



## **Discussion Questions for Living Green TV Show** *Episode 1: Landscaping for Wildlife*

**Facilitators:** After showing the program *Landscaping for Wildlife*, facilitate a discussion where people can talk about landscaping for wildlife in their communities. The idea is for the group to identify local solutions and problems to creating a wildlife-friendly community. Treat this like a brainstorming session and write down all ideas, problems, and solutions that are discussed. After this first discussion, create a document that lists all the comments by participants, include their names and addresses, and distribute this document to everybody. You may want to have a follow-up discussion to prioritize certain strategies and to begin making a plan for future actions. Plus, the list of participants may be the formation of a local stewardship committee and facilitate interaction throughout the neighborhood. Some leading questions are below.

- 1. What kinds of opportunities exist for landscaping for wildlife in your yard?**  
(Facilitator: Have people list strategies that they could employ in their yard. Examples include letting portions of their yard go wild; using native plants; installing a pond; removing invasive exotics; etc.)
- 2. What kinds of barriers/challenges are there for creating a wildlife-friendly yard? For these challenges, are there solutions?**  
(Facilitator: Have people list challenges/solutions to converting their yard. Some challenges may be that the neighbors may not like it; homeowner association polices; do lack of knowledge about removing invasive exotics; where to buy native plants; etc. Solutions may include educating their neighbors; meeting with the homeowner association; locating native plant nurseries, etc.)
- 3. What kinds of opportunities exist for landscaping for wildlife in their neighborhood?**  
(Facilitator: Examples include each homeowner planning to let their adjacent property boundaries go wild to create larger patches; if open space present, how to better manage for wildlife; involving the homeowner association in educating the neighborhood; neighborhood effort to remove invasive exotics; etc.)



- 4. What kinds of barriers/challenges are there for creating a wildlife-friendly neighborhood? For these challenges, are there solutions?**  
(Facilitator; Examples include challenges may be homeowner association polices; do not know how to identify/treat invasive exotics; resistance to neighborhood effort to plant natives; etc. Solutions may include educating their neighbors through newsletters; meeting with the homeowner association; forming a local stewardship committee, etc.)
- 5. What kinds of opportunities exist for landscaping for wildlife in their county?**  
(Facilitator: Examples include sales tax initiatives to buy land; support for management policies and ordinances that help people to landscape for wildlife; etc.)
- 6. What kinds of barriers/challenges are there for creating a wildlife-friendly county? For these challenges, are there solutions?**  
(Facilitator; Examples include challenges in raising money to buy open space; resistance to policies that favor landscaping for wildlife; etc. Solutions may include county-wide education through fact sheets; removal of policies that limit wildlife-friendly practices; forming a county stewardship committee, etc.)
- 7. Are there any local resources that people can utilize?**  
(Facilitator; Have people list local agencies or groups that have knowledge about wildlife and managing for wildlife.)
- 8. What kinds of nuisance wildlife problems exist (or will exist) in their community? Are there solutions to these problems?**  
(Facilitator; Have people list nuisance wildlife problems. Examples include raccoons in garbage; squirrels in the attic, etc. Solutions are primarily addressing human behaviors – e.g., not feeding wildlife; raccoon-proof garbage cans.)
- 9. To reach a broader audience, can *Living Green* be aired on local TV networks?**  
(Facilitator; Have people identify local stations that could air the program. Have them contact Mark Hostetler for distribution of the show. The press release on the next couple of pages gives a summary about the show and contact information.)

**For Further Information:** Dr. Mark Hostetler  
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## **HUMANS, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND WILDLIFE LIVE TOGETHER BY LIVING GREEN**

(Gainesville, FL – Spring 2005) *Living Green* is more than just a new public television series from WUFT-TV/DT, it reflects a new way of life for the 21st century. *Living Green* focuses on how communities incorporate environmental concerns into their homes and businesses to help preserve nature for future generations. Humans, the environment and wildlife work together to form a relationship that is not only mutually beneficial, but necessary for conservation, but necessary for conservation and a healthy community.

Each episode, hosted by Dr. Mark Hostetler, a University of Florida Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, incorporates an upbeat and humorous approach to the myriad of challenges and solutions associated with environmental issues. *Living Green* will inspire individuals to take local action and make a difference. An episode highlights a specific environmental issue, emphasizing the need for a united response at the local, and most important individual level. Specific attention is paid to the solutions to growth/environmental challenges, and the opportunities for individuals, developers, and counties to search for “win-win” strategies that balance socioeconomic and environmental concerns in their own community.

The premiere episode, “Landscaping for Wildlife,” explores different options and strategies people can utilize to landscape for wildlife. The program includes interviews with homeowners who have successfully blended human and wildlife needs. Viewers receive information on the various options and principles and get a first-hand look at several “green” communities throughout Florida. The program also features an interview with the Alachua County Department of Environmental Protection about a county-wide effort to preserve natural areas. This conservation effort was funded by a local tax (voted by citizens) and money is used to purchase wildlife habitat throughout the county.

Dr. Hostetler is an Associate Professor working with state and county agencies to develop and implement programs about wildlife and natural resource conservation. He also works with developers and municipalities to create “green” communities. He is also the author of the award-winning book *That Gunk on Your Car: A Unique Guide to North American Insects*.

The *Living Green* series is a collaborative effort between public television station WUFT-TV/DT, Florida Earth Foundation and the University of Florida Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Funded in part by the International Paper Foundation and the Renewable Resource and Education Act (USDA).

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**WUFT-TV/DT \* PO BOX 118405 \* GAINESVILLE, FL 32611 \* 352-392-5551**



## **LIVING GREEN**

**Genre:** Science and Nature/How To

**Length:** 30 minute programs

**Supplier:** WUFT-TV/DT

**Rights:** Unlimited Use/3 Years  
Non-Commercial Cable

**Offered:** Spring 2005

**Rights:** 3/1/2005 – 3/1/2008

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Living Green incorporates an upbeat and humorous approach to the myriad of challenges and solutions associated with environmental issues. Specific attention will be paid to the solutions to growth/environmental challenges, and the opportunities for individuals, developers, and counties to help search for “win-win” strategies that balance socioeconomic and environmental concerns in their own community.

### **PRESS MATERIALS:**

Press release, photographs and logo graphic available on CD. DVD copies of the program available for viewing.

### **VIEWER INQUIRIES:**

Dr. Mark Hostetler, Host  
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