

Gardening 101, 2025

Dr. Rosalind Reilly

Resources for Habitat Gardening

Excellent conservation organizations:

Audubon Society Bird Friendly Habitat Certification Program (under construction!)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A6jpetBpjtb53mNXADkp_22BEKEmMlqaf1HBNhEoCXY/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.pnauuxtc99o9

This is a new certification program just getting started by our local Audubon chapter where Master Naturalists and others experienced in identifying native and invasive plants will make site visits to provide guidance in how homeowners can create wildlife friendly habitat on their property. If you are interested, give me your contact info and I'll keep you posted as this program is rolled out.

Blue Ridge PRISM

<https://blueridgeprism.org/>

Organization that hosts webinars and trainings on how to identify and manage invasive species in our area.

<https://blueridgeprism.org/factsheets>

Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park Hub

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/doug-tallamy/>

Focus on keystone native plants and the interconnections between native plants, insects, and birds. Books and webinars on transforming a lawn into a healthy ecosystem.

Flora of Virginia Project

<https://floraofvirginia.org/>

App's one-time charge of \$19 supports the project and provides information on all the plants you are likely to encounter in Virginia.

iNaturalist

The most reliable identification app for plants and animals via your uploaded pictures drawing on a worldwide community of amateur and professional nature observers.

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=7&taxon_id=47916

James River Master Naturalists

<https://jamesrivermasternat.wixsite.com/jrmn>

Chapter of the [Virginia Master Naturalist](#) program that serves Powhatan, Goochland, and Louisa counties

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia

<https://mgnv.org/plants/native-plants/>

Fact sheets on Tried and True Native Plants for the Mid-Atlantic; Videos by Elaine Mills suggesting how to use native plants in sun, shade, etc.

Monarch Watch

How to create a Monarch waystation

<https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

National Wildlife Federation

<https://www.nwf.org/garden>

"Create and Certify" habitat certification program guides you in covering all the bases for a healthy habitat and provides a yard sign to encourage others to do the same.

Wild Ones

<https://wildones.org/>

Good information about using native plants to create natural home landscapes. Samples of landscape design for various regions of the country.

Xerces Society for the Conservation of Invertebrates

<https://xerces.org>

Focus on pollinators (with special initiatives for bumblebees and monarch butterflies) and fireflies. Tons of downloadable PDFs, webinars on Xerces YouTube, podcasts (Bug Banter), etc.

Books and Articles of Special Interest:

Attracting Native Pollinators: The Xerces Society Guide, Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies

Available from booksellers or with membership to the Xerces Society

Firefly Conservation: A Guide to Protecting the Jewels of the Night

<https://xerces.org/publications/brochures/firefly-conservation-guide-to-protecting-jewels-of-night>

(I will provide copies)

Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects

Available from booksellers or with membership to the Xerces Society

<https://xerces.org/publications/books/gardening-for-butterflies>

Habitat at Home- VA Department of Wildlife Resources

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/Habitat-at-Home.pdf>

(I will provide copy)

Habitat Gardening for Wildlife-Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals Certification

Instructions for creating wildlife habitat, including plant lists for particular conditions and particular target species as well as tips for handling unwelcome wildlife interactions. While this manual is designed as a sustainable landscape certification program for landscape professionals, it contains information highly relevant to the general public.

<https://cblpro.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Habitat-Gardening-Stand-Alone-Final.compressed-1.pdf>

“Habitat Planning for Beneficial Insects: Guidelines for Conservation Biological Control”

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/16-020_01_XercesSoc_Habitat-Planning-for-Beneficial-Insects_web.pdf

Monarch Nectar Plants: Mid-Atlantic

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/16-042_02_MNPL_Mid-Atlantic_web-print.pdf

***Nature’s Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy**

This and other books by Doug Tallamy (*The Living Landscape*, *Bringing Nature Home*, etc.) make the case for transforming your yard into healthy habitat. Check used booksellers. There is also a version for children.

Native Plants for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects: Mid-Atlantic Region

<https://xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/native-plants-for-pollinators-and-beneficial-insects-mid-atlantic>

(I will provide copies)

Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic

<https://www.invasive.org/midatlantic/fieldguide/>

Field guide to invasive plants in our area

“Small Habitat Plantings in Urban Areas”

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/25-006_01_Small%20Habitat%20Plantings%20in%20Urban%20Areas_print.pdf

“Soft Landings” by Heather Holm

Posters that explain the importance of underplanting trees with native plants.

<https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/uploads/1/3/9/1/13913231/softlandingskeystonehandout.pdf>

(I will provide copies)

USDA Agroforestry Notes: “Enhancing Nest Sites for Native Bees”

https://www.xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/07-001_01_AFNnote34_Enhancing-Nest-Sites-For-Native-Bee-Crop-Pollinators_web.pdf (I will provide copies)