

Some of the *very basic* BACKYARD HABITAT Resources OR

★“Best Books for a Backyard Naturalist’s Library”

recommended by Patricia Sutton

patclaysutton@comcast.net

www.patandclaysutton.com

FOUNDATION of Backyard Habitat

RETHINKING THE AMERICAN LAWN:

- ★ Any / All of Sara Stein’s books: *Noah’s Garden (Restoring the Ecology of our own Back Yards)*, *My Weeds (A Gardener’s Botany)*, *Planting Noah’s Garden (Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology)*.
- ★ *Urban and Suburban Meadows, Bringing Meadows to Big and Small Spaces*, by Catherine Zimmerman. Matrix Media Press, 2010. Step-by-step process detailed and explained; emphasizes natives. EXCELLENT read for all gardeners, not just those with a spot for a meadow.
- ★ *The Green Garden, A New England Guide to Planning, Planting, and Maintaining the Eco-Friendly Habitat Garden*, by Ellen Sousa. Bunker Hill Publishing, 2011.
- ★ Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes – www.for-wild.org/ This website addresses problems homeowners have with local weed control ordinances and shares a “model municipal ordinance” and ways to implement it in your community.
- ★ Cape May Point’s model Landscape Ordinance (<http://www.anjec.org/pdfs/CoastalHabitats2007.pdf> – see pages 20-21 – or print pages 22-23) has kept stone lawns and cleared lots at a minimum. The result has been a rural seaside community where wildlife has a chance.

NATIVE PLANTS ARE KEY:

- ★ *Bringing Nature Home, How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, by Douglas Tallamy. Timber Press, 2007. Powerful & compelling read about how we impact the diversity of insects, birds, and all wildlife when we plant and nurture natives as opposed to non-natives.
- ★ *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East*, by Carolyn Summers. Rutgers University Press, 2010. This excellent guidebook for garden professionals (and the general public) is an in-depth look at our love affair with nonnative plants; showcases eastern native plants that can correct this situation.

BACKGROUND RESOURCES ON BACKYARD HABITAT

There are dozens of books that fall into this category, though many focus on other parts of the country, and, beware, some are actually for gardening in England and Europe.

- ★ NJ Audubon’s web site: www.njaudubon.org Under “Birds & Nature,” click on “**Create a Backyard Habitat**” to access a series of pages on “**The World of Backyard Habitat.**”
- ★ The following websites network / showcase those teaching about and practicing wildlife habitat gardening: www.ecosystemgardening.com ; www.beautifulwildlifegarden.com ; www.nativeplantwildlifegarden.com

TREES, SHRUBS, VINES, WILDFLOWERS, and WEEDS

- ★ *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Attracting Birds*, by Richard DeGraaf. University Press of New England, 2002. **A priceless classic!** The first edition of this book, coupled with *American Wildlife & Plants*, was the foundation of Pat Sutton’s research on bird dependence on seeds, cones, catkins, fruits, and berries of our native trees, shrubs, and vines at world famous Cape May (where so many migrants concentrate).

Some of the very basic BACKYARD HABITAT Resources OR
★“Best Books for a Backyard Naturalist’s Library”

recommended by Patricia Sutton

patclaysutton@comcast.net

www.patandclaysutton.com

TREES, SHRUBS, VINES, WILDFLOWERS, and WEEDS (continued):

- ★ *American Wildlife & Plants (A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits)*, by Alexander Martin, Herbert Zim, and Arnold Nelson. Dover Publications, Inc., 1951. One can look up a specific bird and learn the native plants it feeds upon or one can look up a native plant and learn the birds / animals that feed upon it.
- ★ *The Sibley Guide to Trees*, by David Allen Sibley. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. If you wish to ID the trees on your property, in your neighborhood, or anywhere in the U.S., this is THE book that will enable you do so because it covers not only native species, but many non-natives as well.
- ★ *The Shrub Identification Book*, by George Symonds (1963), and *The Tree Identification Book*, by George Symonds (1958). William Morrow & Co. Excellent, well illustrated field guide to all parts of a shrub / tree.
- ★ *Shrubs & Vines of New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic States*, by Christopher Martine. NJ Forest Service, 2002. Excellent, though does include a number of non-natives interspersed (so read carefully).
- ★ *Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide*, by Lawrence Newcomb. Little, Brown and Company, 1997. Users learn different structural features to quickly identify plants, so notice far more than the color of the flower.
- ★ NJ Audubon’s article, “How to Create a Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden,” and the “Recommended Plantings to Attract Hummingbirds, Butterflies, and Moths,” by Patricia Sutton, are available at:
<http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionBackyardHabitat/CreateaGarden.aspx>
<http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionBackyardHabitat/RecommendedNectarPlants.aspx>
- ★ *The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*, by Christopher Brickell & Judith Zuk (Editors-in-Chief). DK Publishing, 1996. Terrific resource to learn whether a plant is native or non-native (and, if non-native, where from originally).
- ★ *Weeds of the Northeast*, by Richard H. Uva, Joseph C. Neal, Joseph M. Ditomaso. Rutgers University Press, 1997. If you are going to let part of your yard “go wild” and the soil has ever been cultivated, grazed, landscaped, or otherwise disturbed, these “weeds” are the plants that are going to grow there! This book illustrates plants in all stages of their life cycle from seed through first leaves, blooming, and into their winter appearance, so you don’t need to wait for a flower to know what you have.
- ★ *Butterfly Gardening for the South*, by Geyata Ajilvsgi. Taylor Publishing Company, 1990. Fascinating natural history information, including what triggers nectar production & the shut down of nectar production.
- ★ *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques*, by Tracy DiSabata-Aust. Timber Press, 2006. Great book for learning about techniques to get the most out of your perennial flowers, extending the blooming season. Beware though ... some of these techniques may lead you to “do in” butterflies in your gardens (chrysalises, caterpillars, or eggs that are hidden on your plants).
- ★ Coffee table books focused on natives: (1) *Native Plants of the Northeast, A Guide for Gardening & Conservation*, by Donald J. Leopold. Timber Press, 2005. (2) *Landscaping with Native Trees (the Northeast, Midwest, Midsouth & Southeast Edition)*, by Guy Sternberg and Jim Wilson. Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1995. (3) *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines, A Guide to Growing and Propagating North American Woody Plants*, by William Cullina. New England Wild Flower Society, 2002.

