



SAFE HARBOR


The objective of the Safe Harbor Program is to Preserve and/or Restore native “backyard” habitat for the benefit of migrating and resident birds, butterflies, etc. This will be accomplished through a program of Information, Incentive, and Recognition involving all landowners in Stone Harbor. The Garden Club of Stone Harbor and the Realty Owners Association are jointly sponsoring this program.

Homeowners will learn to recognize beneficial native trees, shrubs, and plants that exist on their property and preserve these plantings while planning to add more. Gardeners will have information and guidance to help them create ideal conditions in their “backyard” habitat for the well being of birds and butterflies.

Landowners who are planning renovations or new construction will have the information they need to know which plantings to preserve as changes take place on their property. If plantings must be removed for building purposes, they will have guidelines for replacing them with beneficial native trees, shrubs, and plants.

If the ecology of our backyard habitat is negatively affected by changes on a neighboring property (lots which are totally cleared for construction), we will have information and the tools we need to make additions and changes to our existing plantings to compensate for the habitat that has been lost. Perhaps, with advance knowledge of pending construction, informed property owners can help by persuading neighbors to preserve native plantings on their property wherever possible.

The following pages provide details for you to create a Safe Harbor habitat in your yard, including lists of native plantings. A special feature of the Safe Harbor Program is our plan to recognize landowners who garden with preservation of backyard ecology in mind. The application for recognition and certification can be found on the last page.



SAFE HARBOR PROGRAM

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BIRDS WELCOME!

(How to Enjoy a Habitat-Friendly Garden)

A backyard habitat is a “welcome mat” for visiting, nesting, and migrating birds. With the proper planning and the right plantings, your yard can become a refuge for those feathery friends looking to establish roots (building nests) or just stopping to enjoy a robust meal. Visiting songbirds, of course, provide us with hours of entertainment. Here’s how you can turn your yard into a Safe Harbor for birds.

MAKE A PLAN (long and short term).

Make a sketch. Map out a landscape design for your yard. Putting your ideas on paper will help you reach your intended goals. With the proper plan, you can enjoy a wildlife-friendly and colorful garden.

Consider space and plantings. Inventory plantings already in place and decide what trees, shrubs or flowering plants to keep or remove. Birds and plants thrive in areas that offer sun, shelter from the wind, some shade, plenty of water and food. Open space is important, too. Design your habitat with these complimentary elements in mind.

Choosing plants. Different plantings (trees, shrubs, and flowers) attract different wildlife visitors. Don’t overlook fruit-bearing plants. To encourage a variety of wildlife to frequent your garden, choose diverse plantings; wildflowers, weeds, perennials and annuals, set out in informal and formal groupings. You will see a variety of birds visiting all day long. And, be sure to include plantings that provide cover and food throughout the year. New Jersey native plants benefit wildlife and offer ornamental appeal. These should be among your first choices in selecting plantings. Every concerned gardener knows never to use invasive plants. (See our list of suggested plantings.)

Think about watering. By selecting native vegetation, suitable to shore gardens, watering can be kept to a minimum. Misting is a good method of water conservation and provides efficient usage of this resource.

Good news! Forget about the big fall clean up. And, keep spring-cleaning to a minimum. For those birds that winter in your area, leaves and summer bloom-offs provide seeds and shelter from the cold winds of winter as well as excellent hiding spots from marauding predators. Fall leaves, flower stalks, woodpiles, and all those other “hideaways” host next year’s food for our migrating bird friends. They love the seeds and berries from last year’s flowers and feast on those tiny insects hatching in the spring.

FEEDERS

Backyard feeding requires some planning. Food can always be tossed about to attract birds, but seeds tossed on the ground are exposed to the elements and quickly become contaminated (i.e., mold, bacteria, fertilizers). To avoid possible illness or disease to the birds, a feeder is the best choice.

A simple piece of wood holding seeds, elevated only inches off the ground, will attract the birds (as well as other wildlife, of course). The alternative is either to build or buy a more formal structure, a platform feeder. If you decide to install a permanent feeder, consider the following guidelines. Place the feeder in a location where viewing from inside your house will give maximum pleasure. Winter is a time when birds are most under stress so a feeder that is easily replenished even in the worst weather is important. Ease of replenishment should be considered.

You certainly will have visits from squirrels. These agile rodents can leap ten feet or more to reach either a hanging (from a branch) feeder or a “squirrel proof,” pole-style feeder. A properly placed, pole-mounted metal house-type or a pole with a baffle is the most squirrel-resistant style. But squirrels are persistent fellows and even the best-placed feeder may cease to be “squirrel proof” at some point!

When installing a birdfeeder, the need for ground clean up (bird droppings, seeds, and seed casings) is often overlooked. Feathered visitors to a feeder tend to be selective with their feeding routine and scatter seeds indiscriminately in their search for favorite nuts and seeds. Try to avoid placing a feeder near walking areas.

