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## Interview with Gavin Van Horn and John Hausdoerffer, editors of *Wildness: Relations of People and Place*

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Whether referring to a place, a nonhuman animal or plant, or a state of mind, wild indicates autonomy and agency, a unique expression of life. Yet two contrasting ideas about wild nature permeate contemporary discussions: either that nature is most wild in the absence of a defiling human presence, or that nature is completely humanized and nothing is truly wild.

*Wildness: Relations of People and Place* (University of Chicago Press, 2017) charts a different path. Exploring how people can become attuned to the wild community of life and also contribute to the well-being of the wild places in which we live, work, and play, *Wildness* brings together esteemed authors from a variety of landscapes, cultures, and backgrounds to share their stories about the interdependence of everyday human lifeways and wildness.

With this book, we gain insight into what wildness is and could be, as well as how it might be recovered in our lives—and with it, how we might unearth a more profound, wilder understanding of what it means to be human.

(Source: [New Books Network](#) )

In this episode of *New Books in Environmental Studies*, Yakir Englander interviews Gavin Van Horn and John Hausdoerffer, editors of *Wildness: Relations of People and Place*.

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- *Wilderness Bable* (virtual exhibition)  
<http://doi.org/10.5282/rcc/8905>

**Websites linked in this text:**

- <https://newbooksnetwork.com/wildness>