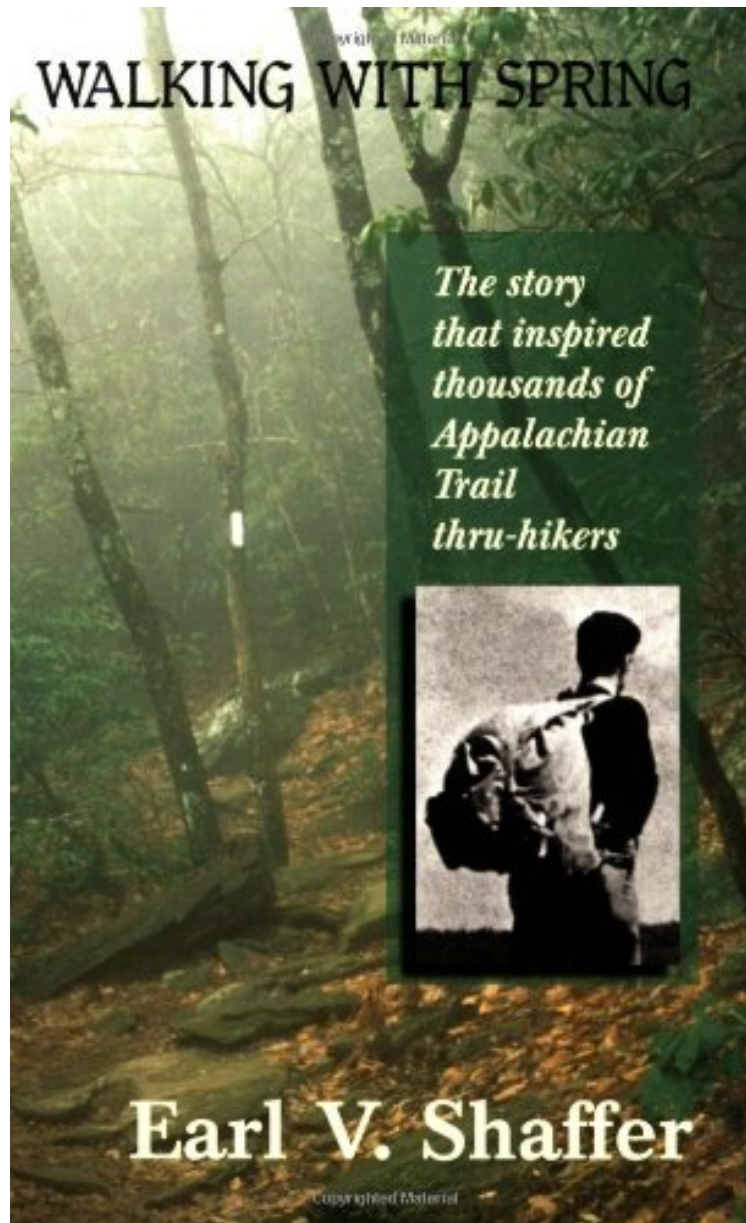


(Mobile book) Walking with Spring

Walking with Spring

Earl V. Shaffer

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#163135 in Books AP TRAIL CONSERVANCY 2004-06-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.46 x .42 x 5.54l, .52 #File Name: 0917953843160 pagesAuthor: Earl V. ShafferISBN: 0917953843 | File size: 71.Mb

Earl V. Shaffer : Walking with Spring before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking with Spring:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Earl's Your Uncle . . .By Wayne Scott. . . and your Patron Saint, if you are a thru-hiker, or aspire to be a thru-hiker, or a section hiker, or a one-time visitor who will never forget the

experience. This one has a special place in my affections. If you only buy one account of an Appalachian Trail thru-hike, this has my most emphatic, enthusiastic recommendation. If you've made a list of many such accounts to consider, I make the identical recommendation for starting with this one. The original AT thru-hiker's original thru-hike, on a poorly maintained post-WWII trail in 1948, with a degree of solitude and perseverance that humbles the rest of us, or at least it should. And what Earl V. Shaffer's thru-hike accomplished for the trail, and for everyone who's hiked it since, cannot be measured. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. And we think we have it tough on the A.T. Read Earl's account. Just WOW! By Blazer Enjoyed reading this book, because of lot of history into the trails beginnings, and how it was established. He has many black white photos of the trail, view points, shelters etc. The stories he conveys, really lets the reader know how rural America was in 1947. You get this primarily thru the people he meets (country folks in cabins) city folk who don't know what they are doing (that hasn't changed.) He is a naturalist as well, and gives great descriptions of wildlife, and the destruction of our natural resources - even back then he was angry how our forests were (mis)managed He would turn over in his grave if he saw what 65 years have done. By today's standards, his hiking gear would be considered grossly inept. It is wonder he made it all because his woeful 'equipment' , poorly marked trails, getting lost numerous times, and at times, bush-whacking the trail to get by. He hiked the trail to "Get the Army out of my system". He also lost his best friend fighting on Iwo Jima, which affected him profoundly, as he never married nor got very close to anyone. Getting resupplied was another obstacle he faced. The list of reasons why he should have never made it are endless. Even when he was done, and wanted get credited for it (and published) no one believed him. He was grilled for 3 1/2 hours by a major publisher to authenticate his 'story. btw .. he was also the FIRST person to hike the trail North to South!! And to top that off, on his 50th anniversary of his hike, he did it AGAIN.. at the age 79. His trail name was the "Crazy One". The guy is tough as nails and probably gargles with peanut butter!! Great Read. Thank you Earl! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent...the real experiences of a 1948 AT Walk. By G. Bencin This book was written from notes of Earl Shaffer who thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 1948. Having been born in the '40's, I can relate to some of the terminology he uses, and the graciousness he experiences from rural people along the way. It is an EXCELLENT book based on the year he walked it...and the fact that in that year, some of the trail was still being "mapped" out.. Having read more recent books of travel on the AT, it, like so many things, appears to have become more commercialized, and the experiences less taxing, as more restaurants, lodging, etc. has sprung up along the trail, catering to hikers. I thoroughly enjoyed it!!!

In April 1948, the 11-year-old Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia was pretty much a wreck: Volunteer maintainers who hadn't been called to combat couldn't get rationed gasoline to get out there to keep it clear. In April 1948, so, pretty much, was Earl Shaffer, self-dubbed "The Crazy One." He had come home from war in the Pacific where he had lost the dearest friend of his life. He needed to walk it off, and he did with the most primitive of gear. In four months, he walked with the merging spring from Georgia to Maine, bushwhacking to find the route more often than not-becoming the first to report a complete, single-journey trek on this footpath of more than 2,000 miles. More than 7,000 have since followed in his footsteps. These reflections on and from his first of three thru-hikes are often lyrical, full of history and local legend and his own quiet insights on life in the woods in a much different era all around.

From the Back Cover It was spring of 1948, and a young man from Pennsylvania had to work out of his psyche the sights, sounds, and losses of World War II; he took a hike. For four months. On August 5 of that year, Earl Victor Shaffer became the first person to solo-hike uninterrupted the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, from Springer Mountain in Georgia through 13 other states to Katahdin in the central-Maine wilderness...on more than 2,000 miles of footpath created in the 1920s and '30s by volunteers and maintained by volunteers ever since. Earl Shaffer, a woodsman, naturalist, and poet who still lives close to the Trail, went on to become one of those volunteers as a leader of the Appalachian Trail Conference as it worked to secure federal protection for 'the A.T.,' now a unit of the national park system but still volunteer-managed. Written soon after the first of his two thru-hikes and including photographs from 1948, *Walking with Spring* chronicles Shaffer's adventures along a path that at the time was showing neglect of the war years and has since been rerouted significantly to its permanent locations. His simply stated story has served as an inspiration for more than 3,000 men and women who have since followed in his footsteps...and many thousands more who have tried. Or wanted to. (5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 160 pages, bw photos)