The choice of seed placed in the feeder will determine what birds will be attracted. You may want to install more than one feeder and use different food in each. Decide what birds you wish to attract and select their favorite snacks. Sunflower seeds are the most widely accepted. Birds do not like cereal grains (i.e., oats, corn, wheat). Also, birds will ignore artificially processed foods such as berry pellets and “seeds” flavored and dyed to resemble natural seeds and nuts. Finally, be sure to clean the feeders regularly, using soap and hot water.

PROVIDE A SOURCE OF FRESH WATER FOR DRINKING AND BATHING

Fountains. The sound of moving or dripping water will attract many birds as well as providing a soothing sound in your garden. Be sure to keep the water fresh and clean. Do not use chemicals to do this.

Bird Baths. Be sure to place these close to a sturdy shrub or tree so that birds that stop for a refreshing drink and choose to stay for a bath will have safe cover for perching while wet feathers dry before they take flight. It is very important to keep the still water of birdbaths clean and fresh. Scrub the bathing bowl frequently and rinse thoroughly.

Misters. They provide a fine, refreshing mist and are best placed in a shrub or tree with cup-shaped leaves to trap drops of water for drinking and bathing. They can be attached to a faucet and tubing run to the location you select. Mistifiers use very little water and provide constant fresh water for your feathered friends.

For more information and recommended books, check the N.J. Audubon Society website:

www.njaudubon.org

HOW TO BE BUTTERFLY AND HUMMINGBIRD FRIENDLY!

April arrives and, if your garden is ready, you'll delight in the return of hummingbirds, including the Ruby-throated species (the east's only breeding member of the many varieties of hummingbirds). Don't overlook the seasonal return of other favorites, specifically those colorful moths and exciting butterflies. Hummingbird and butterfly feeders, along with well thought out plantings, will entice these seasonal beauties to make your garden their home. Here's how to begin:

MAKE A PLAN (Long and short-term)

Survey your yard. Make a sketch to map out your habitat design. You will need to select a sunny location, one that offers shelter. Hummingbirds and butterflies seek nectar from flowers and shrubs in full, daylong sun that also offer shelter from the winds. Include early blooming plants and those that will bloom right up to the first frost. Late blooming plants are key for both migrating Monarchs and departing hummingbirds.

Inventory what plantings are already in your yard. Decide what new plantings you would like to add and what plants and shrubs that are already in your garden should be kept. A yard of varied plantings; wildflowers, weeds, perennials and annuals in informal and formal groupings, ensures a haven for arriving butterflies and hummingbirds. (See our list of plant selections and suggestions).

Think about watering. By selecting native vegetation, suitable to shore gardens, watering can be kept to a minimum. Misting is a good method of water conservation and provides efficient usage of this resource.

Good news! Forget about Fall clean up; keep Spring clean up to a minimum. Fall leaves, flower stalks, wood piles, these "hideaways" host next year's Luna moths and some butterflies (eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalis stage), and provide seed heads and shelter throughout the winter for birds.

FEEDERS

Butterflies will be overjoyed to find fruit trees in your yard. However, if you don't have the tree, the fruit will make them just as happy! Also, fruit that has become just too ripe (even better, rotten) is perfect for a homemade Butterfly Feeder. An old plate, suspended from a tree (use an old planter hanger to keep the feeder off the ground and away from the ants), can hold small slices of rotted fruit to create a veritable banquet. Mashed bananas seem the meal-of-choice, but melon, peaches and/or pears are also appreciated. A little orange juice sprinkled occasionally on the drying fruit will add needed moisture and delight your "guests."

When the first hummingbirds begin to arrive in April, early-blooming, nectar-producing flowers may be in short supply. For these early birds, feeders can do much to encourage the birds to stay and, hopefully, to nest.

April through October is the most effective time to supplement natural nectar by providing a feeding solution of sugar and water (one part sugar to four parts water). Note: A stronger solution (more sugar, less water) can be harmful to a bird's digestive system; the use of honey can lead to a fungus disease in hummingbirds that could be fatal. Feeders must be kept clean and fresh. Wash your feeder weekly (more often in hot weather) with hot soapy water, followed by a good rinsing with boiling hot water. Then be sure to add fresh feeding solution. Male hummingbirds, the earliest arrivals, tend to dominate a feeder so placing two or three feeders in your garden gives "the girls" a chance! You may like to keep your feeders up until mid-December; although hummingbirds have departed, other migrant fowl may visit and stay a day or two before moving on.

