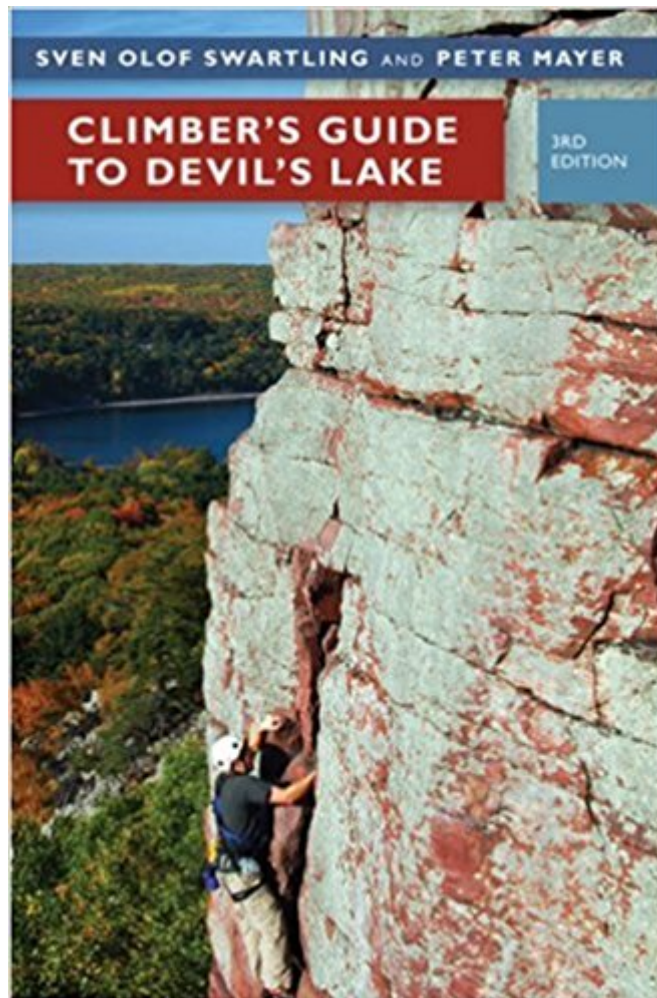


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# Climber's Guide To Devils Lake (A North Coast Book)



## Synopsis

The new edition of *Climber's Guide to Devil's Lake* is your guide to the fractures, cracks, ledges, slabs, chimneys, and other rock formations of Devil's Lake State Park, the most popular climbing spot in the Midwest. This bible for climbers locates and describes more than 1600 climbs. With more than 10,000 copies of the first edition in print, this handy volume remains the only comprehensive guide to climbing in the panoramic park located near Baraboo, Wisconsin. It describes many more climbs on recently acquired park land as well as in relatively unknown areas, encouraging exploration of new routes to decrease the overuse of, and damage to, the most popular areas. Major changes in the new edition include revisions of the hiking trail descriptions, the climbing safety and ethics sections, and the rating system, which has been changed from the National Climbing Classification System to the Yosemite Decimal System. A new chart compares these two systems to others. This edition is useful to climbers of all abilities and preferences, and the book's excellent organization, along with fifty-nine new and revised diagrams, eleven maps, and twenty-two photographs, enable both novices and experts to locate challenging routes easily. Author "Olle" Swartling draws on his own forty years of climbing experience at Devil's Lake and elsewhere, comments from other climbers, and information from out-of-print guidebooks to improve this edition, retaining the informative geologic and natural history of the Baraboo hills contributed by Patricia K. Armstrong.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A convenient pocket-size guide that should tell you anything and everything you might want to know about conquering the bluffs at Devil's Lake." •The Capital Times

Sven Olaf Swartling lives in Chicago and is a member of the Chicago Mountaineering Club. He has climbed at Devil's Lake for more than forty years.

The cover/photo of this book corresponds to the newest 2008, 3rd edition. When I received the 1995, 2nd edition, I was quite disappointed since I know the 3rd edition has an extra 100 pages, adding a vast array of the newest routes and better pictures. Be warned, this isn't the newest edition.

There is a lot of information packed into this paperback, especially compared to earlier versions by the same author. I like the addition of GPS waypoints for the climbing areas, which are of particular value when the approach directions are brief. It is a great value for only \$20, but honestly I wish there were a spiral-bound edition which I'd be willing to pay a lot more for. This fat paperback with a stiff binding won't stay open unless you hold it with both hands or put a big rock on it. It is fairly well illustrated but there is room for improvement there too, some of the drawings are too tiny to pick out much detail, probably again a function of the cheap publishing format. I also wish more information were given on each of the climbs, like how tall the climb is, and whether it is a walk-off or a rap down. There is also little info telling how long or difficult the various approaches are. Maybe I'm spoiled by some other well written guidebooks that I use. But this is a very valuable guide in any case, and certainly a must have for anyone going climbing at Devils Lake.

This is THE guidebook for the Lake. Conversational tone describes the routes, a beautiful foreword that puts the vast history and splendid geology of the Lake area in layman's terms, and a plentiful bounty of routes listed. Though it would be wonderful to have more maps giving visual directions to the walls for those new to the area, many walls have a black-and-white photo of the wall and map coordinates given in the book. For a good visual supplement before your trip, there's the Hoofers Mountaineering website to help get you to some of the walls. It's not a glossy Colorado guide book with full-color images that are half photo-essay, and it feels more "down-home" because of it. The book is a great friend, and I hope you spend many evenings thumbing through it, thinking about your next project!

My husband really wanted this book as he visits pretty regularly to Devils Lake to climb. The book is NOT the 3rd edition like its states in the photo! It is the 2nd edition. So if that is important to you, be careful! That being said, he still loves this book. He hasn't gotten to use it yet (just reading it), but I'm sure it will come in handy for him on his next climbing trip. He was still pretty excited to receive it.

I was expecting the 3rd edition based on the picture, but received the 2nd edition. Make sure that you are ordering the edition that you want. The 2nd still contains most of the same information, just a few less pictures.

We found a sweet little trail that otherwise we would have missed. This is a must-buy for climbing the Devil's Lake are.

This is THE book to get if you are going to Devils Lake to do some climbing. It has good descriptions of how to get to the major climbing areas and diagrams of different routes in each location with difficulty ratings.

It was editions 2 even though the picture shows edition 3. I don't want to bother returning it, I'll give it to someone.

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