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TO: HOMEBREW MAILING LIST MEMBERS
FROM: JEREMY ABEL
DATE: April 25, 2022
RE: Backyard Habitat Project

Please find below a report on your correspondent's attempt to sustain the pollinator population at [REDACTED].

ESTABLISHED HABITAT

The month of April has seen the re-emergence of several perennials in the two raised beds. HAIRY WOODMINT (*blephilia hirsuta*) and EARLY SUNRISE (*coreopsis grandiflora*) have spread to several places within six inches to a ~~five~~ foot of the original planting. WOODS PURPLE (*aster dumosus*), PURPLE POPPY MALLOW (*callirhoe involucrata*), and NEW ENGLAD ASTER (*aster novae-angliae*) have all greened up nicely. JUNE-BEARING STRAWBERRIES (*fragaria ananassa*) have spread throughout an entire quarter of one raised bed and already have several blooms and one tiny, green strawberry.

Your correspondent is concerned for the fate of the two SWAMP MILK-WEED (*asclepias incarnata*) plants. As ~~of~~ of this report, they stand bare and pale as the White Tree of Gondor awaiting the king's return.

The ENGLISH LAVENDER (*lavandula angustifolia*) has started greening up in a few spots. This morning, a GARDEN SNAIL (*helix aspersa*) was spotted climbing one of the stems.

After a period of anxious waiting, your correspondent is very glad to report that the BUTTERFLY WEED (*asclepias tuberosa*) finally emerged from the soil this past Saturday.

NONHUMAN ANIMALS

There have been several first appearances in the past week. Two BUMBLE-BEES of unidentified species were seen, along with an EASTERN YELLOW-JACKET (*vespula maculifrons*). A MILKWEED BUG (*oncopeltus fasciatus*) was in the raised beds near the location of the BUTTERFLY WEED before it emerged. Your correspondent imagines it as a priest visiting its holy site, performing resurrection rituals.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS (*chaetura pelagica*) have reappeared. They are one of your correspondent's favorite birds--so much so that several unsatisfying drafts of a poem have been attempted. Following is the latest:

Twittering, swooping, ceaselessly swerving
above the rooftops on your narrow wings:
you are the wild energy of summer evenings.
I too have felt your pulsing joy, the crackling will
to race the fading sun.

Just today there was an unexpected visitor inside the human house. A FIVE-LINED SKINK (*plestiodon fasciatus*) was found by RORY (~~felis~~ *felis catus*) and both were found by RACHEL (*homo sapiens*), who exclaimed with some urgency a request for your correspondent's presence. The FIVE-LINED SKINK was moved outside, much to the disappointment of RORY and relief of RACHEL.

PLANNED HABITAT

Your correspondent has paid to have two areas cleared of woody stumps and lava rock, leaving behind room for more native plantings. These you can see as OPEN AREA 1 and OPEN AREA 2 on the attached MAP (not to scale).

The plan for OPEN AREA 1 is to plant CREEPING PHLOX (*phlox subulata*). OPEN AREA 1 lays beside the sidewalk, which passes into the front yard between the fence on the right side and existing bushes to the left. CREEPING PHLOX will help keep this area passable by staying low to the ground, which is also necessary since the water spigot is in the same area.

OPEN AREA 2 ~~is~~ is formerly the home of CHICKENS (*gallus domesticus*), who now live with the AMISH (*homo sapiens*, Swartzentruber sect). At the rear of OPEN AREA 2, the plan is to plant RED W SWITCH GRASS (*panicum virgatum*) and OSTRICH FERN (*matteuccia struthiopteris*). In the ~~area~~ area toward the front, the plan is to plant the following: PURPLE CONE-FLOWERN(*echinacea purpurea*), BUTTERFLY WEED, and HAIRY WOODMINT.

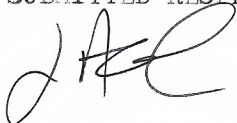
OTHER MATTERS

Your correspondent has found the website of the INDIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (indiananativeplants.org) to be an invaluable resource. Particularly interesting is their program to propagate native plants from wild seed.

Your correspondent has enjoyed using the SEEK app to identify non-human species in the area.

Finally, the aesthetics of the backyard habitat have been greatly improved over the past few days by many hours of hard work by RACHEL. No greater partner for this or any other project can be imagined.

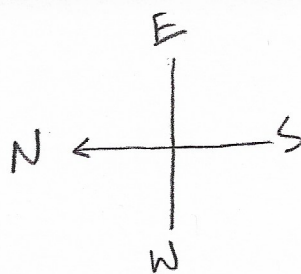
SUBMITTED RESPECTFULLY,



HOUSE

BUSHES

SIDE
YARD -
GRASS



OPEN AREA 1

SIDEWALK

BACK YARD -
GRASS

FENCE

HERE BE
DRAGONS

MOCK
STRAWBERRY

OPEN AREA 2

GARAGE

DECK