Review of Notable Book: Storm Chaser: A Photographer's Journey

Storm Chaser: A Photographer's Journey

by Jim Reed

Reviewed by Cynthia Akers, 2008 Notable Book Committee

The stormy seasons of 2008 remind Kansans once more that not only do we live in the proverbial "Tornado Alley," we also have no control over the vast and powerful storms of Mother Nature. Jim Reed's color photography and text of a storm chaser emphasizes the terror and the beauty of tornadoes, hurricanes, and other natural phenomena throughout the country.



Particularly striking are the photos that contrast such images as the streaks in a Kansas sunset with ominous dark clouds hovering overhead, or the fearful development of a funnel cloud touching the ground, flattening and widening itself into a destructive force. Reed's photographs are usually remarkably beautiful, but occasionally they depict the horrifying destructiveness caused by the various storms that sweep the country. The text is a mixture of adventure stories and fascinating weather lore.

If the reader has any doubts about Reed's dedication, he expresses his interest well in the Preface – describing his childhood fascination with weather and his subsequent chaser experiences. Reed currently lives in Wichita.