



# Gardening for Life

## Native Plants in Country and City Landscapes

Elsbeth Haymon and Maryann Snyder  
Plant Lovers



*"When God created the first man, he took him and showed him all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him 'See my works how beautiful and praiseworthy they are. And everything I created, I created it for you. Be careful not to spoil or destroy My world - for if you do, there will be nobody after you to repair it for you.'"*





# What is a Native Plant?

- ❑ A plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem.
- ❑ Only plants found in this country prior to European settlement are considered native.





Mayapples ~ *Podophyllum peltatum*  
(top left in the photo)

Jack in a Pulpit ~ *Arisaema triphyllum*



# Native plants and insects share an evolutionary history.

- ❑ Plants need insects for pollination.
- ❑ Insects need plants for the egg and larva stages of development.
- ❑ Different insects have adapted to different plants.
- ❑ These specialist relationships allow for a diversity of plants to satisfy a large variety of insect species.
- ❑ Without their host plants insect species could disappear.

Monarch caterpillar munching on Butterfly Weed, one of its host plants





Nearly all bird species depend on caterpillars to feed their young.



Chickadee preparing the nest box.



Bluebird feeding its nestlings.

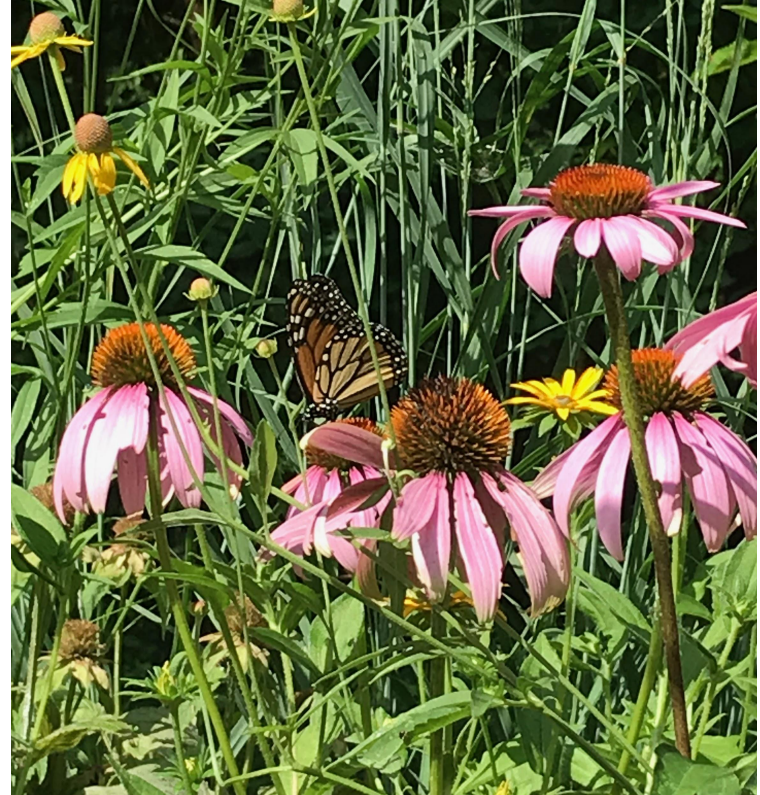




# Host plants and their insect guests



Monarch Caterpillar on host plant Butterfly  
Weed ~ *Asclepias tuberosa*



Monarch Butterfly getting nectar from  
Purple Coneflower ~ *Echinacea purpurea*





Fritillary Butterfly on Purple Coneflower  
Host plant - native violets



Clearwing Hummingbird Moth on Summer Phlox  
Host plants - native honeysuckle and viburnum



