SEVEN STEP PLAN TO RESTORE NATIVE HABITAT

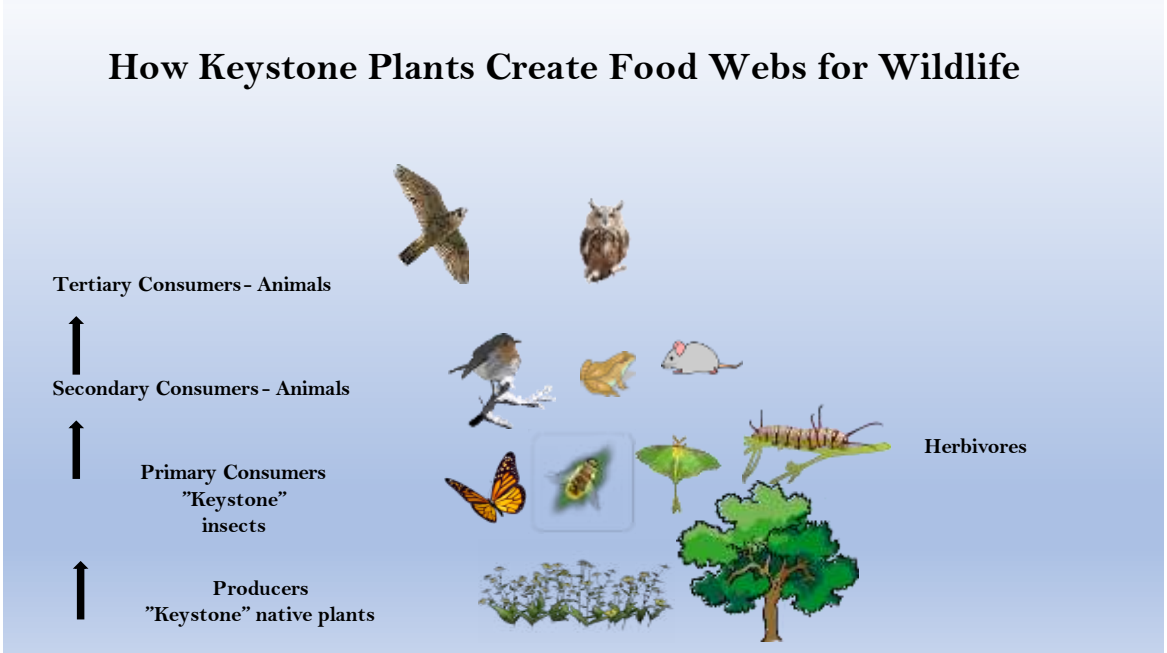
From ***Nature's Best Hope*** by Doug Tallamy.

Action Step 1: Reduce lawn space to attract wildlife

Refer to this website to learn how to properly maintain a lawn without harming wildlife. **https://joegardener.com/**

There are four primary roles that any landscape needs to offer:

1. Provide a functional food web – Keystone native plants that create food webs for wildlife.



2. Manage watersheds – plants that absorb heavy rain and reduce stormwater runoff

   Best Water Absorbing Trees, red maple, ash, black gum, white cedar, river birch, American arborvitae.
   The Best Water-Absorbing Shrubs, Inkberry, summersweet, black chokeberry, American cranberry bush, spice bush, silky dogwood, winterberry, elderberry.
   The Best Water-Absorbing perennials: Purple Coneflower, Bee Balm, Southern Blue Flag Iris, white turtlehead, Joe Pye weed, rose mallow, cardinal flower, swamp milkweed, obedient plant.
3. Preserve pollinators – provide a natural diversity of natives to support multiple species
4. Sequester carbon – plants that pull carbon from the air and fix it into the soil (which, in turn, promotes plant growth)

Action Step 2: Remove Invasive Species

Invasive Plant Primer for the Home Landscape, https://www.tnipc.org/invasive-plants/
Attend a "Weed Wrangle," at Reflection Riding. Contact Byron Brooks.

Action Step 3: Plant Keystone Species

96% of our terrestrial birds rely on insects supported by keystone plants.

