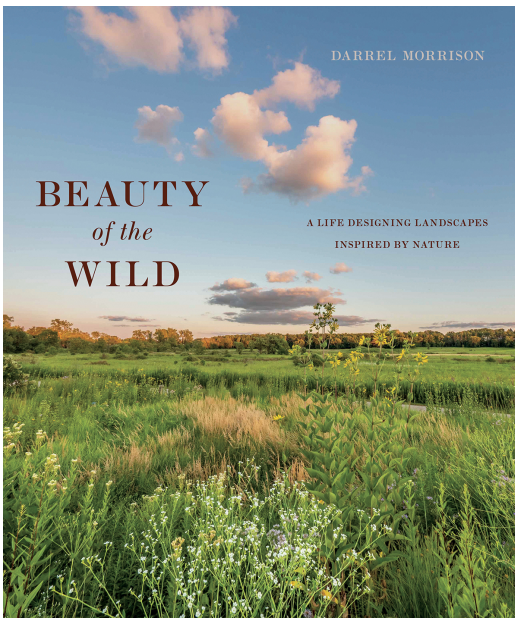


## Praise for Beauty of the Wild

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### **PRAISE FOR *BEAUTY OF THE WILD***

**by DARREL MORRISON**

**Recipient of the 2021 Scott Medal and Award**

Read reviews of *Beauty of the Wild* from [The New York Times](#) and [The Washington Post](#).

You can also listen to an interview by Larry Meiller with Darrel Morrison on [Wisconsin Public Radio](#).

To learn more about LALH, visit [lalh.org](http://lalh.org).

“Some gardeners react to any mention of ecological landscaping—the merging of environmental science and art—as if it were a compromise or concession meant to limit their creativity. Darrel Morrison, a landscape architect who has been practicing and teaching this philosophy for some five decades, begs to differ. . . . ‘A lot of people, when they hear a phrase like “ecologically sound landscaping,” they think they are giving up something. But they are not—it only enhances the experience.’ ”

—Margaret Roach, *The New York Times*

“In a sense, all of our yards and gardens, no matter how old, represent an obliteration of the wild plant communities that once marked the land . . . but still, we are trying in our limited and stumbling way to make up for the loss by planting perennials and grasses of native origin. We’d do well, then, to seek guidance from Darrel Morrison, who has spent a fruitful life designing with native flora and teaching others how to do the same.”

—Adrian Higgins, *The Washington Post*

Darrel Morrison is a renowned landscape architect and educator whose ecology-based approach to design has influenced generations of practitioners, particularly his students at University of Wisconsin–Madison (1969–1983) and University of Georgia (1983–2005). He has created influential designs at Storm King Art Center, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. Morrison lived and worked in New York City from 2005 until 2015 and now lives in Madison, where he is an Honorary Faculty Associate in the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin.

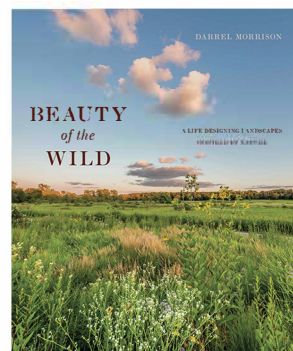
## The best gardening books to read in 2022

## Recommendations for Your Gardening Library

### Beauty of the Wild: A Life Designing Landscapes Inspired by Nature

Darrel Morrison. Library of American Landscape History, Amherst, MA, 2021. 192 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$40.

TODAY'S NATURALISTIC garden movement has deep roots. In *Beauty of the Wild: A Life Designing Landscapes Inspired by Nature*,



Darrel Morrison traces the origins of nature-inspired design through his own education and 60-year career as a landscape architect and educator. Morrison's engaging writing reflects his passion for teaching, and rewards readers with lessons he harvested throughout life, from his Iowa farm roots to the legacies he's written in the landscape.

In the opening chapters, Morrison follows the evolution of his design philosophy through his studies and early career. Morrison marks his discovery of *American Plants for American Gardens*, by ecologist Edith Roberts and landscape architect Elsa Rehmman, as the foundation of his nature-based practice. This pivotal book brought native plants into the spotlight and laid the groundwork for an ecological approach to landscape design.

Morrison immersed himself in native plant communities, studying patterns of species distribution and their associated textures, colors, and movement in the landscape. More than anything else, the work of landscape architect Jens Jensen informed Morrison's teaching career and design practice. Jensen's uniquely North American aesthetic, the Prairie Style, placed nature above all else, integrating not only native plants, but topography and geographic features into his designs.

Stunning photographs throughout the book, as well as Morrison's own watercolor sketches, bring the landscapes in which he worked and studied to life for the reader. These include some of the nation's most renowned ecological research sites, from Aldo Leopold's famous Curtis Prairie (the world's first ecological restoration) to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas. The projects presented throughout the latter half of the book follow Morrison's career from Wisconsin to Georgia to New York and beyond.

*Beauty of the Wild* provides an abundance of lessons for gardeners and professionals alike in connecting ecology and design. Given the ever-growing popularity of the naturalistic garden movement, this insightful book is right on topic.

—Kim Toscano

*Kim Toscano is a freelance writer and garden designer living in Stillwater, Oklahoma.*



### BEAUTY OF THE WILD by Darrel Morrison, Library of American Landscape History, ISBN 978-1952620287

Although they are generally an articulate lot, garden and landscape people rarely write their autobiographies. So it is a pleasure to read this one by Darrel Morrison, one of the key people in what has been one of the greatest developments in our field for decades – the American native plant movement. This book is an insight into the changes that are being made in the way that landscapes are being planted in the USA.

*Reviewer Noel Kingsbury is a garden designer and writer.*