



Start a new HABITAT®

HEMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK



Doug and Cindy Tallamy's 10 acre property after years of restoration with native plants.

As most of us know, North America's birds have declined by more than 30% in the last 50 years. Causes include deaths from window crashes as well as feral and pet cat depredation. But the most significant problem is loss of habitat, often when native plants are replaced by non-natives in our personal landscapes. Only native plants support the diversity and quantity of insects required by terrestrial birds, especially for nestlings.

Everyone who has attended one of Doug Tallamy's many presentations across the country is aware that his dream has long been to see a HEMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK® established, wherein everyone in the country would return half or more of his or her personal landscape back to nature by filling those areas with native plantings.

Serendipity stepped in to help when businesswoman Michelle Alfandari attended one of his presentations. Ms. Alfandari was not a birder, nor was she a gardener but had recently moved to a property full of neglected plantings. She actually attended the event partially because she had been housebound with an injured knee. Doug's program helped alleviate a bit of cabin fever.

The brief bio about her on the HEMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK® website says that she "Lit up" after hearing him speak. But her response was not typical; most of us are persuaded by his passion to plant insect hosting native plants in place of non-

native horticultural ones. Instead, she was bowled over by the science of the problem and the solution: She was moved by the way each of us can do our respective part in turning things around for our seriously degraded biodiversity, which has resulted in declining bird populations.

After Doug's presentation, she contacted him to say that she believed she could help expand the reach for his message especially to those unaware of the biodiversity crisis and simple science-based solution.. In spite of being attracted by the science of Doug's message, Michelle does not have a background in science; in fact, she spent her career in marketing and business development in New York City. We can hardly imagine a more odd couple for such efforts, but, according to the website, "they found common ground in wanting to scale Doug's bottom-up, call-to action for planting native plants and restoring biodiversity."

Michelle tapped onto her marketing expertise and, with Doug's scientific knowledge, she garnered the funds to create HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK (HNP). which asks every property owner and land manager to add his or her own property to the HNP interactive MAP, a growing list of those dedicated to the cause of incorporating native plantings to their private property.

We urge everyone who has purchased property with good habitat, or anyone who has worked to improve their land, to join the thousands of others who have signed up for this great effort <https://map.homegrownnationalpark.org>.

And just so you know, NONE of your information will be accessible to the public.

Both Saving Birds Thru Habitat's two and a half acres and Charter Sanctuary's forty-five acres have been added to the HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK® map.



**SAVING BIRDS
THRU HABITAT**

P.O. Box 288 • Omena, Michigan 49674-0288
(231) 271-3738

Website: www.savingbirds.org