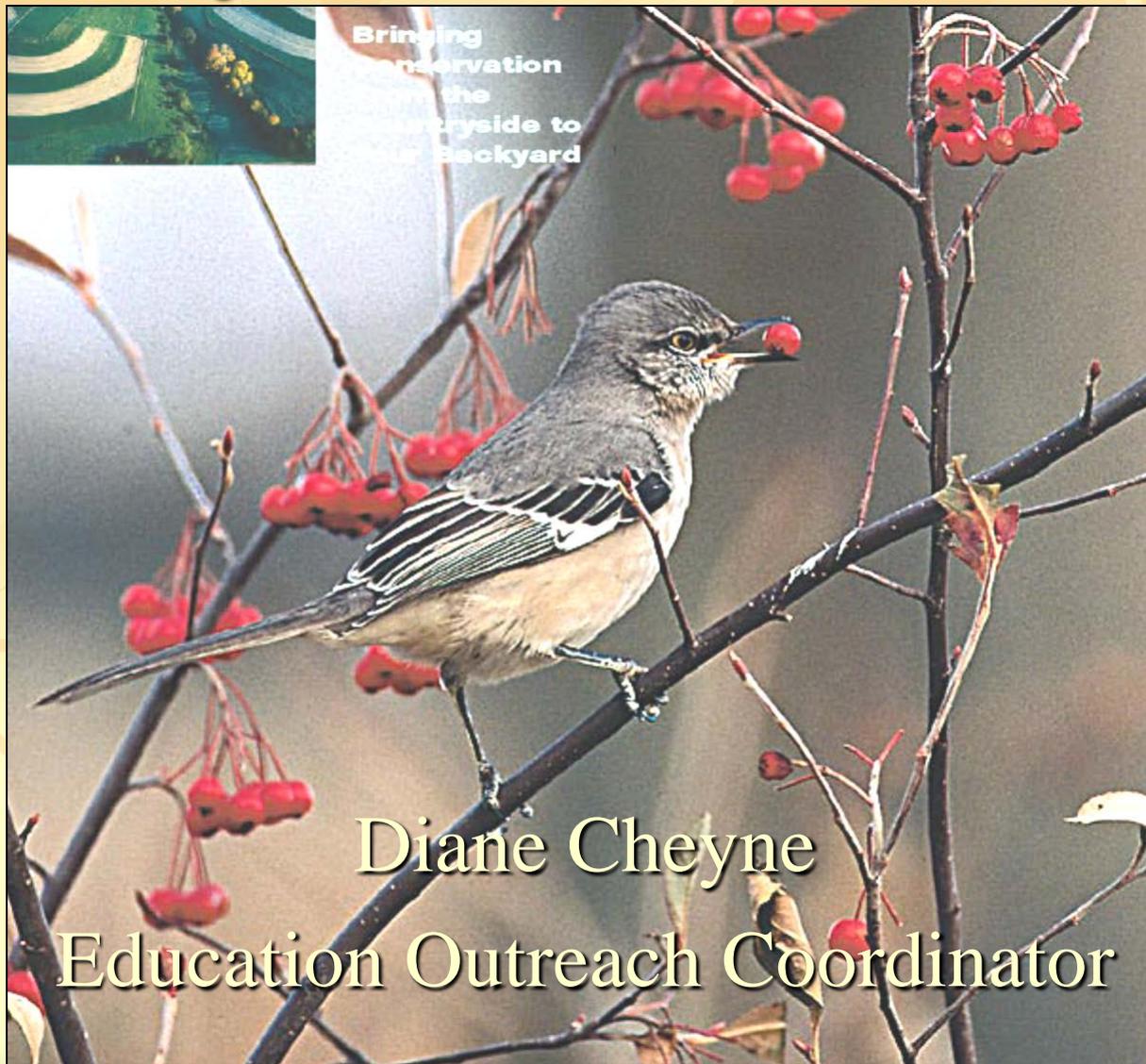


# Backyard Conservation



Bringing  
conservation  
from the  
countryside to  
your Backyard



Diane Cheyne  
Education Outreach Coordinator

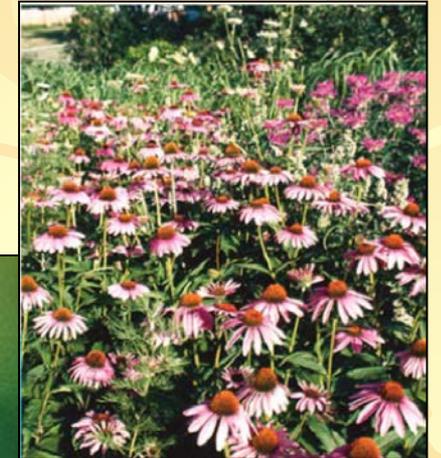
# From the countryside to your backyard

- A cooperative project of
  - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - National Association of Conservation Districts
  - Wildlife Habitat Council
  - Marion Soil and Water Conservation District



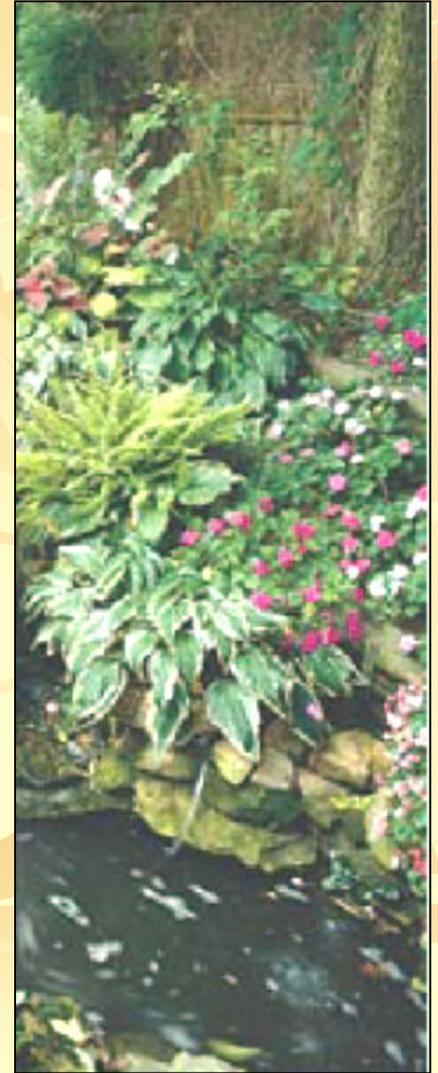