Some of the very basic BACKYARD HABITAT Resources OR
★“Best Books for a Backyard Naturalist’s Library”

recommended by Patricia Sutton

patclaysutton@comcast.net

www.patandclaysutton.com

INVASIVES

- ★ *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants, Brooklyn Botanic Garden All Region Guides*, by C. Colston Burrell. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2006. A must for the naturalist gardener’s library.
- ★ *Invasive Plants: A Guide to Identification, Impacts, and Control of Common North American Species*, by Sylvan Ramsey Kaufman and Wallace Kaufman, 2007. Excellent in-depth guide sharing plant origin, problems, solutions, and advice!
- ★ Websites: (1) <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html> (2) <http://www.invasive.org/>
(3) www.invasiveplants.net (4) <http://npdc.usda.gov/> (5) <http://www.newfs.org/protect/invasive-plants>
(6) www.npsnj.org/invasive_species_0103.htm (7) www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/state.shtml
(8) www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/ (9) http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/aquatic_invasives.htm

BIRDS

- ★ *The Birder's Handbook, a Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*, by Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. Simon & Schuster Inc., 1988. This book is like having a naturalist along with you, sharing a steady stream of fascinating, little-known facts – the perfect companion to your field guide.
- ★ *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*, by David Allen Sibley. Alfred A. Knopf, 2003. THE best field guide to help you identify the birds in your garden.

BUTTERFLIES / MOTHS

- ★ *Butterflies Through Binoculars: The East*, by Jeffrey Glassberg. Oxford University Press, 1999. The best field guide to help you identify the butterflies in your garden. Illustrated with exceptional photographs of live butterflies as you might see them in the wild, covers the entire east, and has color range maps showing where each species occurs and for how much of the year.
- ★ *Butterflies of the East Coast, an Observer’s Guide*, by Rick Cech and Guy Tudor. Princeton University Press, 2005. In depth accounts including how each species overwinters, photographs of caterpillar food plants.
- ★ *How to Spot Butterflies*, by Patricia & Clay Sutton. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999. This book takes up where field guides leave off, explaining the complex natural history of butterflies in an easy-to-understand way and offering “how to” advise on finding, enjoying, and attracting butterflies.
- ★ *Caterpillars in the Field and Garden, A Field Guide to the Butterfly Caterpillars of North America*, by Thomas J. Allen, Jim Brock, and Jeffrey Glassberg. Oxford University Press, 2005. The first comprehensive guide to butterfly caterpillars, including over 900 photographs and range maps. Index to caterpillar food plants.
- ★ *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, by David L. Wagner. Princeton University Press. 2005. Covers nearly 700 butterfly and moth caterpillars found east of the Mississippi, with full-page accounts on almost 400 species. 1,200 photographs allow for easy ID. Terrific index to caterpillar food plants (host plants)!

