



# Attracting Beneficial Wildlife



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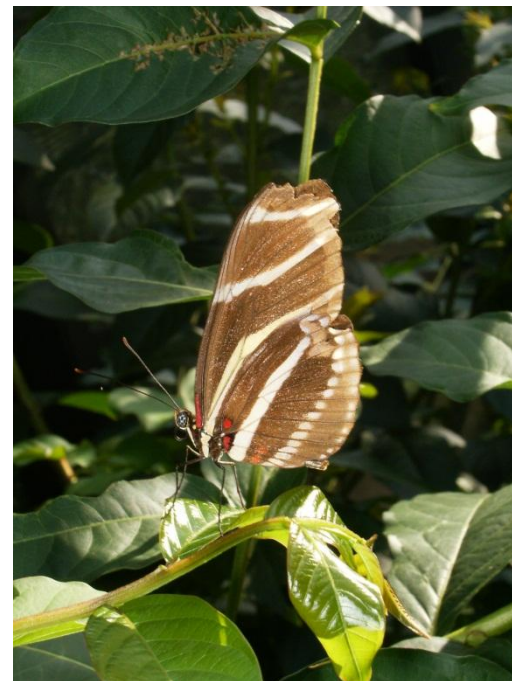
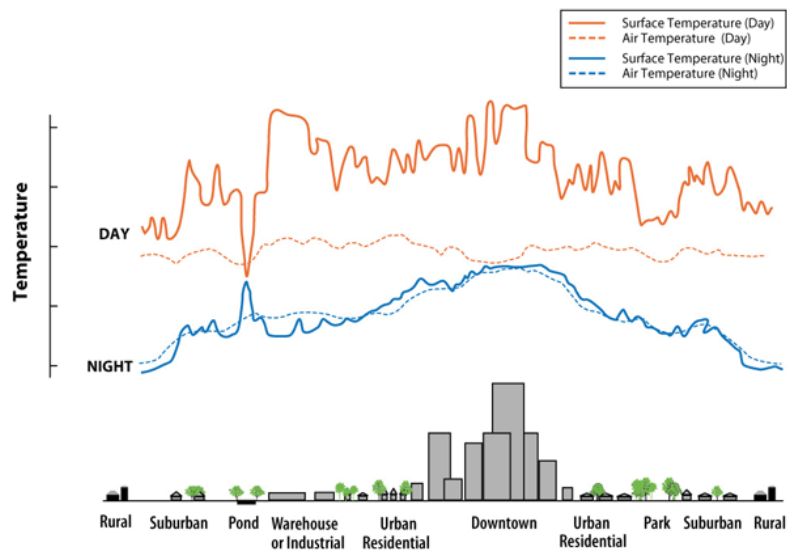
# Gardening for Wildlife

- Austin is a green city!
  - Certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat in 2009
  - Over 2,000 certified wildlife habitats
  - Over 300 in 2012
  - Code changes in 2012



# General Benefits

- Native plants require less water
- Increased carbon sequestration
- Provide habitat where habitat is scarce
- Mitigate the Urban Heat Island effect
- Draw in charismatic wildlife!



# Getting Certified as a Wildlife Habitat

- According to NWF you need 4 things to get a property certified:
  1. Food – Seeds, nectar, fruit
  2. Water – Bird bath, pond, backyard creek
  3. Shelter – Thickets, rock piles, brush piles
  4. Places to Raise Young – Large trees, host plants, nesting boxes



# Getting Certified



- Certify on the NWF website for \$20

OR

- Wildlife Austin prepaid applications (Free!)



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# Attracting Beneficial Wildlife...



- Beneficial BUGS!
- Birds
- Bats (and other mammals)
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- General tips to attract all wildlife



# Beneficial “Bugs”



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Native bees
  - More effective pollinators
  - Rapidly declining throughout the US
  - Vital to native plant reproduction
  - Diversity



Leafcutter Bee



Bumble Bee



Mason Bee



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Ground nesting bee habitat



# Beneficial “Bugs”

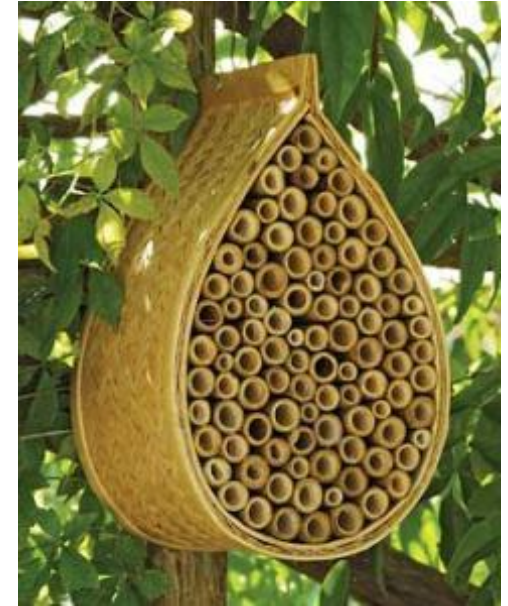
- Creating artificial nesting habitat



A “Bee Block”



