

ON-LINE RESOURCES

“Creating a Pollinator Paradise Your Neighbors Will Love”

Lauren Simpson of St. Julian’s Crossing Wildlife Habitat

for the Smarter About Sustainability program, The Woodlands Township (May 8, 2021)

- **Tip 1: “Support the home team.”**
 - Native-plant locators and information:
 - *NPSOT-Houston native plant information:* <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-plant-info/>
 - *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s Native Plant Database:* http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PHNO2
 - *Native-plant locator by Zip Code (NWF):* <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants> (also: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants>)
 - *Pollinator Partnership eco-region planting guides:* <https://pollinator.org/guides>
 - *Audubon Society native-plant database:* <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
 - *USDA Plants Database:* <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/> (includes interactive map with species data by county)
 - *BONAP:* <http://bonap.net/NAPA/Genus/Traditional/County> (species maps by county, organized by genus)
 - Why native-plant butterfly and bird gardens are better (Jaime González, Katy Prairie Conservancy): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Puh_g_dMCH8
 - Why native flowers are better for bees than non-natives: <http://beautifulnativeplants.blogspot.com/2016/07/pollinators-and-native-vs-non-native.html>
 - Why locally-sourced and -grown native plants matter: <http://www.ecobeneficial.com/2015/07/why-locally-sourced-locally-grown-native-plants-matter/>
 - Native v. cultivar: <https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2016/JuneJuly/Gardening/Cultivars>
 - Native v. non-native milkweed (St. Julian’s Crossing): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/147962152041939/permalink/581481632023320/>
 - “Weeding Out 4 Native Plant Myths”: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/51248852/list/4-Native-Plant-Myths>
- **Tip 2: “Avoid pesticides.”**
 - Beneficial insects for gardens and landscaping (TAMU): <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/index.htm>
 - Enticing beneficial predators to your garden: <https://www.nwf.org/en/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2010/Enticing-Predators-to-Patrol-Your-Garden>
 - How gardeners’ use of pesticides and herbicides harms bee populations: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/05/31/gardeners-fueling-bee-decline-by-using-weedkillers-and-pesticide/>
 - Neonicotinoid pesticide dangers: http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/HowNeonicsCanKillBees_XercesSociety_Nov2016.pdf, <http://blog.nwf.org/2015/12/four-questions-about-neonicotinoid-pesticides/>, and <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-37089385>
- **Tip 3: “Mix it up.”**
 - Tips on plant variety to support pollinators: <http://web.archive.org/web/20140701234902/http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/pollinators-and-flowers/>
 - Layering plants: <http://rockies.audubon.org/news/five-wildscape-principles>

