

Urban Wildlife

Vol 9 No 3
April 22, 2011

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Special Features: Sci Spy iPhone App

This iPhone application from Discovery allows you to capture photos of the natural world and share them with others. The application has designated “mission” areas, including “at your birdfeeder,” “in the woods,” and “urban wildlife.” You can also see what other citizen scientists have sighted and shared.

To learn more visit: <http://scispy.discovery.com/>

Next-Door Nature Blog

This blog provides insightful and entertaining perspectives on urban wildlife, from tips to help protect animals to information about new research. Updated weekly, the blog also highlights “Next-Door Nature Photos of the Week” and answers questions submitted by readers. The Next-Door Nature blog is written by Dr. Kieran Lindsey, a faculty member at Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources and Environment.

To view the Next-Door Nature blog visit: <http://nextdoornature.org/>

Upcoming Event: 2011 International Urban Wildlife Planning and Management Conference

This conference, hosted by the Wildlife Society – Urban Wildlife Working Group and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will focus on meeting the challenges of urban ecosystem management, featuring topics such as planning and development strategies, examining urban ecosystems, and understanding linkages and research needs. The program includes exhibits, presentations, networking opportunities, and optional guided tours. The conference will be held May 22-25 in Austin, Texas.

To learn more about this conference visit: <http://urbanwildlife2011.tpwd.state.tx.us/>

Research: Baltimore Birdscape Study

Dr. Charles Nilon of the University of Missouri-Columbia and collaborators studied how land-use and vegetation variables affect bird monitoring in urban areas to aid in the development of a long-term bird-monitoring project in Baltimore. Further research is being conducted on the abundance and composition of vertebrate species as part of the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, which is an on-going research project that examines the changes in Baltimore's metropolitan ecosystems, focusing on biological, physical, and social sciences.

To learn more about the Baltimore Birdscape Study visit:

http://www.urbanhabitats.org/v06n01/baltimore_full.html

To learn more about Dr. Nilon's research visit: <http://www.snr.missouri.edu/fw/faculty/nilon-c.php>

To learn more about the Baltimore Ecosystem Study visit: <http://www.beslter.org/>

In the News: San Antonio woman welcomes urban wildscape

The corner lot at 12803 Castle George St. didn't always look so interesting.

Its owner, a former financial advisor, said she once paid more attention to what was on her feet than in her front yard.

But Stephanie Jones and the one-third of an acre she lives on have transformed since her retirement from USAA.

While she traded in her business suits for blue jeans, her family's front yard became a standout among habitat enthusiasts and has qualified as a Texas Wildscape as defined by the state.

Live oaks, blue sage, rosemary and red yucca mix with Mexican wild olive, mountain laurel and other plants native to Texas.

Blue jays, doves and cardinals are regular guests at several bird baths nestled among the plants, and Jones has spotted deer, raccoons and squirrels visiting the property, located near Shavano Park.

"I once had a shoe fetish," Jones said. "I've traded that for plants."

To view the full article visit:

http://www.mysanantonio.com/community/north_central/news/article/San-Antonio-woman-welcomes-urban-wildscape-1323522.php

Literature: Urban Wildlife Management

This textbook, currently in its second edition, provides a comprehensive guide to understanding and managing issues related to wildlife species and habitats in urban areas. The book includes topics from population dynamics to consideration of urban streams and soils and is authored by Clark Adams, Kieran Lindsey, and Sara Ash.

To learn more about the book Urban Wildlife Management visit:

http://www.amazon.com/Urban-Wildlife-Management-Second-Clark/dp/1439804605/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1303325597&sr=8-1

Website: Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat

This National Wildlife Federation (NWF) website provides instructions to help people with land of any size create a wildlife-friendly habitat on their property. Guidelines range from details about providing food and water to how to create covered space for wildlife. There is also a section on how to certify yards through NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program. The website includes a video about the benefits of certifying wildlife habitat.

To learn more visit:

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx>