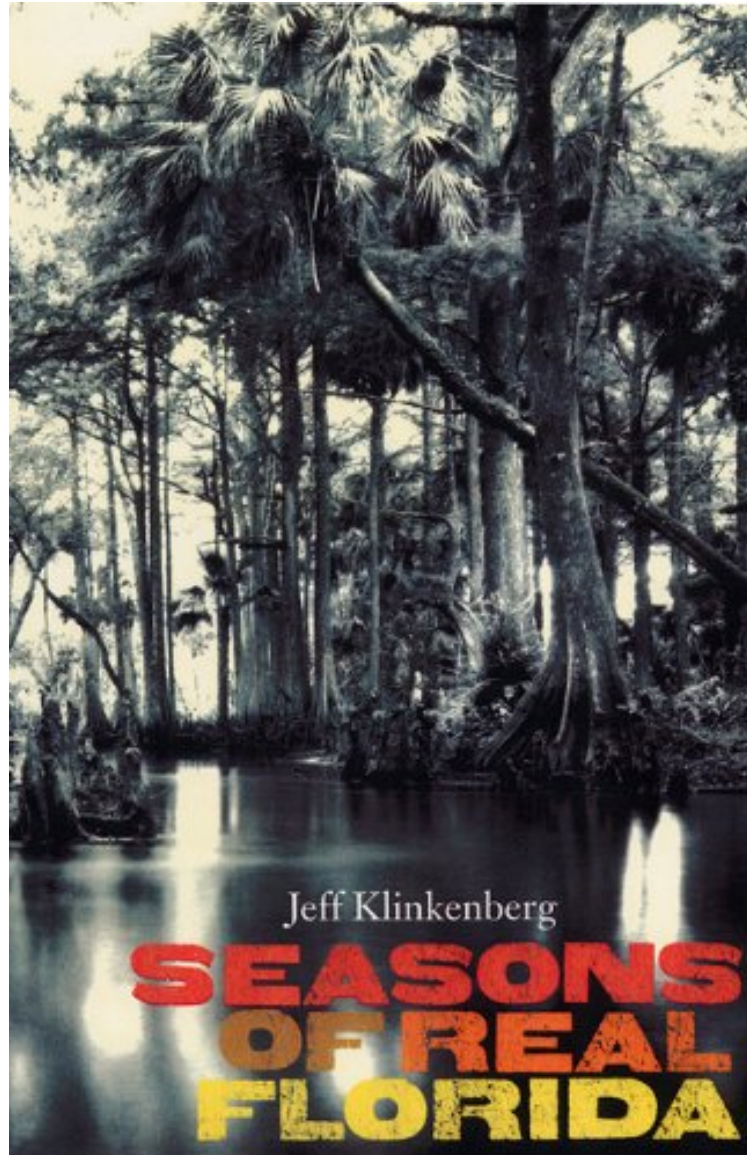


[PDF] Seasons of Real Florida (Florida History and Culture)

## Seasons of Real Florida (Florida History and Culture)

*Jeff Klinkenberg*

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**Jeff Klinkenberg : Seasons of Real Florida (Florida History and Culture)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seasons of Real Florida (Florida History and Culture):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is great...you will learn a lot about the history and the people who used to live there...By Faye NordquistI read this book several years ago when we spent winters in Florida and I gave it away. But Jeff Klinkenberg is a wonderful writer and I missed his wonderful "Florida" stories so I bought another copy and this time I'm keeping it so I can read it again when I get homesick for that beautiful state...0 of 0

people found the following review helpful. Who knew?By Dp bolingI expected a somewhat dry account of Florida history, but boy was I surprised. Jeff uses seasons to set up groups of interviews with the most interesting Floridians imaginable. This is a book you won't want to miss if you are a Florida resident.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a GREAT book for Floridians!By Johnna R. PattersonI think that I would read ANYTHING by Klinkenberg or Carl Hiaasen.....both are storytellers and fabulous for ANYONE who loves this wonderful state! This book in particular visits so many eclectic Floridians and Klinkenberg is so gifted in sharing their lives and their fascinating contributions to Florida.....loved it and ordered 3 more for my friends!!