# A tradition of caring for our natural resources

- 2 billion acres of land in the US
  - 70% privately owned
  - 1.4 billion acres managed by farmers and ranchers
  - 92 million acres privately developed and managed by homeowners
- Farmers and ranchers utilize conservation practices
- Homeowners can also have a plan



# Today's Presentation

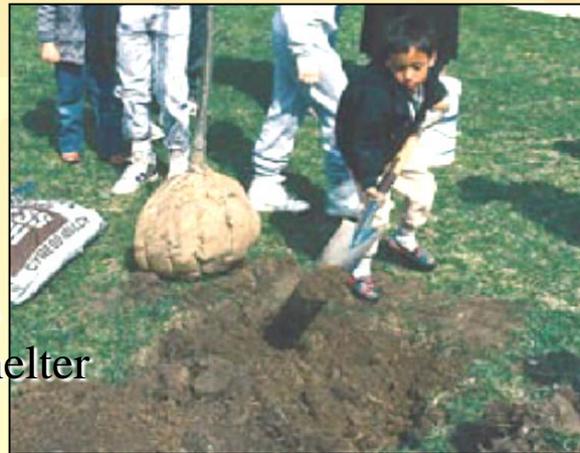
- 1. Tree Planting
- 2. Wildlife Habitat
- 3. Backyard Ponds
- 4. Backyard Wet areas
- 5. Composting
- 6. Mulching
- 7. Nutrient Management
- 8. Terracing
- 9. Water Conservation
- 10. Pest Management



