



Governor Jim Justice

Director Brett W. McMillion

Dear Richard & Cheryl Kesner,

Congratulations! Your property has been designated a West Virginia Wild Yard by the WV Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, Wildlife Diversity Program. By providing habitat for our State's wildlife, you are part of a network of people helping to increase awareness of the importance of landscaping for wildlife. What better way to help wildlife and the environment, than by literally starting in our own backyards?

Your property in Hampshire County is a good example of providing all the necessary habitat components (food, water, cover, and space) wildlife require. You have good native tree diversity and I appreciate your enthusiasm for pollinators, songbirds, and other wildlife. One does not have to have hundreds of acres to benefit wildlife. Keep an eye on any exotic, non-native, invasive plants you may have on your property. They can quickly take over and become a real problem in the future. Several kinds of honeysuckle bushes and privet as well as burning bush are invasive in West Virginia. Also, make sure that you keep all your bird feeders, bird baths, and any nest boxes clean to prevent the spread of any wildlife diseases. For any future planting, it's important to use native plants and flowers which will create the best habitat for all of our native wildlife, including our important insect pollinators. Your plans look good. Future habitat improvements could include native shrubs like American witch-hazel, northern arrowwood, northern spicebush, or American hazelnut. Buttonbush or silky dogwood would be great in wetter areas. Wood anemone, wild ginger, Pennsylvania sedge, golden ragwort, and moss phlox are some good native groundcover options for your area.

We are thrilled to have you as a new participant in the Wild Yards program. Enclosed, please find your new Wild Yards sign and certificate.

Thank you for your interest in this exciting program, and please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Happy gardening!

Michelle Fonda
WV DNR
Wildlife Diversity Program

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Fonda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.



West Virginia

Wild Yards Program

This certificate presented to:

Richard & Cheryl Kesner

by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section



Michelle Fonda

Michelle Fonda
Wildlife Biologist



Scott Warner

Scott Warner
Wildlife Resources Lead



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Certificate No.

10/01/2024

Date Issued