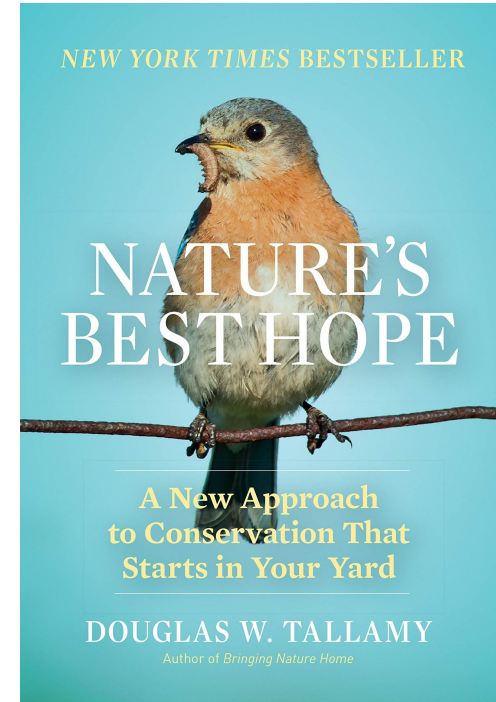
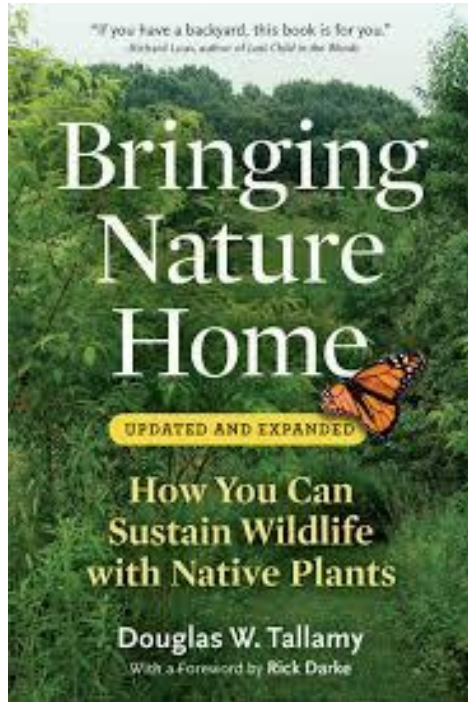


Swallowtail Butterfly on Cardinal Flower and Purple Coneflower

Host plant - Sweetbay Magnolia

# Dr. Douglas W Tallamy

*Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware*





# Our ecosystem is under threat.

- ❑ Loss of habitat
- ❑ Invasive plant species
- ❑ Deer pressure
- ❑ Climate change















- ❑ Different species of pollinators require food (pollen or nectar) at different times of the growing season.
- ❑ Flowering plants from April through October are needed.





# Eastern Comma Butterfly overwinters in leaf litter





# Spring Bloomers

Wood Poppies

*Stylophorum diphyllum*  
(yellow)

Jacob's Ladder

*Polemonium reptans*  
(lavender)







Bellwort  
*Uvularia grandiflora*







Foamflower ~ *Tiarella cordifolia*



Crested Iris ~ *Iris cristata*





Wild Columbine ~ *Aquilegia canadensis*



# Summer Blooms

Beardtongue

*Penstemon digitalis*  
(white)

Bee Balm

*Monarda didyma*  
(red)

Sundrops

*Oenothera fruticosa*  
(yellow)

Spiderwort

*Tradescantia virginiana*  
(purple)





Bee Balm  
*Monarda didyma*  
(red)

Butterfly Weed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
(orange)







Summer Phlox ~ *Phlox paniculatum*



Trumpet Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera sempervirens*







Summersweet Clethra  
*Clethra alnifolia*  
'Ruby Spice'



## Late Summer into Fall

Cardinal Flower  
*Lobelia cardinalis*

Great Blue Lobelia  
*Lobelia siphilitica*

Black-Eyed Susans  
*Rudbeckia fulgita*











Prairie Coneflower  
*Ratibida pinnata*  
(yellow)

Purple Coneflower  
*Echinacea purpurea*  
(pink)







Blazing Star  
*Liatris spicata*

White Coneflower  
*Echinacea purpurea* 'alba'







Closed Gentian ~ *Gentiana clausa*









































*Aromatic Asters ~ Aster oblongifolius*









Old trees provide food (insects) and nesting sites for birds.





The dead flower heads provide seeds for birds in the winter.









Spicebush ~ *Lindera benzoin*





Red Eyed Vireo on Sweetbay Magnolia ~ *Magnolia virginiana*



Winterberry Holly  
*Ilex verticillata*  
'Red Sprite'





Winterberry Holly  
*Ilex verticillata*





Oakleaf Hydrangea  
*Hydrangea quercifolia*





Serviceberry  
*Amelanchier x grandiflora*





Sweetbay Magnolia  
*Magnolia virginiana*

Trumpet Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera sempervirens*





















