

# ON-LINE RESOURCES

## “Creating a Pollinator Paradise at Home”

Lauren Simpson, *creator of St. Julian’s Crossing Wildlife Habitat for the Heights Garden Club (September 15, 2022)*

- **Tip 1: “Support the home team.”**
  - Native-plant locators and information:
    - When you want to find plants that are native to your area:
      - *Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) regional plant lists:* <https://npsot.org/wp/resources/plant-lists-by-ecoregion/>
      - *NPSOT-Houston native plant information:* <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-plant-info/>
      - *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s Native Plant Database:* <https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>
      - *Native-plant locator by Zip Code (NWF):* <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants> (also: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants>)
      - *Pollinator Partnership eco-region planting guides:* <https://pollinator.org/guides>
      - *Audubon Society native-plant database:* <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
      - *Xerces Society’s Pollinator-Friendly Native Plant Lists (by region; can be filtered by state):* <https://xerces.org/pollin.../pollinator-friendly-plant-lists>
      - *“Nine Natives” guides (greater Houston area):* <https://www.katyprairie.org/9-natives>
      - *Native Plant Lists for Wasps (Heather Holm):* <https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/plant-lists--posters.html> (free for educational use)
    - When you want to check whether a specific plant is native to your area:
      - *USDA Plants Database:* <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/> (includes interactive map with species data by county)
      - *BONAP:* <http://bonap.net/NAPA/Genus/Traditional/County> (species maps by county, organized by genus)
  - Why native-plant butterfly and bird gardens are better (Jaime González, for the Katy Prairie Conservancy): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Puh\\_g\\_dMCH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Puh_g_dMCH8)
  - Why native flowers are better for bees than non-natives: <http://beautifulnativeplants.blogspot.com/2016/07/pollinators-and-native-vs-non-native.html>
  - Why locally-sourced and -grown native plants matter: <http://www.ecobeneficial.com/2015/07/why-locally-sourced-locally-grown-native-plants-matter/>
  - How to judge wildlife-supportiveness of native cultivars: <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/native-species-or-cultivars-of-native-plants-does-it-matter/>
  - Native v. cultivar: <https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2016/JuneJuly/Gardening/Cultivars>
  - Native v. non-native milkweed (Facebook): [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1722870314633869&id=1609337762653792](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1722870314633869&id=1609337762653792)
  - “Weeding Out 4 Native Plant Myths”: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/51248852/list/4-Native-Plant-Myths>
  - Texas eco-region information:
    - Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) maps: [https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/pwd\\_pl\\_w7000\\_1187a/pages/maps.phtml](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/pwd_pl_w7000_1187a/pages/maps.phtml)
    - TPWD information on eco-regions: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/online-course/wildlife-conservation/texas-ecoregions>

- **Tip 2: “Avoid pesticides.”**
  - Beneficial insects for gardens and landscaping (TAMU): <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/index.htm>
  - Enticing beneficial predators to your garden: <https://www.nwf.org/en/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2010/Enticing-Predators-to-Patrol-Your-Garden>
  - How gardeners’ use of pesticides and herbicides harms bee populations: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/05/31/gardeners-fueling-bee-decline-by-using-weedkillers-and-pesticide/>
  - Neonicotinoid pesticide dangers: [http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/HowNeonicsCanKillBees\\_XercesSociety\\_Nov2016.pdf](http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/HowNeonicsCanKillBees_XercesSociety_Nov2016.pdf), <http://blog.nwf.org/2015/12/four-questions-about-neonicotinoid-pesticides/>, and <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-37089385>
  
- **Tip 3: “Mix it up.”**
  - Tips on plant variety to support pollinators: <http://web.archive.org/web/20140701234902/http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/pollinators-and-flowers/>
  - Layering plants: <http://rockies.audubon.org/news/five-wildscape-principles>
  
- **Tip 4: “Pile it up.”** Planting in masses for wildlife and for design: <http://northcoastgardening.com/2012/07/wildlife-garden-design-plant-masses/>
  
- **Tip 5: “Embrace imperfection.”**
  - Why to leave leaf litter in fall garden beds: <https://www.nwf.org/en/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2015/OctNov/Gardening/Leave-the-Leaves> and <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/wildlife-value-of-a-messy-garden/>
  - Leaving fall gardens be: <https://savvygardening.com/6-reasons-not-to-clean-up-your-garden-this-fall/>
  - Leaving pithy stems in place for bee nesting: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/39422662/list/Small-Carpenter-Bees---Looking-for-a-Home-in-Your-Plant-Stems>
  - Leaf mold, mulch, and compost: <https://www.planetnatural.com/leaf-mold/>
  - How to prep. garden safely for spring: <https://savvygardening.com/spring-garden-clean-done-right/>
  
- **Bonus Tip: “Stock the Nursery.”**
  - Bare earth and garden care for native-bee nesting: <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/bare-earth-for-native-pollinators/> and <http://www.xerces.org/in-your-pollinator-garden-november-2015/>
  - Building and responsibly maintaining bee hotels for native bees: <http://www.foxleas.com/make-a-bee-hotel.asp>; <https://www.mountaineers.org/blog/mason-bees-raising-beneficial-pollinators>; <http://ncagr.gov/spcap/bee/documents/BuildingWildBeeHouses.pdf>. But see <http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2015/03/bee-hotels-have-unwanted-guests/>.
  - Designing a garden for native bees: <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/32351570/list/How-to-Design-a-Garden-for-Native-Bees>
  - The best ways to leave stems for native-bee nesting: <https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/2021/04/the-right-way-to-leave-stems-for-native-bees/?fbclid=IwAR3Sw-ZN7fMlunwglqUdrDgXm-UnuvoOQ9sJPVuX75RCQnoQHqK3DHHVAc>
  - Host plants by butterfly species: <http://www.dallasbutterflies.com/Butterfly%20Gardening/Host%20Plants%20by%20Butterfly%20Species.htm> and [https://npsot.org/wp/houston/files/2014/08/February-2017-NPSOT\\_HOUSTON-information-pages.pdf](https://npsot.org/wp/houston/files/2014/08/February-2017-NPSOT_HOUSTON-information-pages.pdf)

