

# **GARDENING WITH WILDLIFE FROM A HABITAT PERSPECTIVE**

**Presented by Tom Flatt  
Morgan County Master Gardener**

- A. Welcome, history of property, yard and garden design strategy
  - The design strategy is to have an attractive production garden with a vista view.
  - Wildlife viewing with minimal wildlife damage is an objective.
  
- B. Program title, speaker credentials, program objective
  - The program objective is to give you an understanding of how your development of wildlife habitat has a direct relationship to the kind of wildlife damage you can expect and how you can prevent it.
  - How to deal with a skunk in a live trap
  - Latest nuisance wildlife regulations
  - See if program is worthy of developing as a PowerPoint presentation
  
- C. Truisms to remember
  - You create it and they will come
  - Wildlife is generally present for three reasons. 1) They live there, 2) They feed there. 3) They are traveling between where they live and feed. My wildlife management strategy is to deny them a place to live and feed, but view them as they travel to those places.
  - No wildlife damage prevention measure is 100% effective. Effective damage control usually means employing several measures.
  - Always manage for no wildlife damage.
  - Never feed or treat wildlife as pets

D. Privacy fence and silver maple planting beds

- Landscape perspective (aerial photograph)
- Large lawns can be used as a wildlife damage prevention measure. Animals do not like to be exposed to potential predators. Feeding will largely negate this control measure.
- Only problem has been with animals digging up fresh plantings

E. Bird feeders

- No cracked corn or suet
- Caged to keep out squirrels and large birds

F. House

- Avoid shrubs and structures the animals can live in.

G. Storage shed and covered truck

- Block poisons effective at preventing mice damage to truck wiring
- Deep foundation to storage shed deny burrowing animals a place to live.

H. Use of traps

- Live traps most widely used
- Can use leg hold traps, but you can injure a non-target species
- Indiana wildlife regulations have recently been modified to remove the 72 hour conservation office notification after the taking of most depredating fur bearers (not rabbits).
- Must have permission of property owner for relocated animals or they can be killed.

I. Strawberry patch

- Net for birds, chicken wire for something else

J. Wood pile

- Elevate to deny home for snakes and groundhogs
- Can kill non-poisonous snakes that are not listed as endangered without a DNR permit

K. Garden

- 24-inch chicken wire for rabbits
- Electric fence for deer and raccoons
- Reflectors for birds and deer
- Large yard for animal exposure
- Owl for birds and rabbits

L. Proven Deer damage prevention measures

- 8-foot fence, electric fence, dogs, habitat management, repellants, shooting (hunting season, DNR depredation permit)

M. Grape vines

- Netting for birds and deer
- Can shoot depredating blackbirds, starlings, house sparrows and crows, all other birds are protected.

N. Apple trees

- Chicken wire around tree trunks for deer, plastic 4-inch drain pipe for rodents and weed-whipper

O. Raspberry patch

- Plastic mesh netting for deer and birds
- Example of how netting can be used as a deer barrier

P. Bald cypress trees

- Round chicken wire cage for deer

Q. Moles

- The only proven, effective method is trapping
- Demonstrate spear trap

R. A word about geese

- The most effective method for keeping geese off your property is to allow the development of a barrier between your yard and the water. Allow cattails and willows to grow or plant shrubs at water's edge

S. End of program

- Questions and turn in evaluation

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EVALUATION FORM

BEST PARTS OF THE PROGRAM:

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AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENTS:

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DOES THE SUBJECT MATTER FILL AN INFORMATION/EDUCATION  
NEED WORTHY OF DEVELOPMENT INTO A POWERPOINT  
PRESENTATION? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ CONDITIONAL\* MAYBE \_\_\_\_

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