# Tree Planting

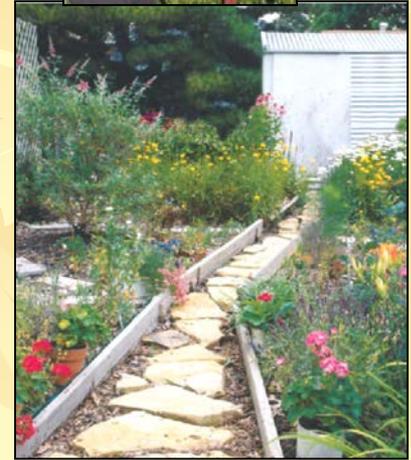


- Choosing a tree
  - Provide enjoyment
  - Appropriate for your area
  - Native trees
  - Variety
- Planting a tree
  - Early fall the optimum time
  - Follow planting tips
- Maintaining a tree
  - Watering
  - Mulching
- On the farm
  - Trees provide windbreaks
  - Trees provide food and shelter
  - Trees improve air quality



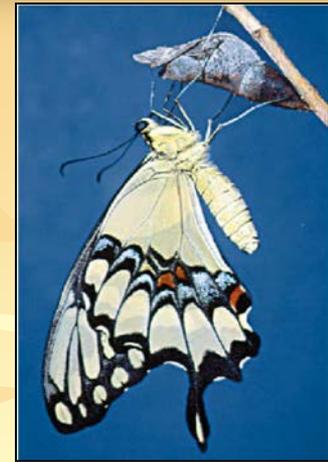
# Wildlife Habitat

- Plant native plants
  - Shrubs
  - Trees
  - Vines
  - Flowers
  - Nectar plants
- Plant a variety
  - Flower and bear fruit at different times of the year
- Install birdhouses
  - Appealing and secure
  - Specifically designed for certain species
- Use birdfeeders
  - Variety of feed
  - Out of reach of predators



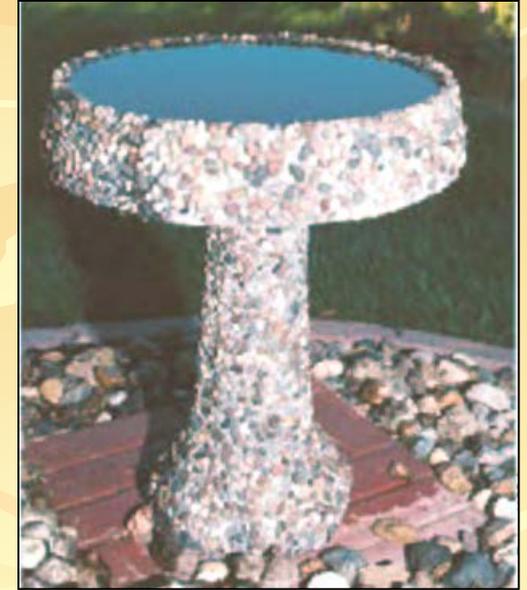
# Wildlife Habitat

- Attracting butterflies
  - Flowering plants
  - Nectar-rich plants
  - Plants for caterpillars
- Attracting bees
  - Nectar-rich plants
  - Bee houses
- Attracting bats
  - Roosting habitat
- Water for wildlife
  - Clean
  - Minimize chemical use



# Backyard Pond

- Water draws wildlife to a backyard
- Install a pond where it is visible
- Install a pond when the ground is not frozen or overly wet
- Use the correct materials
- Minimum depth is 18 inches
- Use native plants
  - Floating plants
  - Submerged pots
  - Cover 50% to 70% of the water surface
- Add fish and scavengers
  - Think about bees and butterflies
- Consider safety around small children
- Ask for help



