



Hometown Habitat

Discussion Guide

Film Introduction

Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home features renowned entomologist Dr. Douglas Tallamy, whose research, books and lectures on the use of non-native plants in landscaping, sound the alarm about habitat and species loss. Tallamy provides the narrative thread that challenges the notion that humans are here and nature is someplace else. Tallamy says, “It doesn’t have to, and shouldn’t be that way.”

Producer/Director, Catherine Zimmerman and film crew spent two years traveling the country to visit *Hometown Habitat* heroes. Their inspiring stories of community commitment to conservation landscaping illustrate Tallamy’s vision by showing how humans and nature can co-exist with mutual benefits.

Zimmerman shares these success stories and works in progress, that re-awaken and redefine our relationship with Nature. The goal: Build a new army of habitat heroes and make natural landscaping the new landscaping norm.

Hometown Habitat is presented in eight segments that present the compelling case to plant native plants.

- Doug Tallamy-The Basics
- Ecosystem Services
- Water Conservation
- Environmental Art Solutions
- Sustainable Practices—Redefining the Horticulture Industry
- Restoration and Conservation Development
- Interfaith Environmental Movement
- Environmental Activism

Suggested Discussion Questions

The vision behind *Hometown Habitat*, Stories of Bringing Nature Home is to inspire conservation landscaping, making native plants the default choice instead of non-native plants and lawn. We don't have to eliminate non-native plants and lawns, but we need to, as Doug Tallamy suggests in the film, to flip the current landscaping paradigm, which favors massive lawns and non-native shrubs and perennials to one which favors native plants, ecosystem health, and co-existence with nature.

Hometown Habitat is a two-disk set. Disk one plays the full 90-minute film. Disk two plays the film in chapters as a tool for targeted audiences such as congregations, homeowner associations, landscape designers, nurseries, city councils, parks and recreation divisions, and land developers. The chapters can also be incorporated into school lesson plans as prompts for environmental sustainability discussion and action.

- What were your immediate takeaways from the film? What did you like? Are you more inspired to use native plants now?
- Would you be interested in influencing municipalities, private companies, places of worship, schools, and individuals to take new approaches to landscaping to improve green infrastructure in the places we live?
- Where can we find native plants? How can we let nurseries know you want native plant choices.
- Can you give examples of native plant success stories in your area?
- How might we use social media to spread the word about the importance of native plants.
- Let's talk about daily access to nature for our children to foster their love of local nature? School programs? What projects can you encourage in the community?
- Native plants and water quality in your neighborhood?
- Share the *Hometown Habitat* website with your friends and family. www.themeadowproject.com