

Please note this meeting will be held via VIDEOCONFERENCE. To join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/buschcm> and follow directions to view the meeting. To join by telephone, dial 425-436-6351 and use access code 702572#. As always, this meeting is open to the public and will have a public portion. Members of the public will be muted until called upon.

**CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

June 10, 2020 – 10 am

Start Time \_\_\_\_\_

End Time \_\_\_\_\_

EC Members present:

( ) Sandy Allison

( ) Paula Massanari

( ) Barb Bassett

( ) Commissioner Robert Mullock

( ) Catherine Busch, Chair

( ) Isabelle Neary

( ) Jamie Goren, Vice Chair

( ) Emelia Oleson

Others present \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA**

Sunshine Law Statement – This meeting was properly advertised in the Cape May Star & Wave and duly posted at the Borough Municipal Bldg in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Minutes: Approval of minutes from May 13, 2020

Correspondence: None

Reports:

- Lake Lily - Osprey platform on island, FLL west-side beds
- Triangle Park
- Beach - American Oystercatcher nest on Brainard
- Bike Path
- Green Team - Status of application
- Commissioner Liaison
- Planning Board

Old Business:

- ANJEC Open Space Grant application
- New Jersey Audubon Proposal: Invasive Plant Management at Triangle Park
- Plant labels for rain garden and Lake Lily south-end garden

New Business:

- Recommendations for SW edge of Lake Lily between bulkhead project and FLL landscape beds
- Doug Tallamy's 'Homegrown National Park' - (article attached)

Announcements

Public Portion

Adjournment

The Cape May Point Environmental Commission meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 10:00 am at Borough Hall. Members of the public are welcome. The commission (5 members, 2 alternates) is responsible for the restoration, preservation and development of the natural resources located in Cape May Point. In practice, this involves reviewing, coordinating, researching, and advising the Borough on all environmental matters including the management of public lands.

# Author urges gardeners to form one big 'national park'

AP [apnews.com/1e4d66ce18827bddb9e5fdf80bc46d5a](https://apnews.com/1e4d66ce18827bddb9e5fdf80bc46d5a)

May 19,  
2020



This undated photo provided by Timber Press shows monarch butterflies in the University of Delaware Botanical Garden in Newark, Del., and is featured in the Douglas Tallamy book "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard." Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware, is urging everyone — homeowners and renters, in cities, suburbs and rural areas — to pitch in. The wildlife ecologist and author doesn't just want you to embrace native plants in your yard or on your patio, he wants everyone to see their patches of land as part of a giant quilt. A "Homegrown National Park." Tallamy says a massive project like that can go a long way toward nurturing and protecting birds and pollinators. (Douglas Tallamy/Timber Press via AP)

Imagine if all the back and front yards — and even patio container plants — across the country were seen as one magnificent patchwork quilt, a “Homegrown National Park.” Home gardeners would join forces to bring back a variety of native plants to protect and nurture struggling birds, bees and other pollinators.

That’s wildlife ecologist and entomologist Doug Tallamy’s vision, as laid out in his most recent book, “Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard” (Timber Press).

Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware, is urging everyone — in cities, suburbs and rural areas — to pitch in.

“This enormous new national park can absolutely make a difference,” he said in an interview with The Associated Press, especially east of the Mississippi River, where the vast majority of land in the U.S. is privately owned.

While one home garden can have a welcome effect, he says, it would be a game changer if lots of people pitched in on different, connected parcels of land, replacing traditional lawns, imported ornamentals and invasive species that fail to provide habitat for native birds, butterflies and other pollinators with ecologically crucial trees like oaks and other native species, he says.

And even a single person acting boldly with this goal in mind could be a crucial source of inspiration for others around them.

Despite climate change, or perhaps partly because of it, Tallamy optimistically envisions the coming decades as “The Age of Ecological Enlightenment.”

“I am an ecologist who makes this claim with confidence, because it is the only option left for Homo sapiens if we want to remain viable in the future,” he writes in his book.

The pivot, he says, must start at home. You can make changes slowly on your own or hire a landscaper to make changes all at once, but embracing native plants and reducing lawn is the direction gardening must take to help the environment, he says.

Todd Forrest, vice president for horticulture and living collections at The New York Botanical Garden, agrees it’s urgent that home gardeners focus on enhancing native biodiversity.

“Over the past few decades, advances in gardening equipment and techniques, increased access to a diversity of nursery-grown native plants, and rising environmental awareness among gardeners have made it more possible than ever before to harness all the joys of gardening to benefit the health of the planet,” Forrest says.

Tallamy says it's easy to make a meaningful transition toward conservation-minded gardening.

"You can do it for free, bit by bit, as a hobby. And if you don't own property, you can help the process in local parks, in roof gardens or community gardens, and you can plant native species in containers on balconies or patios," he says.

His advice:

First, reduce the amount of lawn on your property. Tallamy suggests cutting the size of your lawn by half, retaining, for example, a narrow stretch in the front and just enough in the backyard to create a pathway. "You don't have to get rid of it, just reduce it," he says.

Second, plant an oak or hickory tree, both of which provide habitat for a huge diversity of native species. "You don't have to buy a tree, just plant an acorn. That's free," he says.

Third, put in plants that support a diverse community of pollinators, like native milkweed, pie weed or other native plants.

Fourth, get rid of invasive species. The worst are burning bush, barberry, Bradford pears, autumn olive, porcelain berries, bush honeysuckle and Kudzu, Tallamy says.

Fifth, add a bubbling water feature. "Any sort of bubbler where the water is kept clean is great for birds. It's just a magnet for them," he says.

Sixth, coordinate with your neighbors. "You don't have to do all these things on a single property, particularly if your property is small. Maybe your neighbor can plant an oak and you can put lots of native species in containers and install some kind of water feature," Tallamy explains.

As a whole, the Homegrown National Park should feature all these things on a loosely connected patchwork of land, he says.

"Admission to Homegrown National Park is free and there are no restricted seasons," he writes in his book.

"As you become familiar with the natural cycles that occur in your yard, you will start to anticipate them, subconsciously at first, but then as something you eagerly await."