Where Do Butterflies Go in Winter?
And Nature-Friendly Fall Cleanup

Janean Curfman, Interpretive Naturalist

Wild Back Yards

Summit Metro Parks

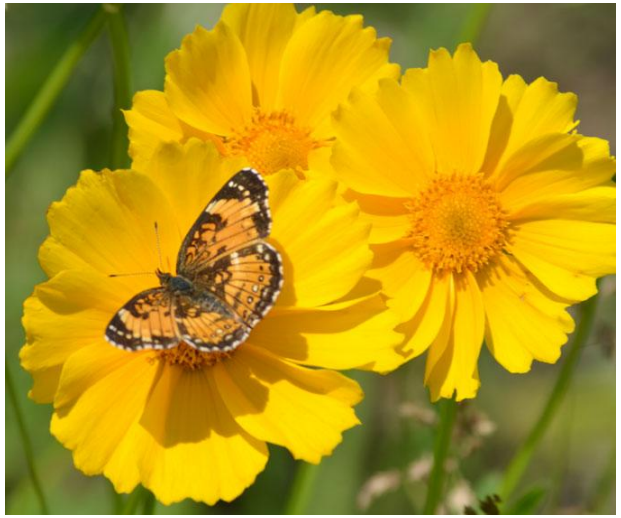
summitmetroparks.org

Support biodiversity with a Wild Back Yard!

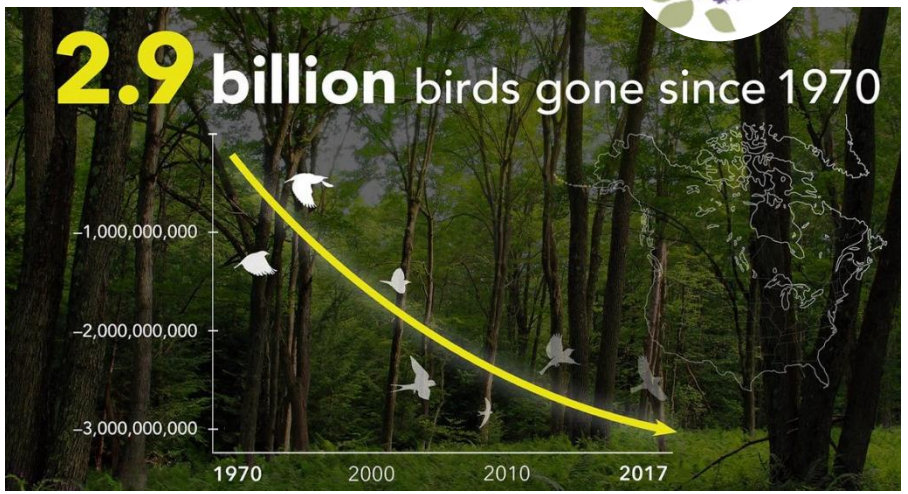
Support biodiversity with a Wild Back Yard!





Why do Wild Back Yards matter?



Everything in nature is connected

Webpage: bit.ly/WildBackYards

Resources

PARTICIPATION FORM

GROW A WILD BACK YARD

HELP LOCAL WILDLIFE, EARN REWARDS

Wildlife needs our help. With stressors like habitat loss, climate change and non-native plants, our local insects, birds, mammals and other creatures are having a hard time staying healthy. The good news is, we can help — and earn rewards! — by taking simple actions in our own back yards or adopted gardens. Here's how:

1. ***Take action at home.*** Whether you're a beginner or expert, live in the city or the suburbs, learn more about each Wild Back Yards level in the chart below.
2. ***Get information, tools and resources at bit.ly/wildbackyards.*** While you're there, sign up for monthly emails and check out our calendar of free, naturalist-led programs designed to help you succeed! Look for this icon.
3. ***Track your progress by checking off the actions taken, then turn in this form to earn a reward for each level completed!*** Rewards will help you continue along your Wild Back Yards journey.

	NATIVE PLANTING	INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT	HABITAT QUALITY	ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT	SPREAD THE WORD
Level ONE	❑ 3 or more native species planted in outdoor space *(listed on back)*	❑ No yard – OR – Identify 3 plants in your yard *(see website)*	❑ Implement 3 actions from the Habitat Quality list *(see back)*	❑ Apply 3 actions from the Ecological Footprint list *(see back)*	❑ Take 1 action from the Spread the Word list *(see back)*
Level TWO	❑ 7 or more native species planted in outdoor space *(listed on back)*	❑ Create a simple Invasive Plant Management Plan *(see website)*	❑ Implement 5 actions from the Habitat Quality list *(see back)*	❑ Apply 5 actions from the Ecological Footprint list *(see back)*	❑ Take 2 actions from the Spread the Word list *(see back)*
Level THREE	❑ 15 or more native species planted in outdoor space *(listed on back)*	❑ Remove or control for 1 common invasive plant *(see website)*	❑ Implement 7 actions from the Habitat Quality list *(see back)*	❑ Apply 7 actions from the Ecological Footprint list *(see back)*	❑ Take 3 actions from the Spread the Word list *(see back)*
EXPERT Level	❑ 30 or more native species planted in outdoor space *(listed on back)*	❑ Remove or control for all common invasive plants *(see website)*	❑ Implement 9 actions from the Habitat Quality list *(see back)*	❑ Apply 9 actions from the Ecological Footprint list *(see back)*	❑ Take 5 actions from the Spread the Word list *(see back)*

OVER FOR LIST OF ACTIONS & HELPFUL RESOURCES →

Name _____ Summit County Resident: ❑ YES ❑ NO

Wild Back Yard Location _____ City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Level Completed: ❑ ONE ❑ TWO ❑ THREE ❑ EXPERT *(requires inspection by an SMP biologist)* Date _____

Visit bit.ly/wildbackyards or call 330-867-5511 for form submission and reward pick-up details. | *Rewards are FREE to Summit County residents. Out-of-county residents pay $10 to receive their rewards.*

Summit Metro Parks
We're Your Back Yard

Guide to COMMON INVASIVE PLANTS

HELP LOCAL WILDLIFE: CHOOSE NATIVE PLANTS

Trees

AVOID THESE INVASIVE PLANTS	PLANT A SIMILAR NATIVE SPECIES INSTEAD!
 • Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)*	 For similarly-sized maple trees with beautiful fall foliage: • Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)* • Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
 • Norway spruce (*Picea abies*)*	 For tree-sized evergreens: • Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) • Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) • Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*)*
 • Sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*)* • Cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) • Sour cherry (*Prunus cerasus*) • Mahaleb cherry (*Prunus mahaleb*) • Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) • Winter-flowering cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*)	 For native cherries and plums that offer spring blooms and summer fruits: • Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) • Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)* • American plum (*Prunus americana*)
 • Siberian crab apple (*Malus baccata*) • Japanese flowering crab apple (*Malus floribunda*) • Toringo crab (*Malus toringo*)* • Other exotic crabapples	 For similarly scented spring blooms and ornamental fruits: • Sweet crab apple (*Malus coronaria*)* • Prairie crab apple (*Malus ioensis*)
 • Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)* • Cleveland pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Cleveland select') • Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford') • Asian pear (*Pyrus betulifolia*) • Common pear (*Pyrus communis*)	 For abundant white spring blooms: • Common serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)* • Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

* pictured

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Complete list of INVASIVE PLANTS

