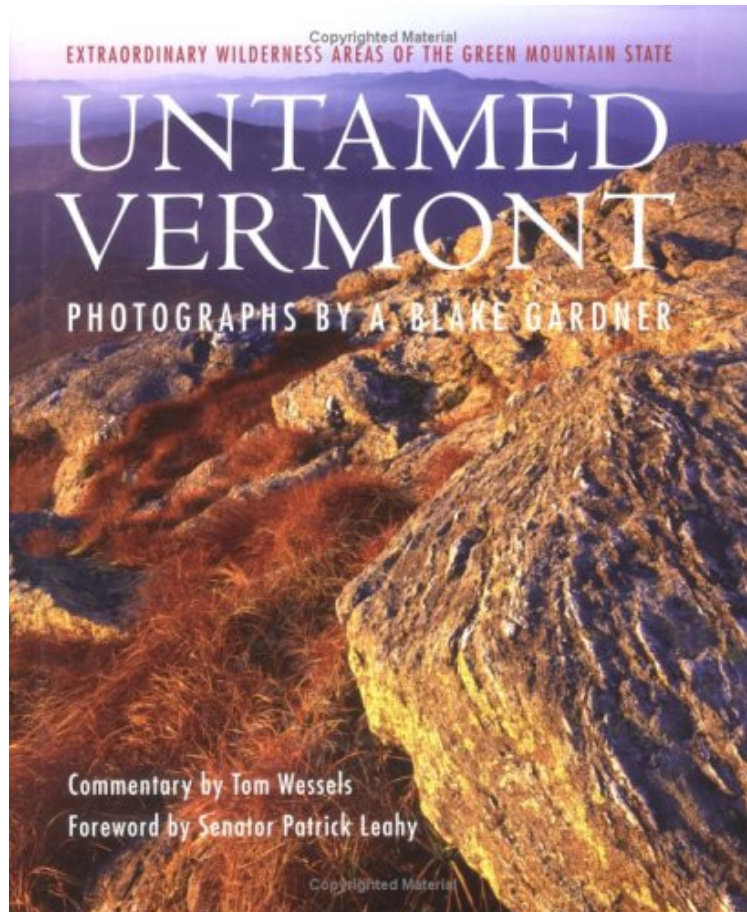


# Untamed Vermont: Extraordinary Wilderness Areas of the Green Mountain State

A. Blake Gardner

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Vermont is generally thought of as quintessentially old New England: small villages with white clapboard houses and tall church spires; family farms with red barns and grazing cows; and verdant fields lined with maple and white birch trees. But there's another Vermont virtually unknown to many that is composed of untamed wilderness with an extraordinary variety of landscape, soils, trees, and wildflowers, in a variety perhaps unmatched in any other small region. These wild areas are among the state's most beautiful and photogenic. Some are protected permanently, but many are not. Some are difficult to reach, even on foot; others are just a short stroll from a town or roadside. A. Blake Gardner has been trekking to wild areas throughout Vermont for more than a decade, and he photographs them, carefully and lovingly, with his large-format camera. To supplement Gardner's exquisite portraits, Tom Wessels writes about how these wild areas came to be. He looks at the state's geology, its natural history, and its culture. And he scrutinizes the threats to that diversity and discusses its preservation and stewardship. Untamed Vermont serves as a pictorial reminder of the natural and fragile beauty of the wild areas within the Green Mountains, and how vital to our well-being the preservation of that wildness is.

"Wessels' engaging explanations of the ecosystems represented in Gardner's exquisite photographs of Vermont's remote areas is a perfect marriage." -- Elizabeth Courtney, executive director, Vermont Natural Resources Council  
"While it never preaches or proselytizes, Untamed Vermont constitutes a compelling argument for preserving and maintaining these priceless wild places." -- Tom Slayton, Editor, Vermont Life Magazine  
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About the Author  
A. BLAKE GARDNER is an award-winning photographer from Westminster, Vermont, who specializes in nature photography. His work has appeared in Architectural Digest, Country Journal, National Parks, Sierra, Vermont Life, and Yankee magazines, among others. He is the author and/or photographer of several books. Among them are: Vermont Wilds (1991), The Berkshires (1997), How to Landscape Design (1997), Country Wild (1998), and The Red Lion Inn Cookbook (2000).  
TOM WESSELS is an ecologist, teacher, and writer who directs the environmental biology program at Antioch New England Graduate School. He is the author of Reading the Forested Landscape (1997) and The Granite Landscape (2001).