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## *Naturescape Your Yard*

The Naturescaping Workbook: A Step-by-Step Guide for Bringing Nature to Your Backyard By  
Beth Young, photographs by Karen Bussolini (Timber Press)

- Organic yard, Natureworks.
- Organic snacks
- Where everything that runs off my yard goes.

### How Nature arranges itself

- Forest layers
- Bent of River Audubon, Southbury, CT
- Suburban Pennsylvania
- Patterns of warm and cool season plants, moist and dry soils
- Larry Weaner meadow, carefully composed by soil and moisture, path between zones
- Garden under the native forest canopy, Jorgensen/Petersen garden
- Yard transformation by student in Beth Young's Naturescape student

### Know Your Place

- Switchbacks and drywells for water infiltration, Westover Landscape Design
- Covering ground, no straight runs. Karen Bussolini garden
- Japanese garden, moss
- Hay-scented ferns, Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), *Cornus Canadensis*

### Right Plant/Right Place

- Silvers, succulents for baking sun
- Earth-sheltered house by Alan Shope, plantings Singing Brook Gardens
- Epimediums for dry shade (*E. x. rubrum*)
- Penstemon hirsutis seeded in rock ledge, Ostrich ferns in moist deep soil: Larry Weaner Landscape Design
- Dry and wet places can be very close: Coastal Maine Botanical Garden
- Prairie plants and wetland plants, Karen Bussolini design/install
- Dry shade or full sun? Karen Bussolini design/install

### Your Place

- Front yard by Natureworks, CT
- Joanne Kostecky Design: layers, edges with Red oak, winterberry, *Rhus aromatica* 'Grow-low', *Cornus sericea* 'Baileyi' in bird lover's yard

- Jorgensen/Petersen privacy and views. *Betula nigra* 'Heritage', Maine
- Kansas City urban refuge
- Sugar maples, Lynden Miller, CT

#### Native Plants

- *Cornus kousa* "Temple Jewel"
- *Cornus kousa* fruits
- Native dogwood (*Cornus florida*); Larry Weaner Landscape Design
- Dogwood fruits
- caterpillars
- Fritillary butterflies on Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Purple coneflower
- Sugar maple tree
- Maple seeds
- Moosewood flowers
- Moosewood fall foliage:
- Spicebush – nature planted, I prune
- Spicebush fruit
- Musclewood, American hornbeam, *Carpinus caroliniana*
- American hornbeam arch
- Hophornbeam, Ironwood– *Ostrya virginiana*

#### 3 Big Problems

- Deer
- Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Invasives (*Barberry*, *B. thunbergii*, *B. vulgaris*)
- Mindless maintenance: This shows thoughtful editing to preserve forest layers, let in light, open views, by Larry Weaner Landscape Design

#### Natives in Layers

- Before and after, Karen Bussolini design/install, Byram, CT (5 views); *Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima', *Boltonia asteroides* 'Pink Beauty'
- Larry Weaner design – native/suburban
- Preserving and editing forest canopy, clearings = paths lined up with windows for views.

#### Jorgensen/Petersen

- Plant next generation of canopy trees (sugar maples)
- Virginia fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), understory tree
- Silverbell, *Halesia Carolina*
- Shadblow allee – Deborah Munson
- Bottlebrush buckeye, *Aesculus parviflora*
- Fothergilla 'Mt. Airy'
- Oak-leaf hydrangea fall foliage
- In the understory, native *Rhododendron vaseyi* – Pink shell azalea, with *Diphylleia cymosa*, the umbrella plant, on ground layer
- *Tiarella cordifolia* on the ground layer
- *Phlox divaricata*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Adiantum pedatum*
- Common juniper, red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) in sun.
- *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Wiltonii'
- *Juniperus virginiana* 'Blue Arrow'
- *Comptonia peregrina*, sweet fern
- *Aster oblongifolius* 'October Skies'

#### Selective Maintenance

- Remove invasives and natives will return if in seedbank
- Weaner, white birches, meadowsweet spiraea (*S. latifolia*)
- Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), Hay-scented ferns
- Larry Weaner: meadow restored by timed mowing
- Weaner, PA woods: protected oak seedling; invasives in foreground; *Senecio aureus* beyond
- Where *Senecio aureus* planted, out-competed invasives; Golden Alexanders, *Zizia aurea*
- Virginia creeper, Columbine, *Allium cernuum*
- Columbine and *Heuchera villosa* in gravel limestone.

