

MINI LAND & WATER SUMMIT

# An Ecosystem Approach

## Managing Pollinator Gardens

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# Topics

Pollinator Gardens

Ecosystem Awareness

Supporting Complete Life Cycles

Maintenance Best Practices

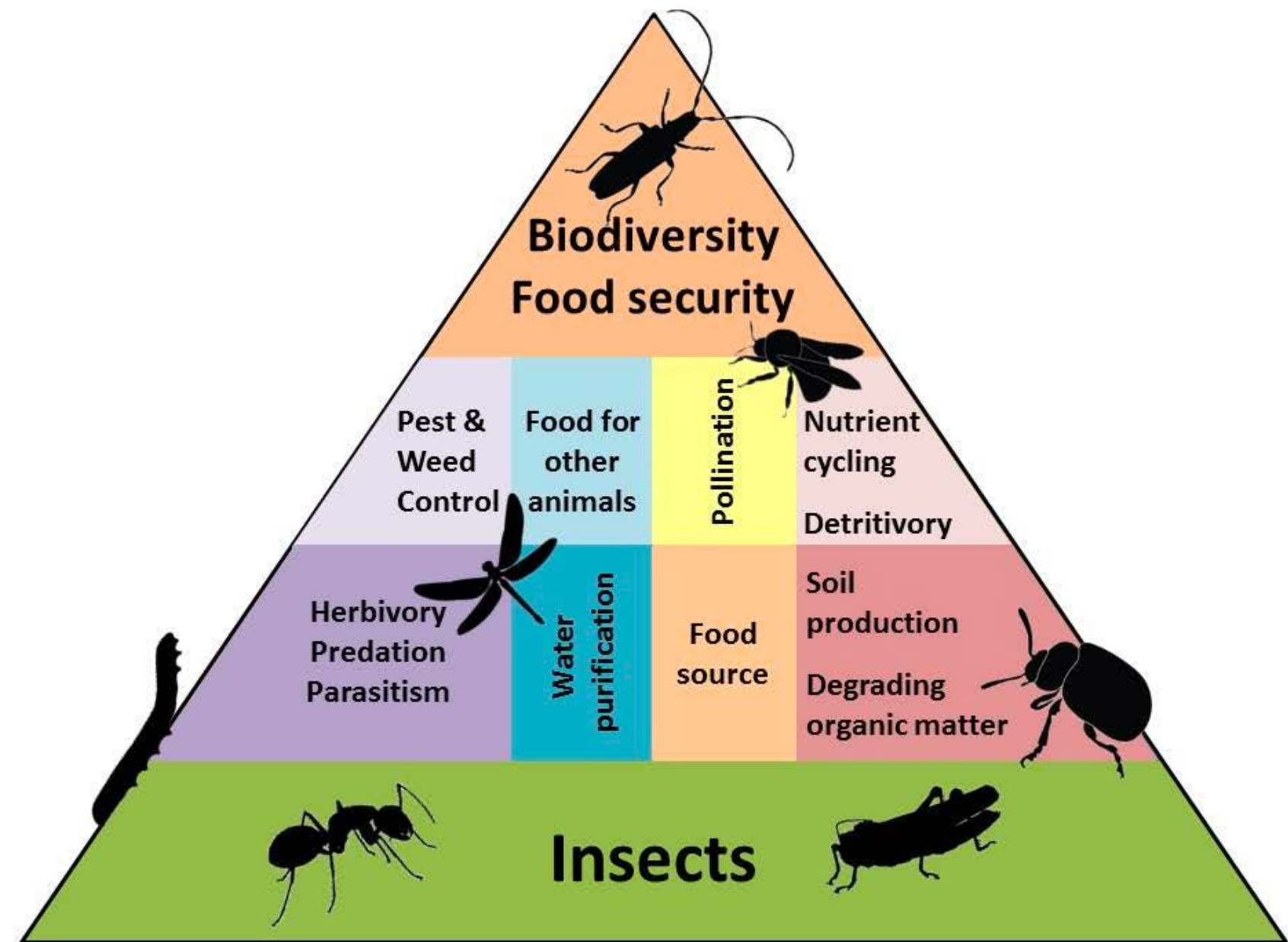
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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

