

## **CRITERIA FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CERTIFICATION**

**You need to complete criteria in 11 categories for full certification in the Neighborhood/Subdivision classification. However, you can receive certification in any one of these categories. Here is what you need to do to earn certification in each category:**

### **Artificial Nesting/Roosting Structures - Select two of the following:**

- **Erect at least 10 nesting structures for at least 6 of the following species:  
Eastern Bluebird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barn Owl, Carolina Chickadee, Brown-Headed Nuthatch, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Flicker, Purple Martin, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Barred Owl, Screech Owl, Tree Swallow, Prothonotary Warbler, American Kestrel, Osprey**
- **Erect & maintain at least 5 nesting/roosting structures for at least one of the following mammals:  
Fox Squirrel, Gray Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, and Bats.**
- **Set up a program to annual check, clean, and repair all nesting and roosting structures.**

### **Conservation (Select 4 of the following activities)**

- **Establish a minimum of 4 brush piles for wildlife in your community.**
- **Establish at least 4 rock piles for wildlife in your community.**
- **Encourage mowing schedules on public lands (e.g. road shoulders) to allow for the blooming and reseeding of native wild flowers and the nesting of ground-nesting birds within your community.**
- **Utilize at least one storm water retention pond as a wildlife conservation area.**
- **Encourage the use of plant transition zones on public and private lands in your community.**
- **Organize a litter control program along a section of road within your community.**

- Encourage any golf courses in your community to initiate wildlife conservation measures on their lands.
- Participate in the DNR's Adopt-A-Stream Program.
- Maintain a 100-yard stretch of gas, sewage, or power line right-of-way as wildlife habitat within your community.
- Encourage landowners to maintain brushy fencerows along pastures or agricultural fields in your community as wildlife habitat.

### **Wildlife Surveys (Select 2)**

- Participate in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count.
- Encourage homeowners to participate the GA Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program's annual Swallow-Tailed Kite Survey.
- Report all sightings of Painted Buntings to the GA Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program.
- Organize and conduct an annual Fourth of July Butterfly Count.
- Encourage homeowners to report all wintering (November- February) hummingbird sightings to the Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program.

### **Education (Select 2)**

- Schedule and conduct 2 nature walks during the calendar year.
- Sponsor a minimum of two talks on nature and/or conservation-related topics in your community during the year.

- **Arrange for a Hunter Safety Education Course to be taught in your community.**
- **Schedule a special event on International Migratory Bird Day.**
- **Establish an annual conservation award for an individual and/or organization that made a major contribution to conservation and/or enhancement of native plants or animals in your community.**
- **On public lands, post informational signage to identify plants of value to wildlife along with the names of the wildlife that use them.**

### **Identify & Preserve Cavity Trees (Select 2)**

- **Inventory at least 5% of the public forested lands in your community for the presence of cavity trees.**
- **On public or shared lands within your community, retain at least 10 cavity trees (at least 4" in diameter).**
- **Inventory the cavity trees on private lands within your community.**
- **Encourage private landowners to retain all cavity trees at least 4" in diameter for use as nesting and roosting sites for wildlife. Exceptions are trees infected with Southern Pine Beetles and those that pose a threat to human life or property.**

### **Landscaping for Wildlife (Select 5)**

- **Landscape entryways and grounds around public buildings with plants of value to wildlife.**
- **Try to establish at least 1 roadside wildflower planting utilizing plants native to Georgia within your community.**
- **Utilize native plants in erosion control situations at construction sites in your community.**

- **Plant at least 1 nectar garden to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other nectar feeders on public lands in your community.**
- **Encourage homeowners in your community to establish nectar gardens in their backyards.**
- **Plant at least 2 wildlife food plots with native fruit or nut bearing trees within your community.**
- **Encourage the residents of the community to use native plants in their landscapes.**
- **Encourage residents to use plants of value to wildlife in their landscape design.**
- **Promote the preservation and planting of native and other plants of value to wildlife on public lands found within your community.**
- **Form working partnerships between the Garden Club of Georgia and at least 2 other civic, conservation or educational groups to create, expand and maintain wildlife habitats in your community.**
- **Design landscape plantings to provide vertical habitat diversity (plants of different heights) in landscape designs.**

### **Preserve & Enhance Wetlands (Select 2)**

- **Inventory the wetlands within your community.**
- **Encourage the maintenance of at least a 100-foot buffer around wetlands less than an acre in size.**
- **Encourage the maintenance of buffers (undeveloped areas) at least 200' wide around wetlands more than one acre in size.**
- **Encourage property owners to erect nesting structures in wetland areas.**
- **Evaluate the community's wetlands for possible use as outdoor classrooms.**

- **Encourage the identification and control of noxious (alien) vegetation in the community's wetlands.**
- **Install water control structures to regulate water levels in wetlands for the benefit of wildlife.**

### **Watchable Wildlife (Select 1)**

- **Establish a nature trail in your community.**
- **Identify and, if needed, develop at least one watchable wildlife viewing area within your community.**
- **Create a bird, plant, herp (snakes, frogs, toads and salamander) or butterfly list for your community.**
- **Encourage homeowners to create a bird, plant. Herp (snakes, frogs, toads and salamander) or butterfly list for their properties.**
- **Create a map identifying some of the best wildlife viewing areas in your community. Make the map available at your local visitor center.**
- **Where feasible, make a water treatment facility open to the public for wildlife viewing.**

### **Water Features on Public and Private Lands (Select 1)**

- **Encourage the use of birdbaths and small backyard ponds on public and private lands in the community.**
- **Encourage the construction of small ponds (30'-40' in diameter) on public lands. Leave 20% of the shoreline undeveloped.**
- **Create basking sites for turtles in larger ponds by placing logs or rock piles in the pond.**

## **Core (All must be completed)**

- **Host a Community Wildlife Project meeting.**
- **Add at least 4 books or videos dealing with wildlife or wildlife conservation to a school or public library in your community.**
- **Erect a bird feeder at a nursing home or school in your community.**
- **Encourage homeowners to incorporate native plants in the landscapes around their homes.**
- **Encourage homeowners living within your community to enhance their properties for wildlife.**
- **Involve at least two other organizations in your Community Wildlife Project.**

You do not have to wait until you have met all of the requirements for full certification for your club to be recognized in your conservation efforts. Complete the required activities for the particular type CWP certification you are seeking (e.g. county, city/town, neighborhood/subdivision, rural/semi-rural, residential/institution). Fill out this short form, and return it to the below address.

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/ST/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Activity:

Accomplishments:

**FOR DETAILS CONTACT:**  
Terry Johnson or Melissa Hayes  
Nongame Conservation Section  
116 Rum Creek Drive  
Forsyth, Georgia 31029-6517  
(478)994-2568 or (478)994-1438  
tjwoodduck@bellsouth.net or meilssa.hayes@dnr.state.ga.us

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:**  
The Community Wildlife Project Backyard Certification Project  
116 Rum Creek Drive  
Forsyth, Georgia 31029-6517