

Backyard Wildlife Habitat

Mike Groenewold, Park Horticulturist

Brown Bag Series-All Things Green

Sept 6, 2018

Cute---But I think we can do better!





Landscaping in a commercial setting can certainly be challenging.

We have the freedom to take a much more relaxed style In our own backyard.

We can even develop some Small “ecosystems.”



In a residential yard:

It's possible to create a low maintenance, self sustaining landscape which is also attractive to wildlife.

Naturalistic Landscaping is a great way to create a backyard nature preserve around your own home.



Why develop a backyard wildlife habitat?

More than ever our wildlife needs every parcel they can get For sustainability.

Scientists estimate and believe:

Between 200 and 2,000 extinctions occur every year.

Populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish have declined 52% over the past 40 years.

We are in the 6th extinction crisis after the 5 known extinction waves in geological history.

Pollinators are especially in peril:

70% of the worlds food production is directly or indirectly related to insect pollinator activity.

Biologists believe that many collective, small habitats can make a difference if people develop them in their residential gardens and landscapes.

Reduce pesticide use whenever possible.

Water conservation in our landscapes will
Continue to be very important.

Your habitat will be a great place to relax and connect with nature.

I never imagined how much we would enjoy relaxing in:

Our Own backyard!

Shauna says “Nature is Healing.”



Mike says “Nature is Relaxing.”

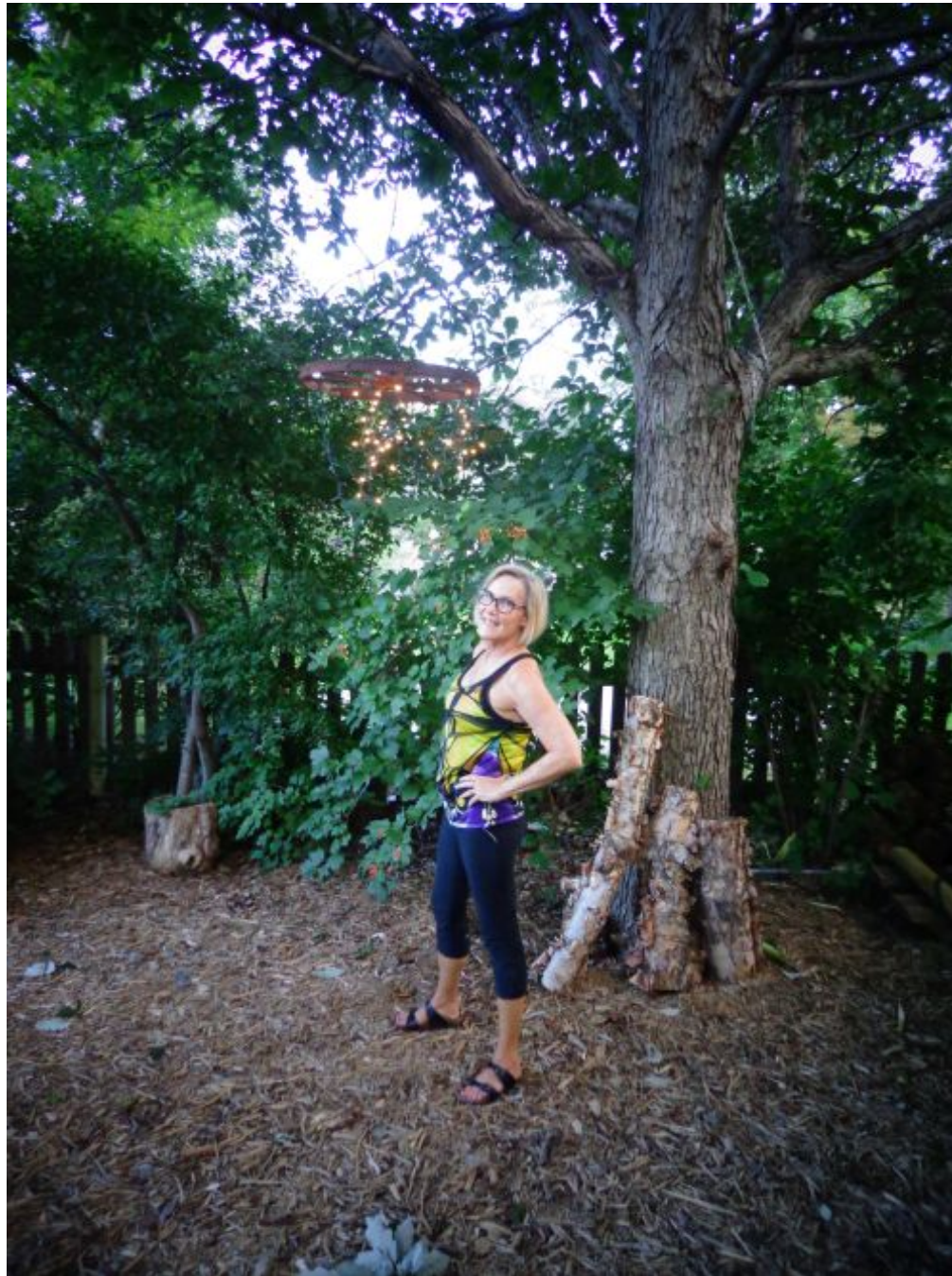




We both
Enjoy
Our Private
Backyard
Retreat

Mike enjoys redneck, fire bowl cooking!





