

Resources & Comments from Doug Tallamy's Presentation

These resources and comments are from the chat box during a Zoom webinar featuring Doug Tallamy and a panel of local experts on September 25, 2022.

Watch the full video of the webinar [here](#). Please share widely to promote Doug's message!

Resources Shared in Doug Tallamy Chat

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.audubonva.org/>
- <https://www.audubonva.org/audubon-at-home>
- <https://loudounwildlife.org/>
- <http://www.pwconserve.org/>
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>
- <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/> (Doug Tallamy's initiative, resources page)
- <https://mgmv.org/> (If you live in Northern Virginia, please go to the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia for information about native plants, trees, mosquito control, and other topics addressed today)

Selecting & Buying Native Plants

- <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/plant-finder-app> (You can search by deer vulnerability on the Plant NOVA Natives plant app. About 40% are relatively deer resistant.)
- <https://mgmv.org/plants/native-plants/>
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/buy-the-native-plant-guide-book>
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/native-only-sellers>
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/local-native-plant-sales>
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/site-index> (On the Plant NoVa Natives site, there's a fabulous index page for easy searching.)
- <https://mgmv.org/programs/small-trees-make-big-canopies/> (If you are in Northern Virginia, please see information about a free tree program)
- www.hardyplant.org (Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group has a seed exchange that often offers seeds.)
- <https://www.fairfaxreleaf.com> (source for FREE native tree and shrub seedlings, including pawpaw when available. Check the website for when ordering is open.)
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/edible-native-plants> (Edible native plants)

- <https://mgmv.org/?s=edibles> (edible landscaping)

Actions to take to Help Insects (and other wildlife)

- <https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program> (Turn out lights at night)
- <https://www.audubonva.org/news/how-to-set-up-a-mosquito-larva-trap> (Doug Tallamy's approach to a mosquito larva trap)
- <https://mgmv.org/?s=mosquito> (control mosquitos without pesticides)
- <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Recreation-News/Deer-in-Arlington> (Support deer management! Deer population study in Arlington)
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/reducing-lawn>
- https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/nr_2022-09-08_Acorn-Collection-Season-is-Here.pdf (Request for help collecting acorns)
- <https://mgmv.org/?s=leave+the+leaves> (leave the leaves)
- <https://www.karinburghardt.com/blog/2020/4/29/leaf-litter-blog> (my year playing with litter, about leave the leaves)

Get your yard certified

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pl1XSxWXdatHa4L04amzgZ1ROQXvUXke/view?usp=sharing> (Resources shared by Betsy Martin, AAH)
- <https://www.audubonva.org/sanctuary-species>
- <https://www.audubonva.org/aaah-consultation-request-form> (For folks who are interested in AAH and live outside our areas, we do have outside the area resources that we send out if you do a AAH Consultation Request)
- <https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/certify> (another alternative for people living outside of the AAH realm is the National Wildlife Federation certification program)

Get help with your landscaping

- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/landscaping-help> (landscapers familiar with native plants)

Getting your neighbors on board

- <https://www.humanegardener.com/butterflies-1-hoa-bullies-0/> (A story about battling an HOA and winning, and a resulting legislative change in MD)
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/garden-design-tips>
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/cues-to-care>
- <https://conservationblog.anshome.org/loudoun-county/> (Blog about the Greening Your Neighborhood Program. We'll be updating this page THIS WEEK with all of the documents and links - bookmark it! And while we focused on Loudoun County, it can be used in any HOA - it's about how we talk with our HOA decision makers and how to make easy choices. Woody plants / trees can be a good first step.)
- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/hoa-and-condo-associations>

Helping from your Apartment / Townhome

- <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/container-gardening>

More webinars to watch

- <https://www.audubonva.org/the-potomac-flier> (Join the Audubon Northern Virginia newsletter to get info about the upcoming winter seed sowing webinar)
- <https://www.audubonva.org/asnv-events/spiders-221025> (Learn about spiders next month)
- <https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/webinars-landscaping-with-virginia-natives> (great series of webinars free to watch online)
- <https://youtu.be/G82UYCFQjjQ> (4th Annual Native Plant Symposium - Native edibles and medicinal plants)
- <https://mgnv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/bmp-class-video/> (Public education virtual classroom and best management practices)
- <https://mgnv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/sl-class-video/> (Public education virtual education for sustainable landscaping)
- <https://mgnv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/ug-class-video/> (Public education virtual classroom for urban agriculture)
- <https://mgnv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/bmp-class-video/leave-the-leaves-video-2021/> (About volcano mulch)