TO AVOID OR REMOVE IN YOUR WILD BACK YARD

Common Name	Scientific Name
Amur honeysuckle	*Lonicera maackii*
Autumn olive	*Eleaegnus umbellata*
Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
Common reed	*Phragmites australis*
Garlic mustard	*Alliaria petiolata*
Glossy buckthorn	*Frangula alnus [Rhamnus frangula]*
Hybrid cattail	*Typha x glauca*
Japanese knotweed	*Polygonum cuspidatum [Fallopia japonica]*
Morrow's honeysuckle	*Lonicera morrowii*
Narrowleaf cattail	*Typha angustifolia*
Nepalese browntop	*Microstegium vimineum [Andropogon vimineum]*
Purple loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*
Reed canarygrass	*Phalaris arundinacea*
Shortspike watermilfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*
Amur corktree	*Phellodendron amurense*
Amur peppervine*	*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata**
Apple of Peru	*Nicandra physalodes*
Asian pear*	*Pyrus betulifolia**
Asiatic tearthumb	*Polygonum perfoliatum*
Bamboo grasses*	*Fargesia spp., Phyllostachys spp., Pleioblastus spp., Bambusa spp.**
Bigleaf periwinkle*	*Vinca major**
Blackthorn*	*Prunus spinosa**
Bohemian knotweed	*Polygonum x bohemicum [Fallopia x bohemica]*
Border privet*	*Ligustrum obtusifolium**
Bouncingbet	*Saponaria officinalis*
Bradford pear*	*Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'**
Brazilian waterweed	*Egeria densa [Elodea densa]*
Brittle waternymph	*Najas minor*
Burningbush (Mexican fireweed)	*Bassia scoparia [Kochia scoparia]*
Burningbush (Winged euonymus)*	*Euonymus alatus**
Butterweed	*Packera globella [Senecio globellus]*
Callery pear*	*Pyrus calleryana**
Canadian horseweed	*Conyza canadensis [Erigeron canadensis]*
Carelessweed	*Amaranthus palmeri*

HIGH PRIORITY INVASIVES

HIGH PRIORITY INVASIVES

* Plants banned in the State of Ohio

* Also listed on our Guide to Common Invasive Plants

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INVASIVE MANAGEMENT

HOW TO CREATE A PLAN TO PREVENT INVASION

1. Assess your site for habitat type(s) and invasive plant species.
   a. Is there wetland on your property? You may have narrow-leaved cattail *(Typha angustifolia)*, common reed grass *(Phragmites australis)*, reed canary grass *(Phalaris arundinacea)*, purple loosestrife *(Lythrum salicaria)* or others.
   b. Is there woodland on your property? You may have garlic mustard *(Alliaria petiolata)*, glossy buckthorn *(Frangula alnus)*, morrow honeysuckle *(Lonicera morrowii)*, Nepalgrass *(Microstegium vimineum)* or others.
   c. Do you have scrub/shrub or a field on your property? You may have autumn-olive *(Elaeagnus umbellata)*, Japanese knotweed *(Fallopia japonica)*, Canada thistle *(Cirsium arvense)* or others.
   d. About how many individuals of each invasive plant are there on your site? Where are they located?
   e. Are there invasive plants growing on adjacent properties? You may not be able to control invasive plants on adjacent properties, but these are important sources of invasive seed to be aware of when developing your management plan.
   f. Consider drawing a simple map of your site showing where invasive species are.
2. Confirm identifications of the invasive species at your site using your favorite botanical key or plant ID guide, or crowdsource the identification by uploading pictures of the plant(s) to iNaturalist.
3. Familiarize yourself with effective management strategies for the invasive plants on your site. The United States Department of Agriculture has lots of information on integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for invasive plant species control mechanisms.
4. Now armed with awareness of the most effective strategies for controlling the invasive plants on your site, write out a simple plan for when you will treat each species and which method(s) you will use. Some invasive plants respond better to chemical treatment in the summer just before flowering, while others will respond better in the fall before leaf drop, so be aware of effective timing as you schedule treatment(s).
5. Implement your management plan and track its success.
6. Revisit periodically as needed. Some invasive species may require more than one treatment or may require a combination of methods for effective elimination. After invasive plants are removed from your site, plan to survey periodically to spot any new invasive plants spreading from adjacent properties or germinating from the seed bank. Revise your management plan as necessary.

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Recognition program

	NATIVE PLANTING	INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT	HABITAT QUALITY	ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT	SPREAD THE WORD
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Level TWO	❑ **7 or more** native species planted in outdoor space *(listed on back)*	❑ Create a simple **Invasive Plant Management Plan** *(see website)*	❑ Implement **5** actions from the Habitat Quality list *(see back)*	❑ Apply **5** actions from the Ecological Footprint list *(see back)*	❑ Take **2** actions from the Spread the Word list *(see back)*
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Rewards

LEVEL 2

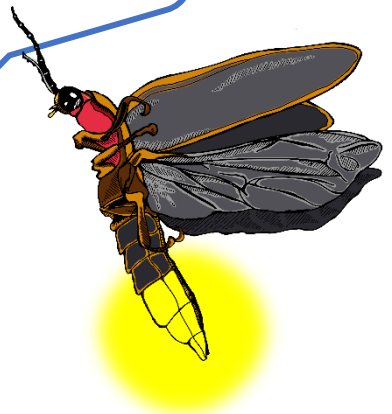
LEVEL 1

LEVEL 3

EXPERT LEVEL

Hooray!
Thank you!

Go wild!




This brings us to fall clean up…

What comes to mind when you hear "*Fall cleanup*?"

More thoughtful
(or altogether less)
work = healthier backyard habitats for our wild neighbors!

Leave the Leaves!

- Most recognized phrase related to fall cleanup
- Here are some ways to deal with fallen leaves...

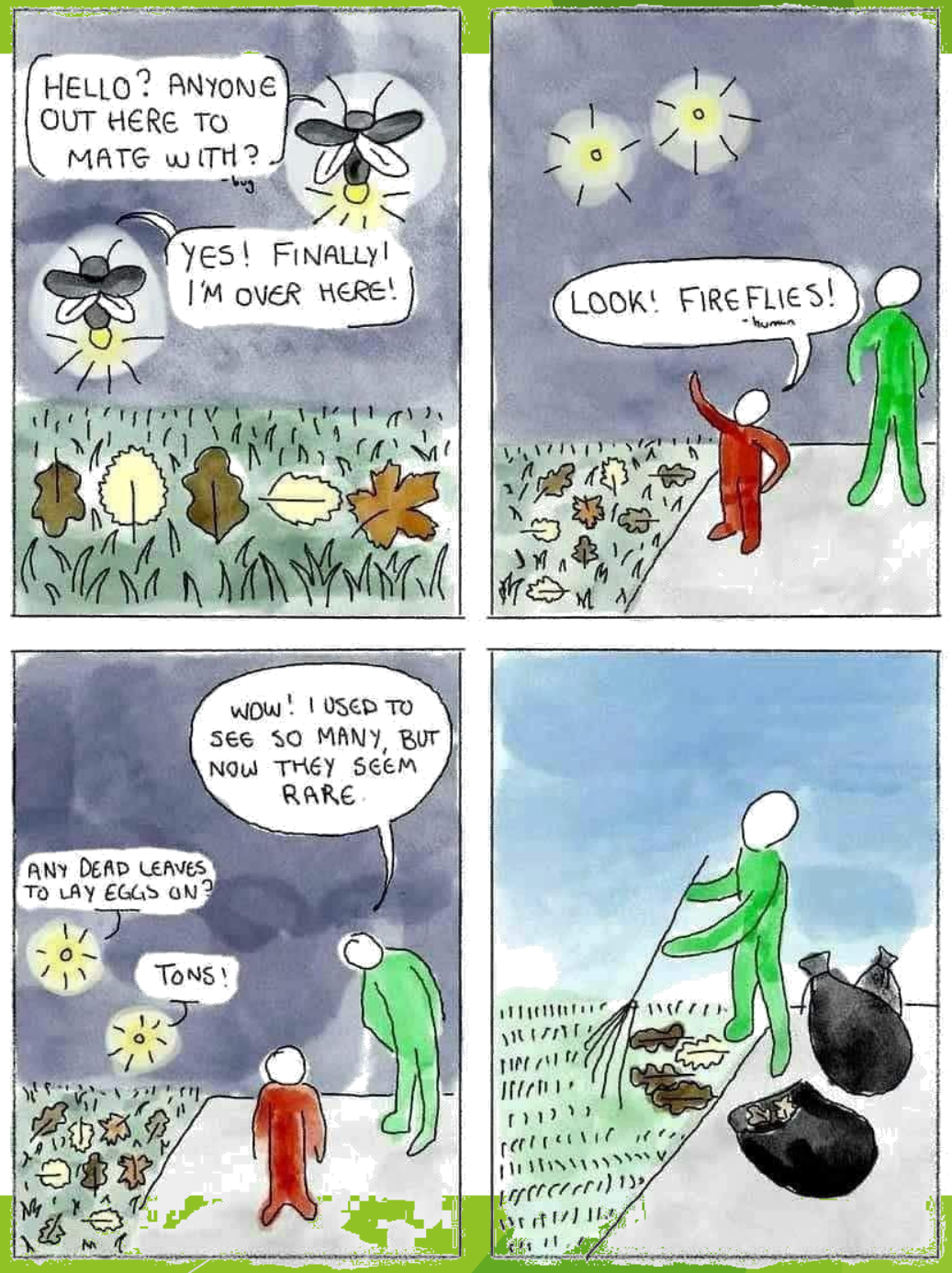
But first...
Why dead leaves?

