



MAKE YOUR GARDEN A HOME FOR BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, & OTHER CRITTERS

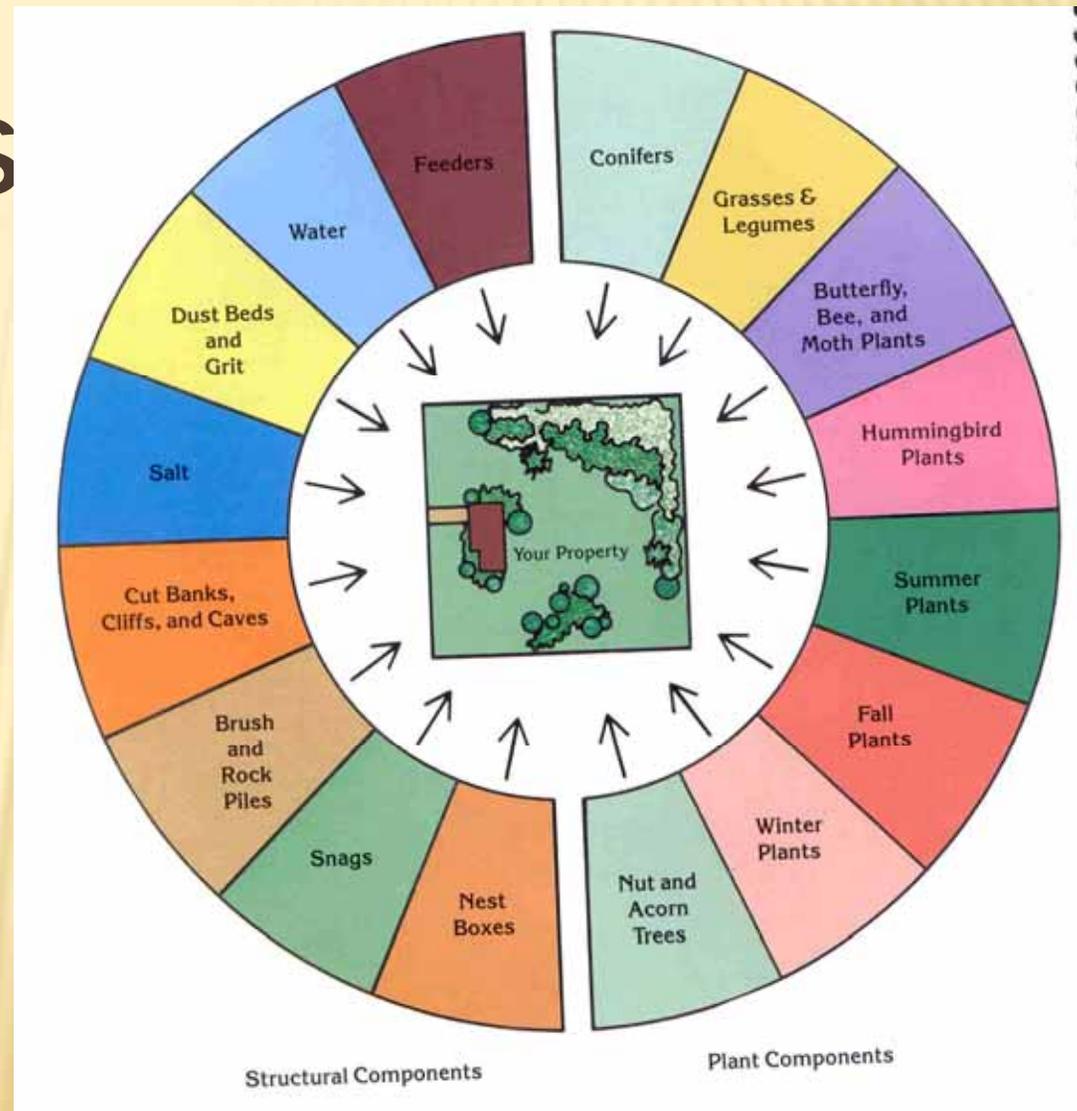
Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist,
Vilas County Land & Water Conservation



TALK OUTLINE

- ✘ Structural & plant components of wildlife habitat
- ✘ Design options
- ✘ Sources
- ✘ Ask questions at any time!