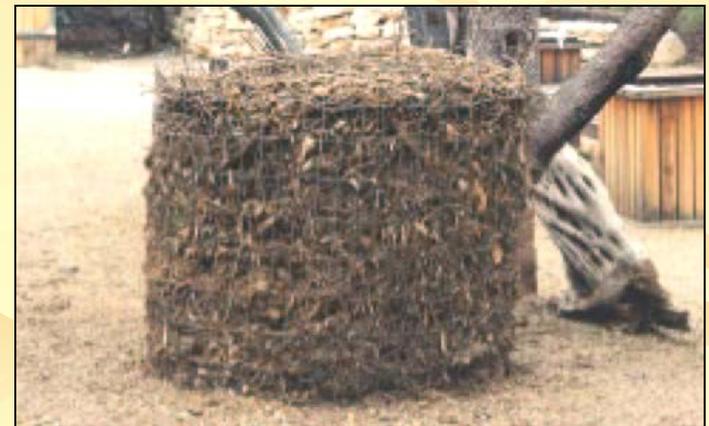
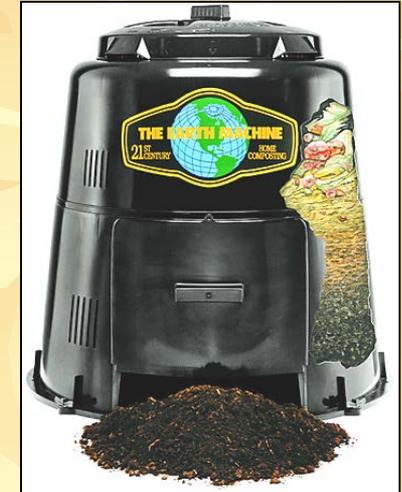
# Backyard Wet Areas

- Benefits to a backyard wet area
  - Filters runoff
  - Prevents flooding
- Where to put a backyard wet area
  - Any depression that collects water
- How to build a backyard wet area
  - Consult a professional
- What to plant in a backyard wet area
  - Native plants



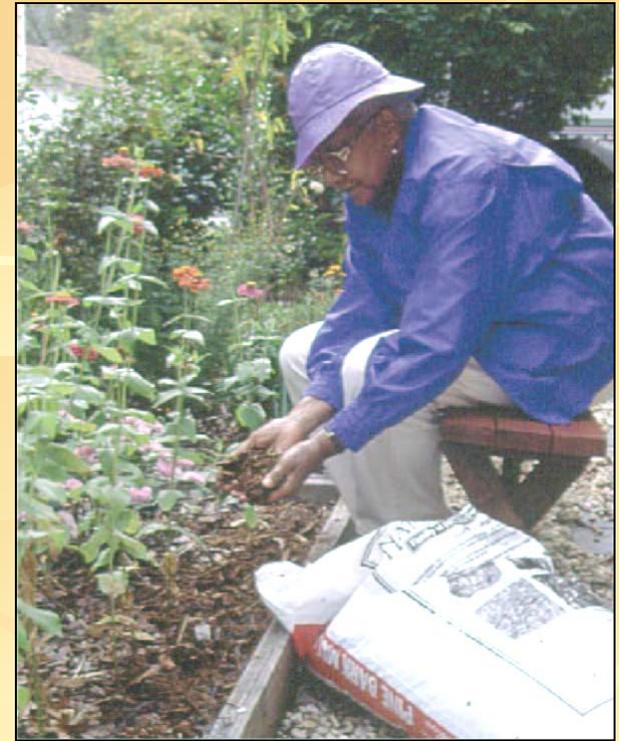
# Composting

- Benefits
  - Adds vital nutrients to the soil
  - Use materials you already have
- Getting started
  - Materials
  - Composter
  - Man power
- Cold composting
  - Piles of grass and leaves
  - Yard waste
  - No maintenance
  - Takes several months to years
- Hot composting
  - Container
  - 110 to 160 degrees
  - Man power
  - Finished compost in 1 to 3 month



# Mulching

- Benefits
  - Enriches the soil
  - Protects the soil from erosion
  - Moisturizes the soil
  - Recycles yard waste
  - Prevents weed growth
  - Stabilizes soil temperature
- Materials
  - Grass clippings
  - Leaves
  - Compost
  - Wood chips/bark dust
- How to apply
  - When plants are established
  - When soil is warm
  - Liberally



# Nutrient Management

- Soil testing is the key
- Alternatives to fertilizing
  - Mow often
  - Leave grass clippings on lawn
  - Create a buffer between the lawn and sidewalks or waterways
  - Compost
  - Aerate
  - Thatch



