Creating a Healthy Ecosystem in Your Landscape Resources

Jim Sirch
jimsirch95@gmail.com

Organizations with Useful Websites and Databases

Homegrown National Park http://homegrownnationalpark.org
Organization co-founded by Doug Tallamy with useful newsletters and how to add your yard to the national list of wildlife friendly yards

Xerces Society https://xerces.org loads of great publications!
Including:
Conserving Bumble Bees: https://www.xerces.org/publications/guidelines/conserving-bumble-bees
Pollen Specialist Bees of the Eastern US: https://jarrodfowler.com/specialist_bees.html

CT Agricultural Experiment Station's Pollinator Information:
https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Publications/Publications/Pollinator-Information
Specialist Bees and Their Hosts
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/caes/publications/final_connecticut-specialist-hosts-list.pdf?rev=1b861c3003cd4bf5b56019a3647b65de&hash=D94C70ADA7631F07A24B361FBE8D82A0
Biodiversity of Bees in Connecticut – Monograph in Zootaxa by Tracy Zarrillo, Kimberly Stoner, and John Ascher – free publication!
https://mapress.com/zt/article/view/54105

Pollinator Partnership
EcoRegional Planting Guides:
https://www.pollinator.org/guides
Bee Identification Guide
https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/3002022284_Bee-Identification-Guide.pdf

USDA Forest Service:
Bee Basics: An Introduction to Native Bees
https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/BeeBasics.pdf

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's Native Plant Database
https://www.wildflower.org/plants/index.php

Native Plant Trust's (New England) Go Botany Simple Key
https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/simple/

they also have a garden plant finder (native):
https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search

National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder
https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/

National Audubon Society's Plants for Birds
https://www.audubon.org/PLANTSFORBIRDS

Mt. Cuba Center. www.mtcubacenter.org
Conducts trials of native plants for the garden; includes top pollinator plants

Wild Ones https://wildones.org/
CT Mountain Laurel Chapter meets at Conn College – see Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter on Facebook

CT DEEP Wildlife
Native Landscaping:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/outreach/NativeLandscapingpdf.pdf

Gardening for Butterflies and Moths
https://mgnv.org/pollinators/attracting-lepidopterans/

CT Invasive Plant Working Group – Invasive Plant Management Calendar
https://cipwg.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/244/2018/10/Invasive-Plant-Management-Calendar.pdf

iNaturalist
https://www.inaturalist.org/
Great for identifying all forms of life

State Native Plant/Pollinator Groups
Wild Ones – Mountain Laurel Chapter meets at Conn College
https://mountainlaurel.wildones.org/

Native Grow Native Massachusetts: good resource on Massachusetts natural plant communities

https://grownativemass.org/

Long Island Native Plant Initiative http://www.linpi.org/

Maine – Wild Seed Project https://wildseedproject.net/

CT Botanical Society – has good wildflower images and offers free walks

CT Butterfly Association https://ctbutterfly.org/
Under publications, great resource is Life Histories of Connecticut Butterflies
Also offers free butterfly walks

Pollinator Pathway https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/
Pollinator Pathways in CT and NY: Citizen Science Project

Native Seed Sources
Ecotype 59 seeds (local CT ecotype seeds):
northeastseedcollective.com

Wild Seed Project (Maine) https://wildseedproject.net/
(germination codes, propagating info, etc)
https://wildseedproject.net/how-to-grow-natives-from-seed/
https://wildseedproject.net/maine-native-plants-for-roadside-restoration/

Prairie Moon Nursery http://prairiemoon.com
(native seeds/plants – not local genotype; germination codes)

Ernst Seed www.ernstseed.com

Water Gardening for Wildlife Resources

Online Articles

TOADily Perfect: How to Create Toad Habitat in Your Yard by Wild Ones
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://wildones.org/toad-habitat/%23:~:text%3DInstalling%2520a%2520small%2520pond%2520or,of%2520the%2520pools%2520as%2520well.&ved=2ahUKEwjyjOfk6byLAxVJFVkFHcU3PY8QFnoECB0QAw&usg=AOvVaw06p7dWoWSRzvkm4JLGKpsw

Forums

Garden Pond Forum
http://gardenpondforum.com

Books

Building Natural Ponds: Create a Clean, Algae-free Pond without Pumps, Filters, or Chemicals by Robert Pavlis

Water Features for Small Gardens: From Concept to Construction by Keith Davitt

The Complete Guide to Building Backyard Ponds, Fountains, and Waterfalls for Homeowners: Everything You Need to Know Explained Simply by Melissa Samaroo

Videos

Creating a bubbler for bees and butterflies
https://youtu.be/Kn7KQAMlHdI

How to make a Frog Pond www.wildhope.tv

Larger Water Garden:
Lowes – How to Build a Water Garden in Your Yard
https://youtu.be/1EbcSqPP5Bk

Smaller Container Water Garden – Oklahoma State University
https://youtu.be/hV9usBOQ1V8

Build a Stacked Rock Water Feature – Birding by Ear
https://youtu.be/ZELZrFmtO2I

Plans

Plans for Building a Bird Bubbler – WarblerFall by Julie Zickefoose; includes video and tips for supplies; plans $29
www.warblerfall.com

Species Lists

Mid-Atlantic Guide to Water Garden Species
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://extension.psu.edu/mid-atlantic-pocket-guide-to-water-garden-species&ved=2ahUKEwjNkJC6-K-LAxX8EGIAHV6pCaIQFnoECBMQAQ&usg=AOvVaw2bPcKzZwbnA8OYCvHp2-YN

CT Native Plants for Water Gardens
There are a lot of non-native, very invasive aquatic plants that should **never** be included such as milfoils, yellow iris, water chestnut, etc. Please include CT natives in your water features as they provide ecosystem services.

Emergents or Marginals: sit at edge or in shallow water.
Examples of CT natives:
Pickerel Weed *Pontederia cordata* - great pollinator plant, purple flowers;
Blue Flag Iris *Iris versicolor* (**never** plant yellow Iris - it is very invasive!);
Sweet Flag *Acorus americanus*
Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*
Cardinal Flower *Lobelia cardinalis* – bring in the hummers
Button Bush *Cephalanthus occidentalis* - a shrub which can get 4' x 4'; great pollinator plant.
Arrowhead *Sagittaria* sp.

Floating Level Plants: most root in mud of bottom or in a weighted pond basket.
Examples of CT Natives:
White Water-Lily *Nymphaea odorata*
Yellow Water-Lily *Nuphar variegata*
Duckweed *Lemna* sp. - can overtake top and will need to be skimmed off periodically.
Floating Heart *Nymphoides cordata*
Watershield *Brasenia schreberi*
Floating Pondweed *Potamogeton natans*

Submerged Plants which are Oxygenators: provide oxygen.
Examples of CT Natives:
Coon's Tail *Ceratophyllum demersum*
Tape Grass *Vallisneria americana*
Common Waterweed *Elodea canadensis*

Jim's Nature Blog: **Beyond Your Back Door** **www.beyondyourbackdoor.com**