STRUCTURAL AND PLANT COMPONENTS OF WILDLIFE HABITAT



BIRD FEEDERS

- ✘ Provide supplemental food
- ✘ For best results, provide feeding areas with 'clusters' of 4-5 different feeders that have different kinds of foods
- ✘ A protective shelter of poles, brush, & grass can be built up near the feeders to enhance a potential site
- ✘ Maintain feeders all winter as wildlife will become dependent on your hospitality in cold snaps especially



Structural component

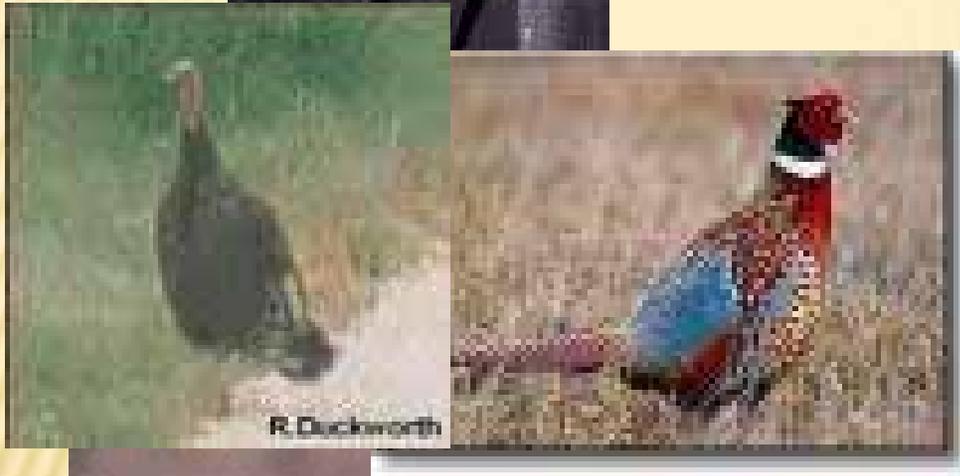
WATER FEATURES



- ✘ Vital component in wildlife habitat, often overlooked on uplands near lakes
- ✘ Attracts songbirds, mammals, small reptiles, amphibians, & insects
- ✘ Can be provided in many forms from a dripping source to bird baths to backyard ponds, waterfalls, to natural springs, creeks, or ponds
- ✘ Dripping or flowing water is more attractive to wildlife than still water

Structural component

DUST BEDS & GRIT



- ✘ Both dust & grit are used by many wild birds to satisfy special needs
- ✘ Bobwhite quail, pheasants, turkey, & other birds control external parasites by dusting
- ✘ Mourning doves are an example of a bird that uses grit for digestion

