

CARING FOR OUR PIECE OF THE EARTH

A SIX-SESSION DISCUSSION COURSE

PURPOSE

- To learn how to be a good steward of your own piece of the earth.
- To learn how to provide habitat for wildlife and create a healthy yard for people, too.
- To extend these understandings to the world beyond.

HOW IT WORKS:

This is a **FREE** course organized by a course facilitator.

The course materials are provided as PDF files or as iBooks. Go to www.hgcny.org/course/ to download the FREE materials.

TO PARTICIPATE:

CONTACT: _____

at _____

DATES: _____

TIME: _____

PLACE: _____

SESSION THEMES:

The American Landscape: This session explores the impact of the conventional American landscape on biodiversity and ecosystems. We consider the role of lawns and their environmental costs.

The Webs of Life: This session has two parts. The first is about the role of plants and animals in the food web and the impact on the food web of replacing native plants with non-natives. The second part discusses the importance of the hidden soil food web and how to care for it.

Creating an Earth-friendly Yard: This session considers how we might change cultural norms about lawns and how we can solve the problems created by the conventional American landscape. This session introduces the concept of layers in the landscape rather than thinking only of individual plants. We consider the concept of habitat for both wildlife and people.

Birds, Bees, and Other Creatures: This session describes in more detail specific habitat features that will benefit particular kinds of creatures such as bird, pollinators, butterflies and moths, other insects, amphibians, and mammals. It also describes conservation practices.

Our Landscapes, Ourselves, and the World Beyond: This session examines the relationship between our yards and our connection with nature, including the benefits of nature for people. We explore how we can take what we've learned to practice stewardship of landscapes into our community and beyond.

Celebration: In this session we celebrate what we've learned by participating in a special event. Groups may choose to share a meal, visit a local natural area or habitat garden, view a documentary, such as *Hometown Habitat*, or visit each other's yards to show what they've done so far or to get advice.