PLANTINGS TO ATTRACT BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, HUMMINGBIRDS & MOTHS

NATIVE TO NEW JERSEY AND NON INVASIVE

Check with individual garden centers for availability (some plantings may need to be special ordered). They will also be able to provide the best information regarding drought tolerance, bloom time, etc. The Nature Center of Cape May* holds an annual "Native and Perennial Plant Sale" in April (contact them for details).

(Key: B=Butterfly plant; BF = Bird Friendly; H = Hummingbird Nectar, C = Hardy Coastal Planting, **= Top Nectar Attractant)

SHRUBS

Native Shrubs	Botanical	Key	Local Availability		
			Garden Greenhouse	Cape Shore Gardens	Nature Center of Cape May*
Smooth Alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Speckled Alder	<i>A. rugosa</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Northern Bayberry (C)	<i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Available
Beach Plum (C)	<i>Prunus maritima</i>	BF, B	Inquire	Available	Available
Lowbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	BF, H	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Highbush Blueberry (C)	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	BF, H	Inquire	Available	Available
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	BF, H,B	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Red Chokeberry (C)	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Available
Black Chokeberry (C)	<i>A. melanocarpa</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Available
Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Wild Black Current	<i>Ribes americanum</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Elders	<i>Sambucus spp</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Elderberry	<i>S. Canadensis</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Hawthorns	<i>Crataegus spp</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Sweet Pepperbush (C)	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	H	Inquire	Available	Available
Roses (Swamp, Seaside)(C)	<i>Rosa palustris, R. rugosa</i>	BF	Available	Available	Inquire
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Common Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	BF, B	Inquire	Available	Available
Sumacs (Staghorn)	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Holly (Inkberry) (C)	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	BF	Available	Available	Inquire
Holly (Smooth Winterberry) (C)	<i>I. laevigata</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Available
Viburnums (C) (Arrowwood, Nannyberry, Cranberry)	(<i>Viburnum dentatum, V. lentago, V. triobum</i>)	BF	Inquire	Available	Available
Common Waxmyrtle	<i>Myrica cenifera</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire

TREES

Native Trees	Botanical	Key	Local Availability		
			Garden Greenhouse	Cape Shore Gardens	Nature Center of Cape May*
Cedar (Red)	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Wild Black Cherry (C)	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Chokecherry	<i>P. virginiana</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
American Elm	<i>Ulmus Americana</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
American Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire

Holly (American Holly)	Ilex opaca	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
American Hornbeam (or Ironwood)	Carpinus caroliniana	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Persimmon	Diospyros virginiana	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Red Maple (C)	Acer rubrum	BF, B **	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Red Mulberry	Morus rubra	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Red Oak, Pin Oak	(Quercus. rubra, Q.palustris)	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Spanish Oak, White Oak (C)	(Q. falcate, Q. alba)	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Tulip Poplar (C)	Liriodenron tulipifera	H	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Sassafras (C)	Sassafras albidum	BF	Inquire	Order	Inquire
Serviceberry (Juneberry, Shadbush, or Shadblow)	Amelanchier Canadensis	BF	Inquire	Order	Available
Sourgum (C)	Nyssa sylvatica	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Sweetgum (C)	Liquidambar styraciflua	BF	Inquire	Available	Inquire

VINES

Native Vines	Botanical	Key	Local Availability		
			Garden Greenhouse	Cape Shore Gardens	Nature Center of Cape May*
Trumpet Creeper (C)	Campsis radicans	BF, H **	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Virginia Creeper (C)	Parthenocissus quinquefolia	BF, H	Inquire	Available	Inquire
Coral Honeysuckle (C)	Lonicera sempervirens	BF, H **	Inquire	Inquire	Available

GRASSES

Native Grasses	Botanical	Key	Local Availability		
			Garden Greenhouse	Cape Shore Gardens	Nature Center of Cape May*
Switch Grass	Panicum virgatum	BF	Available	Available	Inquire
Bluestem	Andropogon scoparius	BF	Available	Available	Available
Indiangrass	Sorghastrum nutans	BF	Inquire	Inquire	Available

PERENNIALS

Native Perennials	Botanical	Key	Local Availability		
			Garden Greenhouse	Cape Shore Gardens	Nature Center of Cape May*
Aster, New England (C)	Aster novae-anglea	B **	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Aster, Bolton's (C)	Boltonia asteroides nana	B **	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Beard Tongue (C)	Penstemon	B, H	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Bee Balm (C)	Monarda spp	B, H **	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Black Eyed Susan (C)	Rudbeckia	B	Available	Available	Available
Blanket Flower (C)	Gaillardia	B	Available	Inquire	Available
Blazing Star	Liatris spicata	B	Available	Inquire	Inquire
Rough Blazing Star	L. squarrosa	B	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Bleeding Heart	Dicentra eximia	H	Available	Available	Inquire
Blue Star/Blue Dogbane (C)	Amsonia tabernaemontana	B	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Butterfly Weed (C)	Asclepias tuberosa	B **	Inquire	Available	Available
Cardinal Flower (C)	Lobelia cardinalis	B **	Inquire	Available	Available