# We need a paradigm shift

## We need it now

- 85% of flowering plants depend on biotic pollination
- 40% of insects are at risk of extinction



# Ecosystem Awareness



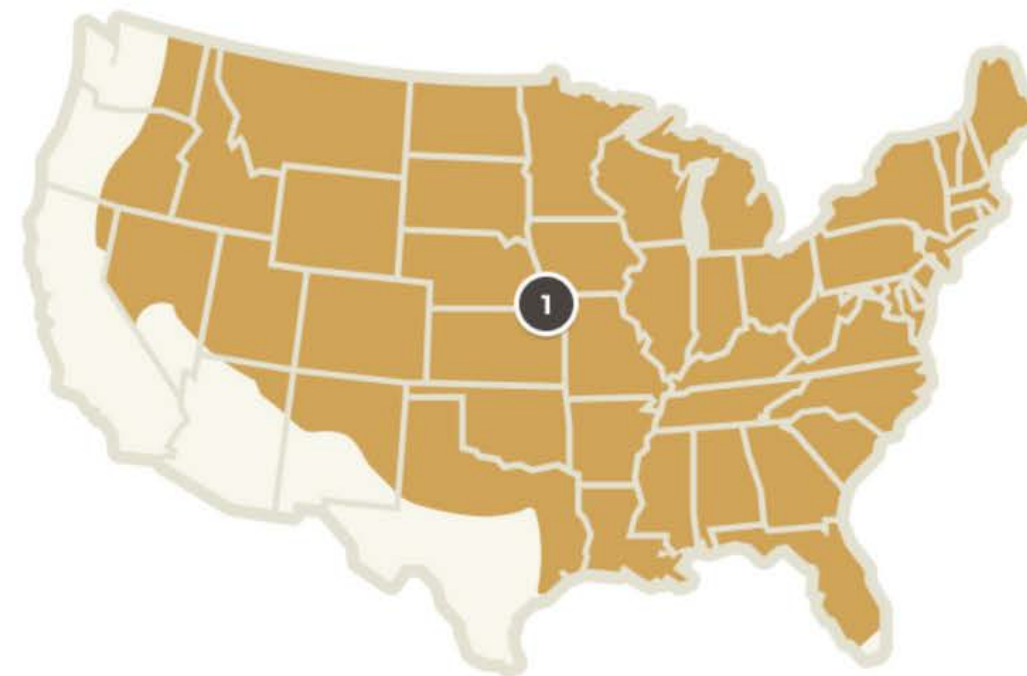
# Wildflower Mixes



Wildflower Pollinator Mix  
2 lbs – 200 Sq. Ft. Cover

GENUS/SPECIES	COMMON NAME	TYPE	HEIGHT IN.	GERM TIME	WEEKS TO FIRST BLOOM
Trifolium incarnatum	Crimson clover	A	24-36	7-21 days	Summer
Calendula officinalis	Calendula (Pacific Beauty Mix)	A	12-24	7-14 days	7-8 weeks
Cheiranthus allionii	Siberian Wallflower	P	10-18	15-30 days	Spring
Zinnia elegans	Zinnia (California Giant Mix)	A	30-40	5-14 days	8-10 weeks
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	P	24-36	15-30 days	Summer
Callistephus chinensis	China Aster	A	12-36	10-21 days	14-16 weeks
Cynoglossum amabile	Chinese Forget-Me-Not	A	18-24	7-14 days	8-10 weeks
Delphinium consolida	Rocket Larkspur	A	12-36	14-28 days	12-13 weeks
Desmanthus illinoensis	Illinois Bundleflower	P	36-60	21-35 days	Summer
Eschscholzia californica	California Poppy	A	12-18	14-28 days	6-8 weeks
Gaillardia aristata	Blanketflower	P	28-36	14-24 days	Summer-Fall
Cosmos bipinnatus	Cosmos (Sensation Mix)	A	36-60	14-21 days	8-10 weeks

## APPROPRIATE PLANTING ZONES



1

### WILDFLOWER POLLINATOR MIX

Recommended for the area in zone 1

Native  
plants give the  
most bang for  
you buck!