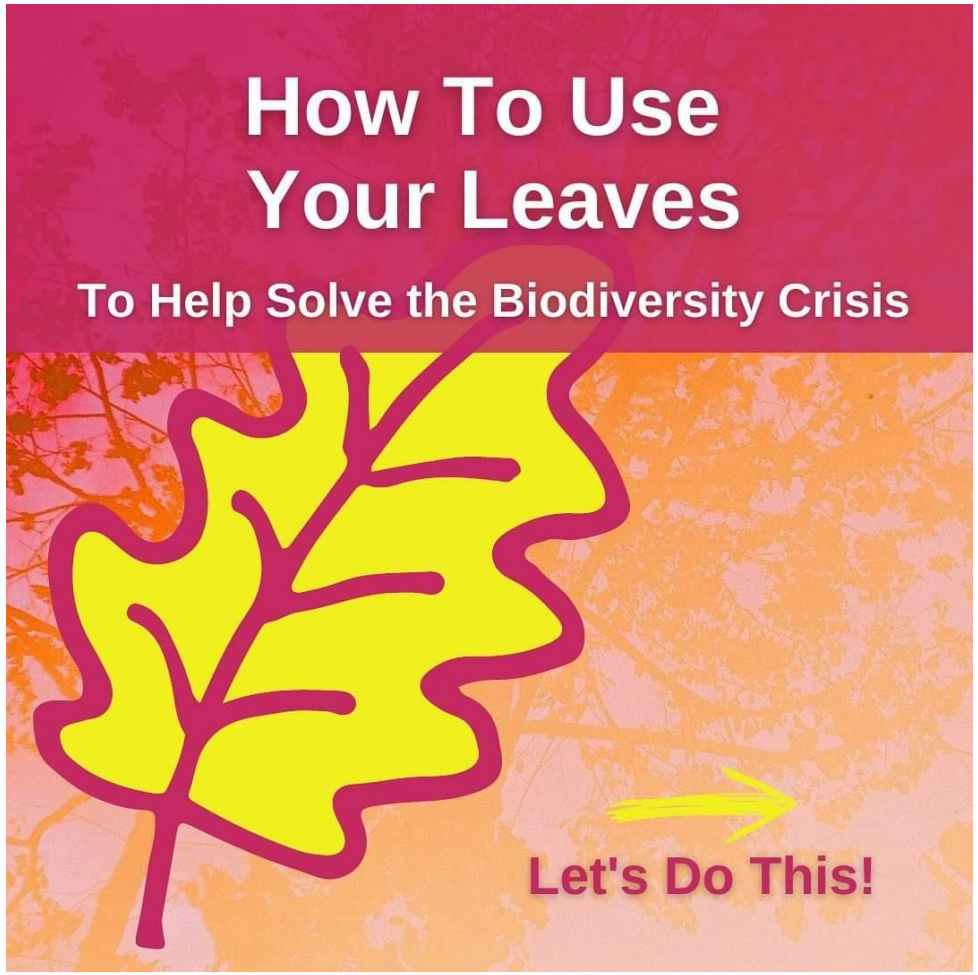
Leaf litter provides habitat for all sorts of native wildlife...

Avoid mowing leaves to protect cocoons & small creatures

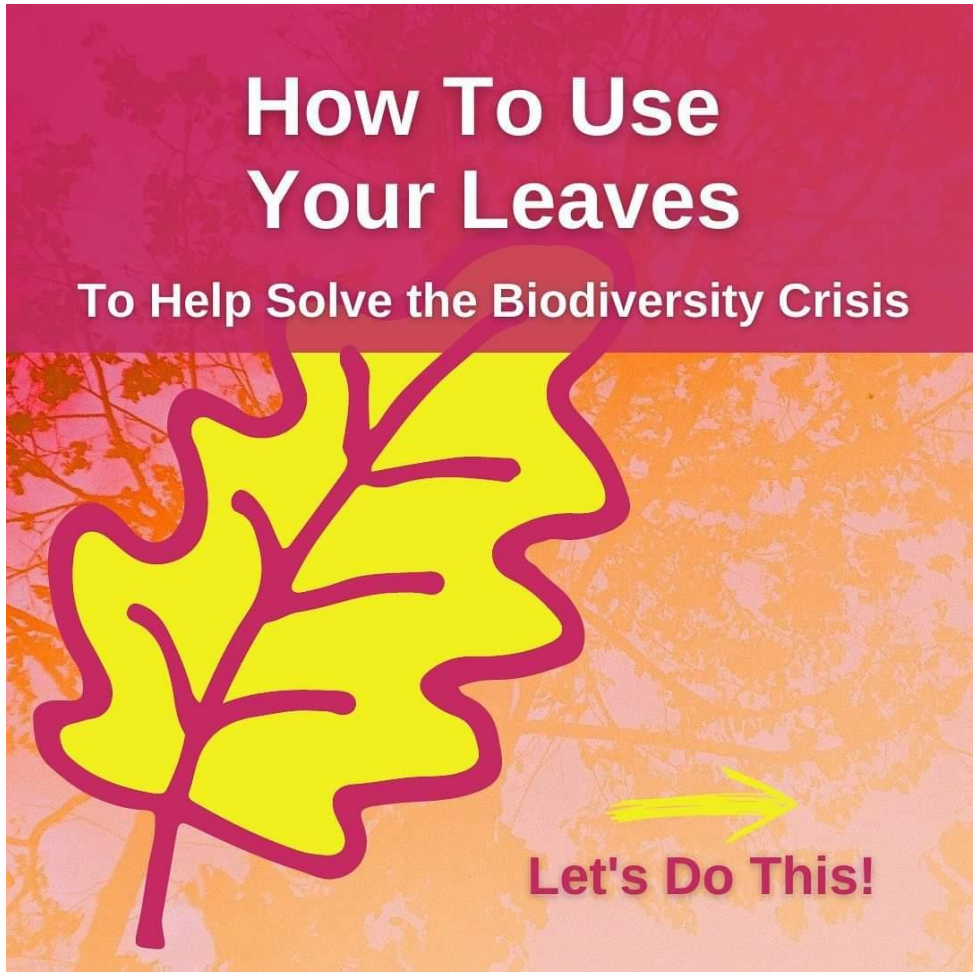
Leaves are full of nutrients – find some way that they can go back into your soil


LEAVES
ARE NOT
LITTER


HELLO? ANYONE OUT HERE TO MATE WITH?
-bug
YES! FINALLY! I'M OVER HERE!
LOOK! FIREFLIES!
-human
WOW! I USED TO SEE SO MANY, BUT NOW THEY SEEM RARE
ANY DEAD LEAVES TO LAY EGGS ON?
TONS!