Influencing the System / Advocacy / Legal Issues

- <https://www.reston.org/cluster-connect-news/removing-trees-requires-drb-approval> (In Reston, Design Review Board approval is required for tree removal as described here)
- <https://www.audubonva.org/current-issues> (Help us advocate)

Trees in general

- <https://daily.jstor.org/the-miyawaki-method-a-better-way-to-build-forests/>
- <https://www.plantnovatrees.org/rescuing-trees>

Black Walnut Trees

- <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/nut-trees/black-walnut/black-walnut-compatible-plants.htm> (here are some natives that grow well around black walnut trees)
- <https://www.indefenseofplants.com/podcast/tag/black+walnut> (A great recent recording that is finding there is little evidence that Black Walnut trees are that bad for natives.)

Paw-paws!

- <https://mgnv.org/?s=pawpaw> (about paw-paws)
- https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ASTR (paw-paw propagation)

Suggestions and Other Helpful Comments from Doug Tallamy Chat

Changing your mindset

- I think if we choose to see our property as something we belong too rather than something that belongs to us, we will see changes in how we steward what we belong to.
- Learn to love the sign of insects eating your plants!

Protecting against deer browse

- Deer cages should be secured, usually with stakes. For each cage, use two or three 4' tall rebar can be sledgehammered into place woven into the wire cages. Very effective.

Getting neighbors on board

- I made a deal with my neighbors. If they don't spray, I'd bring them flowers, herbs, and vegetables all year. Everybody's happy and my garden is more productive.
- Strategically place plants that attract bees not next to sidewalks or walkways where people frequent.
- Use bird baths, artwork, fences, signs for intentionality.
- Educate people with "bee concerns" about native bees that are not aggressive.
- In addition to showing "intentionality" of your native plant garden with edging etc., you can also use recognizable native plants like coneflower which - while not necessarily strictly native to NOVA - help people understand that it is on purpose and not weeds (because they may not recognize others).
- When you start your conversion to natives, remember to consider what it will look like in the winter, when most herbaceous perennials have "died back." It's nice to incorporate one or more trees that have interesting bark in the winter, e.g. red stick dogwood.
- Join your HOA Board! I'm on 6th year with HOA Board. People can see the positive changes.
- In my experience, the native bees--and wasps!--could care less about humans--they are just going for the natives. Also, use stepping stones, preferably made from recycled rubber or other materials. It will also help you navigate your native landscape!
- To give a specific edge to my shade garden, I used a foot-wide strip of violets. I do have to adjust it every year or two, just by digging up and transplanting violet clumps that are "out of line." But they provide a low-growing edge that does look great during the growing season and is under my leaf mulch in winter.
- We've had success in our neighborhood by planting a traffic island with mostly native plants. Our garden club is holding an annual native plant sale in our neighborhood. Surprisingly, many neighbors are now growing natives, mostly in strips along the edge of their front yards.
- Changing a small portion of lawn to natives (with a design in mind) at a time, gradually, will help to transform opinions, too.

Pest management

- For roaches, try mixing Borax and unsweetened cocoa powder and setting it out on an index card.
- Bats eat mosquitos! Bat houses need to be like 4 feet big, I forget the measurement, but most bat houses sold are too small for them to over winter.

How to tackle lawn reduction

- I like Alan Ford's suggestion of take another foot away from grass every year.
- I am currently replacing 1,000 square feet of lawn for a pollinator garden/meadow. I killed the lawn by smothering it for 12 months with cardboard. I just picked up a truck load of plants from Earth Sangha today to plant a meadow. Yes, it is a lot of work but worth it to me.

Paw-paws!