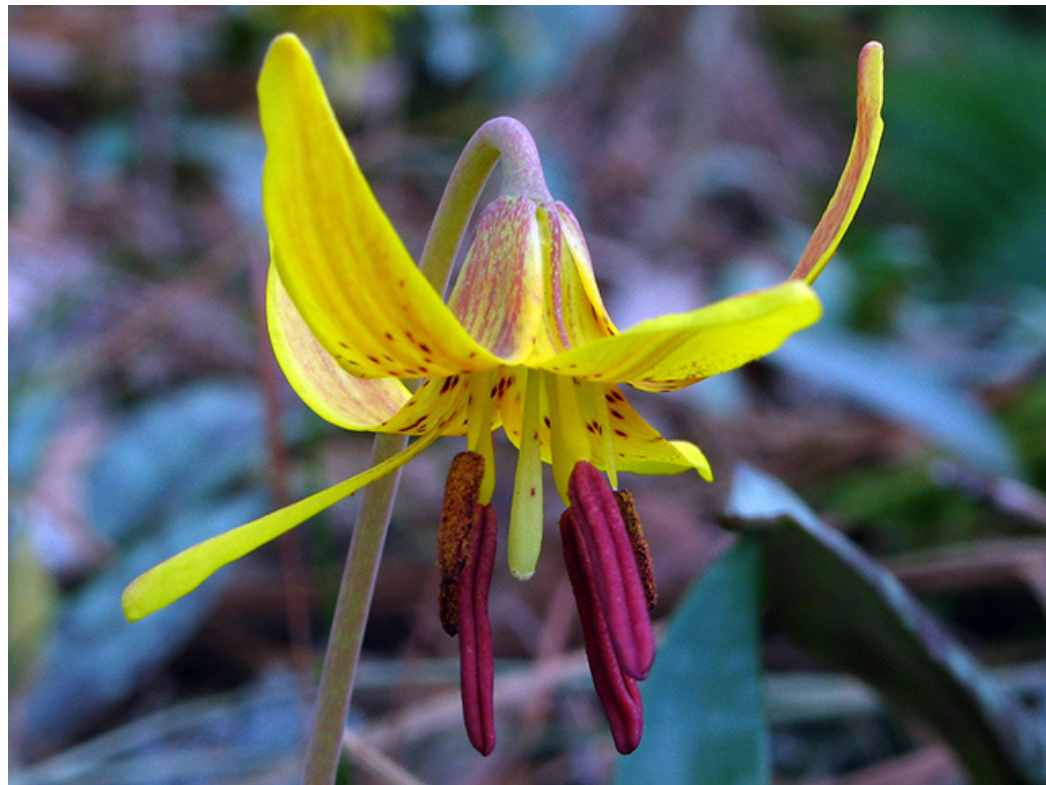
Silver Spotted Skipper



American Groundnut  
*Apios americana*

# Benefits of Native Plants

Essential to habitat restoration and climate resiliency



## *Biodiversity*

Plants for all seasons, soil types, exposures, and slopes



## *Climate Resiliency*

Increased genetic diversity means more evolutionary history to pull from



## *Beauty*

Unique forms and structures add value to any landscape



# Support Complete Life Cycles

- Host plants
- Keystone Plants
- Trees and Shrubs





## Add in Host Plants

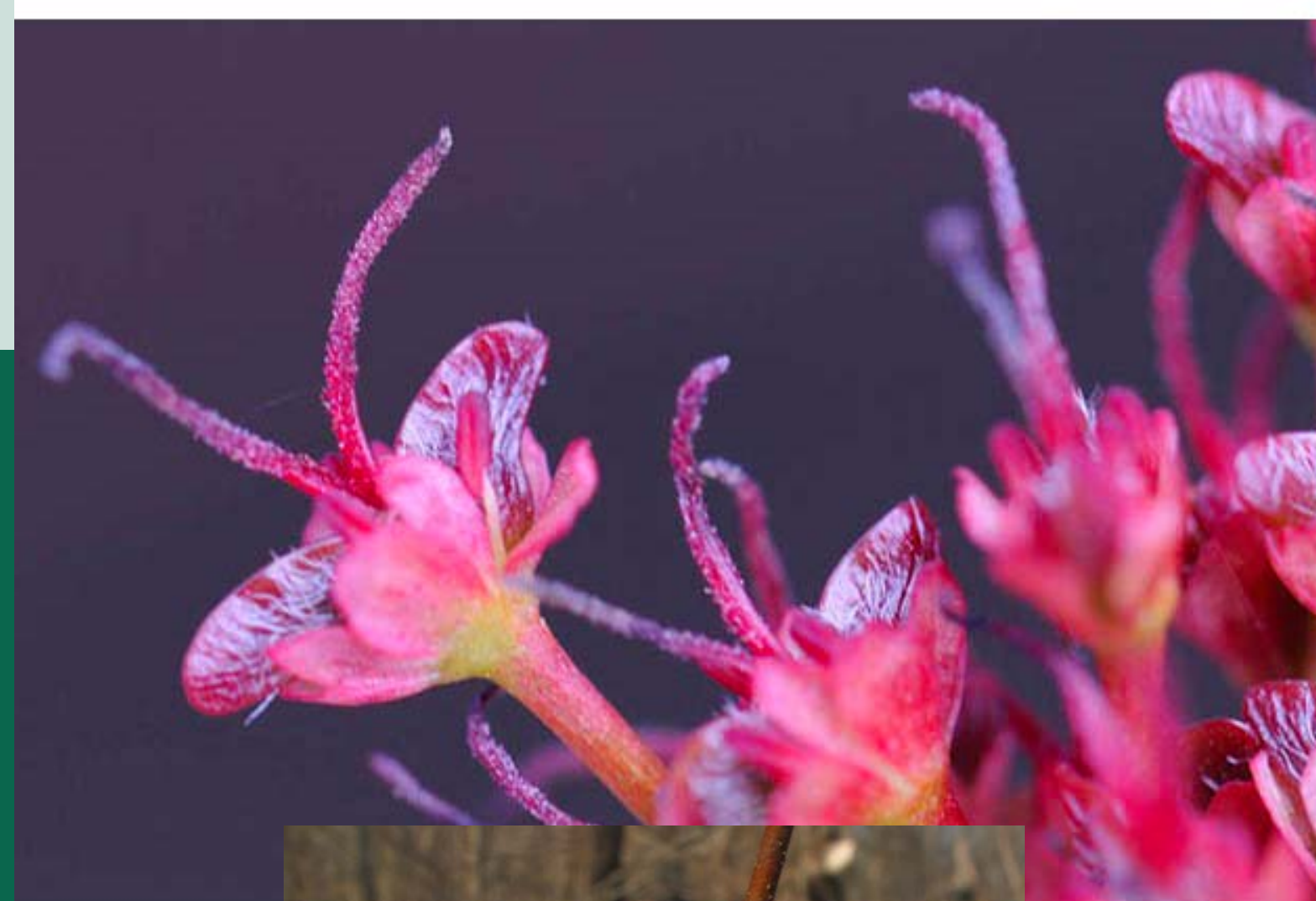
- Insects live in a chemical world
- Plants evolved chemical defenses to avoid predation; insects evolved to deal with them
- If you want certain insect species, you need plants required for their development



# Protect Keystone Plants

Keystone plants are natives that [...] support 90% of the caterpillar species that enable our terrestrial birds to reproduce, as well as all of our specialist native bee species.

The National Wildlife Federation



## **Plant and protect trees and shrubs**

"A society grows great  
when old men plant  
trees in whose shade  
they shall never sit."

Greek Proverb



# Maintenance



**Curation is key.**





May 2019



*Life finds a way.*





April 2022



# Maintenance: Best Practices

No Mow May

Leave the leaves

Trim stalks late Spring

No pesticides

Plant native and neonic-free

Try "no-dig" approach

Resist the urge to tidy



# Bee the Change!

- Leave a legacy of habitat
- Citizen science projects
- Talk to your neighbors, HOA, local nurseries
- Host a Tallamy talk viewing party/ book club/ advocacy group
- Add a sign to educate neighbors
- Join a garden club, land trust, pollinator pathways



# What to plant for long tongued bumblebees?



[beecology.wpi.edu](http://beecology.wpi.edu)