How To Use
Your Leaves
To Help Solve the Biodiversity Crisis
Let's Do This!


Leave them where
they fall
Ways To Use Your Leaves
Rake into
garden beds
Pile to make beds larger
(or make new ones)

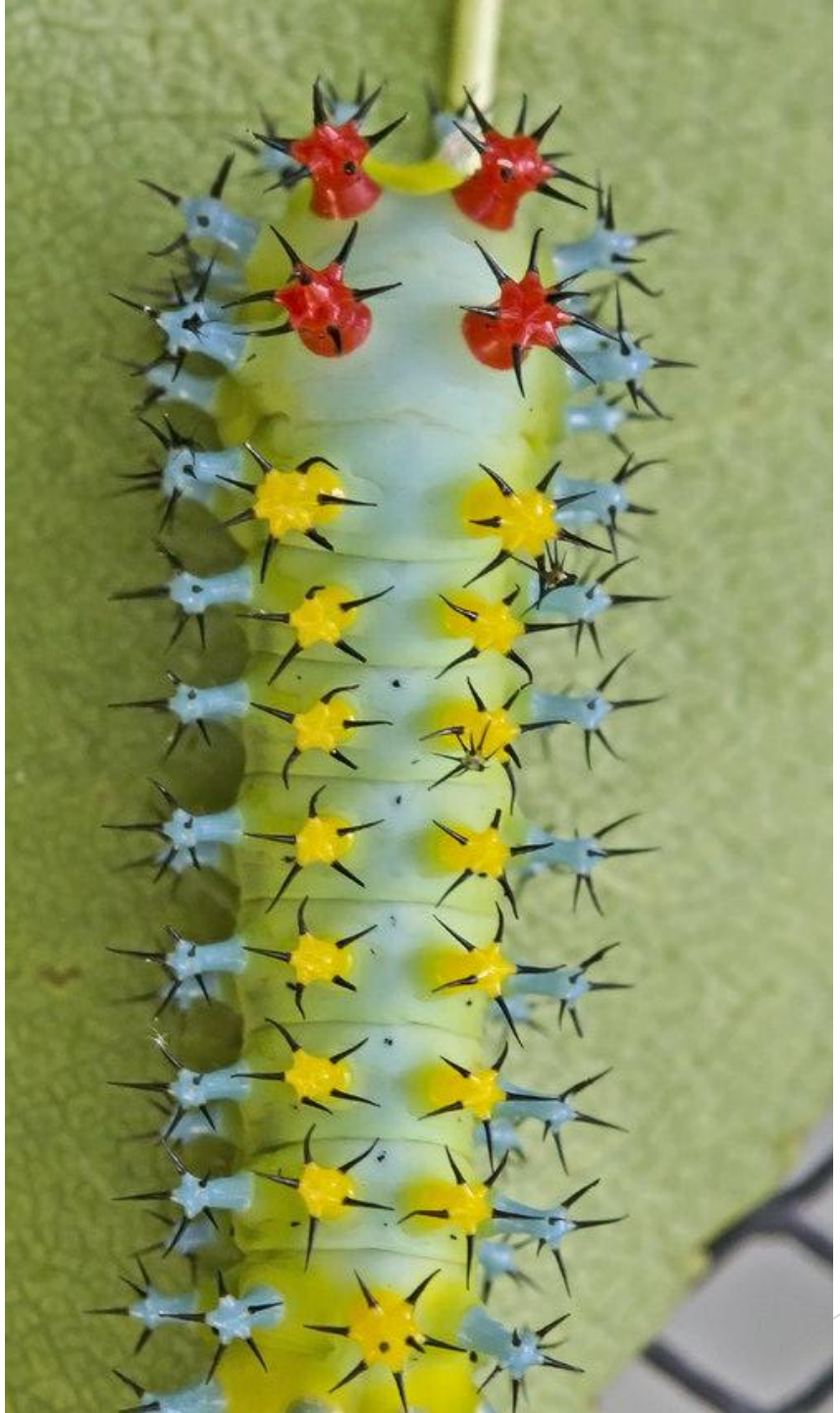

How To Use
Your Leaves
To Help Solve the Biodiversity Crisis
Let's Do This!

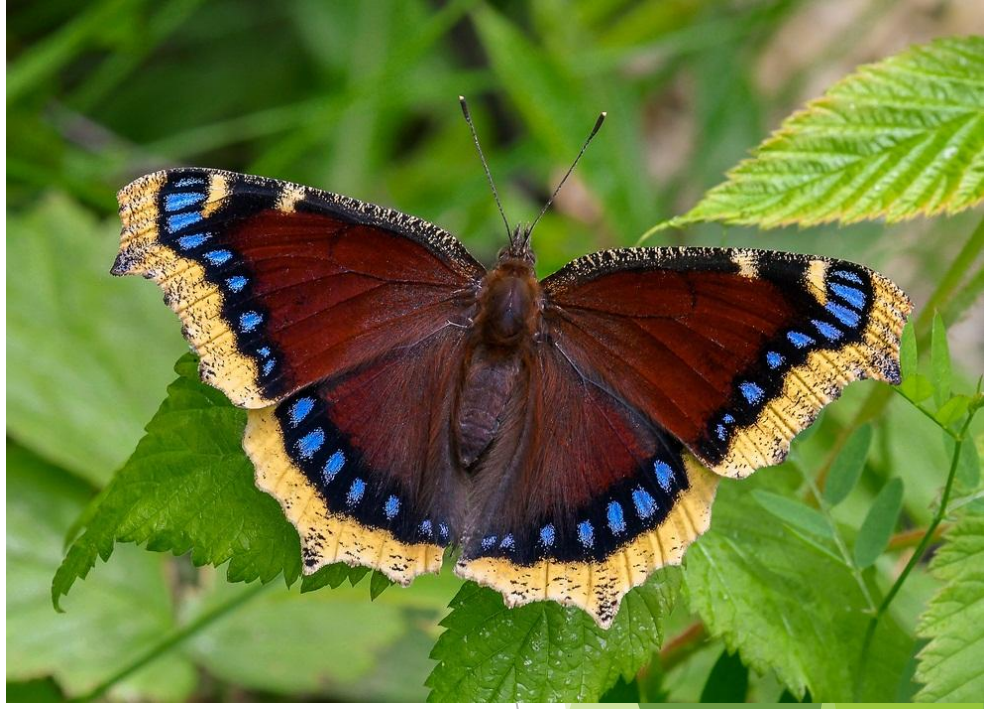

Mulch around shrubs & perennials
Scatter in wooded areas
Ways To Use Your Leaves
Layers of browns in active compost
Pile in wire circle to compost passively

Threats to our leaves...

- Non-native worms
- Bad PR

The iconic wooly bear!





Amphibians: masters of winter!

Save the Stems!

- In tandem with leaving leaves
- Here's how…

Leave stems untouched: Last season's flowers = this season's bird feeders!

Bundle seed heads and place where you’d like

Mason bee homes

Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, 8 to 24 inches, to provide nest cavities.

Female bees find cut or naturally-occurring open stems, start a nest, then lay an egg on the pollen balls. Larvae eat the pollen.

Graphics and content: Colleen Satyshur, Elaine Evans, Heather Holm, Sarah Foltz-Jordan


www.hickatee


Foxglove beardtongue


Wild strawberry

Winter landscaping: beneficial AND beautiful!


Joe pye weed, beebalm, etc.