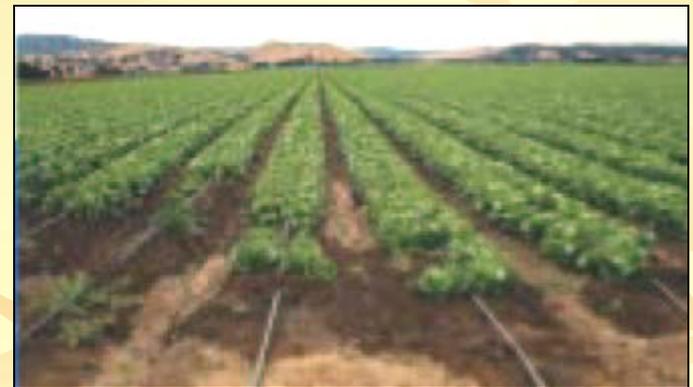
# Terracing

- Allows gardening on steep slopes
- Prevents erosion
- Many materials now available
  - Wood
  - Rock
  - Stones
- Ask a professional for help



# Water Conservation

- Rain barrels
- Water in the early morning
  - Inexpensive timers
- Mulch
- Plant native species
- Change your irrigation system
- Ask a professional for help



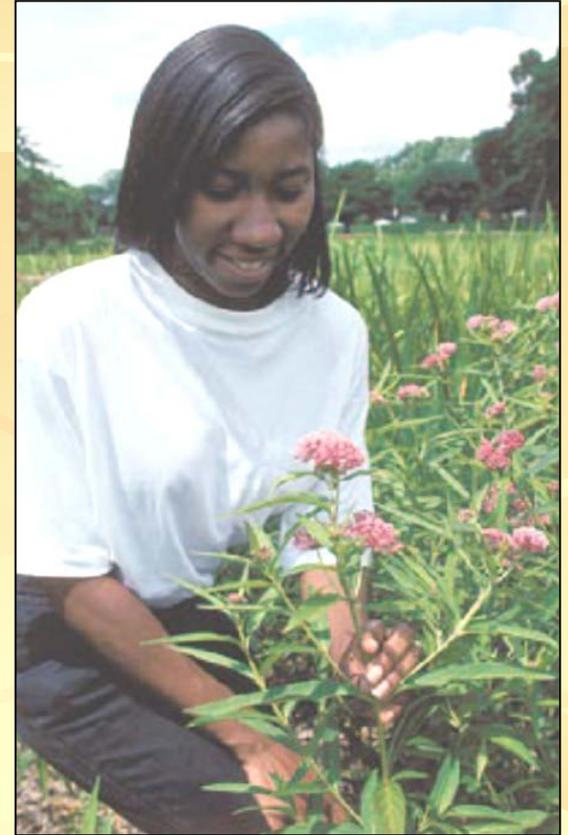
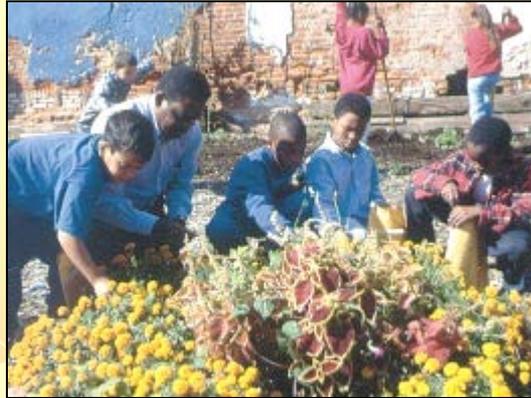
# Pest Management

- Plan ahead
- Regularly monitor
- Plant the correct species
  - Hardy
  - Good variety
  - Rotate location
  - Compost
- Physically remove weeds
- Entice birds and bats to your yard
- Provide habitat for beneficial insects
- Water correctly
- Physically control pest insects
  - By hand
  - Set traps
  - Set physical barriers



# Spread the Good News

- Schools need volunteers
- Community centers need volunteers
- Parks need volunteers



# Resources in the Willamette Valley

- Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
  - 503-391-9927
  - [www.open.org/mariswcd/](http://www.open.org/mariswcd/)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - 503-399-5741 ext. 122
- OSU Extension Service
  - 503-588-5301
- Salem-Keizer Urban Watershed Councils
  - 503-566-4034
- Pudding River Watershed Council
  - 503-566-5918
- North Santiam Watershed Council
  - 503-930-8202
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District
  - 503-623-9680
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
  - 503-986-4550

