

# ***Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife***

*TAMU Nature Guides Edition*

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# People value nature

- **Nature = “very important”**
  - Natural sounds
  - Health benefits
  - “Nature deficit disorder”
  - Safe air and water

Nature?



# Nature?



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# Nature?



# What is nature?

Functioning, healthy  
ecosystem:  
Habitat.



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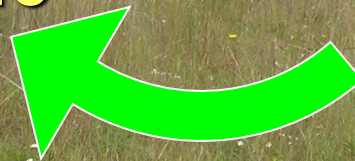
# Reading the Land

Wildlife Respond  
to Plants

Plants Respond  
to Environment

Plants Respond  
to Wildlife

Environment  
Responds  
to Plants



# Think Ecosystem!





# “Tradition?”



Reward:

Caterpillars = Butterflies



# Remember...?





Habitat



# Habitat basics

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
  - Adults
  - Nesting

# Food





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# Mexican Plum



- Early nectar
- White to pink flowers
- Shade tolerant
- Small ornamental



# Texas Redbud



- Early bloom
- Seeds and nectar
- Small tree
- Different varieties

# Turk's Cap



- Likes shade
- Hummingbirds!
- Butterflies!
- Apple-like fruit



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# Coral Honeysuckle



- “Evergreen” vine
- Hummingbirds!
- Well-mannered
- Coral-colored fruit
- 3 years to establish

# Scarlet sage



- Note: cultivars
- Annual (sets seeds)
- Hummingbirds!
- Shade tolerant
- Birds (seeds)
- Can be groundcover

# Kidneywood



- Small tree
- Grows fast!
- Blooms April – October
- Fragrant
- Pollinator magnet

# Coral bean

- Sun – part shade
- Hummingbird magnet
- Dies back in winter - trim
- Thorns



# Little bluestem

- Drought tolerant
- Promotes native wildlife
- Holds the soil
- Key component of Texas prairies and savannahs



© Hoffman Nursery



# Lindheimer Muhly



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- Seeds (birds, small mammals)
- Nesting material
- Nesting area
- Some water improves appearance

# Why not exotics?

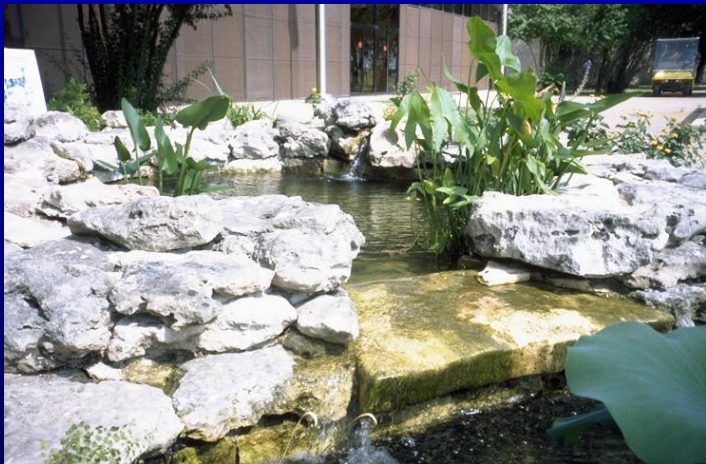


- Needy
  - Require chemicals
  - Require supplemental water
  - Require vigilance
- Weedy
  - Rapid reproduction
  - No natural controls
  - Take over habitat