- **Wildscaping generally:**
  - Simple tips on creating a pollinator-friendly garden: <https://pollinorgardens.org/2016/01/12/design-ideas-for-gardeners/?platform=hootsuite>
  - Five simple tips to turn a yard into a pollinator paradise: <http://blog.nature.org/science/2015/07/20/5-simple-tips-your-yard-pollinator-paradise-bees-butterflies-decline/>
  - Ten tips for creating a home wildscape:  
[https://www.natureswayresources.com/NLpdf/391LGNewsletter.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2z412WBsIMJe4WPWmCp8\\_KKgJ\\_ft7HHuUQtCOCnSf7jFbtsQgSOWsS7xQ#page=3](https://www.natureswayresources.com/NLpdf/391LGNewsletter.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2z412WBsIMJe4WPWmCp8_KKgJ_ft7HHuUQtCOCnSf7jFbtsQgSOWsS7xQ#page=3) and <https://npsot.org/wp/story/2020/12236/>
  - Butterfly gardening in Houston: <http://houstonarboretum.org/2015/03/butterfly-gardening-in-houston/>
  - Introduction to pollinator gardening: <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/pollinators-at-home-intro-to-pollinator-gardening/>
  - Creating a low-maintenance wildscape (NPSOT): <http://npsot.org/wp/story/2009/2188/>
  - “Neighborly Natural Landscaping in Residential Areas”: <https://extension.psu.edu/neighborly-natural-landscaping-in-residential-areas>
  - Native-bee garden ideas and resources: <http://www.houstonnativebees.org/learn/bee-habitats/>
  - “How to Turn Your Yard into an Ecological Oasis”:  
<https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2020/02/07/yard-sustainability-native-plants/>
  - Homegrown National Park (Dr. Doug Tallamy): <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>
- **Articles on decline of overall insect/arthropod numbers (citing studies):**
  - “Eight simple actions that individuals can take to save insects from global declines”:  
<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/2/e2002547117>
  - Special feature in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (vol. 118, no. 2): “Global Decline of Insects in the Anthropocene”:  
<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/2?fbclid=IwAR3FipkWDMbn2ATkeKsPyqHZ6dYXO-wdc7c1XmNMf0k6BddDmy5xMQcuFXo#TheGlobalDeclineofInsectsintheAnthropoceneSpecialFeature>
  - Call for action to avoid declines in insect abundance and diversity:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335554972\\_Declines\\_in\\_insect\\_abundance\\_and\\_diversity\\_We\\_know\\_enough\\_to\\_act\\_now](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335554972_Declines_in_insect_abundance_and_diversity_We_know_enough_to_act_now) and <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp.2.80>
  - 4-part series on global insect declines (citing studies):
    - Part 1: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-a-global-look-at-a-deepening-crisis/>
    - Part 2: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-vanishing-act-in-europe-and-north-america/>
    - Part 3: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-the-tropics-in-trouble-and-some-hope/>
    - Part 4: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-great-insect-dying-how-to-save-insects-and-ourselves/>
  - “Insect Declines and Why They Matter”: [https://www.somersetwildlife.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/FULL%20AFI%20REPORT%20WEB%20Small\\_1.pdf](https://www.somersetwildlife.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/FULL%20AFI%20REPORT%20WEB%20Small_1.pdf)
  - Blog of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: <https://xerces.org/blog> (various topics on insect conservation)

- **Prairie conservation organizations:**

- Native Prairies Association of Texas (also 5 chapters): <https://texasprairie.org/>
- Coastal Prairie Conservancy: <https://www.coastalprairieconservancy.org/>
- Coastal Prairie Partnership (Facebook): <https://www.facebook.com/saveprairies/>

- **Book recommendations:**

- *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden*, by Jessica Walliser
- *Attracting Native Pollinators*, by Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
- *Bringing Nature Home*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *Garden Revolution*, by Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher
- *The Living Landscape*, by Rick Darke and Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *The Nature of Oaks*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *Nature's Best Hope*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy
- *A New Garden Ethic*, by Benjamin Vogt
- *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, by Claudia West and Thomas Rainer

- **St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat**

- Email: [stjulianscrossing@gmail.com](mailto:stjulianscrossing@gmail.com)
- Website: [www.stjulianscrossing.com](http://www.stjulianscrossing.com)
- iNaturalist: laurenjansimpson
- Facebook: St. Julian's Crossing-wildlife habitat
- Instagram: @st\_julians\_crossing
- Pinterest: St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat
- Lauren Simpson's naturalist CV:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dBx721\\_pMNpEfHUXNQwyn9CQRZMBRPOM6g6sWvN\\_fXc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dBx721_pMNpEfHUXNQwyn9CQRZMBRPOM6g6sWvN_fXc/edit?usp=sharing)

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