Little bluestem


Sunflowers & grasses


Purple coneflower

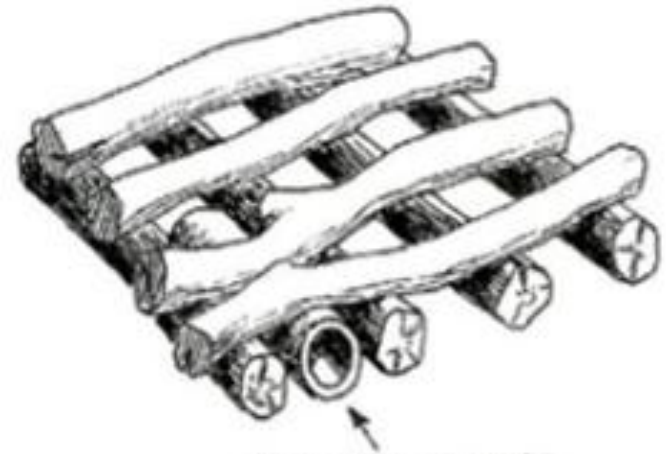
Leave the logs

- Brush piles & larger debris = important homes

Logs in the landscape

- Homes for cavity-nesting birds, primary (woodpeckers) & secondary (bluebirds, chickadees...)
- Fungus gardens – food for everything from slugs and snails to skunks & flying squirrels!
- Lichens colonize dead wood & provide camouflage for hummingbird nests
- Homes for amphibians


-Brush Pile Home-
-JonWagner19-



A

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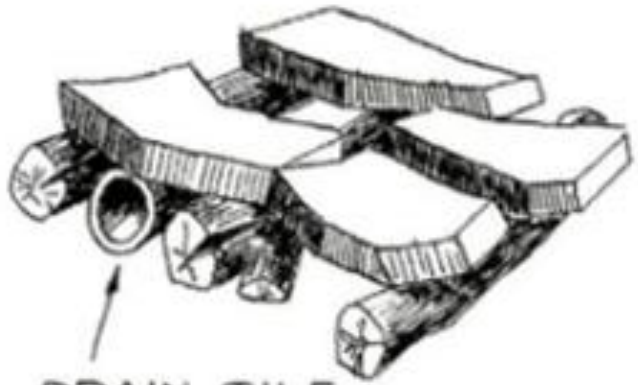