#### Welcome Wildlife

- Organic garden by Natureworks: Diversity
- Attracting beneficial insects: Achillea
- Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'
- Sterile and fertile flowers, Hydrangea
- Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritime* 'Gulf Winds')
- Lobularia 'Snow Princess'
- Crocus tommasinianus 'Barr's Purple' and honeybee
- Monarda fistulosa, Tiger swallowtail – shape of flower
- Butterfly containers, with mud and larval food plants
- Phlox stolonifera
- Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
- Elderberries (*Sambucus Canadensis* 'Laciniata')
- Winter: Winterberries (*Ilex verticillata*), Bayberry
- Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) - timing
- Grey dogwood, (*Cornus racemosa*), timing and nutrition
- Northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) – seeds in winter
- Shagbark hickory – insects

#### Water, Shelter, Space

- Sound of water, shallow water
- Shelter, niches in space: Larry Weaner Landscape Design
- Space – for wildlife and people

#### Feeding Ourselves

- Lee Reich, kiwis, grapes on arbor, utilitarian vegetable garden, orchard
- Thyrza Whittemore potager
- Bunny Williams, dill and dianthus
- My 'Osaka Purple' mustard spinach, golden feverfew
- My 'White Russian' kale, winterproof container, alyssum, rue
- My cut and come again mesclun in bulb crate lined with straw
- Tomatos, herbs, eggplant, nasturtiums, Chanticleer Gardens
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Blueberry hedge, designed meadow, formal lawn (L. Weaner)

#### Resources: Water, garden debris and the junk in your garage

- Planted roof, cistern, rain garden
- Rain garden from gutter, L. Weaner
- Guiding runoff with path, edging; Plantscapes
- Terrace set in sand, tiny lawn; Eleanor McKinney, landscape architect
- lawn replaced with gravel gardens
- soaker hose
- composting kitchen waste
- Tree sections as plant stage; Westover Landscape Design

- Planted trunk of dead tree for wildlife, L. Weaner
- Mulching mower, leaves in raised vegetable bed
- Woodland shrubs need leaves; water for winter if fall is dry
- Locally available mulch
- Stick trellis
- Thyrza Whittemore twig sculpture
- Plastic garden waste
- Architectural salvage, Austin: Big Red Sun
- Repurposing metal gate: Tom Peace, Denver
- Containers built from scrap metal
- Repurposed sidewalk
- Chain "steppingstones" in gravel
- Hibachi planter
- Garden bench made from car chassis by artist Bob Keating

#### Lawns

- Replacing grass on steep slope: Carole Ottesen
- Thickets: *Rhus aromatica* 'Grow-Low'
- Neat strip around the edge, acceptability to neighbors
- Plan lawn, drought-resistant native low grass, berms
- Lawn alternative – Thymes
- Hot exposed sunny area – replace with herbs: Robin Zitter
- Grass doesn't want to grow in shade: beds and paths
- Lawn in sunniest part of shady yard
- Nature's shady lawn, Robin Zitter
- Screech owl
- Suburban woodland garden, Singing Brook Gardens
- Backyard Naturescape
- Coastal Maine Botanical Garden – sedges, lady's slippers

#### Resources:

The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds by Stephen W. Kress, (Audubon/Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy, (Timber Press)

Edible Landscaping by Rosalind Creasy (Sierra Club Books)

The Homeowner's Complete Tree & Shrub Handbook by Penelope O'Sullivan (Storey Publishing)

Noah's Garden by Sara Stein (Houghton Mifflin)

The Organic Lawn Care Manual by Paul Tukey (Storey Publishing)

[www.bringingnaturehome.com](http://www.bringingnaturehome.com)

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

[www.naturework.com](http://www.naturework.com)

[www.organiclandcare.net](http://www.organiclandcare.net)

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