- **Tip 4: “Pile it up.”**
 - Planting in masses for wildlife and for design: <http://northcoastgardening.com/2012/07/wildlife-garden-design-plant-masses/>
- **Tip 5: “Embrace imperfection.”**
 - Why to leave leaf litter in fall garden beds: <https://www.nwf.org/en/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2015/OctNov/Gardening/Leave-the-Leaves> and <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/wildlife-value-of-a-messy-garden/>
 - Leaving fall gardens be: <https://savvygardening.com/6-reasons-not-to-clean-up-your-garden-this-fall/>
 - Leaving pithy stems in place for bee nesting: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/39422662/list/Small-Carpenter-Bees---Looking-for-a-Home-in-Your-Plant-Stems>
 - Leaf mold, mulch, and compost: <https://www.planetnatural.com/leaf-mold/>
 - How to prep. garden safely for spring: <https://savvygardening.com/spring-garden-clean-done-right/>
- **Tip 6: “Stock the Nursery.”**
 - Bare earth and garden care for native-bee nesting: <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/bare-earth-for-native-pollinators/> and <http://www.xerces.org/in-your-pollinator-garden-november-2015/>
 - Building and responsibly maintaining bee hotels for native bees: <http://www.foxleas.com/make-a-bee-hotel.asp>; <https://www.mountaineers.org/blog/mason-bees-raising-beneficial-pollinators>; http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/bee_abode.html?credit=web_id154010812; and <http://ncagr.gov/spcap/bee/documents/BuildingWildBeeHouses.pdf>. But see <http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2015/03/bee-hotels-have-unwanted-guests/>.
 - Designing a garden for native bees: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/32351570/list/How-to-Design-a-Garden-for-Native-Bees>
 - Host plants by butterfly species: <http://www.dallasbutterflies.com/Butterfly%20Gardening/Host%20Plants%20by%20Butterfly%20Species.htm> and https://npsot.org/wp/houston/files/2014/08/February-2017-NPSOT_HOUSTON-information-pages.pdf
- **Tip 9: “Be a good neighbor.”**
 - “Neighborly Natural Landscaping in Residential Areas”: <https://extension.psu.edu/neighborly-natural-landscaping-in-residential-areas>
- **Wildscaping generally:**
 - Planting guides by ecoregion (Pollinator Partnership): <http://www.pollinator.org/guides>
 - Simple tips on creating a pollinator-friendly garden: <https://pollinatorgardens.org/2016/01/12/design-ideas-for-gardeners/?platform=hootsuite>
 - Five simple tips to turn a yard into a pollinator paradise: <http://blog.nature.org/science/2015/07/20/5-simple-tips-your-yard-pollinator-paradise-bees-butterflies-decline/>
 - Butterfly gardening in Houston: <http://houstonarboretum.org/2015/03/butterfly-gardening-in-houston/>
 - Introduction to pollinator gardening: <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/pollinators-at-home-intro-to-pollinator-gardening/>
 - Creating a low-maintenance wildscape (NPSOT): <http://npsot.org/wp/story/2009/2188/>
 - Native-bee garden ideas and resources: <http://www.houstonnativebees.org/learn/bee-habitats/>
 - “How to Turn Your Yard into an Ecological Oasis”: <https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2020/02/07/yard-sustainability-native-plants/>
 - Bringing Nature Home: <http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>

- **Articles on decline of overall insect/arthropod numbers (citing studies):**

- “Eight simple actions that individuals can take to save insects from global declines”:
<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/2/e2002547117>
- Special feature in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (vol. 118, no. 2): “Global Decline of Insects in the Anthropocene”:
<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/2?fbclid=IwAR3FipkWDMbn2ATkeKsPyqHZ6dYXO-wdc7c1XmNMf0k6BddDmy5xMQcuFXo#TheGlobalDeclineofInsectsintheAnthropoceneSpecialFeature>
- Excellent 4-part series on global insect declines (citing studies):
 - Part 1: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-a-global-look-at-a-deepening-crisis/>
 - Part 2: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-vanishing-act-in-europe-and-north-america/>
 - Part 3: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-the-tropics-in-trouble-and-some-hope/>
 - Part 4: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-how-to-save-insects-and-ourselves/>
- Article examining possible causes of insect declines: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/as-insect-populations-decline-scientists-are-trying-to-understand-why/> (citing studies)
- Call for action to avoid declines in insect abundance and diversity:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335554972_Declines_in_insect_abundance_and_diversity_We_know_enough_to_act_now and <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.80>
- Light pollution causing insect declines: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/22/light-pollution-insect-apocalypse> (citing study)
- “Insect Declines and Why They Matter”:
https://www.somersetwildlife.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/FULL%20AFI%20REPORT%20WEB%20Small_1.pdf
- Blog of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: <https://xerces.org/blog> (various topics on insect conservation)

- **Book recommendations:**

- *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden*, by Jessica Walliser
- *Attracting Native Pollinators*, by Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
- *Bringing Nature Home*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *Garden Revolution*, by Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher
- *The Living Landscape*, by Rick Darke and Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *Nature’s Best Hope*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *A New Garden Ethic*, by Benjamin Vogt
- *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, by Claudia West and Thomas Rainer