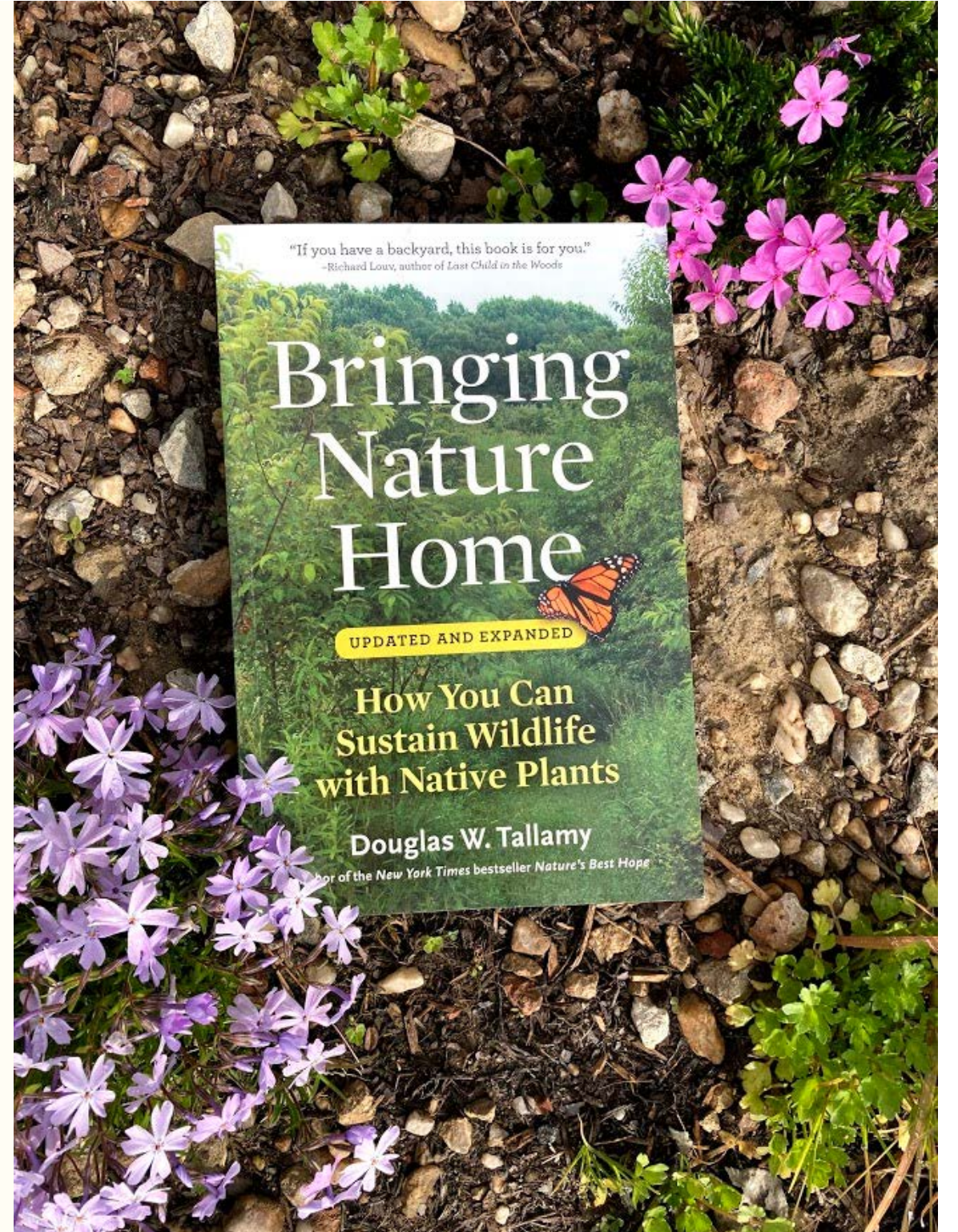
# NATURE'S BEST HOPE

A New Approach  
to Conservation That  
Starts in Your Yard



DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY

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# Thank You!

***Katie Schortmann***

*Come visit the gardens at  
Nature Center and Aquarium*