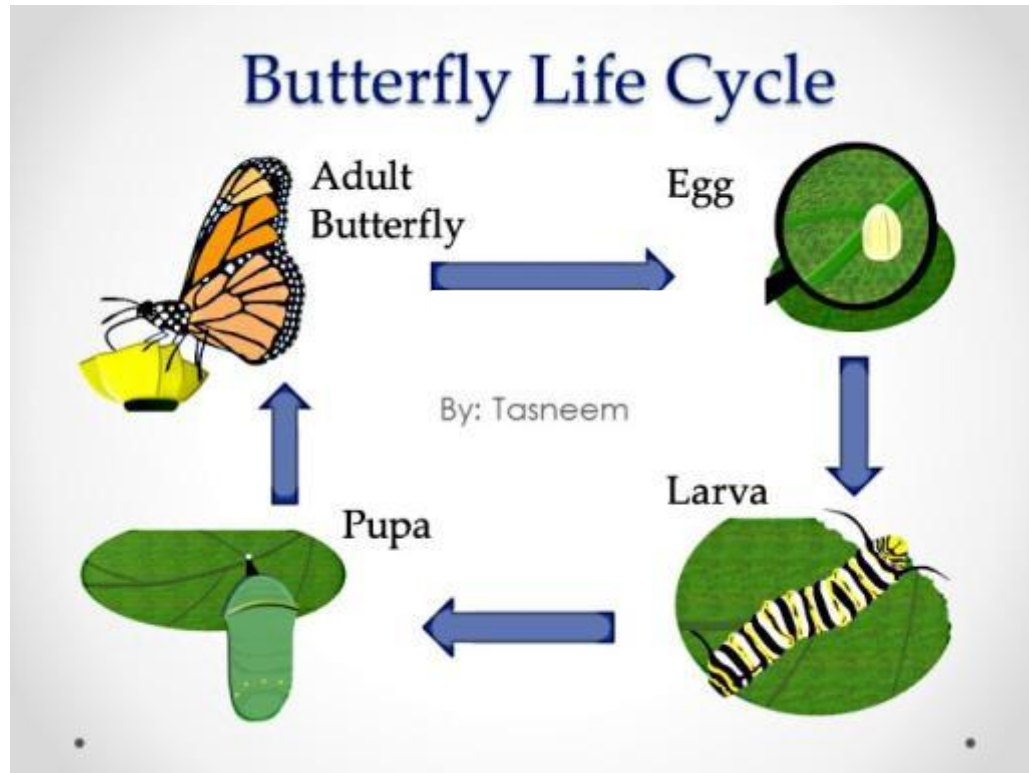
Bumble Bee Box



Mason Bee House

# Beneficial “Bugs”

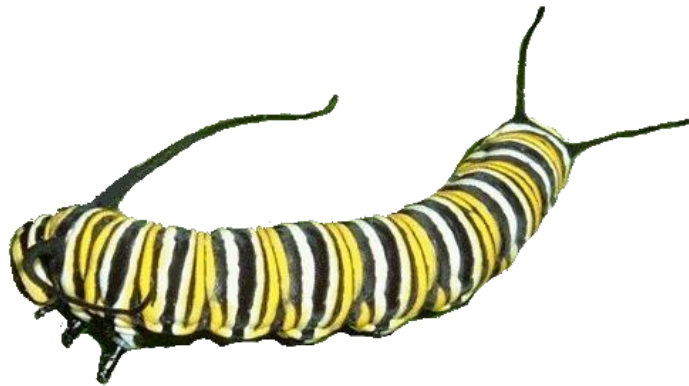
- Butterflies and Moths
  - Important pollinators
  - Wonderful to see in your garden
  - Garden with different life stages in mind



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Host plants!
  - Generalists and specialists
  - Many resources available online:

[npsot.org/Austin/PlantLists/mirror/LarvalHostPlants.html](http://npsot.org/Austin/PlantLists/mirror/LarvalHostPlants.html)



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Other great butterfly/moth plants
  - Anacancho Orchid Tree
  - Hop Tree
  - Texas Lantana
  - Mistflower species
  - Texas Frog Fruit
  - Native Honeysuckle
  - Turks Cap
  - Datura/Jimson Weed



# Beneficial “Bugs”

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- Gardening for native pollinators
  - Create a “bloom time succession”



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Gardening for native pollinators
  - Create a “bloom time succession”
  - Increased plant diversity = increased pollinator diversity
  - [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)