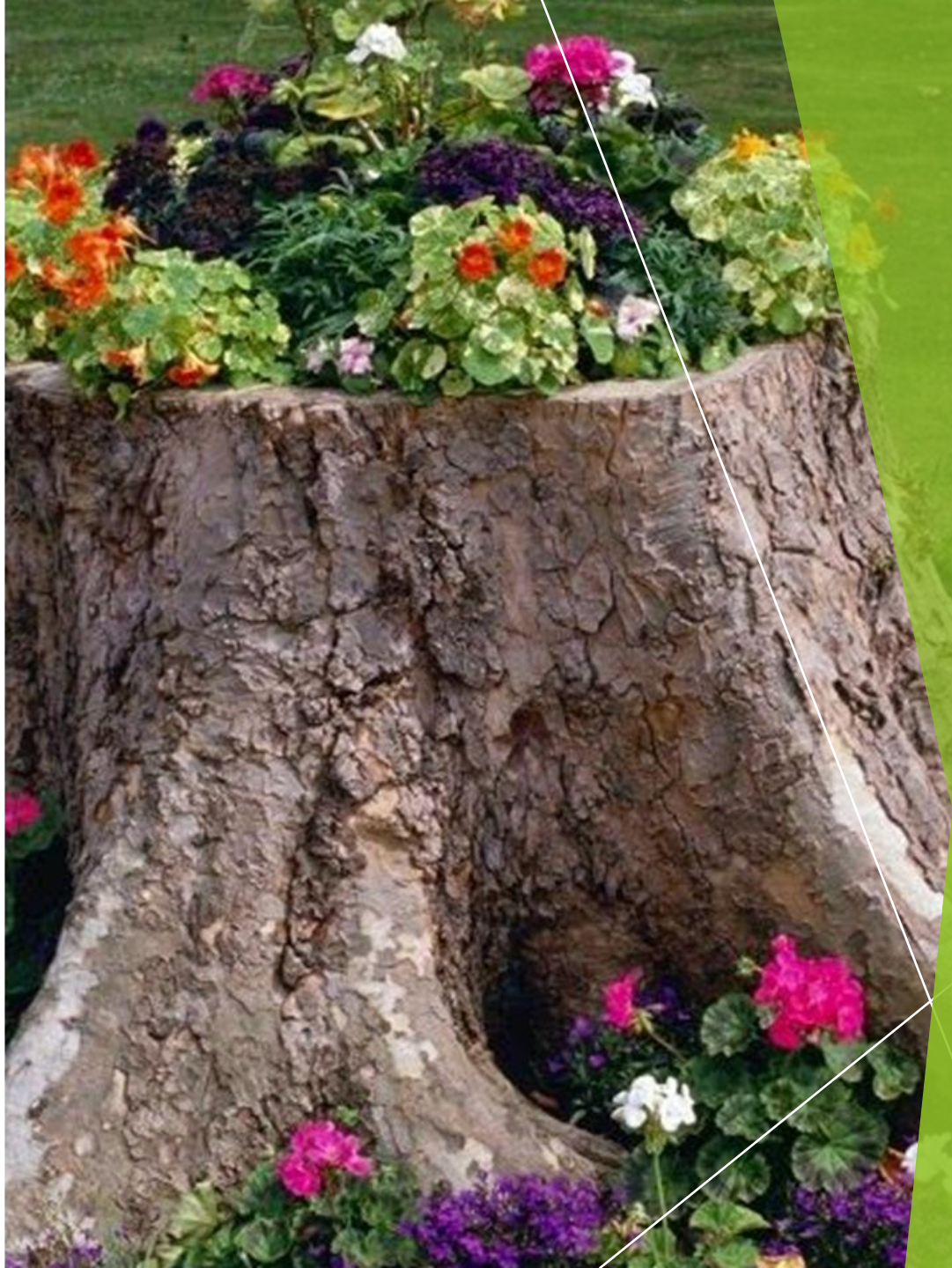
C

Wildlife-focused brush piles

AI

BI

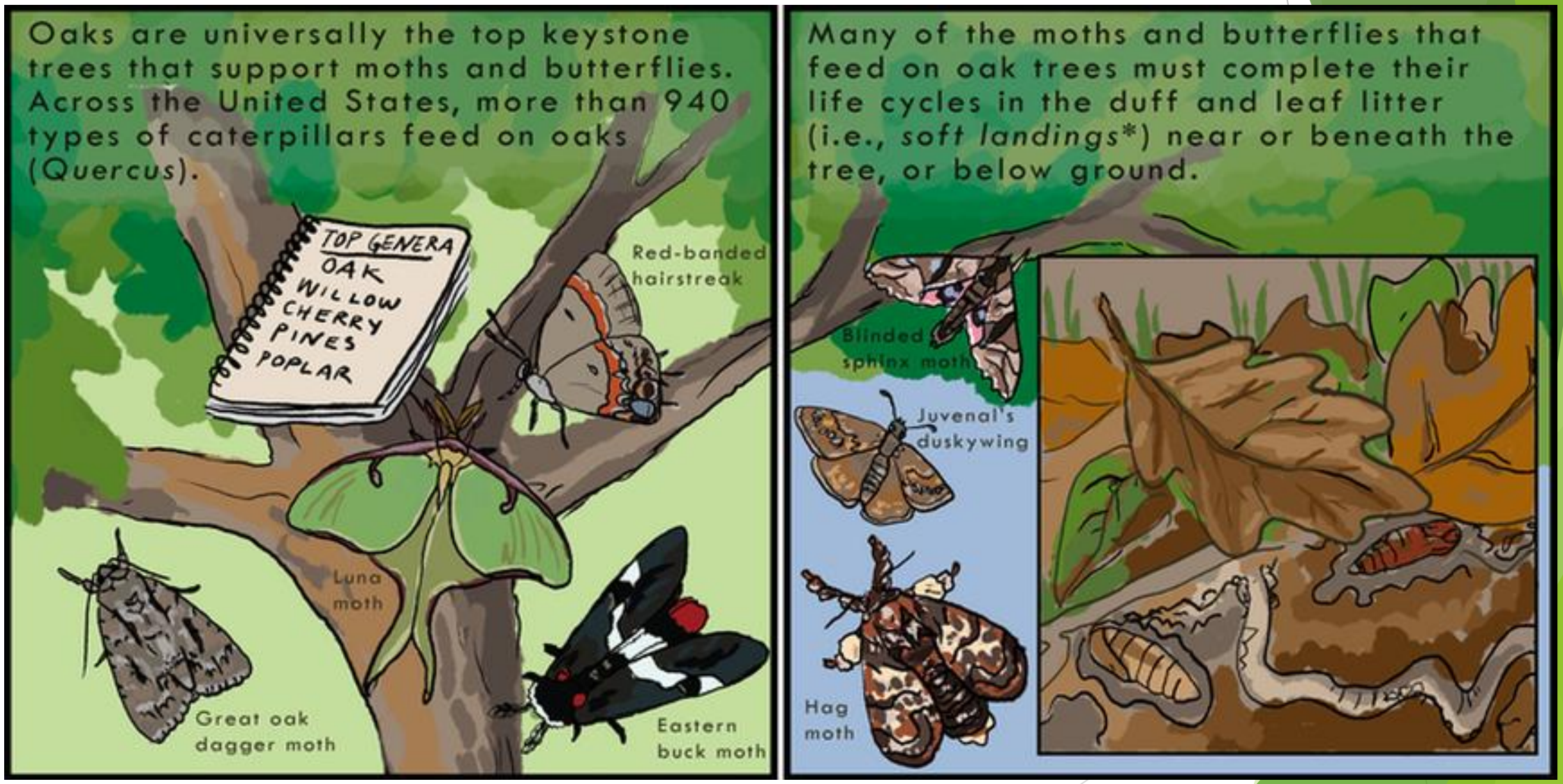
CI



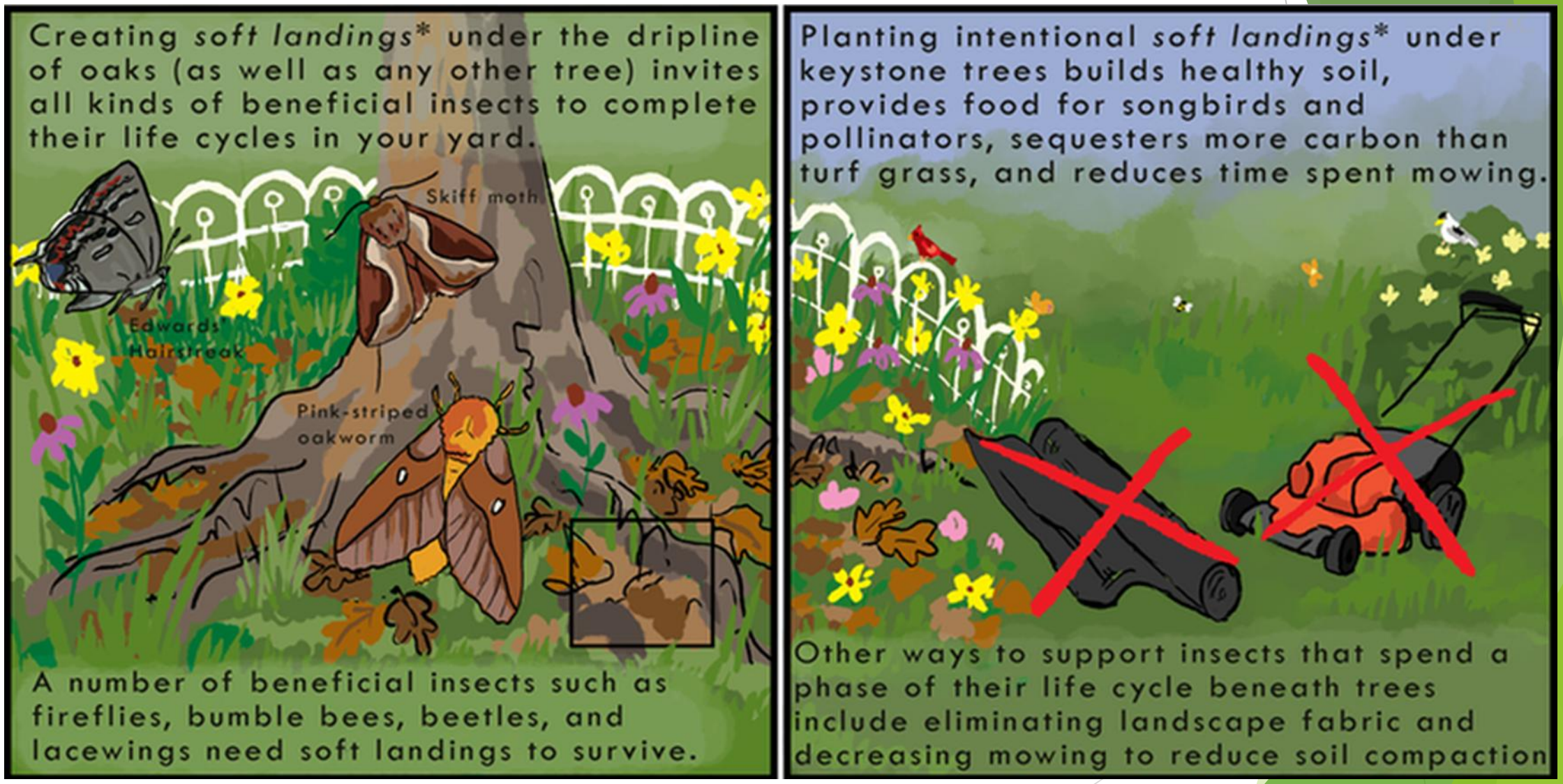
Plant a "soft landing"

- Trees need friends!
- Surround trees with other plants
- Helps cool roots, prevent erosion, & protect from lawn equipment
- Provides habitat for insects to complete their life cycles

