Doug Tallamy Says Bring Nature Home to Your Wildlife Garden

BY CAROLE SEVILLA-BROWN

14 COMMENTS

Talk to anyone who speaks, writes, or teaches about creating welcoming habitats for wildlife in our gardens, and sooner rather than later they will mention *Bringing Nature Home* by Doug Tallamy. This book has become the "bible" for many gardeners.

Doug Tallamy clearly shows in this book how native plants form the basis of the food web in your wildlife garden, and I was excited to interview him about this topic. The more native plants you have, the more wildlife you will have in your garden.

Our traditional view of gardening has been to treat plants as if they are merely ornaments and to ignore their ecological roles. Your garden is part of the greater landscape, and each of us is responsible for becoming a steward of our properties as a healthy contributor to the environment around us.

Native plants support local food webs. Invasive plants disrupt local food webs, and ornamental plants very often are the way of contributing to the local food web.

Watch as Doug Tallamy presents the case for native plants in our gardens at the Butler University:

Thanks to Jeff Pitts of Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) for recording and sharing this video!

I have also interviewed Doug Tallamy about the negative impacts that invasive plants are having on our natural ecosystems. He talks about the ecosystem services that we are receiving from areas covered with these invasives and the negative impacts to wildlife because of these plants.

Tallamy says that we can't sell if we do nothing. I, for one, am not willing to say that there's no use in even trying to restore full function to our ecosystems. I remain hopeful that many of us will do what we can to restore habitat for wildlife in our own yards, in our communities, and in our parks.

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How are you bringing nature home to your wildlife garden?

Carole Sevilla Brown lives in Philadelphia, PA, and she loves creating gardens that support wildlife. She is the author of Ecosystem Gardening Essentials. 15 free lessons delivered to your inbox every week.

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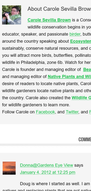

About Carole Sevilla Brown

Carole Sevilla Brown is a Conservation Biologist who firmly believes that ordinary people can change the world in your own back yard. Carole is an author, educator, speaker, and passionate Orion butterfly watcher, and naturalist who travels around the country speaking about Ecosystem Gardening. She is passionate about helping to garden sustainably, conserve natural resources, and create welcoming habitat for wildlife so that we can all enjoy our gardens. Carole is the author of the popular Ecosystem Gardening for wildlife in Philadelphia, zone 7b. Watch for her book *Ecosystem Gardening*, due out soon. Carole is founder and editor of Beautiful Wildlife Garden, and also founder and managing editor of Native Plants and Wildlife Gardens. Due to the overwhelming response to gardening with native plants, Carole created Find Native Plants to help wildlife gardeners locate native plants and other resources for their region of the country. Carole also created the Wildlife Garden Academy to create a community for wildlife gardeners to learn more.

Follow Carole on Facebook, and Twitter, and Flickr, and on Google+

COMMENTS

Donna@Gardens Eye View says
January 4, 2012 at 12:29 am

Doug is where I started as well. I am committed every year to adding more natives and replacing plants that are not native in my garden… I love the book and the interview as they provide a wonderful mind of why and where to start…
Donna@Gardens Eye View recently posted..Gardens Eye Verse-January

Reply

Teresa says
January 4, 2012 at 6:05 pm

this book is incredible. it really opened my eyes to importance of insects and the role natives play in the entire food change. i know i will reread his book on a regular basis and it's all that wonderful information wires in me!

Reply

Susan says
January 4, 2012 at 7:33 pm

I heard him speak in Ann Arbor this fall and he was fabulous! I was already committed to adding more natives to my country garden but even more inclined after hearing him.

Reply

Cori Rose says
January 4, 2012 at 8:53 pm

I had already been doing this for a while, but have found validation from Doug's work. His findings provide a wonderful justification for native plants and insect ecosystems which in turn makes it helpful when trying to spread the word. I saw him lecture in Carlisle MA and also found additional motivation and inspiration.
Cori Rose recently posted..Fungi are Fun

Reply

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers says
January 4, 2012 at 9:15 pm

Thank you for sharing! I just watched his presentation via this site. I'm behind Doug Tallamy's views 100 percent!

Reply

Carole says
January 4, 2012 at 9:56 pm

Have been planning with natives for years but had that big AHA! moment about their support of native insects after reading Dr. Tallamy's book. Thank you for sharing!

Reply

holder says
January 5, 2012 at 8:49 am

25 years ago, we had a major ice storm, I had always cared some for wildlife, I watched as birds, etc. had to search to survive in ice. They went to my rec hall and took feeders, then ate there, that's when I decided "His eye is on Sparrow" did apply to me, so, I have a cared for natural Habitat, also Hawks have found it also, but middle of small town, I give safety to God's creatures.

Reply

Joanna says
January 5, 2012 at 10:08 am

This book changed my garden and changed my life. Thank you so much Doug. You're the best!
Joanna recently posted..Rapini Rhapsody

Reply

Ellen Sousa says
January 10, 2012 at 9:55 am

I cannot tell you how many people have told me that Doug's book made them look at their backyards in a different, more beautiful way. He is a great speaker as well (if you haven't read the book, you'll leave his talk with native plant gardening as your mission in life!
Ellen Sousa recently posted..When Life Gives You Storm Damage, Make Habitat!

Reply

Beatriz Moisset says
January 11, 2012 at 10:52 pm

I mentioned this book to a teenager, budding biologist and she answered: " Bringing Nature Home is my bible". So, I said: "I see, we both belong to the same church".
It is wonderful to see the young generation growing up with these concepts already well established in their minds.
Beatriz Moisset recently posted..Mountain taunts instead of rose bushes?

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June 14, 2014 – **Heather Holm**, *Native Bees of Minnesota: Their Life Cycle, Foraging Behavior & Role in the Pollination of Native Plants*, Scandia, MN

June 16, 2014 – **Judy Burns**, *The Life Cycle Stages of Butterflies and Other Insects*, Forest Park Garden Club, Forest Park, OH. 45240

June 17 & 18, 2014 – **Carole Sevilla Brown**, *Ecosystem Gardening for Wildlife*, 2-day intensive Certificate Program in Native Plants and Ecological Horticulture, Biddeford, ME

June 20, 2014 –**Carole Sevilla Brown**, *Pollinators in the Wildlife Garden* Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens 10th Annual Garden Symposium, Boothbay, ME

July 18, 19, & 20, 2014 – **Pat Sutton**, *Trees of Cape May Private Butterfly Gardens*, Cape May, NJ 08204

July 26, 2014 – **Heather Holm**, *Attracting and Observing Pollinators to your Garden*, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN 55318

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