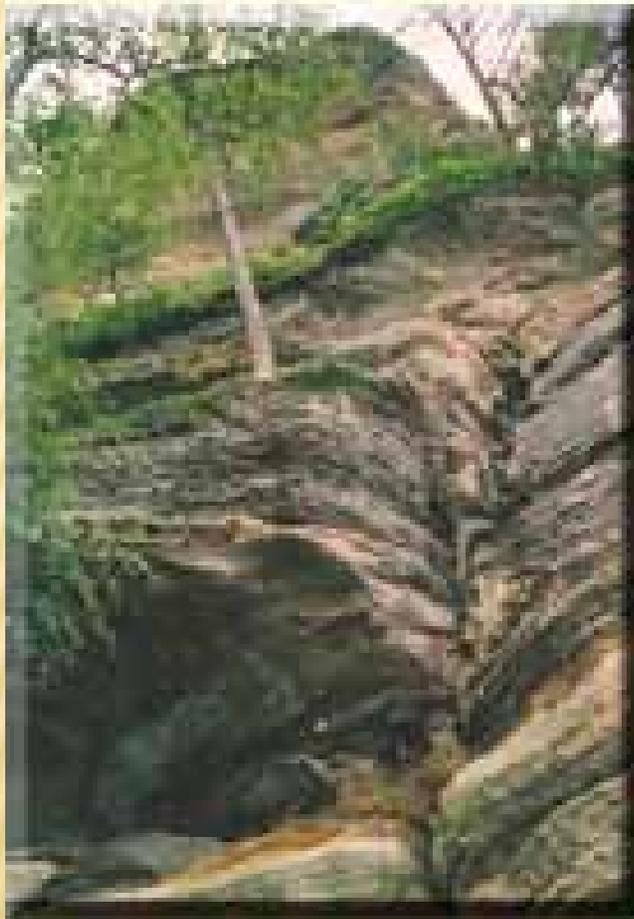
SALT



- ✘ Salt & other trace elements are essential components of wildlife habitat
- ✘ Animals like deer, moose, pine grosbeaks, & crossbills will actively seek out salt
- ✘ Consult your local game warden or conservation officer before placing salt out

Structural component

CUT BANKS, CLIFFS, & CAVES



- ✘ Unlikely you can create them, important features to maintain if you have them on your property
- ✘ Sites for kingfishers, bats, bank swallows, etc.
- ✘ Exposed cut banks in old gravel pits used by badgers, red foxes, coyotes & woodchucks
- ✘ Caves vital to bats & some invertebrates

BRUSH PILES, ROCK PILES, & FALLEN TREES

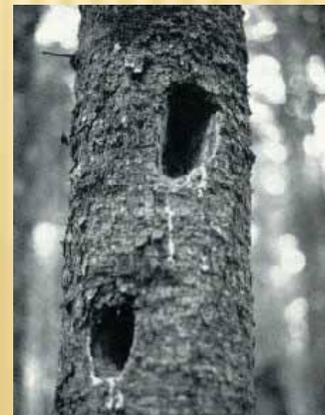


- ✘ Provide escape cover, nesting sites & den sites for cottontail rabbits, weasels, woodchucks, skunk, fox, snakes, & other species
- ✘ Important to reptile & amphibian habitat if placed on the edge of a small pond with part of the pile submerged
- ✘ Rock piles can be excellent duck & turtle loafing sites if placed out in the water
- ✘ Choose an unobtrusive location that offers some shelter from prevailing winds
- ✘ Consider nearby features such as the proximity of birdfeeders, water or other landscaping