“Soft landings” – *Heather Holm*



“Soft landings” – *Heather Holm*



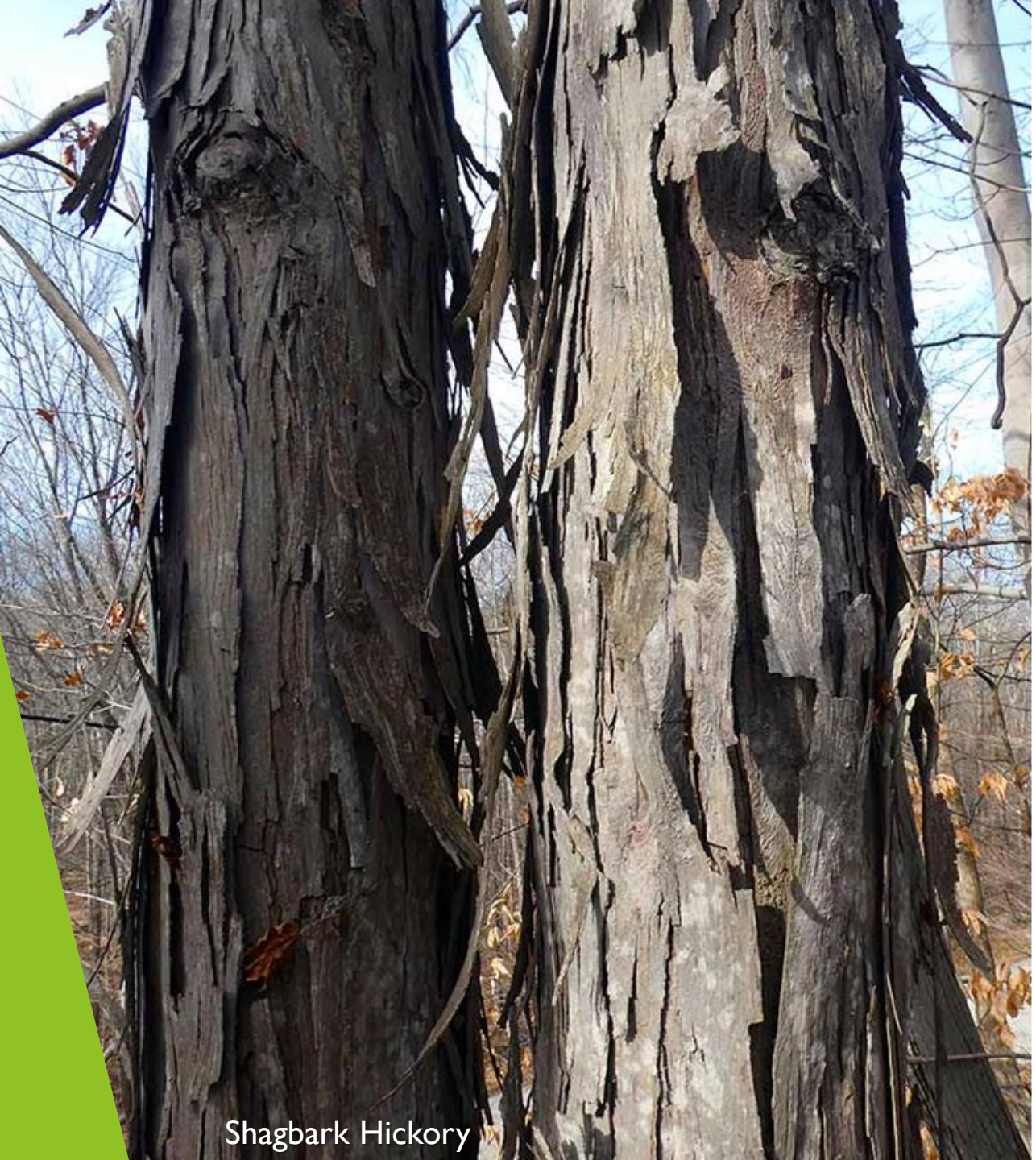
Native ferns

Black-eyed Susan, Joe-pye weed...

Wild ginger, trillium, Jacob's ladder, Virginia bluebells...

Plant a tree

- Last call!
- Fall is the gentlest time to plant trees – as soon as they break dormancy in spring they can begin growing in the mild, moist conditions



Shagbark Hickory

Protect & provide water

- Fish, turtles, frogs & more need clean water year-round
- Consider adding a heater to small ponds to promote oxygen exchange
- Open water can be drunk by birds & mammals

Create an insect home

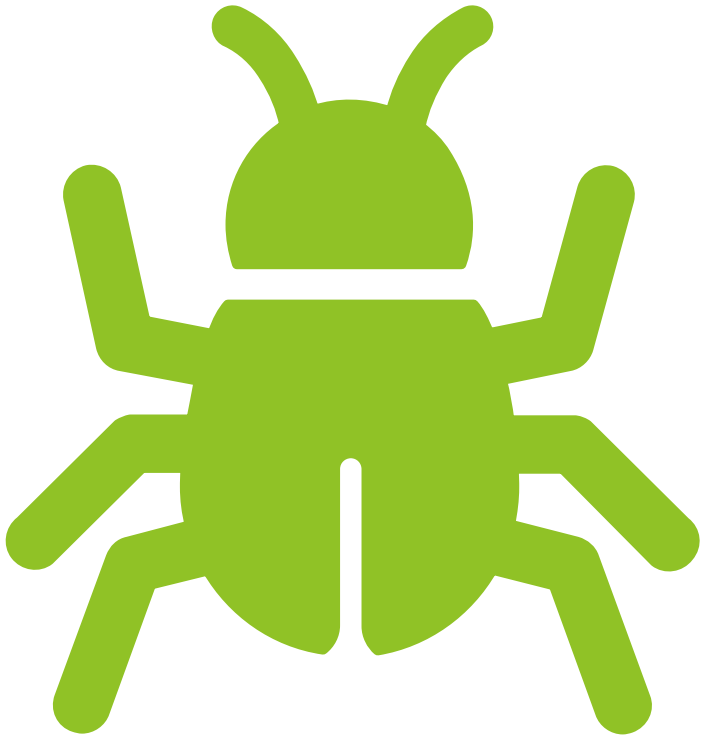
- Lots of designs
- Adds interest & conversation starter to landscape



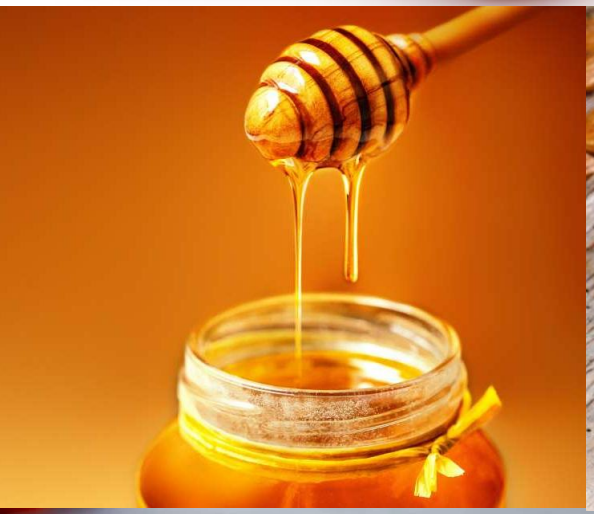
Bee houses – lots of options

Delay spring cleanup

- Wait to move leaves until nighttime temps are consistently above 50F
- Better option – avoid altogether

