



“2014 Gardening for Wildlife Workshops”

with NJ Audubon’s **Nature Center of Cape May**

1600 Delaware Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204; (609)898-8848

www.njaudubon.org/Centers/NCCM/

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE WORKSHOPS

with Pat Sutton (backyard habitat educator for over 30 years)

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 8, 2014 – How to Create a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife

Saturday, February 22, 2014 – How to Create a Pollinator Garden

(for Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Moths, Bees, & More)

Saturday, March 1, 2014 – How to Create a Wildflower Meadow

Saturday, March 8, 2014 -- How to Create a No-Fuss Wildlife Pond

Saturday, March 22, 2014 – Battlestar Backyardia – Battling the Alien Invaders

(How to Recognize and Deal With Invasive Species)

Saturday, March 29, 2014 – Landscape Design With Wildlife In Mind

Pat Sutton has keenly studied the natural world for over thirty years. As an experienced naturalist and educator she will share her wildlife gardening expertise in this series of six workshops for property owners. *These in-depth, all-day, fact-filled, and enlightening workshops will be site-specific to your own situation.* Native plants and wildlife-friendly practices are the key and will be emphasized and detailed throughout. Valuable handouts will be shared. These workshops have been scheduled for late winter / early spring, the perfect time to shake off winter and begin planning and planting (or enhancing) wildlife gardens. The first workshop is the backbone of the series (try not to miss it) and will supply a good foundation for the following sessions. The last workshop (Landscape Design) builds on the foundation of the other five workshops (so is best taken in conjunction with them). Each workshop will build on the last (but can also stand alone) and will include question-and-answer sessions, a working lunch where participants will have the opportunity to discuss their own property, and a site visit to Pat Sutton's backyard habitat to reinforce wildlife friendly practices and design and plant selection options.

Where: The workshops will be held in Goshen at NJ Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory Center for Research and Education (600 Route 47 North, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210).

Limit: 20 participants; **preregistration required** (through Nature Center of Cape May, 1600 Delaware Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204; 609-898-8848; *if you reach their message machine, leave a message -- they will return your call*).

Cost/workshop: \$35 member of NJ Audubon Society, \$45 nonmember (includes handouts).
Sign up for all six workshops for a discount: \$190 member, \$250 nonmember.

-- OVER for additional details --



Patricia Sutton, Backyard Habitat educator for over 30 years
www.patandclaysutton.com

2014 GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE WORKSHOPS with Pat Sutton

through NJ Audubon's Nature Center of Cape May, 1600 Delaware Ave, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-898-8848)

WHERE: all workshops will be held at NJ Audubon's CMBO CRE, 600 Rt. 47 N, CMCH, NJ 08210

Saturday, February 8 – How to Create a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In the “Go Green” movement, all too often yards are forgotten; in fact, many yards are the antithesis of green. The first and most important step is to “Go Native,” to favor native plants and wildlife-friendly practices. Pat Sutton will showcase native trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers, and even weeds that are most beneficial to birds and other wildlife. From the perspective of a life-long naturalist intimate with the workings of the natural world, Sutton will share countless common-sense garden maintenance techniques that will help property owners avoid common practices that actually harm rather than benefit wildlife. In addition to the obvious (bird feeders, bird houses, and bird baths), this program is packed with the “how’s and why’s” of attracting birds, butterflies, dragonflies, and other wildlife to your backyard, no matter how small. (*This workshop is the backbone of the series; try not to miss it.*)

Saturday, February 22 – How to Create a Pollinator Garden (for Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Moths, Bees, and More) – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pat Sutton will cover the basic “how to’s” for creating a pollinator-friendly garden and yard that will attract and benefit butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, bees and more! It is often as simple as planting NATIVES like Sweet Pepperbush instead of Crape Myrtle or planting Joe-pye-weed, Purple Coneflower, New England Aster, and Goldenrod rather than Marigolds. Double the size of a parsley patch and be amazed by all the Black Swallowtails it attracts. Meet all the needs of hummingbirds and be dazzled by them in your gardens from late April through early October. The obvious, such as good nectar plants and their blooming periods, will be covered, along with the not so obvious, such as the caterpillar food plants butterflies and moths need for egg laying, “mud puddling,” and the importance of proper cover from wind and weather. The mystery of a butterfly’s life cycle and where and how butterflies and moths spend the winter will be explained. Where hummingbirds go in winter, why they leave us when our gardens are still in bloom, when to have your yard ready for them in spring upon their return, hummingbird feeder maintenance, and lots of other fun natural history facts will be shared. The program features eye-candy wildlife gardens in South Jersey that have successfully transformed ho-hum backyards into multi-dimensional gardens full of life.

Saturday, March 1 – How to Create a Wildflower Meadow – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Learn how to enhance your backyard landscaping for wildlife by creating a wildflower meadow. Many areas have lost their meadows to subdivisions and corporate headquarters landscaped with acres and acres of sod lawn – monocultures that are green deserts for wildlife, offering no cover, no food (nectar, seeds, etc.), and no beauty (blooming wildflowers and lovely native grasses). Clouds of butterflies and nesting bluebirds can still be found where meadows abound. If you (or your corporate headquarters) have more lawn than you need and mowing gobbles up precious time and expensive gas, consider turning some of this lawn into a wildflower meadow. Even a small meadow will make a big difference to wildlife. A meadow can be simple to create and Pat Sutton will share the basics. Learn how to convert lawn to meadow, how to maintain your meadow in a simple fashion over time, and how to make it acceptable and attractive to neighbors and visitors.

Saturday, March 8 – How to Create a No-Fuss Wildlife Pond – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Frogs, toads, and dragonflies all need freshwater ponds for egg laying to create future generations. Even a tiny pond will attract and support them. Learn what a true wildlife pond is and how simple it is to create – with no need for running water, filters, fish, and all the fuss. Pat Sutton will share the basics of how to create a wildlife pond and, even more importantly, how to maintain it so that wildlife benefits. Learn which native plants to add to the pond (and which problem plants to avoid), and don’t be surprised if Sutton offers to share native plants from her very own ponds. Don’t make the same mistake that others have made by creating a pond for exotic fish that supports little else. In a true wildlife pond, expect to attract and get to watch the amazing life cycle of huge Green Darner dragonflies or count a growing population of Leopard Frogs and Green Frogs that find your pond as if by magic. Create it and they will come!

Saturday, March 22 – Battlestar Backyardia – Battling the Alien Invaders – How to deal with invasive species – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Many people are surprised to learn that plants they’d assumed were native are in fact non-native, problem plants. Many gardeners are unaware of the far-reaching damage they can do when they plant invasives like Periwinkle (*Vinca*), English Ivy, and bamboo. In a very short time these plants might invade the neighbor’s yard, properties across the street and down the street, and even nearby preserves. The invasion of non-natives has taken a big toll on butterflies and moths (that need native plants to lay their eggs on) and insect-eating birds looking for butterfly and moth caterpillars. Sadly, most nurseries contribute heavily to this problem by offering for sale many known culprits, plants that are outlawed in surrounding states and plants that the State of New Jersey is spending enormous amounts of money to control and remove from natural areas. Purple Loosestrife is just one example. Most shoppers assume that nurseries are acting responsibly, but the wise gardener needs to be educated to recognize invasives because the nursery trade has a deep-rooted love affair with exotic plants. This program will address key invasive plants, help you learn how to identify them, offer suggestions on how to control or remove them if they find their way into your garden, and showcase lovely native alternatives.

Saturday, March 29 – Landscape Design With Wildlife in Mind – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sutton will emphasize designs that work with nature, not at odds with nature. Choosing the right plant for the right spot (and the right site for key elements of a wildlife habitat) is key. The program will showcase multi-dimensional, diverse, layered, and interesting-to-the-eye natural landscapes that benefit wildlife, emphasizing to “let nature be the guide.” Typical landscaping (lawn and uniform park-like plantings) will pale in comparison. (*This workshop is the last in the series of Sutton’s in-depth, content-filled gardening for wildlife workshops and builds on the foundation of the other workshops.*)

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