

RESOURCES & BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

“Creating a Pollinator Paradise at Home”

Lauren Simpson, *creator of St. Julian’s Crossing Wildlife Habitat, 2024*

Tip 1: “Support the home team.”

- Native-plant locators and information:
 - When you want to find plants that are native to your area:
 - *Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) regional plant lists:* <https://npsot.org/wp/resources/plant-lists-by-ecoregion/>
 - *NPSOT-Houston native plant information:* <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-plant-info/>
 - *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s Native Plant Database:* <https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>
 - *Native-plant locator by Zip Code (NWF):* <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants> (also: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants>)
 - *Pollinator Partnership eco-region planting guides:* <https://pollinator.org/guides>
 - *Audubon Society native-plant database:* <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
 - *Xerces Society’s Pollinator-Friendly Native Plant Lists (by region; can be filtered by state):* <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-friendly-plant-lists>
 - *“Nine Natives” guides (greater Houston area):* <https://www.coastalprairieconservancy.org/9-natives>
 - *Native Plant Lists for Wasps (Heather Holm):* <https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/plant-lists--posters.html> (free for educational use)
 - When you want to check whether a specific plant is native to your area:
 - *USDA Plants Database:* <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/> (includes interactive map with species data by county)
 - *BONAP:* <http://bonap.net/NAPA/Genus/Traditional/County> (species maps by county, organized by genus)
- Why native-plant butterfly and bird gardens are better (Jaime González, for the Katy Prairie Conservancy): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Puh_g_dmCH8
- Why native flowers are better for bees than non-natives: <http://beautifulnativeplants.blogspot.com/2016/07/pollinators-and-native-vs-non-native.html>
- Why locally-sourced and -grown native plants matter: <http://www.ecobeneficial.com/2015/07/why-locally-sourced-locally-grown-native-plants-matter/>
- How to judge wildlife-supportiveness of native cultivars: <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/native-species-or-cultivars-of-native-plants-does-it-matter/>
- “Weeding Out 4 Native Plant Myths”: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/51248852/list/4-Native-Plant-Myths>
- How to judge wildlife-supportiveness of native cultivars: <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/native-species-or-cultivars-of-native-plants-does-it-matter/>
- Native v. cultivar:
 - <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/native-species-or-cultivars-of-native-plants-does-it-matter/>
 - <https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2016/JuneJuly/Gardening/Cultivars>
- Texas eco-region information:
 - Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) maps: https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/pwd_pl_w7000_1187a/pages/maps.phtml
 - TPWD information on eco-regions: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/online-course/wildlife-conservation/texas-ecoregions>

Tip 2: “Avoid pesticides.”

- Beneficial insects for gardens and landscaping (TAMU): <https://txmg.org/galveston/beneficials-in-the-garden-and-landscape/>
- Enticing beneficial predators to your garden: <https://www.nwf.org/en/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2010/Enticing-Predators-to-Patrol-Your-Garden>
- How gardeners’ use of pesticides and herbicides harms bee populations: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/05/31/gardeners-fueling-bee-decline-by-using-weedkillers-and-pesticide/>
- Neonicotinoid pesticide dangers: http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/HowNeonicsCanKillBees_XercesSociety_Nov2016.pdf, <http://blog.nwf.org/2015/12/four-questions-about-neonicotinoid-pesticides/>, and <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-37089385>

Tip 3: “Mix it up.”

- Tips on plant variety to support pollinators: <http://web.archive.org/web/20140701234902/http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/pollinators-and-flowers/>
- Layering plants: <http://rockies.audubon.org/news/five-wildscape-principles>

Tip 4: “Pile it up.”

- Planting in masses for wildlife and for design: <http://northcoastgardening.com/2012/07/wildlife-garden-design-plant-masses/>

Tip 5: “Embrace imperfection.”

- Why to leave leaf litter in fall garden beds: <https://www.nwf.org/en/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2015/OctNov/Gardening/Leave-the-Leaves> and <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/wildlife-value-of-a-messy-garden/>
- Leaving fall gardens be: <https://savvygardening.com/6-reasons-not-to-clean-up-your-garden-this-fall/>
- Leaving pithy stems in place for bee nesting: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/39422662/list/Small-Carpenter-Bees---Looking-for-a-Home-in-Your-Plant-Stems>
- Leaf mold, mulch, and compost: <https://www.planetnatural.com/leaf-mold/>
- How to prep. garden safely for spring: <https://savvygardening.com/spring-garden-clean-done-right/>

Tip 6: “Stock the Nursery.”