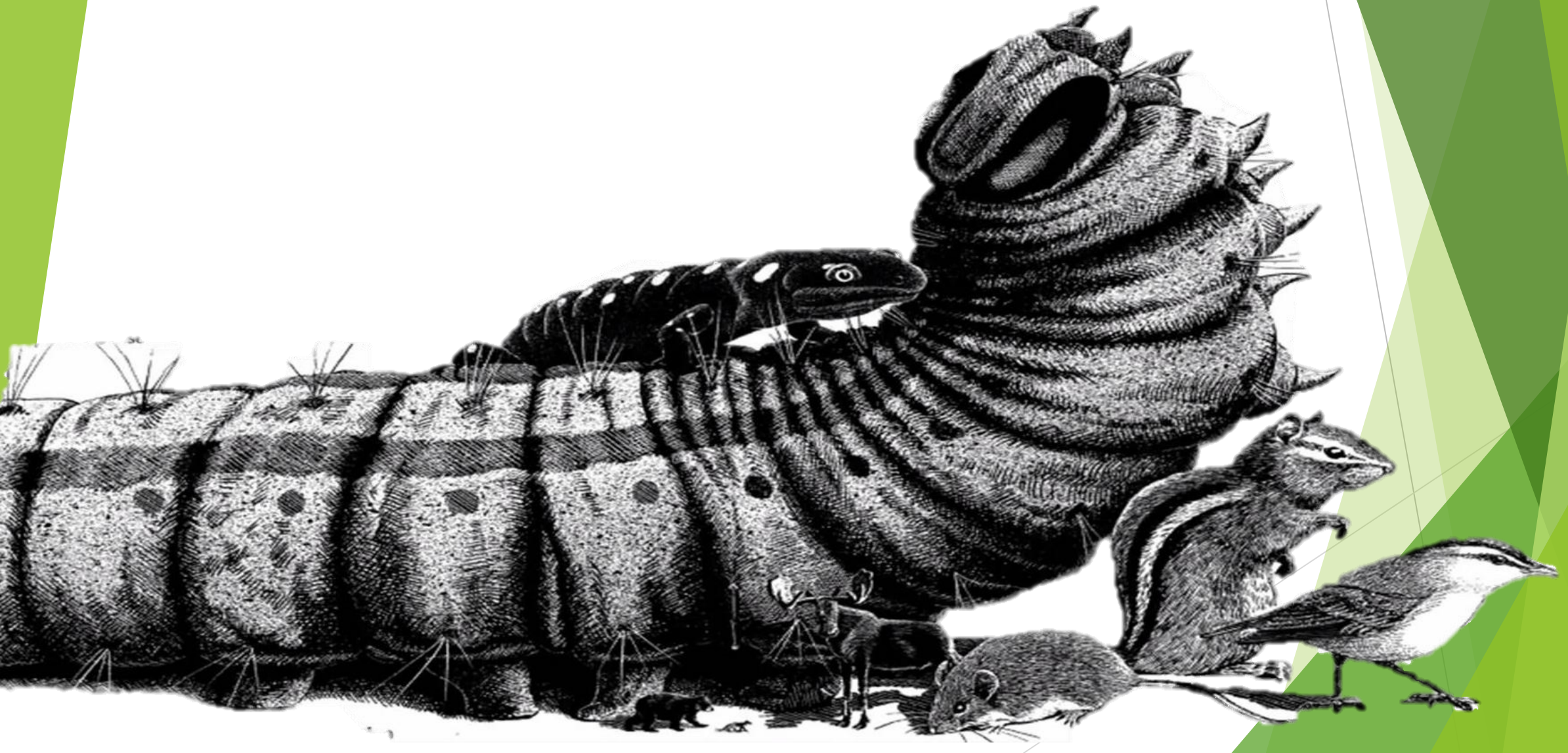


So why care about insects??




© Michael Durham

The biomass of insects!




LANTERMAN

Just the facts…

- 92% of our suburban areas is lawn, which does not contribute to local food webs
- If 50% of lawns in the US were converted to native plantings, we'd create an area of 20 million acres, 9x bigger than Yellowstone, 100x bigger than Shenandoah

Lastly, we must reconsider what we find “beautiful”

Cardinalflower, purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan...

Blazing star, scarlet beebalm, orange coneflower, obedient plant...

Purple & orange coneflower, beebalm, switchgrass...

You can make a difference at any scale...

Got neighbors?

Start Small!

"Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better.
It's not."

~ Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

Thank you!

Upcoming programming:

Accepting submissions to our annual photo exhibit → Nov 16th

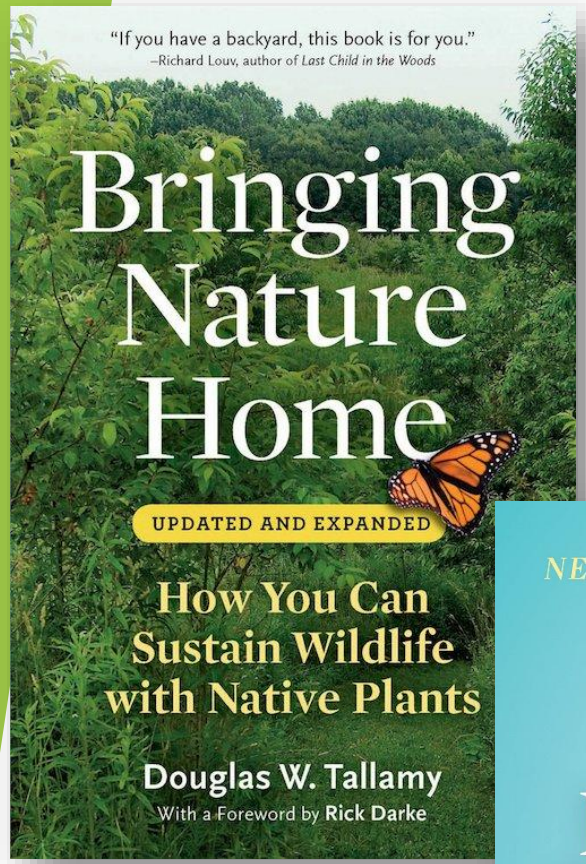
Fall Hiking Spree continues → Nov 30th

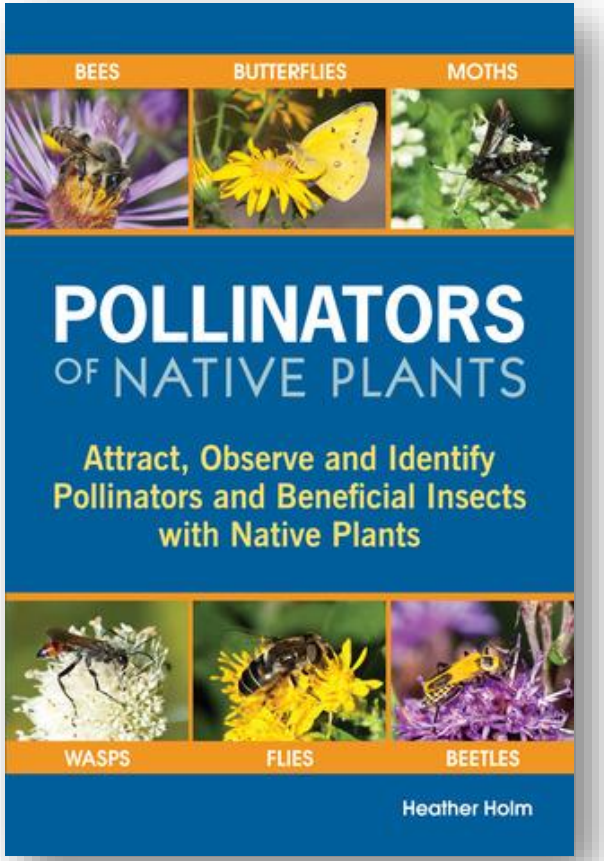
Homegrown Habitats: Seed Starting – Thursday, Nov 13th 6:30 PM

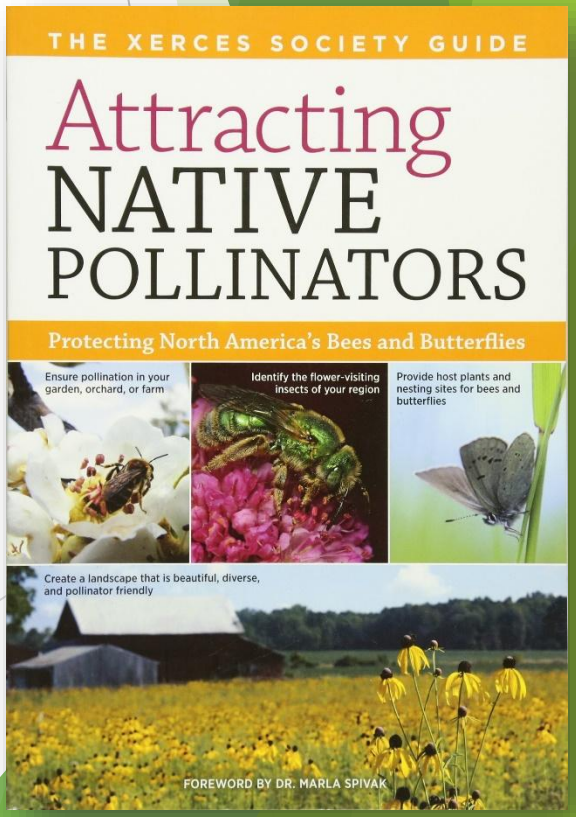
Native Seed Collecting – Sunday, Nov 9th, 1:00 PM

Learn more at:
SummitMetroParks.org

Summit Metro Parks







WILD BACK YARDS

Summitmetroparks.org