

The [West Linn Garden Club](#) and the [Backyard Habitat Certification Program](#) would like to invite you to our special event, **The West Linn Happy Hour Garden Hour featuring Backyard Habitats!** Three Backyard Habitat participants are graciously opening their yards in the Bolton Neighborhood of West Linn for a **walking tour** to explore the benefits of integrating native plants, wildlife habitat, and stormwater management into our yards to support wildlife and build resilient gardens.

When: Thursday June 12th, 2025, 5:30-7:30pm

Who is invited: West Linn Garden Club members, Backyard Habitat participants, and any friends, family, and neighbors you'd like to bring along!

Cost: FREE!

Register: [Here!](#) Thank you for signing up. This helps us plan a great event, and allows us to contact you with any last minute changes.

Details:

Arrive between 5:15-5:30 at our first site:

1. Bethany's house: 6352 Caufield St, West Linn, OR 97068

Bethany has been growing her gold certified yard for 4-5 years, which provides us with an opportunity to learn about maturing plant communities. Observing maturing native plants can help highlight how the selection and placement of plants based on their preferred conditions can help or hinder plants, and how problems can be prevented down the road. We will discuss seed saving and other propagation opportunities with native plants. Bethany's sunny rain garden and terraced front yard create interesting conditions for growing, so come talk about the limits and opportunities of these sorts of spaces and meet plants that do well here.

Around 6-6:15, we will walk as a group to our second location:

2. Michael & Shannon's house: 6533 Lowry Dr, West Linn, OR 97068

Michael and Shannon are silver certified and are working towards gold. They have contended with some harder-to-remove weedy plants, including lesser celandine, Spanish bluebells, and laurel. As they work on these and removed plenty of lawn, they have planted a wealth of native plants, and have different growing conditions matched with different plant communities. We will be able to see how they have integrated naturescaping in amongst their veggie garden and fruit trees, and learn about the benefits native plants provide to improving our harvests.

Around 6:45 we will walk together to our third location:

3. Mike and Rachael's house: 2088 Randall St, West Linn, OR 97068

- Mike and Rachael will provide us with a great example of the possibilities of naturescaping in yards with mature ornamentals. They are currently "in progress" in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program and have a lovely example of the tender native plants that like shady moist Douglas fir forests. Our group will have the special opportunity to help them brainstorm how to shift their rain garden, which is currently planted with mature non-natives, into a naturescaped area. We will discuss the tips for growing water-loving plants and using successional approaches to convert planting areas to minimize disruption to wildlife.

Accessibility and Etiquette:

- The tour is planned as a walking tour. We will walk 1-3 blocks between houses.
- If you need to drive between locations, please contact Kate at kkauffman@columbialandtrust.org to confirm that driveway parking at the tour locations will be available.
- Park in any open spaces along Tompkins, Caufield, or Randall St, or side streets. Please respect neighbors as you decide on your parking choices.
- We will be outside for 2 hours in the evening, come rain or shine. Come prepared for heat, full prolonged sun, rain, and cool temperatures.
- Bathrooms within the tour host's homes should generally not be available to the tour. If you have an urgent need, we will accommodate your request as best we can. The [Market of Choice](#) is 5 min away and has public restrooms.
- Tour guests can respect the sites by staying on paths, shutting gates behind them, refraining from picking plants, and asking before taking photographs.
- The tour may be cancelled for inclement weather, which would be temperatures over 95 degrees, thunder & lightning, and air quality index of 150 or greater. We will email registered participants if we cancel.

Any questions about the event can be directed to Kate Kauffman at kkauffman@columbialandtrust.org, or Marcia Prinz at marcia.pellican@gmail.com.