- Bare earth and garden care for native-bee nesting: <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/bare-earth-for-native-pollinators/> and <http://www.xerces.org/in-your-pollinator-garden-november-2015/>
- Problems with mass-produced bee houses: <https://colinpurrington.com/2019/05/horrors-of-mass-produced-bee-houses/>
- Building and responsibly maintaining bee hotels for native bees: <http://www.foxleas.com/make-a-bee-hotel.asp>; <https://www.mountaineers.org/blog/mason-bees-raising-beneficial-pollinators>; <http://ncagr.gov/spcap/bee/documents/BuildingWildBeeHouses.pdf>. But see <http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2015/03/bee-hotels-have-unwanted-guests/>.
- Designing a garden for native bees: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/32351570/list/How-to-Design-a-Garden-for-Native-Bees>
- The best ways to leave stems for native-bee nesting: <https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/2021/04/the-right-way-to-leave-stems-for-native-bees/?fbclid=IwAR3Sw-ZN7fMlunwglTqUdrDgXm-UnuvoOQ9sJPVuX75RCQnoQHqK3DHHVAc>

- Host plants by butterfly species: <http://www.dallasbutterflies.com/Butterfly%20Gardening/Host%20Plants%20by%20Butterfly%20Species.htm> and https://npsot.org/wp/houston/files/2014/08/February-2017-NPSOT_HOUSTON-information-pages.pdf

Wildscaping generally

- Simple tips on creating a pollinator-friendly garden: <https://pollinatorgardens.org/2016/01/12/design-ideas-for-gardeners/?platform=hootsuite>
- Ten tips for creating a home wildscape: https://www.natureswayresources.com/NLpdf/391LGNewsletter.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2z412WBslMJe4WPWmCp8_KKgJ_ft7HHuUQtCOCnSf7jFbtsQgSOWsS7xQ#page=3
- “Neighborly Natural Landscaping in Residential Areas”: <https://extension.psu.edu/neighborly-natural-landscaping-in-residential-areas>
- Native-bee garden ideas and resources: <http://www.houstonnativebees.org/learn/bee-habitats/>
- “How to Turn Your Yard into an Ecological Oasis”: <https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2020/02/07/yard-sustainability-native-plants/>
- Homegrown National Park (Dr. Doug Tallamy): <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

Articles and texts on decline of overall insect/arthropod numbers (citing studies)

- Routledge Handbook of Insect Conservation (2024) (compiling multiple articles): <https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Handbook-of-Insect-Conservation/Pryke-Samways-New-Cardoso-Gaigher/p/book/9781032259505>
- “Eight simple actions that individuals can take to save insects from global declines”: <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/2/e2002547117>
- Special feature in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (vol. 118, no. 2): “Global Decline of Insects in the Anthropocene”: <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/2?fbclid=IwAR3FipkWDMbn2ATkeKsPyqHZ6dYXO-wdc7c1XmNMf0k6BddDmy5xMQcuFXo#TheGlobalDeclineofInsectsintheAnthropoceneSpecialFeature>
- Call for action to avoid declines in insect abundance and diversity: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335554972_Declines_in_insect_abundance_and_diversity_We_know_enough_to_act_now and <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.80>
- 4-part series on global insect declines (citing studies):
 - Part 1: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-a-global-look-at-a-deepening-crisis/>
 - Part 2: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-vanishing-act-in-europe-and-north-america/>
 - Part 3: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-the-tropics-in-trouble-and-some-hope/>
 - Part 4: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-how-to-save-insects-and-ourselves/>
- “Insect Declines and Why They Matter”: https://www.somersetwildlife.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/FULL%20AFI%20REPORT%20WEB%20Small_1.pdf
- Blog of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: <https://xerces.org/blog> (various topics on insect conservation)

Prairie conservation organizations

- Native Prairies Association of Texas (also 5 chapters): <https://texasprairie.org/>
- Coastal Prairie Conservancy: <https://www.coastalprairieconservancy.org/>

Book recommendations

- *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden*, by Jessica Walliser
- *Attracting Native Pollinators*, by Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
- *Bringing Nature Home*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *Garden Revolution*, by Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher
- *The Humane Gardener*, by Nancy Lawson
- *The Living Landscape*, by Rick Darke and Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *The Nature of Oaks*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *Nature's Best Hope*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *A New Garden Ethic*, by Benjamin Vogt
- *Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design*, by Benjamin Vogt
- *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, by Claudia West and Thomas Rainer

St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat

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- Lauren Simpson's naturalist CV:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dBx721_pMNpEfHUXNQwyn9CQRZMBRPOM6g6sWvN_fXc/edit?usp=sharing



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