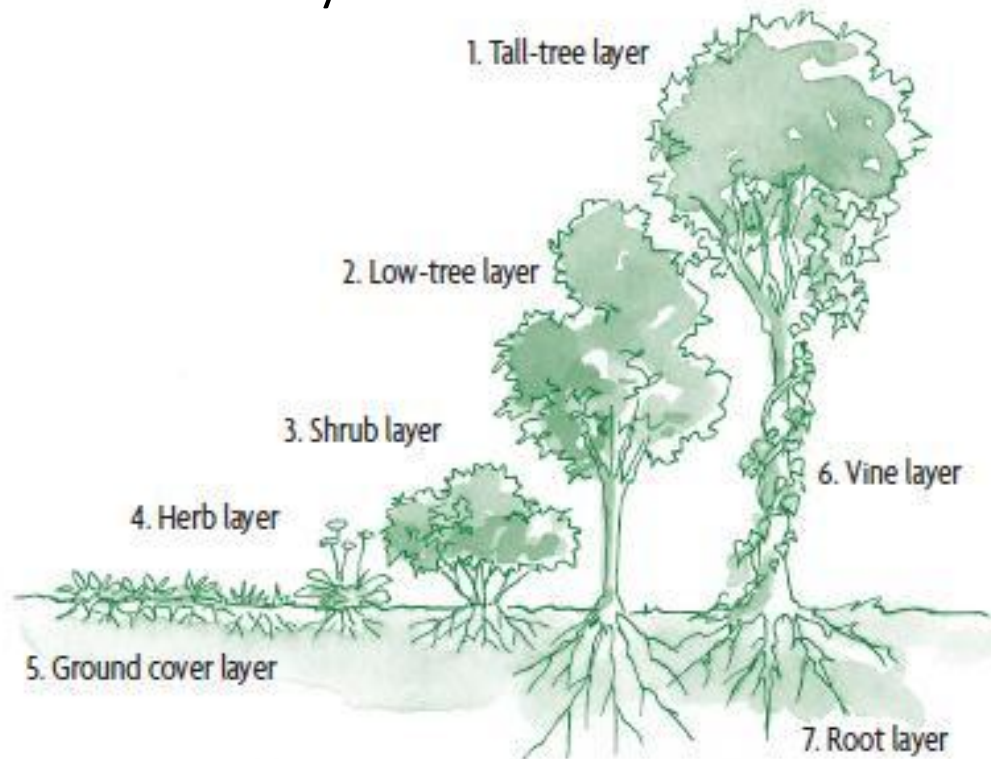
# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Spiders and other predators
  - Not the most popular critters
  - Very important to overall landscape health
  - Keep pest populations down
  - Provide food for higher trophic levels



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Attracting predators
  - If the prey is there, they will be there
  - Spiders love structural diversity!
  - Create vertical layers



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Other insects
  - Rules to attract pollinators and predators still apply
  - If you have a diverse garden you will have a diverse insect population
  - Very important to other wildlife



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Other insects
  - Compost!
  - Many different kinds of insects enjoy decaying material during at least some part of their life cycle!



# Beneficial “Bugs”

- Earthworms
  - Generally indicate healthy soil
  - Break down organic material (they love mulch)
  - They also love compost
  - Remember that they need moisture



# Attracting Birds



David Morgan

# Attracting Birds

- A few basics
  - Plant diversity
  - A water feature!
  - Places to hide and nest



# Attracting Birds

- Hummingbirds
  - Flowers that produce nectar
  - Red flowers
  - Tubular shaped





# Attracting Birds

- Good Hummingbird Plants:

- Crossvine
- Trumpet Creeper
- Flame Acanthus
- Coralbean
- Turks Cap
- Lemon Beebalm
- Cedar Sage



# Attracting Birds

- Seed eating birds...
  - Birds like chickadees, doves, titmice, bluejays, cardinals, grosbeaks, and many more!
  - Bird feeder
  - Native plants



Jane Tillman

# Attracting Birds

- Insect eating birds...
  - Many birds eat seeds as adults but feed their young bugs
  - Plant diversity
  - Structural diversity



# Attracting Birds

- Don't forget about fruit!
  - Many species of birds love fruit



# Attracting Birds

- Good Fruit Plants for Birds:
  - American Beautyberry
  - Yaupon
  - Barbados Cherry
  - Elbow Bush
  - Hackberry
  - Texas Persimmon
  - Texas Mulberry



# Attracting Birds

- Nesting Boxes
  - Owl nesting boxes
  - Other options
  - [Allaboutbirds.com](http://Allaboutbirds.com)



[www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

# Attracting Bats



David Morgan

# Attracting Bats

- Bat Nesting Box
  - ~10 ft from the ground
  - Facing S/SE (needs 7 hrs of direct sun)
  - Better if near water
  - 10-30ft from the tree line
  - Paint the roof white to keep cool



[www.batcon.org/index.php/get-involved/install-a-bat-house.html](http://www.batcon.org/index.php/get-involved/install-a-bat-house.html)



# Attracting Other Mammals?

- Uninvited visitors...
  - Garden with deer-resistant plants
  - Keep compost pile in a closed container
  - Perform routine maintenance on nest boxes



# Reptiles and Amphibians

David Morgan



# Attracting Reptiles & Amphibians

- Frogs and Toads
  - Provide water
  - Provide shelter
  - Lights at night



# Attracting Reptiles & Amphibians

- Lizards & Snakes
  - Shelter
  - Provide sunning spots
  - Garden for bugs
  - Provide water!



# Other Good General Rules

- Go organic!
- Proceed carefully with tools
- Mulch like crazy
- Allow for “volunteers”
- Mosquito fish
- Utilize permeable surfaces
- Install a rain garden
- Native, native, native!



# Questions?

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