



Caring for Our Piece of the Earth

Celebrate and Continue

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Session 6: Celebrate and Continue

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Caring for Our Piece of the Earth

Celebration

[T]he rule of no realm is mine ...

*But all worthy things that are in peril as
the world now stands, those are my care.*

*And for my part, I shall not wholly fail in my
task ... if anything passes through this night
that can still grow fair and bear fruit and
flower again in days to come ...*

For I also am a steward.

*~ spoken by Gandalf
in The Return of the King
by J. R. R. Tolkien*

About this session

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We participate in a special event to celebrate what we've learned and to expand our new understandings of the importance of our own home landscapes.

Opening

If your group chooses to have this role, the Opener starts the session with an opening, *not more than two or three minutes*, about their relationship to the natural world.

Circle question

In what ways have your ideas about your home landscape changed since we started this course?

Reminder to the facilitator: The circle question should move quickly. Elicit an answer from each participant without questions or comments from others.



Create an earth-friendly habitat and you'll be able to enjoy the beauty of nature. Here, a black swallowtail butterfly is getting nectar from the native swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata), a caterpillar food for monarch butterflies, but also a nectar plant for many butterflies and other pollinators.

Putting it into practice

Spread the word!

Help organize another group to participate in this discussion course. A group of 8 - 12 people is ideal, but smaller or larger groups can study the materials, too.

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

Join a **Wild Ones** chapter to continue learning about preserving and building biodiversity in our communities and to connect with other like-minded people. **Find** a chapter:

<https://wildones.org/chapters/>.

If there isn't a chapter in your area, you can start one.

Find out how to do it:

<https://wildones.org/chapters/>

🌱 Be a hummingbird by Wangari Maathai

This tale, told by Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, has inspired countless others. The world needs many more hummingbirds doing the BEST they can!

Please watch this 2-minute video:

<http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/get-involved/be-a-hummingbird>



Ready to act!

Celebrate!

Choose your group celebration

One option is to have a movie night together.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to assess your technology **before** movie night. Make sure you have internet access at your venue.

Some recommended videos

Many presentations by Doug Tallamy are available free on YouTube. Here are just two of many.

Nature's Best Hope: A one-hour presentation based on his book of the same name, followed by a Q&A session.

- A **filmed version** of a live presentation - New Canaan Land Trust (March 2020):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHURaRv78QY>
- A **webinar version** presented by Wild Ones (July 2020)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARdYLamTA-M>

The Living Landscape - presented by Tennessee Valley Wild Ones (Feb. 2015). Presentation followed by Q&A session:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B49gaeXaVbA>

Hometown Habitat movie

Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home.

Information on hosting a screening is at:

<https://themeadowproject.com/hometown-habitat/press-kit/>
It's quite affordable at \$35 for up to 20 people. *Please respect the dedication of this independent filmmaker and purchase a license if you're screening it!*

A review of this 90-minute documentary is at:

<https://www.ecolandscaping.org/07/resources/book-reviews/film-review-hometown-habitat-stories-of-bringing-nature-home/>

Interview with Catherine Zimmerman on "Hometown Habitat" by Kim Eierman

OPTIONAL:

<https://www.ecobeneficial.com/videos/interview-catherine-zimmerman-new-film-hometown-habitat/>

Other celebration suggestions

Whether or not you view a video together, you may want to participate in some other activities for Session 6 or in the weeks or months after the course.

Here are some suggestions:

- Share a meal to celebrate your new vision of an earth-friendly landscape and a healthier world. Arrange a pot luck or visit a local restaurant (one featuring locally-grown food is best!)
- Visit a home landscape that incorporates some of the ideas we've learned about.
- Visit a natural area that can inspire and inform your own landscape. Perhaps you could arrange for a local expert (a park ranger, member of a botany club, a representative of The Nature Conservancy, for example) to be your guide.
- Share each person's plans for their landscape with the group. Perhaps plan to visit each other's yards over the next few months or years for, as Wild Ones calls them, "Show Me, Help Me" tours where the host "Shows" what they've done in their yard and also has an opportunity to ask for the group's "Help."
- Invite someone (or a small panel of people) who already has an earth-friendly landscape to talk with your group.



Exploring a local natural area

Continuing to care for your piece of the earth

Start a Wild Ones chapter in your area

Make sure your habitat isn't an island. If there isn't already one in your area, start a Wild Ones chapter to inform and inspire your fellow community members about being good stewards of their own piece of the earth.

Start a chapter:

<https://wildones.org/chapters/>

Join other organizations

Many parts of the country have chapters of national organizations working on important issues.

The **National Audubon Society** emphasizes the importance of native plants for birds and other creatures and has many local chapters. More info at <https://www.audubon.org>. Twenty-three states have state organizations and there are more than 450 local chapters.

For example, there is a New York State organization (<https://ny.audubon.org>) and local chapters within the state, such as Onondaga Audubon (<https://onondagaaudubon.com>)

Sierra Club also has national, state, and local chapters in many areas. They address related issues, such as energy and climate.