Structural component

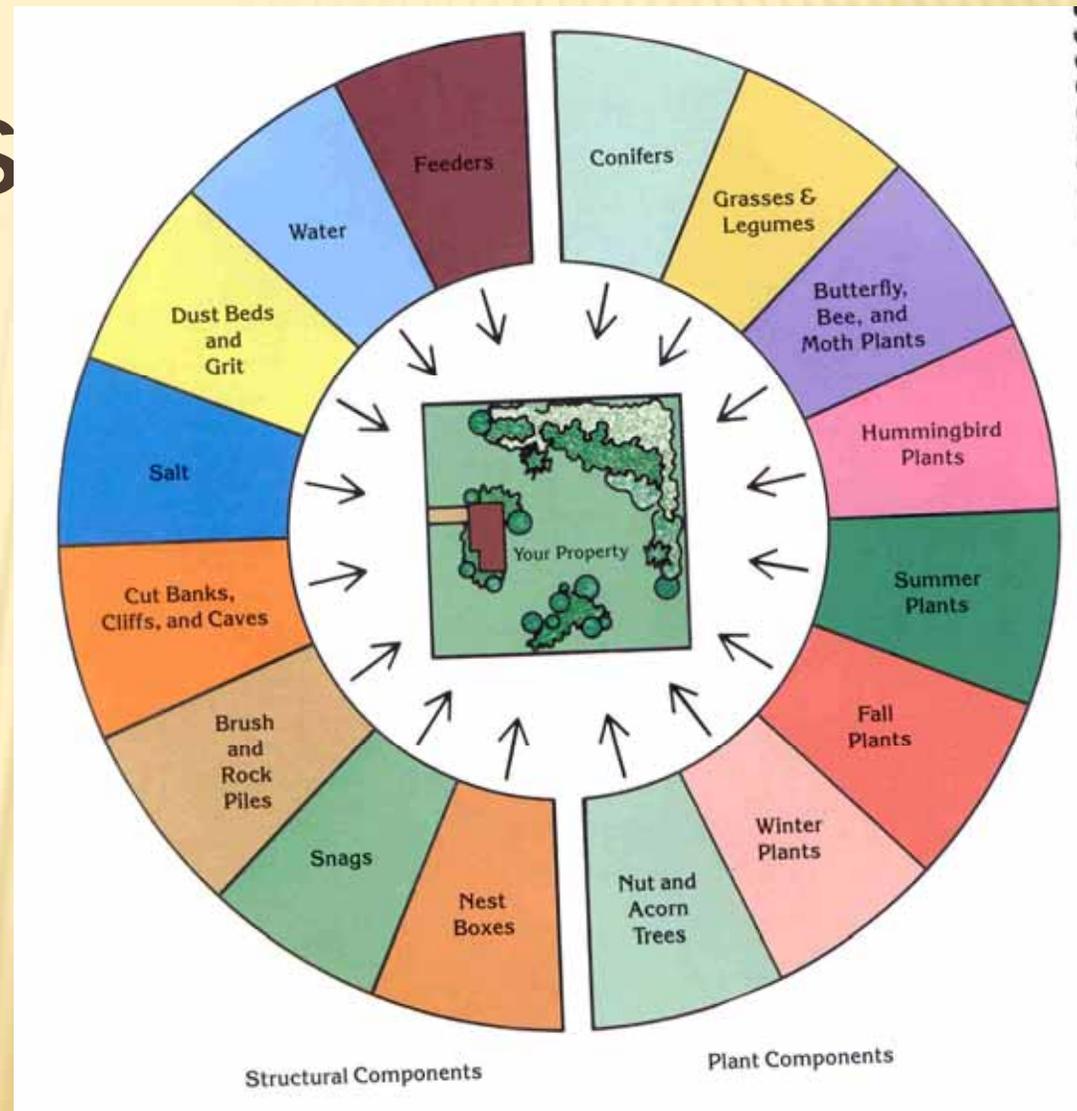
DEAD TREES (SNAGS) & PERCHES

- ✘ A 'snag' is a dead or dying tree; and to wildlife, a snag is a version of fast food
- ✘ 43 species of birds & at least 26 mammal species in the Midwest use snags as nesting sites, for perching sites, for territorial establishment, & as a food source
- ✘ A snag should be at least 6" in diameter X 15' tall or larger
- ✘ Snags can be good locations to place suet feeders
- ✘ Consider leaving large logs on the ground



Structural component

STRUCTURAL AND PLANT COMPONENTS OF WILDLIFE HABITAT



CONIFERS



- ✘ Critical escape cover
- ✘ Winter shelter
- ✘ Summer nesting sites
- ✘ Sap, needles, twigs, buds, and seeds eaten by wildlife

Plant component

GRASSES & LEGUMES



- ✘ Ground nesting habitat
- ✘ Forage for plant-eating animals
- ✘ Cover for ground nesting birds' young
- ✘ Hunting grounds for fox, raptors, owls, coyotes, weasels and skunks

PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLIES, BEES & MOTHS



- ✘ Attract Midwest's 200 + species of butterflies, moths, & bees
- ✘ Supply caterpillars need for food & nectar sources for butterflies
- ✘ Herbs are great for bees, moths, & butterflies
- ✘ Bee plants include fruit trees & shrubs, berries, daffodils, lilacs, & pussy willows



HUMMINGBIRD PLANTS



- ✘ Ruby-throated hummingbirds common locally
- ✘ Flower nectar & tiny insects are the preferred diet
- ✘ Tubular red flowers attractive to hummingbirds
- ✘ Spread plants in bloom over season like columbine, bergamot, lobelias, salvia, scarlet trumpet vine, etc.

