees and animals ashore.

She explores geography, biology, natural history and social development with details of how rivers begin and flow into one another, scientific names of the flora and fauna on their banks, steamboats and barges, and much more.

Included are interesting facts about how flood plains are formed; skills of the muskrat; shells that are made into buttons; and how Native Americans built the birch-bark canoe.

She writes of flowing water and limestone creating caves where river pirates hid out. Included are “River Facts of the World,” “Biggest River Animals,” “Glossary,” “River Lingo” and “Places to Visit.”

This superb book is a glimpse of the past with an eye toward the future and the end of river pollution. A must-read for all ages.

**Mary Popham is a writer and book reviewer who lives in Louisville. She holds a master’s degree in fine arts from Spalding University.**

1. <http://www.courier-journal.com/comments/article/20131227/FEATURES06/312270028/Book-review-River-Life->