From the foreword:"What is raw, alive, and essential about Florida is becoming more difficult to find, true; but it's still possible to encounter it, to experience it, and a good place to start is any story or book by Jeff Klinkenberg. . . . Jeff loves Florida. It shows."--Randy Wayne White, author of *Shark River and Everglades*"Klinkenberg is a genius reporter and a wonderful writer. I read this book in one gulp, then went outside, looked at that magnificent Florida sky and made myself all sorts of promises."--William McKeen, author of *Highway 61: A Father-and-Son Journey through the Middle of America*No wonder Jeff Klinkenberg loves Florida. At any time of year he can find a place in the state that's ripe to enjoy or a person whose story has aged to perfection.Arranged by season, the book opens in the fall, which Klinkenberg says is like spring in the north--a time of celebration: "Having survived our harshest season, we feel renewed." Fair weather, good food, and the joys of nature lie ahead, described here in essays that are like time capsules of "old Florida values." Preserving the past, they reveal Klinkenberg's waggish appreciation of the state's history, folkways, and landscape, not to mention its barbequed ribs, smoked mullet, stone crab claws, and fresh lemonade.Many pieces focus off the beaten path and on modern rogues who seem to turn their backsides to the subdivisions and shopping malls that pave the state: Miss Ruby, whose fruit stand features rutabagas, boiled peanuts, and her own brightly colored plywood paintings; an 85-year-old resident of the remote island of Cayo Costa who hums Beethoven while she hunts for shells; the scientists who test mosquito repellent in Everglades National Park; and the unofficial caretaker of Lilly Spring on the Santa Fe River, who greets canoeists wearing glasses, a necklace, and on occasion a synthetic fur loincloth. Other pieces pay homage to Klinkenberg's literary heroes who've written in and about Florida, such as Pulitzer Prize-winner Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Rawlings's companion and memoirist Idella Parker, Everglades crusader Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and novelist Ernest Hemingway. Klinkenberg also revisits an old St. Johns River campsite of 19th-century botanist William Bartram, whose encounters with alligators there were as alarming as Klinkenberg's with beer cans and soda bottles.For anyone who has a stake in the real Florida--resident, tourist, naturalist, or newcomer--this tour of the seasons will linger in memory like the aroma of orange blossoms on a clear winter night.Florida native Jeff Klinkenberg has been writing for the St. Petersburg Times since 1977. He is the only two-time winner of the Paul Hansell Distinguished Journalism Award, the highest honor given by the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors.

From Publishers WeeklyAccording to St. Petersburg Times writer Klinkenberg, there are no cartoon mice, art deco dance clubs or exclusive golf courses in "Real Florida." For him the Sunshine State's essence lies in its hidden swamps, forests, rivers and caves and in the forgotten characters and creatures that inhabit them. In this collection of his Times columns, Klinkenberg seeks out these people and places to document their stories before they are overrun by high-rise hotels and sunburnt tourists. Organizing the columns (which were reworked) by the four seasons, Klinkenberg lets readers into the secrets of Florida's fall (stone crabs, flamingos), winter (orange blossoms, manatees), spring (alligators, hurricanes) and summer (heat, mosquitoes). Whether he is visiting a Florida institution (the Yearling Restaurant) or telling the story of Florida's artists (photographer Clyde Butcher, painter Christopher Still), writers (Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Hemingway) and local personalities (LoinclothMan, Shell Woman), Klinkenberg has the enviable task of telling stories about storybook places and gifted storytellers. A skilled writer, he knows when to listen and when to nudge each short story along. While the vignette structure allows for quick and easy reading, Klinkenberg doesn't always succeed in making readers feel as if they are traveling with him on his Florida journey, from beginning to end. Still, this collection of close to 50 examples of real life from the Keys to the panhandle gives readers a jumping-off point to find their own path. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "He writes about the kind of Florida characters we never even knew existed." -- Sarasota Herald-Tribune, April 25 2004...these 47 vignettes will inspire you 'to get out and discover Real Florida on your own.' -- Tallahassee Democrat, November 28,2004[A] splendid collection....Indeed, what Klinkenberg calls the real Florida is a state on the verge of extinction. -- St. Petersburg Times, April 25, 2004About the AuthorJeff Klinkenberg, feature writer for the St. Petersburg Times, is a two-time winner of the Paul Hansell Distinguished Journalism Award, given to the writer with the best body of work each year by the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors. He is the author of two other collections of columns, *Real Florida* and *Dispatches from the Land of Flower*.