- Pawpaws need to go through a winter in damp soil. Young plants before 3 years HAVE TO GROW in part shade. A tomato cage with burlap can create this if there is too much sun.
- I have a paw paw patch that I grew from seeds, that have successfully produced fruit. I have shared seeds with local community members.
- Some paw paws sprout "babies" nearby that are new trees. If you know a couple people with these paw paws, ask or barter for a sapling.
- Pawpaws are easy to propagate -- VNPS-Potowmack Chapter has seedlings for sale, 1st Wed of Oct.
- There are plant swap groups on social media where you can get paw paws for free.

Trees & Advocacy

- I have Rick Darke & Doug Tallamy's book, The Living Landscape. In the back they have lists of native trees, shrubs and plants for many areas. In our mid-Atlantic area he states that oaks support 557 caterpillars and hickories support around 235 caterpillars. That's still a lot of caterpillars and both provide nutritious nuts for mammals. So a mixture of oaks and hickories sounds terrific. Maples also support around 300 caterpillars. Hope this helps. the book is terrific.
- If you have the energy, it is best to address tree preservation in Fairfax at the time the developer is seeking a permit to develop. My neighbors were able to get a development limited and require additional groundwater protections for our downstream neighborhood by testifying at the planning hearings.
- FC has a tree ordinance. If you have concerns about tree removal contact your district supervisor directly. Each Magisterial district has a land use committee to which large development projects need to present their plans. AT those meetings you can ask developers to save more trees though the Fairfax County ordinance still allows tree removal. We have to ask our magisterial district supervisors to step in and support strengthening the Tree Ordinance in Fairfax County.
- Each of us needs to use our voices to advocate for improving the Tree Ordinance in Fairfax County. The Fairfax County Tree Commission issued policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in September 2021. To date, and I'm not certain or this, I do not think a satisfactory action-based response to these recommendations has been made.
- In Prince William County we have had a successful campaign to use native plants on county land. Advocacy and lobbying your elected officials does work.

- Very few native fruit trees other than pawpaw and elderberry. Apples, pears, peaches, etc. are all non-native. However, you can have native blueberries and black raspberries. As for native "vegetables" you can look for forager websites. There is a fun one under "Black Forager" or something like that...by a very enthusiastic young woman. I also like "Eat the Weeds" by a guy out of Florida.
- The US Forest Service has made excellent progress on identifying ash which have survived emerald ash borer, They are doing genetic analysis on how these ash are surviving.
- Yesterday at Earth Sangha's Native Tree and Shrub Chat, Matt mentioned the Miyawaki Method for planting to restore biodiversity.
- Fyi, the Potomac Conservancy has "Growing Native"—a program of facilitating volunteers to collect acorns and other native tree seeds across the region. The goal is to collect more native ecotypes, to improve chances of survival and thriving.

Dead can be beautiful / leaving leaves, stems & snags

- Put your cut stems into a tomato basket upright.
- A dead tree can be cut to a length that won't be dangerous if it falls. That may still leave a lot of great decaying wood to support all sorts of animals.
- In a recent presentation on native trees by Master Gardeners the indication was that you could retain a snag of 6 to 15 feet.
- You can leave the leaves in ornamental beds even in spring. It is only a human visual interest in removing them and cleaning everything. They break down and form free mulch as they rot. Combining leaving the leaves and leaving the stems up for overwintering insects with retaining 12-18" of stems when you do tidy up in spring is a good practice. The plants grow right over the stems you have left and after only a few weeks you can't see last year's stems because the new growth has grown taller.
- Having a knowledgeable arborist check your yard every couple of years is good practice. Since I have nesting hummingbirds, I instructed the guys pruning our trees to leave some smaller dead branches for the hummers to use as perches. As long as the bottom 10-15 feet of tree isn't going to hit a house if it falls in the wrong direction, we can leave them. I put a sign on a dead dogwood that said "Woodpecker Feeder" so my neighbors would get the idea that I had left it on purpose.
- You could also remove the tree snag or stump that is tipping over and move it to another location where it won't hit your house or car if it falls. Perhaps you could even prop it up next to another tree as if it had fallen naturally and landed leaning on another tree. Tree wood is important above ground habitat for birds and insects.