For more information:

<https://www.sierraclub.org>

For example, the Atlantic chapter serves New York State (<https://atlantic2.sierraclub.org>), and has local groups within the state, such as the Iroquois group (<https://www.sierraclub.org/atlantic/iroquois>).

Learn more about earth-friendly living

Caring for Our Piece of the Earth was inspired by courses developed by EcoChallenge.org.

Formerly known as the Northwest Earth Institute, EcoChallenge.org has similar discussion courses on various sustainability topics. Your group could continue learning how to live in an earth-friendly manner by using some of their resources!

For more information, see

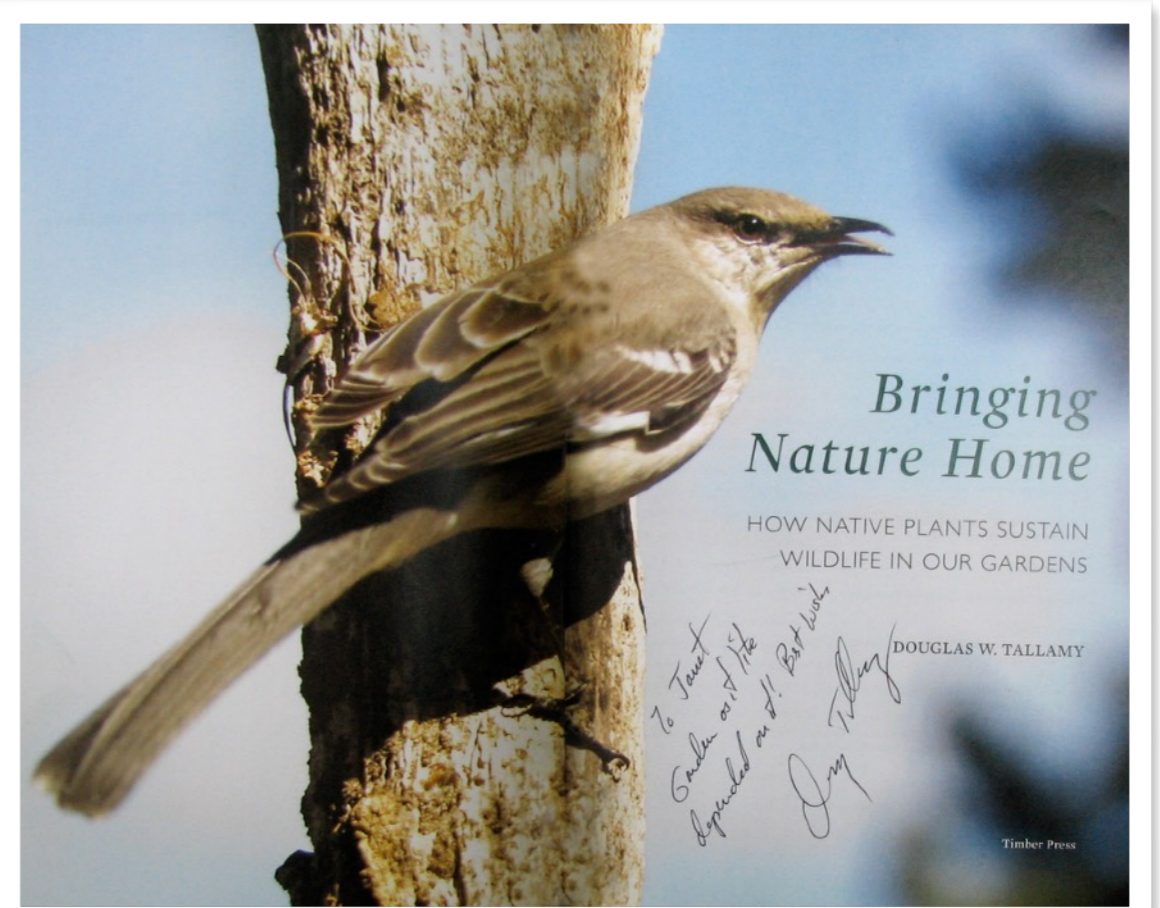
<https://ecochallenge.org>

*Humanity is a biological species,
living in a biological environment,
because like all species,
we are exquisitely
adapted in everything:
from our behavior,
to our genetics,
to our physiology,
to that particular environment
in which we live.*

The earth is our home.

*Unless we preserve the rest of life,
as a sacred duty,
we will be endangering ourselves
by destroying the home
in which we evolved, and
on which we completely depend.*

~ E. O. Wilson, Biologist and author



Inscription from Doug Tallamy on title page of Bringing Nature Home

*Garden as if life
depended on it!*

~ Doug Tallamy

I hope you've enjoyed considering different perspectives on how we can care for "our piece of the earth."

And I hope you've had interesting conversations with your fellow citizens, perhaps even making a few new friends!

Please consider recommending this course to friends, relatives, and community groups in your part of the country and beyond.

~ Janet Allen



Best wishes for
a yard and a planet
full of life!

Janet