# Why not exotics?



# Water



- Fresh, clean
- Accessible
- Shallow
- Vegetation

# Shelter



- Weather, predators
- Roost, nest

# Shelter: Cavities



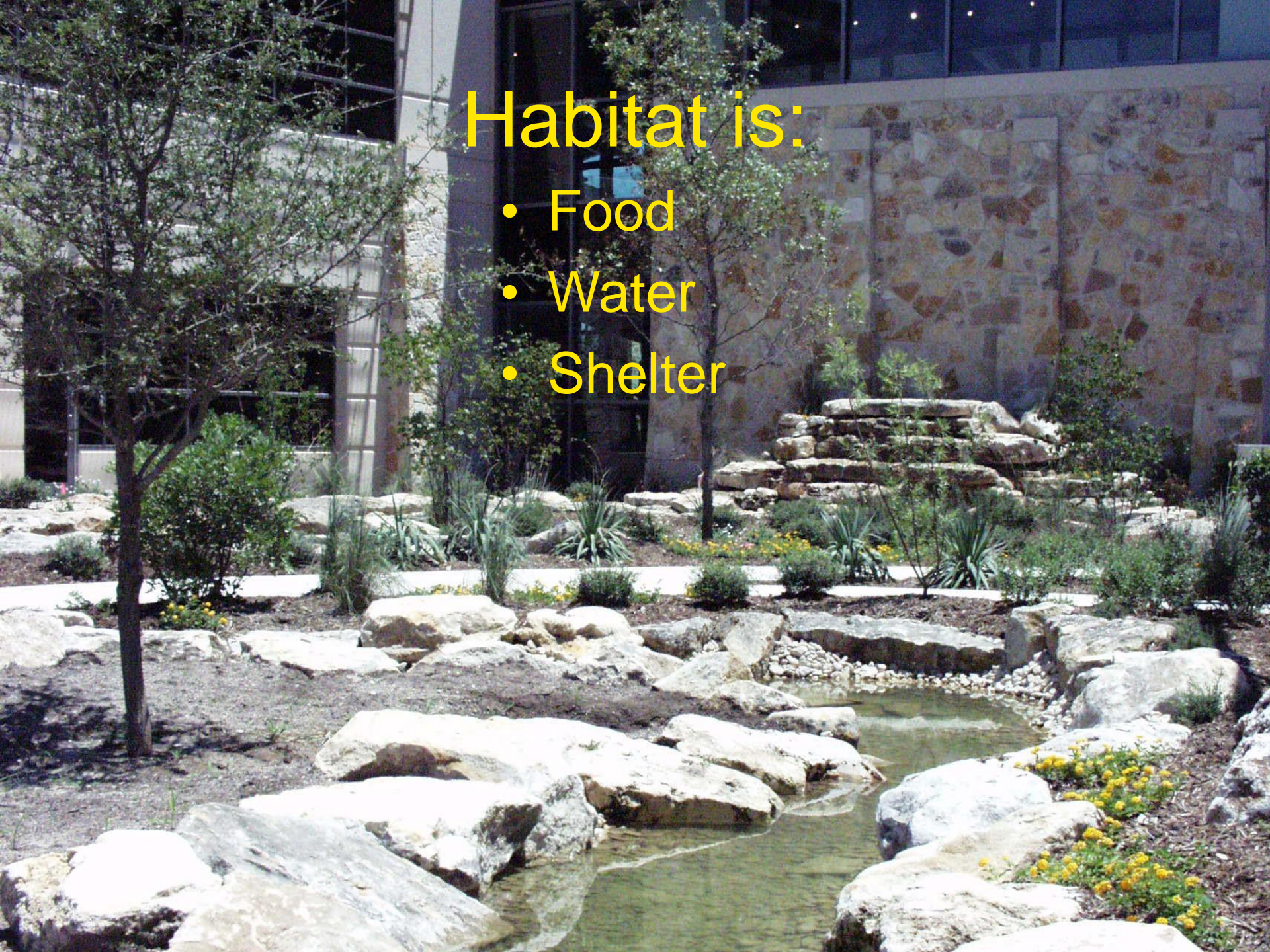
© John Davis, TPWD

# Shelter: Cavities



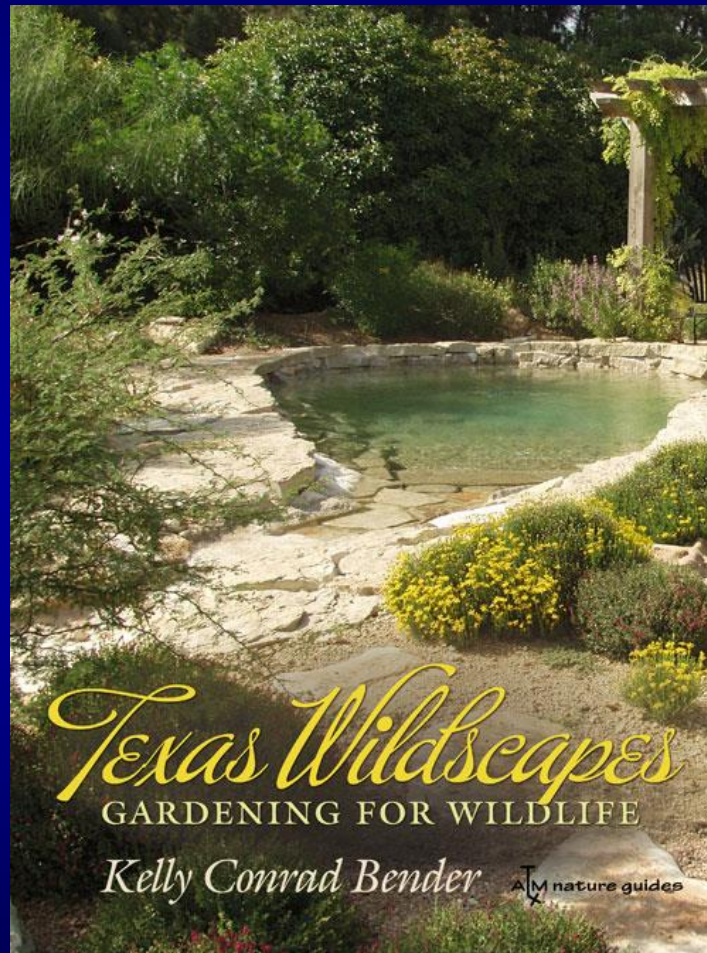
# Habitat is:

- Food
- Water
- Shelter





# Texas Wildscapes



# Show your support for wildlife!



**Conservation License Plate = \$30**

**Support for *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* = Priceless**