Keystone species for the Southeast:

Trees: Oaks, Native cherries and plums, hickory, maple, birch, willow, blueberries, crabapple, elm, and pine.

Perennials or herbaceous plants: Goldenrod, Joe-Pye weed, boneset, wild strawberry (has white flower), sunflower, violet, false indigo, ironweed, and evening primrose.

Action Step 4: Be Generous with Plantings

Three-dimensional layering. Planting in layers is a powerful and easy way to restore some of the ecology that has been lost when lawns are established.

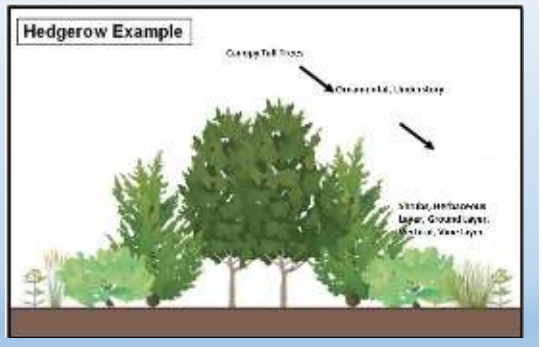
Add a hedgerow or "living fence"

- **Ornamental, Understory**

Dogwoods, serviceberry, redbud, willow, hop tree, pawpaw, elderberry, and sassafras.

- **Shrubs, Herbaceous Layer**

Viburnums, blueberries, spicebush, bush honeysuckle, Little bluestem grass, aromatic asters, goldenrod, Maryland golden-aster, Liatris and milkweed.



Action Step 5: Keystone Plants to attract beneficial insects.

Bees
Caterpillars
Butterflies and Moths

For a complete list for our region Eastern Temperate Forests - Ecoregion 8, see https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion

For complete list of plants see **https://tnvalleywildones.org/plant-info/native-plants-for-the-tennessee-valley/** Native Plants for Pollinators – Growing Requirements, Bloom Times for Native Plants in Shady Gardens**,** Bloom Times for Pollinator Plants in Sunny Gardens.

Book "Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide" by Heather Holm as the best resource available regarding specialized plants and how they support native pollinators.

Refer to handout, Host plants for butterflies and moths.

Action Step 6: Create Caterpillar Pupation Sites

Many caterpillars spend part of their life in trees and shrubs, but they complete their life cycle underground or under cover of ground debris. Queen Bumble bees hibernate under leaf litter. So, blow your leaves into beds and under trees. Add native plants that love shade. See Wild Ones website https://tnvalleywildones.org/plant-info/native-plants-for-the-tennessee-valley/, Bloom Times for Native Plants in Shady Gardens.

Action Step 7: Don't spray, fertilize, or use fungicides and pesticides

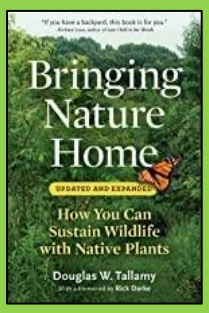
Food webs are compromised as insects are weakened or killed. Fertilizers high in nitrogen damage the soil food web.

Google these titles for more info on organic pest control: "Organic Pest Control with Jeff Gillman" and "Troublesome Garden Pests: Organic Control Strategies That Work"

Bibliography:

Any book by E.O. Wilson such as Half-Earth, etc. Heather Holm has a new book out on Wasps.

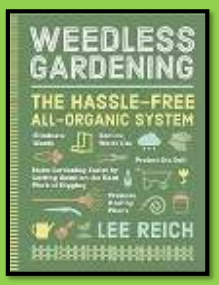
Important authors and their books.



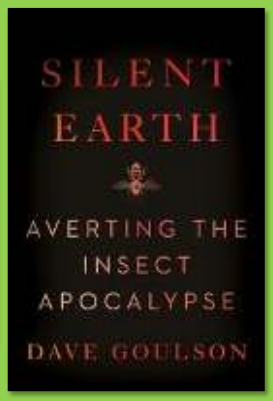
Douglas Tallamy

Heather Holm

Rita Venable



Lee Reich



Dave Goulson