SUMMER FRUIT, BERRY, & COVER PLANTS



- ✘ Plant a landscape with 3 layers of cover, trees, shrubs, and ground cover, which provide food and nesting cover from May through August
- ✘ Fruit, berry, & seed plants
- ✘ Shrubs that form thickets



FALL FRUITS, GRAINS, & COVER PLANTS

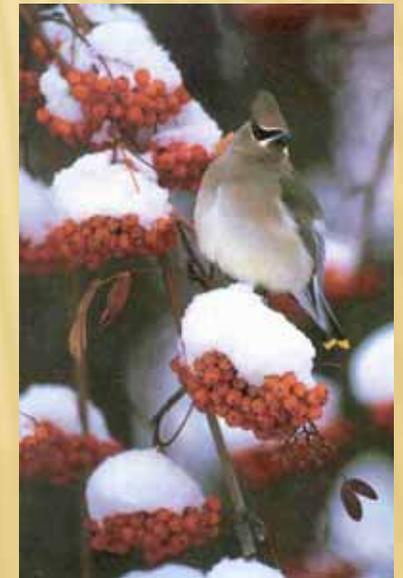
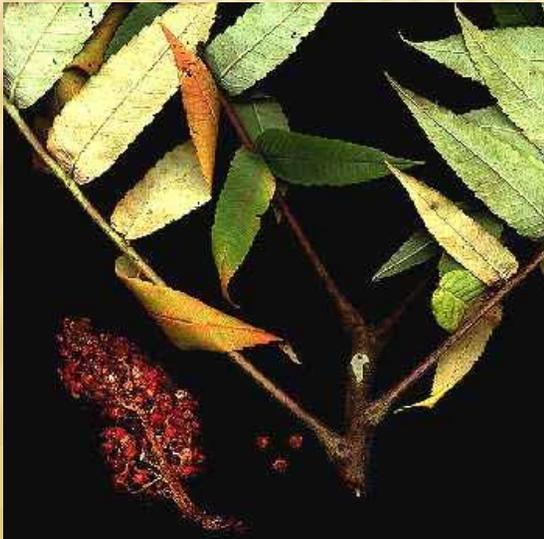


- ✘ Landscape includes shrubs, grasses/grains, & cover plants ripening in fall

WINTER FRUITS & COVER PLANTS



- ✘ Best winter wildlife plants are characterized by two qualities: persistence & low appeal to wildlife when they first mature



Plant component

NUT & ACORN PLANTS



- ✘ Hardwood trees good long term investment in wildlife production
- ✘ Significant food in fall & winter for white-tailed deer, turkey, ducks, squirrels, ruffed grouse, black bear, & other species
- ✘ Many of these species also contain natural cavities that are used by up to 96 species of wildlife

LANDSCAPE DESIGN



- ✘ Map your property
- ✘ Identify your use areas
- ✘ Identify spots/sections to change
- ✘ Use models suited to your ecosystem

BIRD SAFETY

- ✘ Protect birds from cats
- ✘ Protect birds from windows (place feeders <3 or >30 feet from windows)
- ✘ Keep feeders/bird baths clean



WILDLIFE SAFETY

- ✘ Protect critters from cats
- ✘ Take in or make attractants inaccessible, especially at night
- ✘ Limit Chemical use



PLANT SAFETY

- ✘ Don't feed deer and other critters
- ✘ Fence or spray until plants are established
- ✘ Water





SMALL BORDER ESTABLISHED FOR POLLINATORS



PRAIRIE ESTABLISHED FOR BIRDS, INSECTS, MAMMALS AND AMPHIBIANS.



Restore native
vegetation on
a shoreline



Install or preserve a hedgerow

Maintain the native habitat on your property





DESIGNED BORDER Piet Oudolf designer



NATIVE PLANT SPECIES USED IN FORMAL DESIGNS

Piet Oudolf designed garden Bury Court England



NATIVE PLANT SPECIES USED IN FORMAL DESIGNS

Piet Oudolf designed park



NATIVE PLANT SPECIES USED IN INFORMAL DESIGN

Piet Oudolf designed landscape

SOURCES

- × Native plant species lists
- × WI DNR - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/yourland.html>
- × National Wildlife Foundation – has certification - <http://www.nwf.org/>
- × Wild Ones - <http://www.wildones.org/>
- × Noah's Garden by Sara Stein

QUESTIONS ?