Installing an electrical line to the back of our yard added a whole new Dimension to Mike's Redneck cooking.



Our Backyard Wildlife





We particularly enjoy
pollinators and continue
developing a habitat to
attract them



Bee photo by: Chris Masada

My wife is a Monarch Maven





Shauna's monarch nursery assists in releasing an average of 25 butterflies a season.



Education is always important



Many resources are available
From monarchwatch.org

And your observations and participation are helpful to their science based network to help conserve the monarch population.

I MAY BE ONLY
ONE PERSON, BUT
I CAN BE ONE PERSON
WHO MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.

Vadra Francene Groce
Age 10
Bowling Green, Kentucky

You never know when you may become an ambassador for wildlife and pollinators in your own neighborhood.

Green Forest Prairie Waystation



Backyard Size: 11,00 sq. ft.

Our backyard “prairie” is only 1200 square feet in size

Developed by a combination of seeding
and container grown plants.









In nature plants wander and don't always stay within your chosen boundaries.

But sometimes It can be to your advantage to let desirable plants find their own home.





Water features are always beneficial to insects and wildlife.



Before you plant, get to know your site

Correct drainage issues or use plants adapted to soggy soils. Many plants will “drown” in wet soils.

Learn about the quality of your soils and plant species best suited to your site.

Mike’s favorite tip: Plan to create zones with plants of similar moisture and soil requirements.

You can use this idea to create interesting habitats like woodland, prairie, or rain garden. You can still have some turf areas, but exclude turf from your zoned plantings to eliminate trimming.

And if you are creating a woodland habitat, apply organic mulch around the entire planting to reduce maintenance and create a sustainable habitat.

Prairies with wildflowers require full sun. Plant or seed in mass (no mulch) and only trim or mow around the entire planting.

Learn about the plants you want to use in your landscape

Will it tolerate your site?

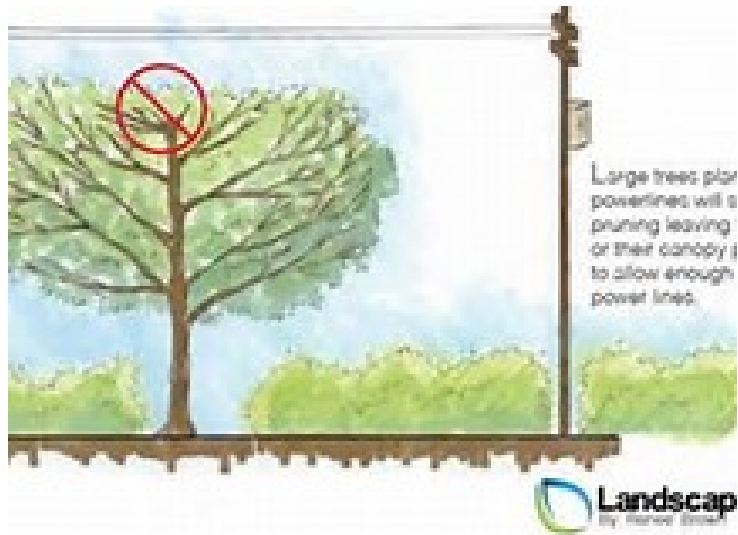
Will it tolerate sun or shade in an existing landscape?

Will the mature size fit into your landscape?

Look up for power lines and roof eaves.

Dig safe. Call 811, 48 hours in advance of planting, for a free locate
Of all utilities. It's a law!

Plant size is important in landscaping.



Think ahead to maintenance.

Do you really want to spend your time maintaining this type of landscape?



Is your plant invasive?

Native

Introduced

Naturalized

Escaped invasive

Red cedar, multiflora rose, crown vetch, etc.



