Impact Project Report

Master Naturalist helps builds a stop on the Butterfly Highway

Issue

Backyard Butterflies, a 501(c)3 organization based in Hillsborough, provides butterfly education, community outreach, and assistance for creating supporting habitat. Additionally, they cultivate and sell native plants, and sponsor educational and community activities like the Moth Crawl. Their nearly 2-acre demonstration and education garden showcases host plants for butterflies and moths. The group relies on volunteer help for garden maintenance and invasive control.

Project

Master Naturalist Tess Mpoyi is working with Backyard Butterflies to complete the certification process for the NC Wildlife Federation's Butterfly Highway and New Hope Bird Alliance's Bird-Friendly Habitat program. These certifications not only ensure a standard of excellence, they connect Backyard Butterflies' property to a network of other certified sites, making them more accessible and searchable to community members interested in visiting demonstration habitats.





Mpoyi competes survey work on the property

The emerging plan sets in place guidance for medium- and longer-term management of the garden property to control invasive species, improve habitat, and maximize alignment with Backyard Butterflies' educational and community engagement objectives. Mpoyi also seeks to foster connections with the Master Naturalist program and other volunteer groups that may be interested in learning more about managing habitat for butterflies and moths.

Student

This project is the work of Tess Mpoyi

Impact Projects

Beyond classwork, a key feature of the Master Naturalist Volunteer program is the Impact Projects students develop. These projects integrate course concepts and benefit a Partner Organization.

Highlights

Partner Organizations

North Carolina Wildlife Federation
New Hope Bird Alliance

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