Columbine, Wild (C)	Aquilegia canadensis	H **	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Coneflower (C)	Echinacea	B **	Available	Available	Available
Coral Bells (C)	Heuchera	H **	Inquire	Inquire	Available
False Indigo (C)	Baptisia australis	B, H	Inquire	Inquire	Available
Goldenrod (C)	Solidago	B **	Inquire	Available ,(Hybrid)	Available (Seaside):
Jewelweed/Touch-Me-Not ANNUAL (will reseed)	Impatiens capensis	H **	Inquire	Inquire	Inquire
Joe Pye Weed (C)	Eupatorium	B **	Inquire	Available	Available
Milkweed, Swamp (C)	Asclepias incarnate	B **	Inquire	Available	Available
Phlox	P. paniculata	B	Available	Inquire	Inquire
Tickseed (C)	Coreopsis	B	Available	Inquire	Available

*Note: There are many **Non-Native** shrubs, perennials, and annuals, which are beneficial and attractive to birds, butterflies, hummingbirds, etc. (such as the popular Butterfly Bush). Inquire at garden centers, the Nature Center of Cape May, and at the Garden Club of Stone Harbor's annual plant sale in May, for more details and availability.*

HABITAT CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
Safe Harbor Project, Stone Harbor, NJ, 08247

MISSION: To preserve the native biodiversity of our area for the benefit of native and migrating birds, butterflies, and other wildlife and to recognize and reward those whose garden exemplifies this goal.

HOW TO APPLY: Complete this application, checking those steps taken to create a habitat-friendly space for native and migrating wildlife. Please sign and date this application and return to: The Garden Club of Stone Harbor, Attention: Habitat Certification
P. O Box 42, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247
HAVE A QUESTION? Please contact Nancy Cope @ 609-368-1066/email: ntcope@comcast.net

Name (Please print) _____
Mailing Address: _____ Telephone # _____
Stone Harbor Habitat Address _____ Telephone # _____
Signature of Applicant _____ Date of Application _____

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PART I - MY HABITAT (Please check items that apply to your habitat space.)

MY HABITAT SPACE SUPPORTS:

Migrating birds ___ Native birds ___ Hummingbirds ___ Butterflies ___ Bees ___
Dragonflies ___ Moths ___ Other (specify) _____

FOOD (Native plants)

Seeds ___ Berries ___ Nectar ___ Sap ___ Nuts ___ Fruit ___ Pollen ___ Other (specify)

FEEDERS (type): Tube ___ Hummingbird ___ Platform ___ Suet ___ Butterfly ___
Other (specify) _____

SHELTER: Dense Shrub ___ Evergreens ___ Grasses ___ Bramble Patch ___
Rocks/wall ___ Nesting boxes/birdhouses ___ Brush Pile ___ Log Pile ___ Wooded Area
___ Ground Cover ___ Other (specify) _____

WATER: Birdbath ___ Puddle Areas ___ Wetland ___ Seasonal Pond ___ Misting ___
Other(specify) _____

PLANTINGS: Evergreen trees ___ Evergreen shrubs ___ Deciduous trees ___ Deciduous
shrubs ___ Wildflowers ___ Grass/grasslike plants ___ Vines ___ Ferns ___ Cacti/succulents ___
Annuals ___ Perennials ___ Other (specify) _____

PART II - MY BIRDSCAPING TECHNIQUES

Managing and maintaining your garden sustains the effectiveness of your habitat. What techniques do you use to sustain your habitat and to help conserve resources? (Please check those items that apply to your habitat space)

WATER CONSERVATION

- Vegetative buffer zone around water features _____
- Capture rain run-off from roof _____
- Utilize drip or soaker hose irrigation _____
- Reduce lawn areas _____
- Eliminate chemical pesticides _____
- Eliminate chemical fertilizers _____
- Mulch, utilizing - salt straw _____ grass clippings _____ shredded bark _____
- Selective hand watering _____
- Other (specify) _____

SOIL CONSERVATION

- Mulching _____ Erosion control _____ Composting _____
- Chemicals: Eliminating Pesticides _____ Eliminating Fertilizers _____
- Other (specify) _____

CONTROLLING SPECIES

- Monitor Nesting Boxes/birdhouses _____ Remove Invasive Plants _____ Restore Native Plants _____
- Feeder placement safe from predators _____
- Reduce Lawn Areas _____ Other (specify) _____

PART III - COMMENTS and/or SUGGESTIONS

Thank you for participating in the Stone Harbor Garden Club's habitat preservation and restoration project. You will be notified of the status of your application.