

A close-up photograph of a green plant with yellow flowers and a small insect on a leaf. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# **Caring for Our Piece of the Earth**

## **Session 6: Celebration!**

**Compiled by Janet Allen**

---

# Caring for Our Piece of the Earth

## Session 6: Celebrate and Continue

Copyright © 2018

By Janet Allen

Syracuse, NY

All rights reserved.

Requests for permission to reproduce any materials  
in this course book should be directed to Janet Allen.

[janetallen3@verizon.net](mailto:janetallen3@verizon.net)

[www.ourhabitatgarden.org](http://www.ourhabitatgarden.org)

See “Permissions” page in the Introduction Session  
for information on reading materials;  
these cannot be reproduced without permission.

Unless otherwise noted,  
images are copyrighted by Janet Allen.

Unattributed section introductions  
and other commentary is by Janet Allen.

Updated 10/2/19

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

## About this session

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. In this case, 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. Contact Janet Allen at [janetallen3@verizon.net](mailto:janetallen3@verizon.net) for information.

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

**Find** a chapter:

<http://www.wildones.org/connect/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 easy option is to have a movie night together.

### ***Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home.***

Information on hosting a screening is at:

<http://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:**

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

---

## Interview with Catherine Zimmerman on “Hometown Habitat” by Kim Eierman

OPTIONAL:

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

## Other recommended videos

View one or more of the presentations by Doug Tallamy, available free on YouTube.

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

Here is an excellent one (or Google other Tallamy videos):

**The Living Landscape** - presented by Tennessee Valley Wild Ones (Feb. 2015). The **first hour** is his presentation. The **second hour** is the audience question segment, which you may or may not have time to watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B49gaeXaVbA>

The **first hour only** of the above presentation (i.e. without the question period) is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UonRPIea48Y>

One option is to show the first hour of Tallamy's formal presentation and then individual participants can view the second hour at home.

## 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 a local expert (a park ranger, member of a botany club, a representative of The Nature Conservancy, for example) could 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. 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-2/>.

## Learn more about earth-friendly living

This course was inspired by the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) courses. NWEI has a variety of similar discussion courses.

**For more information, see**

<http://nwei.org/discussion-course-books/>

---

## Continue learning

**YardMap's Habitat Network:** This project is no longer active but there is a wealth of habitat tips from their past newsletters at:

<http://content.yardmap.org/learn/>



*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*



*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 and perhaps even  
made 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