

INTERESTING READS

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS & ARTICLES

“Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America’s Bees and Butterflies”

The Xerces Society, published by Storey Publishing

As mentioned earlier, the Xerces Society is a nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat. The recent decline of pollinators such as the honey bee and monarch butterfly poses a serious ecological challenge since pollinators are essential to the reproduction of most flowering plants and serve as a key food source for birds, fish and other animals. This 380 page book, loaded with color photographs and illustrations, reflects the latest understanding about creating and managing pollinator habitat. Support the Xerces Society by purchasing this book directly from its website (www.xerces.org).

“Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants”

Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, published by Timber Press

As development and habitat destruction accelerate, there are increasing pressures on wildlife populations. In *Bringing Nature Home*, Douglas W. Tallamy reveals the unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife—native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plants disappear, the insects disappear, impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. But there is an important and simple step we can all take to help reverse this alarming trend: everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity by simply choosing native plants. By acting on Douglas Tallamy’s practical and achievable recommendations, we can all make a difference.

“The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden”

Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, published by Timber Press

The *Living Landscape* shows you how to balance both ethical and functional design in your own home garden by creating spaces that support wildlife without sacrificing aesthetics and providing spaces for play, entertaining, and privacy. The authors examine the layers found in healthy ecosystems such as canopy trees, understory trees, shrubs and the ground layer and provide examples of how these layers can be applied in your home garden. The book features outstanding photography as well as an extensive list of Mid-Atlantic plants which includes information on their landscape value and ecological function.

“Urban and Suburban Meadows: Bringing Meadows to Big and Small Spaces”

Catherine Zimmerman, published by Matrix Media Press

Author and photographer, Catherine Zimmerman, combines her expertise in photography, storytelling, environmental issues, horticulture and organic practices to offer meadowscaping as an alternative to reduce monoculture lawns. Zimmerman crafts a guide that provides step-by-step instructions on organically creating and maintaining beautiful meadow gardens. Four experts in meadow establishment lend their knowledge for site preparation, design, native plants, planting and maintenance. The book provides plant lists and resource sections for nine regions across the United States along with local sources to assist the meadow creator in bringing diversity back to urban and suburban landscapes. Meadows can be big or small, short or tall. However large, the benefits are great. Meadows sequester carbon, retain water, filter pollutants, eliminate the need for fertilizers or pesticides and provide habitat for wildlife. Reduce your carbon footprint. Improve your neighborhood.