Some of the very basic BACKYARD HABITAT Resources OR
★“Best Books for a Backyard Naturalist’s Library”

recommended by Patricia Sutton

patclaysutton@comcast.net

www.patandclaysutton.com

BUTTERFLIES / MOTHS (continued):

- ★ North American Butterfly Association (NABA), 4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960; (973) 285-0907; www.naba.org/ Tons of excellent information on the website and in publications sent to members.
- ★ MONARCH INFO: (1) *Milkweed, Monarchs, and More (A field Guide to the Invertebrate Community in the Milkweed Patch)*, by Ba Rea, Karen Oberhauser, and Michael Quinn. Bas Relief Publishing Group, 2003. A fantastic pocket guide illustrated with stellar photos of all the critters found on Milkweed plants. **Websites:** (1) Journey North: www.learner.org/jnorth/, (2) Monarch Watch: www.monarchwatch.org, (3) CMBO’s Monarch Monitoring Project: www.monarchmonitoringproject.com/ , (4) Monarch Lab–Monarchs in the Classroom: www.monarchlab.umn.edu/

HUMMINGBIRDS

- ★ *Attracting and Feeding Hummingbirds*, by Sheri Williamson. T.F.H. Publications. Includes key nectar plants, feeder selection and maintenance, and lots of natural history about hummingbirds.
- ★ *Hummingbirds of North America (Peterson Field Guide)*, by Sheri Williamson. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2001. THE guide to all our hummingbirds, including excellent range maps showing where they winter and breed.
- ★ *Hummingbirds, a Wildlife Handbook*, by Kim Long. Johnson Books, 1997. Well illustrated; natural history!
- ★ *Ruby-throated Hummingbird*, by Robert Sargent. Stackpole, 1999. Packed with terrific natural history info.
- ★ www.hummingbirds.net This site maintains a spring migration map for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds as they journey north, taking the mystery out of when to hang feeders.

DRAGONFLIES

- ★ *Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of New Jersey*, by Allen E. Barlow, David M. Golden, and Jim Bangma. Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, 2009. At last, a guide to NJ’s odes. Order on line: <http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/store/books/>
- ★ *Beginner’s Guide to Dragonflies*, by Blair Nikula, Jackie Sones, Donald & Lillian Stokes. Little, Brown and Company, 2002. Excellent natural history of dragonflies and solid foundation for identification.
- ★ WEBSITES: www.njodes.com/ , www.odonatacentral.org/

HERPS

- ★ *Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey (and related CD: “Calls of NJ Frogs & Toads”)*, by Vicki Schwartz and David M. Golden. Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, 2002. Order on line:<http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/store/books/>

Some of the very basic BACKYARD HABITAT Resources OR
★“Best Books for a Backyard Naturalist’s Library”

recommended by Patricia Sutton

patclaysutton@comcast.net

www.patandclaysutton.com

GARDEN INSECTS

- ★ *Garden Insects of North America*, by Whitney Cranshaw. Princeton University Press, 2004. The ultimate guide to backyard bugs. Well illustrated. Comprehensive overview of natural history of each of our garden insects.
- ★ *Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America*, by Eric Eaton & Kenn Kaufman. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007. Excellent identification guide.

CATS INDOORS! CAMPAIGN

In 1997, American Bird Conservancy (ABC) launched the *Cats Indoors! Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats*. 90 million pet cats in US (majority of which roam outside at least part of the time) plus millions of stray and feral cats kill hundreds of millions of birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians each year. Read the website and learn of the damage done to wildlife & ills of outdoor cats:

www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index

NATIVE PLANT AND SEED SOURCES

1. The Nature Center of Cape May (609-898-8848) hosts an annual spring Plant Sale and one or two plant swaps each year (where FREE plants can be obtained in trade); www.njaudubon.org/Centers/NCCM/
2. Mail Order Catalogues: (1) www.prairienursery.com , (2) www.prairiemoonnursery.com, (3) <http://www.toadshade.com/>.
3. Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, PO Box 685, 1635 River Road (PA Route 32 -- 2.5 miles south of New Hope), New Hope, PA 18938; (215) 862-2924; www.bhwp.org. Seeds for sale year round; plants for sale for two weekends (Mother’s day and in October) as well as limited supply during the summer.
4. Cicconi Farms, 1005 Farmingdale Road, Jacskon, NJ 08527; (732) 363-1420; www.cicconifarms.com/
5. Redbud Native Plant Nursery, Middletown Rd, Glen Mills, PA 19342; www.redbudnativeplantnursery.com/
6. Earth First Native Plant Nursery in Atlantic Co., NJ (Raven Ahmed, grower/owner), 609-287-5090; www.earthfirstnatives.com
7. Pinelands Nursery (wholesale ONLY): www.pinelandsnursery.com/

Salt Hay SOURCES – the best mulch for a wildlife garden:

1. Kerry & Wayne Hand, 579 Rt. 47 in Goshen (directly across from the Cape May Bird Observatory, 600 Rt. 47 South, Cape May Court House, NJ) -- They don't live there, so you've got to arrange a pick-up time, but they're very accommodating. -- \$10 / bale (in 2011) -- 609-231-9692 (cell) -- 609-886-4716 (home).
2. Jack Sayre in Cape May area (1043 Seashore Rd) -- 609-884-4663 -- call to make sure he's got it
3. Coombs Farm Salt Hay in western Cumberland County -- S. side of Cohansey R / Middle Marsh Road or Seabreeze Rd off Back Neck Rd., Bridgeton, NJ -- last time I heard it was \$7 / bale (but if that has changed, let me know & I'll update my info) -- 856-455-2148