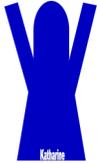




NANCY: I went back to school with this text book style treatise on Native Plants 101. Although time consuming, my excitement grew as I learned so much about the birds and the bees and what a difference I can make gardening and landscaping in my own yard. A must read for the 21st century Earth Citizen, trying to do their part toward a livable planet. Cheers to Doug Tallamy for your good work!



KATHARINE: Definitely should be required reading in all environmental science classes. Our students know we need to change, but sometimes they focus on recycling. This will give them something more to do as they start moving into their own homes. A very practical and useful book.



PRISCILLA: Oh, my. I love the well-manicured lawns in my neighborhood. Don't you think his Homegrown National Park movement is going to create messy landscapes? I'm not sure I want all of this in my yard and on my block. Can't they just do this in the parks and wildlife preserves?



JANE: What a great opportunity for landscape entrepreneurs. I'm going to ask the young woman who mows my grass if she wants to start a Homegrown National Park Yard Service with me. I'll provide the start up capital. She can do the work and spread native gardens all over our town! Hear! Hear!



MOLLY: I like this. Accountability time. Make amends and start to live with the Earth instead of opposition to the Earth. Just like reparations. The Americans have squandered the Earth and people for too long. It's time to make big changes and these are simple ones that can be done in your yard.



ABIGAIL: This is not new information. I learned all of this long ago when I studied biology and in my environmental classes. But I love that he has packaged it in a way that makes a difference. He's busy out speaking and teaching people. When I checked him out on YouTube I see he's been making the rounds. He's putting in the time and doing the work. So must we.

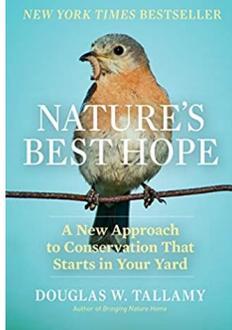


SALLIE: I'm going to start a native seed bank and encourage elementary school teachers to plant the seeds with their children. If the kids plant them in their yards, that could make a big difference. I wish I were still teaching to do this with my kids, but I can be a resource to teachers to help them do it.



Discussion Guide

About the Book



Title: Nature's Best Hope

Author: Douglas J. Tallamy

Published: Timber Press, 2020

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HomegrownNationalPark>

Website: homegrownnationalpark.org/

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. What does the author say is the importance of native plants?
3. Tallamy begins the book talking about several important environmentalists. He mentions Aldo Leopold and Edward O. Wilson. What were the contributions of these two men? Which other contributors does he mention in the chapter: The Dreamers.
4. What are the importance of caterpillars for the ecosystem?
5. What was Tallamy's perspective on plants considered "weeds"?
6. What most surprised you in this book?
7. Are you planning to make any changes in your own yard or neck of the woods, after reading this book? Explain
8. Tallamy's goal is to start a Homegrown National Park movement. Check out his website explaining this project. What do you think of this project?
9. Read over the MAMs perspective on the book. With whom do you most agree and why?
10. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?

There are many lectures by Douglas Tallamy on YouTube. Also, the Homegrown National Park website has good informational videos. Check them out!