Mike's Favorite Trees

Deciduous

Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*

Swamp White Oak, *Quercus bicolor*

Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*

American Linden, *Tilia Americana*

Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*

Kentucky Coffeetree, *Gymnocladus dioica*

Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides*

River Birch, *Betula nigra*

Coniferous

Eastern White Pine, *Pinus strobus*

Austrian Pine, *Pinus nigra*

Ponderosa Pine, *Pinus ponderosa*

Colorado Blue Spruce, *Picea pungens*

Norway Spruce, *Picea abies*

Black Hills Spruce (white spruce), *P. glauca*

Mike's Favorite Shrubs

Ginnala Maple, *Acer ginnala*

Juneberry, *Amelanchier Canadensis*

Black Chokeberry, *Aronia melancarpa*

Silky Dogwood, *Cornus amomum*

Kousa Dogwood, *Cornus kousa*

American Hazelnut, *Corylus Americana*

Common Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius*

Dwarf Blue Arctic Willow, *Salix purpurea* 'nana'

Froebel Spirea, *Spirea x bumalda* 'froebeli'

Chenault Coralberry, *Symphoricarpos x chenaulti*

Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*

Mohican Wayfaring Tree, *Viburnum lantana* 'Mohican'

Nannyberry, *Virburnum lentago*

Wildflowers-Mike's favorites--pollinators

Upright Coneflower, *Ratibida columnifera*
Gray Head Coneflower, *Ratibida pinnata*
Purple Prairie Clover, *Dalea purpurea*
Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*
Black Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*
Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia aristata*
Lance-Leaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*
Gayfeather, *Liatris pycnostacha*
Butterfly Milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*
New England Aster, *Aster novae angliae*
Shasta Daisy, *Chrysanthemum maximum*

For pollinators and hummingbirds:

Monarda didyma. 'Raspberry Wine'
'Prairie Gypsy'
Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*

Civilized Landscape Prairie

Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*
Blue Grama, *Bouteloua gracilis*
Side Oats, Grama, *Bouteloua curtipendula*

For butterflies, moths and hummers.

We plant these annuals in containers:

Lantana camara 'Irene'
Petunias
Salvia, 'Black and Blue',
'Wendy's Wish' (pink/salmon)

Wildflower and Prairie Habitat---seeding vs plants

If planting a small area using seedling, container plants is more practical

The plants are easier to identify and keep track of.

Mulch around the seedlings if you like to reduce maintenance.

Not all wildflowers are available as container grown seedlings.

If planting a larger area, seeding is more economical

It's a challenge to identify and track the seedlings as they grow.

During the first year, mow over the planting about once a month to keep the weeds at bay. Developing plants will be easier to identify during the second year after seeding.

Both types of projects will require some preparation for a successful project

Mike's Philosophical Recommendations:

Think globally act locally

Don't be intimidated by your neighbors manicured lawn
But keep your landscape reasonably neat.
Visit with your neighbors about your plan

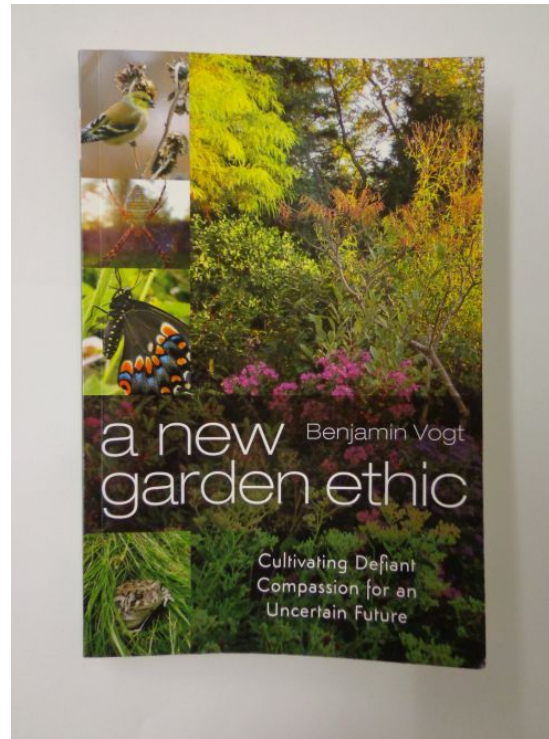
Our wildlife needs your help.
We are losing many species at an alarming rate.
Vertebrates
Pollinators

Plant native plants as much as possible.

A New Garden Ethic, by Benjamin Vogt

Ben takes an intense look at our urban landscapes.

Ben explains why our gardens need to include native plants and ecosystems and he is very passionate about his philosophy.



Available from:

<https://www.monarchgard.com/books.html> (or just [monarchgard.com](https://www.monarchgard.com))

<https://www.newsociety.com/Contributors/V/Vogt-Benjamin> (or just [newsociety.com](https://www.newsociety.com))

By all means, have some fun!

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments."

- Janet Kilbunn Phillips

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EVER MAKE MISTAKES IN LIFE?

**LET'S MAKE THEM BIRDS.
YEAH, THEY'RE BIRDS NOW.**

most famous pictures at THEMETAPICTURE.COM

Tagged Monarch Release

Video File available at:

<https://youtu.be/E7B3IIIFnLo>



Questions?

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