



Photo by John Sutton



Photo by Gretchen Schramm

# resources

- COASTAL LANDSCAPES INITIATIVE  
<https://go.ncsu.edu/kiufh2y>  
*Includes design templates, native plant guides, brochures, and more*
- LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE WITH NATIVE PLANTS  
<https://go.ncsu.edu/r2slknc>
- BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR BACKYARD  
<https://go.ncsu.edu/rxvhOon>
- PLANT TOOLBOX—FIND OR IDENTIFY PLANTS  
[plants.ces.ncsu.edu/](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/)

Photo by Gary Allen



- CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO PROTECTING WILMINGTON'S WATERWAYS  
<https://go.ncsu.edu/ojrqtxd>
- AUDUBON'S NATIVE PLANT FINDER  
[audubon.org/native-plants](https://audubon.org/native-plants)
- AREA NATIVE PLANT VENDORS  
<https://go.ncsu.edu/zq7knfm>
- NORTH CAROLINA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL  
<http://nc-ipc.weebly.com/>
- BOOKS  
*Bringing Nature Home* and *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy

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# sponsoring partners

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | New Hanover County

**The New Hanover County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association**

*More than a 100 volunteers providing research-based information and horticultural education to the community.*

<https://go.ncsu.edu/4qvsfqc>



**The New Hanover County Arboretum**

*Featuring 7 acres of beautiful demonstration gardens supported by NC Cooperative Extension, New Hanover County, Friends of the Arboretum, the Ability Garden, and Master Gardeners. Open daily 8am to 5pm, with free admission.*  
[arboretum.nhcgov.com](https://arboretum.nhcgov.com)



**Cape Fear Audubon** is committed to conserve and restore natural ecosystems within our region for the benefit of people, birds and other wildlife. We offer bird outings regularly and monthly programs on birds and related topics. Please check the calendar on our website for the latest information.  
[capefearaudubon.org](https://capefearaudubon.org)

# Nature at Home Program



Photo by John Sutton

promoting wildlife friendly gardening in your yard



## nature at home

The Nature at Home Certification Program provides education and encouragement on best practices for growing spaces that nurture plants, insects, birds and other wildlife. From backyards to front porches, the potential to transform outdoor living spaces is boundless.

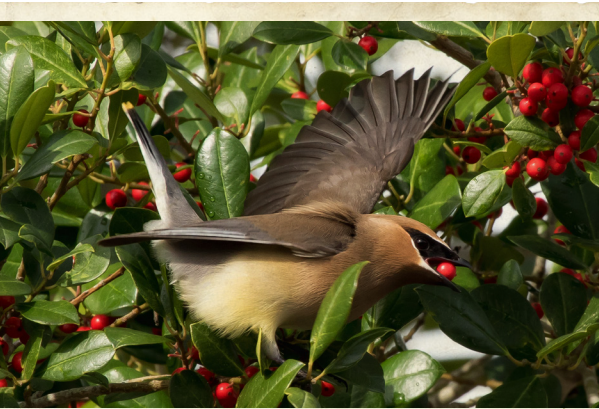


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## get certified

- Implement the best management practices illustrated in these resources.
- Apply to be a certified Nature at Home site at [newhanover.ces.ncsu.edu/horticulture-4/](https://newhanover.ces.ncsu.edu/horticulture-4/) There's a one-time application fee of \$25 for the certification.
- A trained Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> volunteer will visit to certify the site.
- Once certified, participants receive a **Certified Nature at Home** yard sign.
- Visit [newhanover.ces.ncsu.edu/horticulture-4/](https://newhanover.ces.ncsu.edu/horticulture-4/) for more information.

## creating a nature at home habitat



### PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

Local wildlife has adapted over time to use native plants for food and cover. Plants endemic to the coastal plain of southeastern North Carolina are well suited to native soils and climate in times of drought and excessive rainfall, requiring relatively little care once established. Planting native species also encourages wildlife survival.



### REPLACE INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE PLANTS

Introduced, invasive plants rapidly take away habitat from the native plants and reduce food sources that wildlife needs.



### INCLUDE WATER FEATURES

All creatures need water. Bird baths with a slow drip, fountain, or moving water attract birds. Natural features like swales or rain gardens provide habitat and reduce stormwater runoff and erosion by slowing, spreading and soaking in water.



### INCREASE GARDEN BEDS, REDUCE LAWNS

Lawns require more inputs and provide little habitat value. Turn your turf into perennial habitat.



### REDUCE USE OF SYNTHETIC HERBICIDES, PESTICIDES, AND FERTILIZERS

Insecticides kill bird food, herbicides can leave toxic residues in soil and water, and fertilizer runoff can harm water quality. Consider using naturally derived options for these inputs.



### LEAVE THE LEAVES

Leave standing deadwood, fallen wood, fallen leaves and grass clippings. Decomposing plant material adds to soil fungal diversity. By mulching grass and leaves, you're applying free fertilizer and adding valuable organic material to the soil. Composting food and yard waste reduces landfill input and adds valuable input to your soil. Make a brush pile for an over-winter shelter for birds and insects.



### PROVIDE STRUCTURES THAT SUPPORT WILDLIFE

Adding birdhouses offers shelter for birds in areas where tree cavities are difficult to find. Bird feeders supply birds with valuable nutrition. Bee boxes provide many solitary bees a place to lay their eggs and raise their young.

home gardeners are at the forefront of helping wildlife in our area