

8th ANNUAL HABITAT HERO WORKSHOP IN CHEYENNE

How to Nurture the Prairie in Town and Country

Hosted by Audubon Rockies and Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society

January 29, 2022

This event is offered in two formats:

In-person: 8:00 - 4:30, Laramie County Community College, Pathfinder Building, lunch is included.

Virtual: 8:00 - 11:30, Remote attendees were emailed a Zoom link upon registering.

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:15 Introduction

8:15 - 9:00 Aaron Maier – Developing a Regenerative Land Use Ethos - Principles and Practices – Aaron is a range ecologist for Audubon's Conservation Ranching Initiative serving Audubon Rockies' region. Regenerative practices have the power to restore the balance between human beings and nature. Defining and implementing processes that aim to improve ecosystem function and human well-being at multiple land use scales is the ultimate goal of the regenerative movement. Deepen your understanding of regenerative land use practices and what success looks like.

9:00 - 9:45 Catherine Wissner – “Soils in Your Garden and Landscape” – Catherine is a 19-year University of Wyoming Extension Horticulturist teaching the Master Gardener program and diagnosing plant problems during the growing season. How can you tell what type of soil you have? Learn to do your own testing. Then discover the basics of site analysis for gardening successfully with the right plant in the right place.

9:45 - 10:15 Break

10:15 - 10:50 Jeff Geyer – “Don't be Buffaloed into Bluegrass Turf: Incorporating a Water-wise Turf for Your Property” – Jeff is the Water Specialist for the Laramie County Conservation District. You don't have to plant rock to be water-wise; learn how to install Buffalograss turf to save time, money and water in your HOA.

10:50 - 11:30 Zach Hutchinson - Prairie Birds and Their Needs – Zach is a Community Naturalist and the Community Science Coordinator for Audubon Rockies. Learn about the annual cycle of grassland birds and how you can help them with your growing space!

11:30ish - 1:30 Lunch, Networking, and Vendors

1:30 - 4:00 Afternoon Breakout Sessions (45 minutes each)

A. Winter Sowing – Michelle Bohanan – Plant a milk jug with native seed (materials provided), set it outside all winter and see it sprout in spring. Michelle is a Laramie County Master Gardener and a veteran seed collector and starter. Plus, DIY Soil Testing Demo – Jack Palma, local Habitat Hero.

B. Individual Site Planning Q&A – Catherine Wissner, Wanda Manley and Aaron Maier – Bring a sketch of your property and get help siting your Habitat Hero garden.

C. Our Favorite Native Flowers – Barb Gorges and Nancy Loomis – Which native plants are easy to find in the nursery and seed catalog, grow easily and play well with others in the garden? Barb is a local Habitat Hero, the Wyoming Tribune Eagle garden columnist, and author of “Cheyenne Garden Gossip.” Nancy is a Master Gardener who likes experimenting with native plants in the urban environment.

4:00 - 4:15 Wrap up and closeout