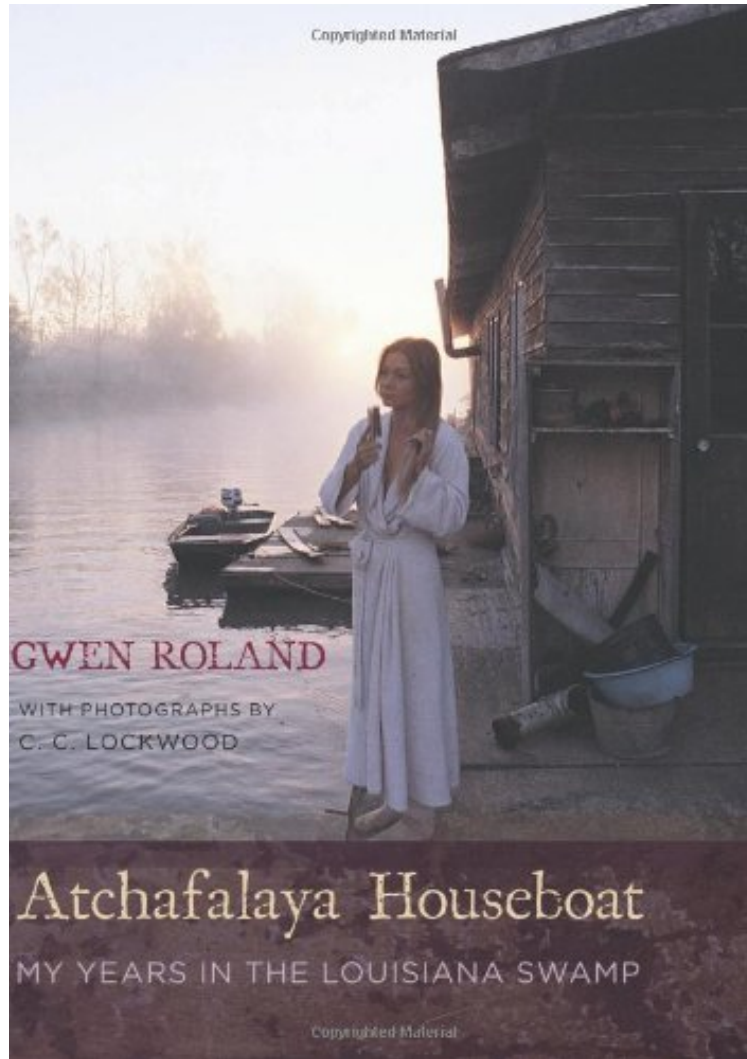


[Download] Atchafalaya Houseboat: My Years in the Louisiana Swamp

## Atchafalaya Houseboat: My Years in the Louisiana Swamp

*Gwen Roland*

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**Gwen Roland : Atchafalaya Houseboat: My Years in the Louisiana Swamp** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Atchafalaya Houseboat: My Years in the Louisiana Swamp:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My Favorite Memoir that i keep re-reading . An excellent book. By Sheila Blalock I can't say enough wonderful things about this book. It is my favorite of all memoirs that ive ever read. It has a way of making you feel lime you are there,,,,,,and wanting to experience it all. She writes well and her story is interesting and captivating. I re-read this book several times a year because it is that good. I have bought other copies as gifts to give. I highly recommend. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read! By Mark H. Sandell I read this book while on a houseboat in the Atchafalya swamp (really). It is a wonderful read and I recommend

it. Gwen Roland is a beautiful writer, and I found myself lingering over and rereading passages because the word smithing was so intriguing and well done. The only other author I find myself doing that with is Mark Helprin. Whether you ever go to South Louisiana or not, this is an interesting read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great vignette into a way of life that has all ...By JudyA great vignette into a way of life that has all but disappeared. Where the rhythms of life aren't determined by the clock, but by the weather, the seasons, Living off the land River . A true story of a couples adventure lived out daily with hard work, honesty integrity! A must read.

In the early 1970s, two idealistic young people -- Gwen Carpenter Roland and Calvin Voisin -- decided to leave civilization and re-create the vanished simple life of their great-grandparents in the heart of Louisiana's million-acre Atchafalaya River Basin Swamp. Armed with a box of crayons and a book called *How to Build Your Home in the Woods*, they drew up plans to recycle a slave-built structure into a houseboat. Without power tools or building experience they constructed a floating dwelling complete with a brick fireplace. Towed deep into the sleepy waters of Bloody Bayou, it was their home for eight years. This is the tale of the not-so-simple life they made together -- days spent fishing, trading, making wine, growing food, and growing up -- told by Gwen with grace, economy, and eloquence. Not long after they took up swamp living, Gwen and Calvin met a young photographer named C. C. Lockwood, who shared their "back to the earth" values. His photographs of the couple going about their daily routine were published in *National Geographic* magazine, bringing them unexpected fame. More than a quarter of a century later, after Gwen and Calvin had long since parted, one of Lockwood's photos of them appeared in a *National Geographic* collector's edition entitled *100 Best Pictures Unpublished* -- and kindled the interest of a new generation. With quiet wisdom, Gwen recounts her eight-year voyage of discovery -- about swamp life, wildlife, and herself. A keen observer of both the natural world and the ways of human beings, she transports readers to an unfamiliar and exotic place.

From *Publishers Weekly* In the late 1970s, Roland and Calvin Voisin made a decision to live a pleasantly isolated life: they constructed a houseboat in Louisiana's Atchafalaya River Basin Swamp, caught their own food and made money by trading and welding. Roland and Voisin revel in their isolation, and the joy Roland takes in retelling her experiences is evident on every page. The book is enhanced by nature photographer C.C. Lockwood's photographs, which depict the couple going about their daily houseboat business (and were published in *National Geographic*). Roland's writing, most of which was done at the time, is highly accessible if at times disjointed. It's hard to discern an exact sequence of events, and certain things seem to happen out of nowhere, like when Roland leaves Voisin for another man, whom she marries. The end of the book, in which Roland discusses her fascination with organic gardening pioneer Robert Rodale and sketches her life today, makes for a less than satisfying ending to an otherwise intriguing look at a disappearing way of life. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Gwen Roland, former editor for the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, continues to write about agriculture and self-sufficient lifestyles from her homestead in Georgia.